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20 September 1985

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BELIZE

FOREIGN INTERESTS, U.S. ACTIVITIES SUBJECT OF CRITICISM

Questions on U.S. Role

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 23 Jun 85 p 7

[Article "contributed by Eve": "Belizeans First or Foreigners"]

[Text] Through the 1950 and up until 1981 all the aims and policies which the PUP implemented were based on the fact that we should stand tall as a people and as a nation capable of looking after our own affairs. It was and still is in our best interest to ensure that never again would Belizeans be cheated out of what is rightfully theirs, and therefore the PUP saw to the implementation of a system of laws and justice under which Belizeans come first and are protected foremost so long as they are on Belizean soil.

Today, however, there is great doubt about whether the UDP regards the freedom and independence of Belizeans as a primary goal which can never be compromised. In six short months there has been several decisions by the UDP government which has favoured foreign interests over Belizean interest.

We all vividly recall the attempted deportation of a Belizean citizen which was ordered by Deputy Prime Minister Thompson. Fortunately, the quick actions of the Supreme Court prevented the intended injustice. Remember the DEA agent who was involved in the incident and allegedly was commanding Belizean chief of C.I.B. to ignore orders of our high court? Whose interest was the Deputy Prime Minister protecting?--The DEA or a Belizean citizen?

We all remember last week press reports of an alleged DEA agent, William Kornell, who jumped bail and absconded to the United States after being arrested for drug charges committed in Belize. If this alleged DEA agent's bail was arranged with the assistance of a top DEA agent then does this not mean that a U.S. Government department is actively involved in evading the efforts of law and order in Belize? Or perhaps may it not be that in the eyes of the UDP Government DEA agents are above the law in Belize? In whose best interest is this? The DEA or Belizeans?

Now it appears as if though a new secret government agency is running around free in our country. According to last week's REPORTER U.S. marshalls have been rounding-up people in OUR BELIZE and taking them back to the United States. Does the UDP government not care about this? Is the UDP government no longer responsible for law and order in Belize? In whose best interest is this?--U.S. Marshalls or Belizeans?

These events may not affect most of our lives at this point in time. However, they deserve serious consideration.

Why is it that the UDP government seems willing to wash their hands and not get involved with the enforcement of law and order? How can we be sure that these various foreigners are not ill-treating their victims? How are we to know that Belizean citizens will not be one day kidnapped and taken away by foreigners who seem free to do as they please in our country?

Are we returning to the injustices of colonialism?

Threat to Independence

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 23 Jun 85 p 2

[Letter to the Editor]

[Text] Editor Sir,

Very often your writings are slanted in such a way that it conveys the impression that you regard yourself as an independent journalist. One who expresses his opinions freely regardless of the potential effect they may have on the political environment and/or public opinion. In other words, if something needs to be said then you shall see to it that it is said.

As a patriotic Belizean I was therefore most surprised at the seemingly nonchalant manner and few lines which your paper attributed to U.S. Marshals operating in Belize.

To my mind there are many unanswered questions which the public has a right to know about, as far as this incident is concerned.

First, one would assume that these alien law enforcement agents have gotten the stamp of approval from Mr Esquivel's government to operate in Belize. If indeed this is so, it leads to the inevitable questions of why our local law enforcement agencies have so readily relinquished their responsibilities? By law it is the job of our police and other law enforcement agencies to maintain our society in a peaceful and secure atmosphere. And in addition there are laws which prescribe the manner in which this job is to be accomplished. It appears, that is if the Esquivel government has approved these actions, that our independence as far as law and order is concerned is being relinquished. This of course becomes an even more serious situation if the scenario arises whereby a Belizean citizen, perhaps yourself or myself, is subjected to the wrath of foreigners in our own country.

On the other hand, if the case is such that the U.S. Marshals were operating secretly, without advising the government of their intentions, then why hasn't the Foreign Ministry made a formal protest? After all we are a recognized independent country and by this virtue our laws and sovereignty must be upheld, respected, and enforced. From the facts reported by the press it appears as if there may be room for serious contention for a charge of kidnapping to be heard by the courts. Why didn't the U.S. exercise our extradition agreement?

Permit me to make one further point. It so happens that this incident involves a U.S. Government agency and so my questions must involve their authorities. However, our sacred law enforcement institutions are for the protection of our country and people and by this measure I would raise serious objection if the incident involved any other foreign country, organisation or person. We are an independent country and we must seek to ensure that our needs and interest are served first and foremost.

Signed: David Courtenay

'Kidnapping' Accusation

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 23 Jun 85 p 6

[From the unattributed column "Dick & Jerry"]

[Text] What has happened to the C.B.I.? Dr. McCleary is left with tons of mangoes rejected by the United States. The fruit is contaminated with insecticides, they complain. Yes, this is the same United States demanding that we spray with paraquat. What a life!

We now learn of U.S. Marshalls capturing and arresting people in Belize. We know about the CIA in Belize and the DEA in Belize. But now marshalls operating openly in our country kidnapping people. With Esquivel, Belize gone to hell! Our sovereignty gone!

CSO: 3298/977

BOLIVIA

PLANNING MINISTER ADDRESSES CONGRESS

PY301959 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 2340 GMT 29 Aug 85

[Speech by Planning Minister Addresses Economic Corrective Measures Congress in La Paz 29 Aug--live]

[Excerpts] In view of the situation I have just described, we have resolved to structure not just an economic package, to implement not just a corrective policy, but to adopt a new method of making economic policy, a new shock treatment to solve the traumatic problem the solution of which cannot be postponed.

We will not make many references to the past, to a history that has already been briefly presented to the sovereign National Congress. We can center this analysis on future opportunities, which should certainly present themselves to explain the nature of measures, which can apparently be characterized as too liberal, from the standpoint of a structure that must be changed in Bolivia. This new economic policy is fundamentally intended to halt hyperinflation which is mainly fueled, according to the evaluation that has been made, by the horrible, burgeoning, and accelerated deficit in public production. This is a task that we call the emergency of emergencies, a task that was spelled out in the decree signed this morning as the new economic policy.

With your permission, Mr President, and with that of the congressmen, I will try to be more precise in pointing out the fundamental factors contemplated in this legislation, which is adopted under authority granted by the nation's Constitution, and which should necessarily be complemented by a monetary reform, for which a bill will in the next few days be introduced in Congress, and by tax measures, which should be implemented to curb inflation in the circumstances I have described.

The U.S. dollar, because of inflation, has become the only reliable instrument against which to compare other economic factors and, unfortunately, the only reliable instrument with which the people can defend themselves for hyperinflation.

The executive branch decree establishes a single, realistic, and flexible exchange system for the Bolivian peso.

Because the U.S. dollar has become a strategic factor in national development, triggering hyperinflation, the country, undoubtedly, cannot waste a currency in which the people have deposited their confidence. Therefore, the Central Bank should administer this currency, taking the following realities in to account: We cannot establish a single and permanent rate of exchange because of the external factors of the economy, particularly, the situation of the monetary market of the main capitalist countries, which have such a influence on dependant and vulnerable countries, such as ours, which have a floating exchange policy. This floating exchange policy was implemented, as you may recall, by President Nixon's decision, the famous decision of the Victorian Institute, when the U.S. Government decided to unfreeze the price of gold, which for the previous 30 years, had been set at \$30 per troy ounce, and to free the price of that metal thus ending the problem of the gold standard for the second time--the first was after the 1929 crash. Since then, this country and the entire world have seen a permanent fluctuation among the most important international currencies, including the SDR [Special Drawing Rights] of the IMF which, as you know, is a basket of the seven most important currencies of the industrialized countries. In view of this fluctuation of this important external variable, a fixed and inflexible rate of exchange cannot be adopted. The other element I referred to is the need to administer the sale and purchase of this foreign currency, according to a flexible policy, subject to the forces of supply and demand. Bolivians should have decided earlier that a single, flexible, and real exchange rate is most suitable for our economy, and that this rate should be used [reception interrupted] a real exchange rate, at which the exporters must sell their foreign exchange to obtain domestic currency. This is a very important fact that I want to stress from the standpoint of the strategy of the only genuinely industrialized sector which exists in the country, that is, the industrial export sector, where oil exports have suffered the most.

Thus, on the basis of such considerations, freedom is granted to foreign exchange operations, because it has been proven, and not only by our recent experience, that restrictions, multiple exchange rates, and the administration of a strategic commodity such as foreign exchange are breeding grounds for corruption and capricious economic and financial practices. Moreover, in the instrument I am describing, an additional deposit of 10 percent is established for the purchase of foreign exchange, to be made by those who want foreign exchange. At this time, Mr President, we have stockpiles of mineral and exportable products which represent approximately some \$60 million for the short term. These stockpiles have been caused precisely by the monetary policy in force until yesterday, which did not stimulate legal exports, but instead encouraged smuggling. In the case of tin production, for instance, Peru appears to be a great tin producer, and it looks like Chile can now produce tin, although they have no tin mines. The same thing happens with the scant production of Rondonia [words indistinct] which at this time is shown to have reached a volume of production equal to that of the Bolivian Mining Corporation, that is, between 9 and 10,000 tons. Unfortunately, the Bolivian Mining Corporation [words indistinct] has reached that volume.

The mechanism for the sale or purchase of foreign exchange imposes a 10-percent restriction so that the government can ensure the collection of taxes. The 10-percent foreign exchange deposit will stimulate the payment of taxes. How can this procedure replace some 80 or 90 percent, at least in our judgment, of the foreign exchange market on Camacho Avenue and other main streets, a sophisticated market that maintains a speculative situation that is contrary to the normality of any exchange and monetary policy, and is responsible for the growth of the informal sector of our economy?

As you have read in Chapter II, a procedure for foreign exchange sales to the public is established through the Central Bank exclusively. This procedure sets up mechanisms that are regulated in detail through this instrument that I am describing so that it can be implemented immediately. This time we should not see what we saw happen to some economic measures of previous governments which, for lack of adequate regulation, could not be implemented at the appropriate time to control all the factors that impinge on the hyperinflationary process. These mechanisms are a type of pool managed by an administrative system within the Bolivian Central Bank: A committee of currency exchange charged with the apportionment of foreign exchange on the basis of the best obtainable prices. This means that any individual can submit, in a sealed envelope at 0800 on the date of the sale of foreign exchange at the Central Bank, an offer for the amount of dollars he wants to buy, including the total payment in Bolivian pesos depending on his offered price per unit. Then the Central Bank president and the members of the foreign exchange and foreign reserves committee, in a secret meeting, review the applications, decide which are the best offers, and proceed to make apportionments.

[Passage indistinct] These are additional factors which have no bearing on standing obligations [words indistinct]. Thus what is known as a cushion will be exploited, that is, a cushion that will represent the real amount of foreign reserves once our economic measures, our new economic policy is in place, and that will serve as basis for maintaining [passage indistinct] this financial cushion that is so indispensable for the country and the people to gain confidence in the effectiveness of the financial administration.

I can assure you that in creating these measures, no contact was made or agreement reached with the IMF. I say this very clearly and responsibly: No contact with the IMF, not because we are afraid of being contaminated by the IMF [applause], but because we tried not to have any international organization technically or intellectually influence the decisions of economic policy we are adopting. This is a national program that cannot be claimed by any political party, a program that is free of any ties to any international agency which could impose conditions [applause and shouts].

We believe that after the measures of economic policy have been implemented, this financial cushion may well amount to \$150 million. The state will then be in position to receive financial support from abroad, approximately \$600 million, coming from international public organizations and resulting from bilateral agreements. I should honestly state that these projects or programs were prepared by the previous administration, but unfortunately, for reasons I already mentioned, they could not be executed, mainly because of the phenomenon of hyperinflation and the lack of domestic matching funds.

With this policy, honorable Congressmen, we have sought, strictly within legal boundaries, to create an additional economic and monetary base that is fundamental to guarantee the chances of success of the plan by converting the gold reserves locked in the Central Bank into an element of commercial support. I will be more explicit, we have a quantity of gold bars in the Central Bank which, from the standpoint of circulation in an economic community like ours, has no commercial value. These gold bars must be submitted to a refining process before they can become a reserve element and are immediately convertible in the monetary community. Without overlooking or hiding anything, we believe that, outside the resources we mentioned before, we have a base upon which [to] build our confidence so that we can manage our recovery and eliminate the speculation that thrives in the climate of hyperinflation, a base that is represented by a national asset; namely, the gold reserves locked away in the Central Bank.

We consider that this reserve, which has not been properly used, is the key factor for negotiating our external accounts and for our programs that this government may implement in the immediate future. In particular, we will be in a strong and honorable position in case we begin serious and consistent negotiations with the IMF in order to have access to other public agencies like the World Bank, the IDB, as well as other organizations.

We may wonder, what has happened in the past when stabilization programs were formulated, like the heroic program Dr Hernan Siles Zuazo implemented in 1956? Unfortunately, on that occasion we had to agree to extremely hard and difficult conditions because we were defenseless, because we were weak, and because we did not have bargaining power. Now I am asking for a very important tool that will give us bargaining power.

In the programs that we are now implementing, burdened as we are by this crisis and by the hyperinflation, we have in no way taken into account the servicing of the debt we owe to the 127 private banks. We have not considered this problem, not because we want to boast about it but simply because this is an emergency. We had no choice but to adopt a tough, financially realistic approach.

Battered by hyperinflation, plunged into a institutional chaos, and crippled by a gigantic fiscal deficit, this country cannot pay a single cent to international banks, neither for amortizing the principal nor for paying interests. It is as simply [simple] as that.

Before assuming power, we did say this to the (? steering) committee [preceding word in English] of the 127 banks who asked the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] about its opinion on the subject. We spoke clearly and emphatically. We told them that based on the figures of our economy, with which they are familiar, Bolivia cannot repay its debt. We cannot repay it now and we will probably be unable to repay it in the medium or in the long-term either. [applause]

To convert our gold into a negotiable commercial tool that may back the second cushion of our new economic system, we have chosen a public bank owned by the central banks of Japan and of the major European industrialized

countries. We have chosen the International Resettlement Bank of Basel. The United States has nothing to do with this bank. The Bank of International Resettlement is the proper agency to perform this type of operation, in case it has to be performed.

Incidentally, the macroeconomic variables described in this document show that, if the economic plan succeeds, and if the government is shrewd and courageous enough to strictly comply with it, it will not be actually necessary to sell our gold.

The document, with which you are familiar and which will probably be carefully reviewed, includes a long analysis of the banking system and of the defense systems that are being implemented. Such systems are aimed at preventing the Bolivian commercial banks from continuing with the depredation that they have performed until recently, sheltered by an economic system that allowed that type of speculative operations. This is a very important fact that I would like to emphasize.

Dollar accounts, or local currency accounts, corrected for inflation, have been opened in the banking systems, in view of the undeniable fact that the people have tried to defend themselves against inflation. I hope we may some day regain the confidence of the owners of small savings accounts, which in the past were practically confiscated under certain economic measures.

This means that we have also considered the possibility that the state and private banks may receive foreign currency deposits, in line with the basic guidelines of the monetary and exchange policies. These deposits will be paid interest rates that will permit Bolivians with hard currency savings abroad to bring their money back to our country. In fact, the guaranteed interest rate will be higher than the Libor, which is one of the most reliable interest rate mechanisms at the international level.

In another chapter, the document enforces the free importation of all goods and services, doing away with the unreasonable customs duties that have promoted a staggering growth of the illegal economy, particularly of smuggling. Mr President, I would like to add a few words of my own on this subject. Over the past 20 years, our customs duty system has sought to raise some protectionist barriers and impose (?high) duties. Illegal traffic has thus developed across our unguarded borders, and has prevented our customs offices from collecting the expected duties. Our system has failed.

All customs duty exemptions will be canceled, even for returning Bolivian diplomats.

As for the export sector, measures will be taken to foster exports and to lift all restrictions on any exported good or service, except for some obvious restrictions imposed for reasons of national security or because of the need to protect the national economy, etc.

Nontraditional exports shall be promoted through the exemption of all royalty payments. Royalty payments on our traditional exports, minerals in particular, will be strictly maintained.

Another chapter deals with the important problem of public agencies and state-run companies.

Members of Congress: We have confirmed that the main factors fueling inflation are the growing deficit of the state-run companies that produce goods and services, and the sector funded by the National Treasury. In this regard, measures will be taken to halt the issuance of money and reduce the fiscal deficit. These measures, which are part of our social policy, must be carefully analyzed because they affect salaries and subsidies, and because they are aimed at eliminating several practices that have unfortunately undermined the very heart of state-run companies.

We will enforce the free bargaining system in the private sector, thus eliminating the paternalistic attitude of the state, which has traditionally solved labor conflicts disregarding labor code regulations.

The document stresses the imperative need for the lifting of price restrictions, so that a system of control may be devised in view of the unbridled speculation, concealing of merchandise, and shortages. Based on our investigations, we have concluded that no price control system (?can succeed) in a state of hyperinflation, and that no system based on the consumer price index can be useful if the escalation of prices has overwhelmed salaries.

We will eliminate some types of monopoly. We have also pointed to the fact that only those oligopolies and monopolies authorized by the state and approved by Congress must be allowed to operate.

We have also terminated the medieval system of small customs offices, taxes, and exemptions in order to lift all restrictions on internal transactions.
[applause]

There is a very important topic that I would like to mention. It deals with the operation of public agencies and state-run companies. We have established regulations for immediate application in this sector, because most such agencies and companies are operating practically outside the law. As a matter of fact, they do not submit appropriate balance sheets, they do not follow rational personnel management policies, and they have organized (?treasures) that have nothing to do with the state and that have fostered corruption.

We have established several mandatory measures seeking to put an end to this state of affairs, so that the state may recover its right to govern and manage the country.

Restrictions will be imposed on credits granted to state agencies and companies, and on their purchases--which have reached unacceptable levels--because their unrestricted behavior is not in line with the objectives of each of those companies and agencies.

We have made a historical decision. In conformity with the Bolivian people's will and faithful to the government program of President Dr Victor Paz Estenssoro [applause, shouts], we have decided to decentralize the Bolivian

Government Oil Deposits [YPFB]. This decision has been made as part of a regional development policy, seeking to eliminate the local and regional restrictions and irregularities stemming from an excessively centralized system and from very bureaucratic model.

I believe this is not the right time to point out that YPFB is confronting ethical problems and that it is experiencing a situation in which the authority of the state has been disregarded. Everyone is familiar with this situation and we will refer to it again. It is necessary to eliminate such problems, and we are firmly determined to do it. [applause]

This decentralization process (?will be implemented in this manner), through subsidized companies. A central office will be established to provide only the most essential services, without bureaucracy. We believe that from the operational and territorial viewpoint, this approach will lead to a modern management system that will separately deal with the areas of exploration, prospecting, production, commercialization, and processing.

All hard currency income going to YPFB and its subsidiaries will mandatorily be sold to the Bolivian Central Bank. YPFB will no longer be allowed to open dollar accounts abroad, because companies will be allowed to open accounts in dollars or in Bolivian currency only at the Bolivian Central Bank. [applause]

The second decision seeking to reorganize the state-run companies deals with the treatment given to the state-run mining metallurgical sector, that is, the Bolivian Mining Corporation [COMIBOL].

COMIBOL will undergo an operational decentralization process through the creation of regional companies operating under the workers' comanagement system. This system will guarantee that workers will have decisionmaking power and that they will participate in the formulation of industrial and commercial policies. In addition, this system will also permit the establishment of clearly defined managerial duties, thus solving one of COMIBOL's current problems.

We have established a reasonable purchase price for the dollars provided by COMIBOL. Therefore, we are sure this will lead to the reactivation of this company, because COMIBOL and the state-run mining sector do not deserve the slanderous expressions people have aimed at them. COMIBOL is a company with prospects and with devotion, although this devotion has been met by the government's indifference from the very beginning.

To reactivate COMIBOL, we will update a study that was conducted with World Bank funds many years ago.

We hope the metallurgical sector will also benefit from decentralization, because this sector should actually render a service to the miners without turning into an hegemonic power, as has recently happened.

COMIBOL will be strengthened because this service will be provided to the miners through the regional administrative mechanisms that have been designed in line with this reorganization program. [applause]

We are sure that sound and modern business criteria will be adopted. Each state-run company enjoys administrative autonomy; each will formulate its own management and operational policies with a view toward increasing its efficiency and profits. This is what COMIBOL workers have been asking for.

We will not hand the mines over to cooperatives, neither will we denationalize them. We believe that in a serious and responsible comanagement system, the central office will turn into a kind of holding [preceding word in English] that will simply formulate general policy guidelines without any participation in management operations.

We have (?integrated ENAF) [National Smelting Enterprise] and the Karachipampa Mine into the corresponding regional corporations, following the guidelines of a progressive mining-metallurgical policy. The previous situation, which has so badly affected Bolivia's policies in the smelting sector, will thus be overcome. [applause]

Among the causes for the public deficit, one of the most serious problems, which has been worsening over the years, is the Bolivian Development Corporation [CBF]. Except for its two largest enterprises, the CBF is responsible for more than 50 percent of the deficit plaguing this country.

The CBF has become a corrupt organization, an absolutely ineffective organization which has long ceased to fulfill its original mission which was to promote industrial development, and has been maintaining uneconomical production systems and ill-managed enterprises.

With the advent of the new national philosophy which calls for the regionalization of development the CBF becomes unnecessary; therefore its enterprises are hereby transferred to regional development corporation [applause and shouts] free of debt. This means that they will undergo a clearance of assets so that they will not be white elephants, ineffective and bureaucratically overburdened when taken over by the regional development corporations which are key elements for the development of the nation and the integration of its peoples and regions. [applause, shouts]

I will not spend too much time on the National Transportation Enterprise because what should be done there should be perfectly obvious. It is in line with the idea that the guideline for the administration and the citizens is to strengthen local government, municipal activities, municipalities and increase the participation of the neighbors in municipal decisionmaking.

Therefore the assets of the National Transportation Enterprise will be transferred to the various municipalities. As for the inter-provincial services similar criteria will be applied to achieve decentralization.

There is a problem which truly plagues national enterprises, their local debts. That is, debts which they have among themselves and also the money they own to the private sector. Decisions have been made to correct this situation.

For example, there are corporations like the Lloyd Bolivian Airline [LAB] that owe millions of U.S. dollars to Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] and has not been able to pay them. In these cases we are studying the possibility of doing something the English call clearance, that is the streamlining of inter-company debts so that each one of them will be able to operate within the framework of its revenues and requirements.

We have not proposed to create new taxes but to review the guidelines that have to do with the assets of private corporations. The private enterprises that do not pay taxes as they should, the private enterprises that must strongly contribute to the new economic policy, will be compelled to review their assets and comply with the new tax system which will establish final deadlines beginning with the approval of their new financial statements.

A similar guideline will apply to taxes on urban real estate which must be reaccessed in view of our desire to curb an inflation of the magnitude we now confront.

It is time for me to end this description of the key elements of the economic program, but first I must spend a few minutes to earnestly address a basic problem. What I have in mind is the feudal management of the Central Bank of Bolivia.

If there were one problem the previous government had to endure, if there were any offenses that the prior administration had to take, they all came from a labor caste that is not worthy of national respect, that is the caste entrenched in the Bolivian Central Bank. [applause, shouts]

Messers Lawmakers, within the overall economic structure of our country, irrespective of the political or social system one may chose, the Bolivian Central Bank is the heart of the country and this heart must serve the nation by maintaining the flow of currency which keeps the nation alive, giving meaning to its activities and preserving its trustworthiness. The bank must serve the nation and not a feudal, conservative, and backward labor aristocracy. [applause, shouts]

In a solidary and fraternal spirit [world indistinct] we will conduct a radical and immediate reorganization of the Bolivian Central Bank [applause, shouts]....and we will do so vigorously. Our actions will abide strictly by the law of the Bolivian Central Bank which is currently disregarded, violated, trampled upon and distorted by an elitist and selfish hegemonic group which jeopardizes the entire society.

With your permission, Mr President, I would like to conclude by addressing something very important and necessary: the salary policy.

Unfortunately Bolivia is experiencing an intolerable distortion of the salary system and the public servants are most affected by this distortion.

You all know gentlemen that a YPFB guard, a good worker probably, is making at least 20 percent more than a national deputy. From this you can well imagine what the salary level is, especially of personnel that are paid by the national Treasury Department.

These distortions will be settled, not by dismissing personnel or cutting salaries but by consolidating in a single bloc the overall yearly earnings plus Christmas bonuses, thus launching in a friendly and totally dispassionate manner a reorganization which will lead to the reinstatement of a proper salary policy in our country.

In view of the impossibility of bridging the gap of the fiscal deficit, we have proposed to maintain the current level of salaries for a short time until the mechanism we are working on, an overall and coordinated mechanism, can be put to work.

We, and especially the president of the nation, feel that this is not a fair solution because the salaries are very low in this country. However, we believe that, taking into account our monetary and exchange policy, the reorganization of the public sector and of the major corporations, the breaking up of the CBF, the program aimed at streamlining the tax system to provide the national treasury with more resources, we will be able to guarantee that once this policy has stabilized the situation; salaries, although low, will not lose any purchasing power in the future.

For example, if in these circumstances, the government granted a bonus within this new economic policy, it would be shamefully deceiving the country, because we cannot implement that kind of salary increase that simply consists of directly issuing more money, and which will worsen the inflationary process, besides this the new money that the workers would be receiving would simply become (useless) just as the last bonuses and salary increases were.

Mr President, honorable Congressmen: let me end my speech first by expressing my gratitude and that of the executive branch for your consent to the request made by the president of the republic to summon the National Congress in order to inform you, at least in a general manner, about the fundamental aspects of the new economic policy.

President Paz Estenssoro said the following upon concluding his speech, a few hours ago: Bolivian men and women: let us behave with firmness and courage, if each of us does his share in the struggle against poverty, you can be sure that we will win this formidable battle.

Time will tell whether we have met the challenge or helped worsen the misery of more than 6 million people, of more than 6 million inhabitants of this country, which we have to revive at any cost, so that it may build its own future.

CSO: 3348/943

CUBA

U.S. SAID TO FALSELY PORTRAY COLOMBIA AS VIOLENT, DRUG-CENTERED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 4 Aug 85 p 11

[Article by Rafael Perez Pereira]

[Text]



COINCIDING WITH its independence day festivities (July 20) Colombia, one of the Latin American countries with the most economic problems, has started a campaign to erase the discredited image it now has in the United States which has led to a decrease in tourism, trade and investment.

The campaign is jointly organized by the Colombian government, some private enterprise and social organization such as the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club and the Junior Chamber of Commerce, mainly representing big businessmen, and will be carried out in the United States, the self-proclaimed leader of world democracy.

Two reports clearly illustrate the need for this campaign and the magnitude of the slander against Colombia in the United States, although the two countries have normal relations and Colombia is a democracy ruled by a conservative party.

Julio Alberio Díaz, leader of the civic committee charged with improving Colombia's image (an image which is particularly poor in New York, Washington, Los Angeles and Miami), said the time had come to change the distorted notion that Colombia was a country where crime and violence were its main characteristics.

The daily El Tiempo, one of the oldest and most traditional Colombian papers, stated that people in the United States had to be convinced that Colombia was not synonymous with drugs but with culture, work and the desire for progress.

The anti-Colombian campaign in the United States, in which the well-known agencies of destabilization in that country are surely involved, is centered on drugs.

The richest country and major drug consumer depicts the poor, underdeveloped country as the main culprit, along with many others, of the headache of the drug trade.

Of course, the facts are very different, and recently the Colombian UN ambassador, Carlos Albán Holguín, said his country had accomplished far more in the struggle against drugs than the United States, where you see people buying and selling cocaine in the streets.

Colombian President Belisario Betancur has complained about the lack of significant support and reciprocity on the part of the United States in the common battle against drugs. He added that while poor countries such as his own make great sacrifices in this undertaking, the United States profits from supplying modern technical equipment which is needed and then even restricts delivery.

People in the United States are led to believe that Colombia is a drug empire and the United States a helpless victim, in spite of the fact that statistics in the last year show that 47 percent of the drugs seized in the world in 1984 were in Colombia and there were more major operations against trafficking than in the United States itself.

Instilling such an image in the people of the United States of a Latin American country with which Washington claims to be friendly is ethically reprehensible and economically very damaging, in addition to being yet another demonstration of the United States well-known contempt for the peoples of Latin America.

This discrediting campaign comes at a time when Colombia most needs financial help to cope with its critical economic problems (a foreign debt of more than 10 billion dollars which is expected to surpass 13 billion by the end of the year, 13 percent unemployment and the highest inflation in a decade). Colombian businessmen fear the campaign will ruin plans for increasing exports of nontraditional goods to the United States and obtaining investments in production and resources to increase the benefits of oil production through infrastructure projects.

Organizers explain that the drive to improve Colombia's image in the United States will benefit its prestige and economy. It will be a public relations campaign to get the facts about Colombia to the mass media, businessmen, institutions and the public as a whole, so that the country's efforts to cope with the economic crisis and the pressing foreign debt will be known.

In a sense the campaign fits in with the efforts of Colombia — the seventh most indebted nation in Latin America — in the Cartagena Group, to which it belongs along with the other ten leading debtors of the area (headed by Brazil and Mexico), to win support for the main demands of the Third World in the economic field.

The fact that these sectors of Colombian society felt the need to organize the campaign in the United States clearly shows that the latter country hasn't the slightest understanding of the problems of other peoples, including those with whom it professes a genuine friendship. For example, not long ago, Mexico had to complain to its powerful neighbor about similar campaigns that had adversely affected its hard currency earnings from tourism.

Even though the image improvement drive will use moderate language and even though the country's economic problems will not be fully detailed and the causes and solutions will not be formulated, the essence of the problem — unequal treatment, exploitation and plunder — will be absolutely evident because of its sheer force.

Of course, the U.S. reaction could be that of the same disdain it showed for the Cartagena Group's request to the Bonn summit of developed capitalist countries.

But this won't happen when the underdeveloped world, united and historically and strategically stronger, demands a moratorium on its debt and interest payments, total cancellation and the New International Economic Order, humanity's only just and sensible way out of the present critical and dangerous situation.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

NEW SENATE PRESIDENT--Santo Domingo, 16 Aug (EFE)--Jacobo Majluta, senator for the National District, was elected president of the Dominican Senate today. The Senate board is now composed of Majluta as president; Vicente Castillo, vice president; and Juan Belarmino Rodriguez and Rafael Correa Rogers, secretaries. All of them belong to the Dominican Revolutionary Party. In addition, Hugo Tolentino Dipp was elected today president of the Chamber of Deputies for the fourth consecutive time. [Excerpt] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0048 GMT 17 Aug 85]

CSO: 3248/504

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION INCREASE--The increase in national oil production contrasts with the reduction in oil export quotas. According to official reports, oil production increased from 75 million barrels in 1983 to 94 million in 1984. However, oil exports dropped from 58.9 million barrels in 1983 to 53.8 million in 1984, due to an increase in the domestic consumption. The situation is more visible when we notice that while in 1973 Ecuador consumed 22 percent of its oil production, this consumption doubled in 1984, when it reached 43 percent of the total production. [Text] [Guito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Aug 85]

CONTRACT SIGNED WITH PRC--The PRC today signed a contract with the Rey Banano del Pacifico (REYBANPAC) firm in Ecuador, which will supply that country with 30 thousand tons of bananas annually. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2245 GMT 5 Aug 85]

PROVEN GOLD RESERVES--An official report today states that Ecuador has proven gold reserves of 1,150 tons in superficial mines and 72 gold-bearing rivers throughout the country. In a news conference, Fernando Navarro, under-secretary of energy and mines, confirmed that the Nambija Mine, close to the Peruvian border, has estimated reserves of 900 tons of gold. Navarro added that there are an estimated 14 grams of gold per ton of material. Navarro stated that the told in Nambija is worth approximately \$10 billion, of which approximately \$105 million is recovered annually. [Summary] [Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0020 GMT 15 Aug 85]

PERUVIAN FISHING BOATS SEIZED--The (Onyx), the first Peruvian ship seized while fishing in Ecuadoran waters, was released after payment of a \$2,320 fine. The (Onyx), as well as four other Peruvian ships that are still detained, were seized because they were fishing without the proper permit. In this regard, Rafael Macias, director general of fisheries, said that the 16 seamen from the five ships were taken to the Puerot Bolivar port captains office, where they gave statements, and then they were handed over to the Peruvian consul general in Guayaquil. The ships still detained are the (Marie Elena), (Salve Maria), (Johnny) and (Delfin). [Text] [Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Aug 85]

RECHARTING RIVERS WITH PERU--The Information and Press Office of the Foreign Ministry has reported that the Peruvian and Ecuadoran governments have appointed representatives to form a joint technical group that will verify the diversion of the course of the Calvas, Macara, and Zarumilla rivers as a result of the rainy season. The meetings will begin on Monday. In recent days, delegations of the two countries have been working on this subject, thus maintaining an atmosphere of harmony that contributes to normal development of the lives of border populations. [Text] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Aug 85]

CSO: 3348/927

EL SALVADOR

CHURCH PUBLICATION RESPONDS TO FMLN-FDR COMMUNIQUE

PA280119 San Salvador ORIENTACION in Spanish 25 Aug 85 p 3

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] A recent FMLN-FDR commune criticized what was described as the political aspects of the pastoral letter on dialogue.

There are several such political aspects: for example, the pastoral letter ignores "the role of the Reagan administration in the prolongation of the war, and how the United States arms and trains the Army and directs the war."

We believe that the strong political nature of the U.S. aid caused the bishops to refrain from discussing the topic because of the pastoral nature of the letter, its spirit, and its intent. This intent was to create hope and awareness of responsibility in the face of reality, and to reflect on dialogue--on the need for it, its real nature, the possibility of it, and on dialogue as the only option, given human nature, that can lead us to the much desired peace without the subsequent pain and destruction that an armed solution would bring.

The bishops do not want to become political. Their message is aimed at providing the enlightenment and the criteria of the gospel, so that God's kingdom--the signs of which are respect, justice, love and peace--can be built in our country. For this very reason, they have to be objective. For this reason, they have described our reality of violence, of mistrust of dialogue, of negative experiences with dialogue, and the hostile attitude of those who have made violence their absolute method.

Within this same spirit of objectivity, they refer to political events--like the last four elections--as evident signs of the will of the people, who have chosen the road to democracy to solve their problem of how to repel violence and seek peace.

The influence of U.S. aid on our power structure is not a subject for pastoral reflection, since the people are not responsible for this aid. On the other hand, to be objective, if the bishops had spoken about this in their pastoral letter, they would also have had to mention economic and military aid that the guerrillas receive from other governments and institutions.

These are topics that those involved must treat with a true spirit of dialogue. To point out this spirit is the church's mission.

It seems to us that, because of its doctrinaire character, the following FMLN-FDR accusation is even more serious: "We regret the church's gradual abandonment of its preference for the poor, and its failure to denounce continuous arrests, disappearances, and unrecorded detentions, as well as the disregard for labor union demands."

In this respect, it is timely to recall that the preference for the poor is a pastoral, rather than a political option, inspired by love, justice, and truth. That is to say, it is not an absolute unconditional option, as if the poor were always right, their claims were always just, and the methods employed to reach their objectives were always valid and honest.

The church reaffirms its interest in justice, and its determination to serve all the poor and oppressed, but it cannot allow its solidarity with the poor, its love for them, and its interest in serving them to be exploited by parties, groups, or movements without concern for truth and justice.

On the other hand, the accusation regarding the failure to denounce arrests and disappearances, seems strange and inconsistent, given the activity of the Legal Aid Office of the Archbishopric, and the fact that Sunday after Sunday denunciations are made in the homilies in the cathedral, so much so that rightist politicians and extremists have accused the church of taking sides and of giving "political homilies."

As can be seen, some lack sincerity, and this can be an obstacle to dialogue.

CSO: 3248/503

MEXICO

PPS FIGURE, COLUMNIST ARGUES AGAINST ENTRY INTO GATT

PA202207 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 17 Aug 85 p 5

[Article by Hector Ramirez Cuellar: "Why Mexico Must Not Join the GATT"--
passages within slantlines published in boldface]

[Text] The main arguments which Hector Hernandez Cervantes, secretary of commerce and industrial development, has raised in favor of joining the GATT are the following: it is indispensable to modernize our industry and enable it to compete in foreign markets; we would have a forum at which foreign trade matters could be discussed; and Mexico must expand its participation in world trade.

Regarding the handling of this matter, which is important for Mexico's development, there is the following alignment of forces: A business sector opposes the entry into GATT because it feels that it is not prepared to withstand the onslaught of foreign goods. Another sector, represented by ANIERM [National Association of Mexican Importers and Exporters], is in favor of it probably because it is very closely linked to foreign capital.

In the popular circles, the firm opinion of the Labor Congress stands out. It clearly perceives nefarious consequences for the country's present and future from such entry. The same view is held by the PPS [Popular Socialist Party], the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico], and PMT [Mexican Workers Party], which have stressed that a truly neocolonialist spirit, which is unacceptable from every point of view, lies at the bottom of Hernandez' proposal.

Mexico must not join the GATT for the following reasons, which must be duly evaluated by the federal government:

1. The agreement is predicated on the principle of juridical equality of the states to liberalize foreign trade. However, in practice, the industrialized capitalist countries are the ones that make the decisions with regard to the drafting of the agreements and the orientation of the main decisions. This is so because these countries carry out the bulk of trade transactions in the world. Latin America makes up barely 5 percent of those exports.

2. The GATT /has not made foreign trade flexible/; on the contrary, protectionism is high in the industrialized capital countries at this moment and there is a serious rivalry among them over the access to their own markets and those of the developing countries.
3. Mexico does not have the capacity to export manufactured goods and the U.S. law on foreign trade does not allow it either. In 1984, 75 percent of our exports consisted of oil and only 25 percent of non-oil products. Therefore, serious harm, rather than any additional benefits, would be reaped.
4. Our disadvantageous position would grow even worse if we bear in mind that 56 percent of our exports consist of intermediate goods [bienes intermedios]; 47 percent of consumer goods; and 4.2 percent of capital goods. /The inequality would grow because imports would grow substantially./
5. Our trade balance, which hinges heavily on oil products, would reflect an even larger deficit because of the increase in imports. In exchange for our joining the GATT, the United States would secure a firm hold on Mexico's oil and a quite large market for its products--a market that would be devoid of any defenses of a nationalist nature.
6. Conditions for foreign capital investment would be made more attractive by an eventual entry into GATT. Foreign investment totalled \$10,786,400,000 in 1982 and the number of firms involving participation or control by foreign investors grew from 4,359 to 6,123. The tendency would grow and so would the harm this entails, particularly in terms of flight of capital.
7. Most of the concerns that sell their products abroad import more than they export. Therefore, the capital losses would not be overcome. The reverse would be the case.
8. By eliminating the import license the state would give up a planning mechanism which makes the protection of certain industries more selective and rational. This would allow /the decisionmaking power/ on certain foreign trade matters to be removed from its jurisdiction and placed under that of the United States and other capitalist nations, which are the ones in control of GATT.
9. Many small- and medium-sized industries would go bankrupt or give in to foreign capital because their products would not be competitive in price and power would be accelerated.
10. The entry into GATT would encourage the consumption of unnecessary luxury items for the benefit of a small minority in our society.

CSO: 3248/490

NICARAGUA

NEW MILITIA BATTALION FORMED IN REGION III

PA261710 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Aug 85

[Text] A new militia battalion of Nicaraguan peasants, workers, and students has just been formed in Managua, Nicaragua. Here is a report from PRENSA LATINA by Luis Cabrera.

[Begin Cabrera recording] The Sandinist Central Organization of Workers, the state workers of the national Employees Union, and workers who form the reserve battalions, form the greater part of the new militia battalion in Region 3, Managua, which has departed for some location in the Nicaraguan mountains. The reserve infantry battalions are now a full squad of workers who are marching to the war fronts.

Happy and determined, the militiamen have a double mission: to fight against the aggression, and to carry out social work with the peasants in the zones where they will operate in a mobilization that will last indefinitely.

Questioned for this station, many of the workers from the reserve infantry battalions said: I am going to the mountains as a soldiers, and I will do any task assigned to me. Meanwhile, Donald Mendez, a member of the National Executive Council of the Sandinist Youth, said that he will adopt the role of vanguard, the role that has always been played by FSLN members and militants when the defense of revolutionary power is urgent.

This mobilization of the workers' Reserve Infantry Battalions to the war zones fits in with statements by Nicaraguan Defense Minister and Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, who said that in coming days Nicaragua's defenses will be increased so that in 1985 the slogan For Peace, All Against the Aggression, can be fulfilled. [end recording]

CSO: 3248/502

NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

NORWEGIAN FERTILIZER UNLOADED--It has been reported that 15,293 tons of fertilizer donated to Nicaragua by the Norwegian Government are being unloaded at the port of Corinto. This fertilizer will be used exclusively for the basic grains crop in the country's most important regions. [Summary]
[Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 26 Aug 85 PA]

CSO: 3248/510

PANAMA

POSSIBILITY OF COUP DISMISSED BY COLUMNIST

PA210331 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 20 Aug 85 p 4

["Firing Line" column by Jose Franco: "Coup d'etat?"--passage within slant-lines published in boldface]

[Text] As far as we journalists have been able to gather, there has never been the slightest intention of staging a coup against President Ardito Barletta. The rumors to that effect were so strong over the past weekend, that even the government people were confused. What is being overlooked is that all this psychological war can be expected from the opposition groups, in their attempt to create the impression that the executive is losing power.

In order to understand Ardito Barletta's government, one must be aware of the current international reality. We are facing a fierce economic crisis, which receives wide publicity in our country because we are experiencing a period of practical democracy, contrary to previous times when--we must admit it--we were ruled by a strong government.

There is another aspect that is simply ignored. The path toward Panama's total democratization started with the Armed Forces, and therefore the Armed Forces are the most interested in preserving that status, since they have played a role in the process. Some will say that we have a democracy as a result of pressure; however, in our opinion, this is not so, because the pressure was never strong enough to force the issue.

Furthermore, Ardito Barletta's government inherited the problems we are currently confronting. As Ardito Barletta said in Sabana Grande: /"The president is not the one who has problems, it is the country that has problems."/

We have signed a treaty with the United States, with which we must thoroughly comply in order to receive reciprocal treatment. The capital investments at the banking level are so huge in our country, that the bankers will not be scared by rumors of false and sensationalistic reports. There is free-flowing communication between the Executive and the Armed Forces. Of course, there might be differences of opinion, which is common in any democracy, but without reaching the extreme of destroying the nation's constitutional order.

CSO: 3248/491

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

RESHUFFLE UNDER WAY IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago's High Commissioner in London, Mr. Frank Abdulah, is returning home to take up the position of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, it was learnt yesterday.

It was recently reported in the British Press that he is due shortly to bid goodbye to the Queen, having completed his term of duty.

Mr. Abdulah, who succeeds Mr. Christopher Thomas, recently appointed Ambassador to Caracas, is expected to be in Trinidad and Tobago in time to help finalise arrangements for the November visit of the Queen.

In the meantime, there were sweeping changes in the Ministry this week. It is part of an overall plan to lubricate the Ministry's machinery to provide for greater productivity, efficiency, as well as to put some sparkle in its image.

Foreign Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir confirmed that there have been changes since his return from the Far East where he accompanied Prime Minister George Chambers on a month-long tour to drum up trade and investment for Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Mahabir said yesterday there was a tremendous amount of follow-up work to be done in the wake of the tour, so there was need for greater efficiency and productivity to help catapult Trinidad and Tobago into the hurly-burly of international affairs — the recent presidency of the United Nations Security

Council having been used as a launch pad.

In addition to Mr. Abdulah returning to replace Mr. Thomas, other senior officials in the ministry labelled as "directors" involved in the reshuffle include the following:

Mr. Cecil Alleyne, formerly Chief of Protocol, is now Director of Caricom Affairs.

Ms. Lenore Dorset, who is returning from the High Commission in Ottawa, will be Chief of Protocol.

Mr. Hollister Broomes, who, like Mr. Abdulah, is also returning from London, will be Director of International Economic Relations.

Mr. Peter Hezekiah, who was in charge of International Trade, now becomes Director of Science and Technology.

Ms. Shastri Ali, formerly in charge of Science and Technology, becomes Director of Administration.

Mr. Philip Sealy, who returns from the embassy in Caracas, will be Director of Marine Affairs.

Of the lot, only Mr. Dean Aziz, retains his position as Director of Legal Affairs.

Ms. Joan Massiah takes over the position of Director of Information, Public Relations and Culture — a position formerly held by Mr. Jerome Jones, who has been transferred to Nigeria.

Mr. Rabindranath Permanand becomes Director of Political Affairs. He was Director of Political and Economic Affairs.

CSO: 3298/947

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

REPORTAGE ON CHAMBERS' ASIA TOUR, RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

Hong Kong Prospects

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 5 Aug 85 p 48

[Article by Anthony Milne]

[Text]

NEW FOREIGN investment in Trinidad and Tobago may soon come from the Far East — Hong Kong to be precise. Hong Kong businessmen and industrialists are considering moving their businesses here now that China is to take over the British colony.

This is one likely result of the Far East tour undertaken by Prime Minister George Chambers, said Jack de Lima, Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), who returned home from the tour on Friday along with a party of local businessmen who accompanied the Prime Minister.

"Because of the uncertainties surrounding Hong Kong now that the take-over is imminent, some business people want to move out and are thinking about moving to Trinidad and Tobago," said de Lima, talking to the SUNDAY EXPRESS in the VIP lounge at Piarco International Airport soon after arrival.

Britain's 99-year lease on the territory expires in 1997.

Hong Kong's major industries include the manufacture of textiles, garments, electronic equipment, toys, rubber products, and cement. Other industries include shipbuilding, steel rolling, and aluminium extrusion. Fishing and fish processing, and financial services are also important.

The party of local business men arrived at Piarco at 4.30 p.m. on BWIA's flight 901 from London. Heading the group were de Lima, Chamber of Commerce President Len Hackshaw, and trade unionist Nathaniel Critchlow. Chairman of the Export Development Corporation Arthur Lok-Jack reportedly arrived back a couple days ago.

On the tour the businessmen visited Britain, Hong Kong, China, Korea, Japan, and India. The Prime Minister and other government representatives have gone on the Austria. They are expected to return here by mid-week.

"Nearly everybody who went has a new industry to bring in," de Lima declared. "In every country we went to we had great success; some of the new industries are joint ventures and some will be doing it on their own."

Hackshaw was equally enthusiastic. "We established Trinidad and Tobago's reputation in the Far East," he said. "Business and trade agreements were handled at governmental level and then individual arrangements were made."

Critchlow, President-General of the National Union of Government and Federated Workers (NUGFW), said he spoke to labour leaders in the countries they visited and a meeting between officials of the British Trades Union Congress (TUC) and labour leaders in the Caribbean is being planned for later this year, probably during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in the Bahamas.

"I also spoke to foreign businessmen who want to know about the industrial climate here before investing," he explained.

Some of the businessmen spoke frankly about their new plans, though details still have to be settled.

"I established links with people in Britain and Japan in particular," Bolan Amar, head of the Amar group here which assembles Toyota vehicles, told the

SUNDAY EXPRESS. "We are considering going into plastics, bicycles and the manufacture of transformers."

Businessmen have to decide on exactly what they want to do and then make firm arrangements with companies abroad. The decision-making process is expected to last about a month, according to Zaid Mustapaha, one of the party, who wants to go into ship repairs and the manufacture of engine components after talking to people in Korea.

He explained that experts will come from the countries visited to train technicians here. "What they have and what we need is the skill and technology," he maintained.

Kemrachand Gobin, of Caribbean Farm and Poultry Distributors, wants to manufacture plate glass and glassware, while Dr Aleem Mohammed, of Jaleel Bottling Works, is thinking of "going outside," not just bringing something new here.

Others who arrived on Friday were: Kayam Baboolal, Nirmal Rampersad, Steve Ferguson, Isaac McLeod, and Ramesh Patel.

Evaluation of Trip

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 5 Aug 85 p 48

[Article by Anthony Milne]

[Text]

WHATEVER the cost, Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) Chairman Jack De Lima is convinced Prime Minister George Chambers' trip to the Far East was well worth it.

"We should get fantastic results," De Lima told the EXPRESS in an interview yesterday. De Lima returned home on Friday after accompanying Prime Minister George Chambers and other officials on a trade-promotion trip to the Far East. The Prime Minister is expected back on Thursday.

"I want to advise businessmen to travel abroad now and find out for themselves, and if they want help they should come to the IDC. You can't do this kind of thing on a telephone, we have to go out there and meet people."

Trade agreements, he indicated, were signed by government representatives everywhere they visited.

"The Prime Minister cut a good image abroad," he declared. "He spoke well everywhere we went and was a great credit to the country."

Soon, it is hoped, the results will begin to show with the arrival here of delegations from the countries visited. De Lima was impressed by the welcome extended in each country and in particular by the politeness and discipline of eastern societies.

"Everybody bows to each other," he said. "They have a different view of trade unionism too, but of course some of those countries are not democracies, and even in those that are life is much more strict. In those countries they think of us as a wealthy nation, and many people there earn in a month what a person here earns in a day."

The official part of the delegation were guests of the governments of all the coun-

tries visited officially: all except Japan and Hong Kong—or Austria, where the business people did not go. The businessmen paid their own way and not all of them visited all the countries the official delegation went to.

The official delegation travelled first class between countries on a number of airlines, including BWIA, British Airways, Air India, Korean Airlines, and Japan Airlines, De Lima said.

In India, De Lima was among those who lunched with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"Prime Minister Gandhi is a conservative person," he observed. "he is soft-spoken and as good looking as a movie star."

There is a big domestic market for manufacturers in India, De Lima pointed out. "The same is true of Japan. That is important in any effort to export. A domestic market helps cover your overheads. Also, in India they produce most of their own food

now which helps with their balance of payments. But there is still a lot of poverty there and people here sometimes 'don't understand what we have, whatever the past."

In India, he added, there is money to be invested. In Korea, where there is a foreign debt of \$48 million (U.S.); it is more difficult for the smaller businessmen to invest, though Prime Minister Chambers specifically invited investment by large Korean government enterprises in pharmaceutical and fishing ventures. Korea has technology to sell and particularly impressed some of the delegation. It was decided that ambassadors representing the two countries should be exchanged.

A factory owned by the Modi group was one place visited in India. "The Modi group is a big Indian conglomerate," he explained. "It is a family company and they are in almost everything. They want to send people here too."

Indian hotel companies are interested in sending missions.

Agriculture was an important area of discussion wherever the delegation went as was the export of urea and methanol.

In Hong Kong, where businessmen are thinking of moving some of their investments to other countries in the face of the impending takeover by China in 1997, De Lima spoke to people in the Trade Development Corporation which promotes Hong Kong's wares abroad.

The corporation,

headed by a government person but otherwise composed of representatives from private enterprise, charges a tiny levy on all goods imported and exported. With this money, it maintains offices all over the world and promotes trade in Hong Kong.

There is actually a trade deficit in manufactured goods in Hong Kong, according to De Lima, but revenue from tourism and banking services make up for this.

China, also opening up, has set up economic zones and invited foreign investors to come in. Inquiries were made and one local company may try to manufacture soft drinks there though it is not certain if the Chinese have agreed to this yet.

Venture Plans

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 85 p 4

[Text]

MR. JOHN GOBIN, Managing Director of Caribbean Farm and Poultry Distributors Limited, Cross Crossing, San Fernando, returned home last Friday from the Far East trip with the Government delegation, filled with ideas to expand his business.

Mr. Gobin is moving to obtain a concession from a firm in one of the countries he visited with a view to going into a new enterprise.

He said the new venture could cost his firm perhaps more than US \$6 million (TT \$14.4 m) to establish, creating 100 jobs.

Details of the project are to be released later. Mr. Gobin said he was considering the many contacts he established.

With the 20 odd businessmen who accompanied Prime Minister George Chambers, Minister of External Affairs, Errol Mahabir, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Wendell Mottley, and other officials, Mr. Gobin visited London, Hong Kong, China, Japan and India.

During the 29-day tour, he visited many businesses and held discussions with manufacturers.

"The tour, as far as I am concerned, was very fruitful," he said.

Mr. Gobin said such business trips should be regular since the Trinidad and Tobago businessmen would have

an opportunity to look at manufacturing concerns, various types of operations, and return with ideas which could assist them in establishing contacts to bring more and more business into the country.

SO HOSPITABLE

He said he was particularly pleased with the warm reception given the delegation by the North Koreans. "They were so hospitable and kind to us," said Mr. Gobin.

But what Mr. Gobin was looking at mainly was the question of exporting his products. His firm wants to export about 80 per cent of its products and retain 20 per cent for the local market. He said prospects seemed to be good.

Caribbean Farm and Poultry Distributors manufactures animal and poultry feed and pet foods. The firm is building a \$25 million factory on the existing site for the manufacture of cereals.

The new venture expected to result from the trip abroad by Mr. Gobin is expected to be sited elsewhere.

Japanese Offer

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 85 p 4

[Article by Jerry Johnson]

[Text]

WHILE Trinidad and Tobago appears unlikely to make any dent in the unfavourable balance of trade, the Japanese Government is willing to provide this country with an estimated \$400 million fund for capital extensive projects, the terms and conditions of which are unknown.

A businessman who accompanied the official delegation on the Far East tour indicated that while the team lead by Prime Minister George Chambers, tried to address the trade imbalance with Japan he could not see any progress at this time.

The only feasible prospect is in petro-chemicals and the Japanese have a large petro-chemical industry.

The Japanese are very shrewd exporters with great manufacturing capabilities. They tax their local markets heavily to subsidise exports, he disclosed. Cars are cheaper here than they are in Japan.

They need the foreign exchange, because they have no raw material, the businessman said. But they were sympathetic to Trinidad and Tobago's plight and were prepared to assist by providing the fund.

The question of joint ventures for exports under the Caribbean Basin Initiative was raised, he said. "But that possibility, too, seemed re-

mote, unless the venture was highly automated. If it is labour intensive, there is very little we can establish with Japan."

Some businessmen, however, he said, looked at the possibility of joint ventures in the manufacture of electronic components but they refused to discuss the ventures until they received approval because of a distrust concerning confidentiality of processing applications at the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

One of the best prospects, the businessman said, for joint venture projects was in garment manufacturing under the similar concessions that were granted in 1971 for export by the IDC, but which failed miserably and which was subjected to extreme criticism by garment manufacturers.

Still, this country must compete with the Japanese whose export thrust is built on unique methods like providing designs for products for South Korea who then manufacture them for export. A highly skilled South Korean labourer makes about \$50 (US) a month.

The businessman, said, however, there was much to be gained from the trip and said he was intrigued particularly with the quality of service-oriented businesses in Hong Kong and South Korea.

Chambers' Report

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago will have to wait to realise the benefits of the recently completed tour of an official delegation headed by Prime Minister George Chambers to Europe and the Far East.

This is gleaned in a report on the trip presented to the news media by Mr Chambers at his Whitehall office yesterday.

The document cautioned against, a now-for-now expectation of favourable results.

"The results of the visits from the standpoint of Trinidad and Tobago vary from country to country, both as regards the immediacy, as well as the nature of the implementing action that may be expected to follow," the report declared.

"Certain measures are already planned to take place before the end of the current (1985) year and others may follow quickly, if the investment and economic missions to Trinidad and Tobago, now being arranged by certain of the countries visited, produce the generally desired results.

"It is understandable in the light of the report now being presented and of the Press and other media reports transmitted during the tour from the countries then being visited, that public expectations of early benefits from the visits should be raised.

Follow Up Work

"The benefits from such visits do not, however, occur automatically.

"Much further work is often necessary, when the visits have ended, so that the implementation of the various agreements reached and decisions taken might be effectively carried out," the report added.

Follow up work on the tour was already underway in Trinidad and Tobago, the report said.

Mr Chambers, at the start of the presentation of his report, told the news media representatives that yesterday's session was not a Press conference.

In reply to a question on how far Trinidad and Tobago had reached on securing a foreign partner for the troubled Iron and Steel Company (ISCOTT), the Prime Minister said he did not wish to go any further than what the report had stated.

If he did it might open up questions which were subject to negotiations and that would only place him and his colleagues in an awkward position.

Further, he did not think it was in the interest of ISCOTT and the country to elaborate.

Among achievements made during the tour which included members of the business community, were:

--The Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) expressed commitment to accelerate their merchant banking activities in this country and also agreed to consider becoming involved in mortgage financing;

--Samuel Montagu and Company Limited (London) made an offer of services in the area of expert financing, industrial leasing and financing the construction of resort hotels;

--Imperial Chemical Industries PLC, (London): agreement was reached that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago would proceed with the establishment of a methanol plant in Trinidad and Tobago in Point Fortin. This is based on the agreement in principle to match ICI's equity participation, currently estimated at US\$23 million. Provision has also been made for the participation of the local private sector which has been invited to hold discussions in the matter;

--Unilever (Lever Brothers) London will undertake a capital investment programme in Trinidad and Tobago which includes the construction of a new factory building and modernisation of existing plant;

--Union International (London) expressed interest in sending a team to evaluate the existing meat processing plant and to examine the feasibility of establishing and operating a modern abattoir, and

--British American Tobacco (West Indian Tobacco Limited) agreed to investigate the potential for new investment and in particular in further tobacco production and agriculture-based processing industries.

The China Leg

On China, the report confirmed signature of an agreement on trade, economic, scientific and technical co-operation between both countries under which organisations, corporations and enterprises would be encouraged to strengthen contacts, to conclude trade agreements and contracts, to study specific projects and to implement such projects.

Also, agreement was reached with the China Wuhan Corporation for International, Economic and Technical Co-operation to send two technical teams in September or October 1985 to examine the feasibility of Chinese-style furniture from teak and ceramics production.

The other is to examine aquaculture projects, including shrimp/prawn farming.

Agreement was also arrived with the Corporation on rendering technical services for rice and vegetable cultivation.

The Chinese would be buying from this country's National Energy Corporation 40,000 tonnes of urea bulk, expected to be delivered between November and December 1985.

On the Korean leg of the tour, that country's government would donate six specialist ambulances and Korea has offered to provide training on nationals of Trinidad and Tobago in steel making technology.

These two areas were in addition to the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries.

In Japan, a commitment was received by Toyoua Tsusho Kaisha (Toyota) for the deepening of the motor vehicle assembly industry in Trinidad and Tobago by the manufacture of components for use in its global assembly operations.

Yoshida Kogo KK (YKK) also undertook to carry out a feasibility study on the manufacture in Trinidad and Tobago of aluminium building materials.

Gandhi's Visit

In India agreement (in principle) was struck for sales of urea over a period of three years involving quantities of 10,000 metric tons a year on the basis of the counter-purchase of certain electrical goods and services.

India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi would also be visiting Trinidad and Tobago in 1986, the exact date to be announced.

ISCOTT came into play when the party visited Austria.

The Chambers report outlined that a marketing, technical assistance and management programme was received from Voest Alpine.

The Austrians also offered a technical assistance programme for tourism promotion and assistance in the preparation of hotel project studies.

Discussions are to be continued on the possibility of entering into arrangements with Voest Alpine Intertrading for the processing of 50,000 barrels a day of crude oil.

Apology to Media

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

MR. GEORGE CHAMBERS, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, yesterday apologised to the media for his reticence to disclose further developments after his return from his month long Far East tour.

Mr. Chambers, when he arrived at Piarco Airport on August 8, was met by cheering supporters colleagues and the media, who anxiously awaited a report on his trip. The media had been informed by the Ministry of External Affairs there would be a news briefing.

To their consternation however, Mr. Chambers refused virtually to comment about any aspects of the tour. The Prime Minister explained

yesterday, at a news briefing at Whitehall where a report was handed to the media, that he had instructed Mr. Errol Mahabir, Minister of External Affairs, to inform the Ministry he was not prepared to speak with the media.

He said he wanted to present the report first to Cabinet. To his surprise, the Prime Minister said, when he arrived he saw the physical preparation readied for a news conference.

Mr. Chambers then apologised to the media and said that a Prime Minister does not return from such a trip and "just say a few words to the media."

CSO: 3298/948

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GUARDIAN COMMENTS ON BURNHAM'S DEATH, FAILINGS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Aug 85 p 8

[Editorial]

[Excerpts]

It is our view that only a radical change in Burnham's oppressive socialist policies, designed to return to the people of Guyana all the democratic rights and freedoms that had been systematically withdrawn from them, can generate the kind of energy and enterprise necessary to pull Guyana out of its desperate economic plight that is now the Burnham legacy.

If Burnham's ruthless egotism and his commitment to Marxist-Leninist doctrine prevented him from recognising his own failure, we can only hope that his successors will now accept the necessity and need for change.

It is not for us to rejoice in the death of political leaders and we have no desire to do so now.

However, because of the morality that characterises our common humanity, we must face the reality that leaders, whether good, bad or indifferent, come and go while the society and the nation live on, whether they benefit or suffer from the quality of their leadership.

After two full decades in power, Forbes Burnham, for all his intellectual capacity, his gifts of oratory and political craftsmanship, has left his country and his people in far greater economic and political distress than when he first sought their leadership.

And it is paradoxical that, inspite of the early contribution he had made towards Caribbean integration and the formation of the Caribbean Common Market, he subsequently emerged a divisive and embarrassing bete noire within the region by the dictatorial Leftist policies he adopted and his frantic and exhaustive borrowing from all available sources.

Only a couple weeks ago, Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles expressed a majority view when she suggested that the Caricom Secretariat should be removed from Georgetown as a result of the actions and policies of the Burnham regime and their deleterious impact on the region.

BUREAUCRACY

Mr. Burnham's heavy-handed throttling of the once buoyant Guyanese economy has left the country with a staggering debt of \$1 billion, a large percentage of which is owing Trinidad and Tobago, the prostrate Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility and the Caribbean Development Bank.

Internally, Mr. Burnham, having led Guyana into independence, had contrived to perpetuate himself in power by a cynical manipulation of the electoral process, the establishment of a massive all-controlling bureaucracy and the systematic elimination of Press freedom.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PNM OFFICIAL OFFERS ASSESSMENT OF PARTY'S STATUS

Bleak Prospects

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Aug 85 pp 1, 21

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

THE "PNM" is for all practical purposes dead in 1985, and in this year, the People's National Movement is still in an appalling embryonic stage, apparently suffering from acute retardation.

Mr. Alvan Quamina, the ruling party's General Secretary, gave this analysis at the Arima Town Hall on Sunday when he delivered the feature address at the Arima PNM constituency's 23rd annual conference.

The General Secretary, who gave his audience an historical background of the party which has held the reins of power in Trinidad and Tobago uninterrupted since 1956, lamented the apparent shifting of political power from the "PNM" to certain public servants.

Mr. Quamina, received a standing ovation at the end of his lengthy address on "A case for the People's National Movement organisation," in which he repeatedly asked for the real "PNM" to stand up.

The position of the People's National Movement in 1985 left all members and supporters, large and small, high and low, the wise and the otherwise, in a depressing state of inbetweenity, he said.

Mr. Quamina, in a somewhat philosophical discourse on the party, said the "PNM" had reason to strut. "PNM," he said, was a cause, it had a strategy — mass political education, it was bringing stability and progress to the land, because "PNM" had a vision — self determination.

The "PNM" also had a vehicle — the People's National Movement — which permeated every nook and cranny of the land. He continued:

"PNM was opportunity, for men and women who could never have hoped for a moment of recognition or an inch of influence now had both recognition and influence and many developed swollen heads, and some developed frozen brains, and others developed greedy minds; and yet others developed swift hands.

"But all could still strut and talk, and that they did in abundance.

"PNM" was a family, they said, speaking in the euphoria of 'success' and solid achievement and so 'PNM' became a 'way of life' not to mention a source of livelihood."

Mr. Quamina told his audience which included Mr. Ashton Ford, parliamentary representative for Arima and Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities and National Transportation, and senior Government Ministers, that the easy road for those

committed to the People's National Movement organisation was to let the rallying cry — "PNM" usurp the place of the movement.

He elaborated:

"It was the easiest choice because 'PNM' demanded only euphoria, merely enthusiasm and in many instances permitted us to get by with solely emotion.

"It was easy. To build the People's National Movement organisation demanded of men to be men and not boys; demanded women to be women and not playthings; it demanded thought, and dialogue and action and hard work. But that seemed to be great a price to pay then.

"And that decision was based on the fact that 'PNM' had Eric Williams and PNM had apparent political power. In 1985 there is no Eric Williams and the apparent political power, that is having a position of authority which permitted 'PNM' to get things done for the benefit of the nation."

This "political power," Mr. Quamina argued, has now apparently lodged itself in the hands of public servants, the technocrats and the

ever increasing public and statutory bodies.

Mr. Quamina continued:

"So that there is a hospital company to do what the Ministry of Health should be doing; the Secondary Roads Company to do what the Ministry of Works should be doing, and a Solid Waste Company to do what the local government bodies should be doing.

"With necessary adjustments for any over-simplification of the issue, that cost is still very great — indeed burdensome.

"So both Eric Williams and political power seem to have left us to ourselves. And this is what in the ascendancy of 'PNM' that concept was built upon.

"You understand then why I say that in 1985 'PNM' as such, is dead. Because Eric Williams is dead and political power is dead."

He further argued that the disturbing and shameful irony of all of this was that the persons most responsible for this historical and national aberration were most of the so-called "fifty-sixers" and "sixty-sixers" in particular, as he continued:

TEMPORARY GLORY

"As well as all of us who have been so blinded by the euphoria of success that we have been willing to sell out the People's National Movement for temporary glory, for a bowl of soup and a glass of wine as it were."

The true organisation, the People's National Movement, he further contended, was left to atrophy in the background, so that any sense of independence which the People's National Movement might have had was constantly and consistently eroded to the point of non-existence.

"With the demise of the Political Leader Eric Williams, and with the shift in political power away from the political representatives of the People's National Movement, the era of 'PNM' has come to an abrupt end, and the People's National Movement organisation, in a state of arrested growth, is totally incapable and unprepared to assume its rightful place."

Defense of Chambers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by Clewon Raphael]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers's refusal to give any tangible details on the outcome of his one-month trip to the Far East and Europe to the news media when he returned home last week Thursday was a proper example of the principle of "people participation."

So said Mr. Alvan Quamina, the General Secretary of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM), while delivering the feature address at the 23rd annual conference of the Arima PNM Constituency last Sunday.

Mr. Quamina told his Arima Town Hall audience that the Chaguaramas Declaration emphasised a moral relationship between the individual and a set of values and between that individual and leaders who shared that same set of values.

In other words, the People's Charter and the Declaration for in-

stance, or the principle of people participation, or the concept of dialogue and consultation cannot be important to the members and unimportant to the leaders.

Mr. Quamina argued if that became the case then such leaders have disqualified themselves.

He continued:

"Our present political leader (Mr. Chambers) understands this perfectly and what you have seen recently is that he has embarked upon a meet-the-party tour which in the very act is reaffirming to us all 'I am with you, I share the same values with you.'

"A more recent example of that fundamental understanding was last Thursday when, on returning from his tour abroad, he informed the news media that he would say nothing until he had reported to Cabinet.

AN IDEOLOGY

"He immediately proceeded to go outside and speak to the members of the People's National Movement assembled there.

"The Chaguaramas Declaration warns us that 'an ideology has meaning only so far as the proponents seek to put it into practice'...."

Mr. Quamina, who said that the "PNM" was dead in 1985 and made out a case for the People's National Movement organisation, contended one of the pillars of this organisation was vision.

The People's National Movement, he added proclaimed publicly its commitment to the preservation of "your integrity and mine, as individuals.

"Have we consciously done this in respect of the Movement? Have we made it clear to all, within and without, that our Movement, the

People National Movement, is our organisation which we have accepted as the vehicle, the mechanism for our participation in the political process in the nation?

"Have we declared unequivocally that our right to such participation shall not be tampered with, abridged, perverted, distorted or crushed while there is breath in our bodies?

"Have we firmly entrusted this mandate to our various levels of representation within the organisation, whether in constituency group, General Council, Women's League, Youth League or any other, and have we further demanded from them an accounting of their stewardship in this regard?

"If we have not, and if we do not, then we are selling ourselves short, demeaning our organisation, the People's National Movement, and destroying its potential for effectiveness in the society."

CSO: 3298/948

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NAR UNITS GEAR UP FOR INAUGURAL CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER

Study of Manifesto

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 85 p 18

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

CONSTITUENT units of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) are now studying the party's Platform for Democracy which has been termed the outline of a campaign manifesto to take NAR into the next general elections.

The 60-page document embraces four broad areas: (1) Foundation Principles of NAR; (2) Principles, Policy and Programmes; (3) Common Institutional and Sectoral Approach; and (4) Economy and other sectoral approaches.

The document also summarises some of the basic principles on which the NAR stands and how it views politics and the use of power.

NAR is comprised of the National Alliance of which Mr. A.N.R. Robinson was recently elected Political Leader, and the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR).

The ONR has carded some 16 regional assemblies to deal with the document leading up to the ONR's reconvened special conference carded for August 25, at the Astor Theatre, French Street, Port-of-Spain.

This session at which delegates will consider the ratification of a NAR symbol will also tackle the ONR's slate of candidates for positions in NAR.

Elections to NAR's offices will take place at the group's first national congress which political observers hinted will be held sometime next month.

Some of the sub-headings of the Platform for Democracy, according to Mr. Lennox Raphael, Public Relations Officer of the ONR, are:

- The political economy; the basic overall strategy for nation building; role of the State; role of the private sector; foreign investment; industrial relations; social policy; public administration; parliamentary reform.

- Public sector enterprises, Constitutional and electoral reform; Local Government; the news media; education; foreign policy; medical and health services; marine resources; sport; art and culture; law reform; labour law; Tobago.

- Democratisation of economic opportunities; the Judiciary; the national drug menace; guidelines for economic reorganisation; efficient management of national and institutional resources; tax reform; economic welfare; land and housing policy; land-use planning; national transportation.

- The petroleum sector; agriculture and natural resources; industrial development; forestry; foreign ex-

change management; infrastructure and services to industry; and the use of fiscal incentives rather than disincentives as the mechanism for achieving industrial prosperity.

Mr. Raphael, who is one of the persons to contest a NAR post (most likely PRO) said the NAR contact group had put a lot of work into the document so far and there could be suggestions for amendments at the ONR's special conference.

He added:

"The Platform for Democracy is being circulated to and is being studied by constituent units of NAR and amendments cannot be excluded.

"We expect that it will be approved by the various units in principle before the NAR congress."

With the withdrawal of Mr. Basdeo Panday, Leader of the Opposition, and ONR leader Karl Hudson-Phillips from the leadership of NAR race it is certain

that Mr Robinson will be elected unopposed as

Political Leader of NAR at its September meeting.

It is however being speculated that Mr. Hudson-Phillips may be interested in contesting the post of Chairman or the Deputy Political Leader office.

The General Secretary post may see a two-way fight between temporary Opposition Senator Alloy Lequay and Stalin Jones, the ONR's General Secretary.

Conference Plans

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 13 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by Anthony Milne]

[Text]

THE long-awaited inaugural conference of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) is likely to take place on September 8.

The date and venue were expected to be confirmed at a contact meeting last night at the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) headquarters at 10 Albion Street, Port of Spain, and an official announcement is expected later this week.

The other proposed date for the conference was September 22.

The NAR is a new coalition party formed between the ONR and the National Alliance of Trinidad and Tobago (NATT) and the contact group comprises representatives of these two parties who have been working out details of the coalition.

"The party policy and programme and the draft constitution are complete," NATT Public Relations Officer Michael Harris disclosed yesterday, "and a planning committee has been working on the details of the conference, including credentials, voting procedures, publicity, and physical arrangements."

The draft constitution is to be ratified at the conference.

The six-member planning committee comprises three Alliance and three ONR representatives. Beau Tewarie, Kelvin Ramnath, and Basdeo Panday (with Nizam Mohammed as an alternative since Panday is now in Britain) represent the Alliance, while Roy Augustus, Lennox Raphael, and Curtis Pierre (with Stalin Jones as an alternative) represent the ONR.

This committee has been reporting to the ONR/Alliance contact team.

The venue was also to confirmed last night. Prospective venues, according to Harris, were the Grandstand at the Queen's Park Savannah, the Jean Pierre Complex, and the Chaguaramas Convention Centre.

ONR Public Relations Officer Lennox Raphael told the EX-PRESS yesterday that the Convention Centre was ruled out because it is in such a bad state of repair.

One thousand delegates—500 from the ONR and 500 from the NATT—are expected to attend the inaugural conference, and among the executive posts to be filled are party leader, two deputy party lead-

ers, and a chairman and two vice-chairmen.

Apart from these, there will be nine additional executive members chosen from each of the two parties. At a subsequent date the 24-member executive will meet and elect the other party officers from among themselves.

The planning committee is also to recommend a common party symbol, chosen from a number of designs submitted.

There is every likelihood that ANR Robinson will be made political leader of the new party since the other principal contender, ONR leader Karl Hudson-Phillips, has said he will not contest the post.

Anticipated Attendance

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Aug 85 p 3

[Text]

A SINGLE party ready to face the electorate with a dynamic plan of hope for the people of Trinidad and Tobago would emerge from the September 8 inaugural conference of the National Alliance for Reconstruction.

This was said yesterday by Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the National Alliance, one of the constituent members of NAR and who is almost certain to be elected Political Leader of NAR.

More than 3,000 delegates and observers are expected to attend.

Mr. Robinson said the most important item on the agenda of the meeting would be the election of officers.

"A lot of ground work is going on, and this will increase as the conference draws near."

Mr. John Humphrey, the member (Opposition) for St. Augustine, is in charge of the physical arrangements for the meeting.

Other key NAR personnel involved are Mr. Basdeo Panday, Leader of the Opposition; Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, Political Leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction; and Dr. Beau Tewarie, Chairman of the Tapia House Movement.

Among the matters to be dealt with are the NAR's draft constitution, and a policy document called Platform for Democracy.

Terms of Manifesto

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Aug 85 p 3

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

A NATIONAL Alliance for Reconstruction government would mobilise the construction and housing industry to reduce unemployment directly and indirectly in the building materials and service industry.

This is one of the main points in the "Platform for Democracy", described as the NAR's virtual manifesto for the next general elections.

The 20-page document which will be ratified when NAR holds its inaugural congress on September 8, deals with a wide variety of social, economical and cultural and political issues.

On public utilities, the NAR document states that despite massive expenditure the level of service to most of the population remained poor or non-existent, with the telephone company being the possible exception.

Along with housing, public utilities must satisfy these objectives; increasing welfare and aid to economic productivity and investment.

NAR proposes to deal with these aspects by;

- Distributing such services adequately throughout the entire Trinidad and Tobago;

- Development expenditure will be so targeted as to meet the

demands of areas that have been neglected in the past;

- Local interest bodies will be included in planning, co-ordinating and implementation of the public utilities within their jurisdiction;

- The system of open ended subsidies to public utilities will be replaced by a system of subventions for projects which have been clearly identified and approved, consistent with Government's social and economic objectives, and;

- The necessary infrastructure and amenities for investment and job creation will be established in targeted areas throughout the land to give a boost to investment activity and the economic upliftment of all regions.

STANDARDS

Further, on land and housing policy, an NAR government would develop new building codes and planning standards that allow incremental land development and house construction more suited to our people's income and needs.

NAR would stop "the badly planned and inefficient housing policies of the previous government, that cannot be sustained and in its place we will emphasise.

"Housing and land policy that ensure that facilities are regionally distributed to provide equitable development having regard to income level, and;

- "Rural and village development that have hitherto been constrained because the limits imposed by the system of land-holding will be encouraged, integrated with agriculture."

Padmore. Derision

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Aug 85 p 3

[Text]

NATIONAL Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) will break up long before it has the opportunity to form the government.

This prediction was made Sunday by Mr. Overand Padmore, Minister of National Security, at the annual conference of the Arima constituency of the ruling People's National Movement.

Mr. Padmore said the leadership of NAR was adopting a non-consultative posture and the electorate of Trinidad and Tobago was too sophisticated to fall for that.

Speaking at the Arima Town Hall, Mr. Padmore, who again repeated his accusation that some journals had become instruments of political propaganda — against the PNM — questioned what had become of the report of a team appointed by the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) on remarks made by the party's Deputy Political Leader, Mr. Suruj Rambachan, at the Indian Arrival Day ceremony.

He reiterated that Mr. Rambachan must apologise for his outburst.

More Platform Details

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Aug 85 p 3

[Article by Clewon Raphael]

[Text]

AN APPROPRIATE set of economic policies which maximise the use of the nation's productive resources in the interest of all the people will be effected by a National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) government.

According to the NAR's "Platform for Democracy" which forms the main thrust of its manifesto for the next general elections, given the prevailing state of industrial relations in Trinidad and Tobago, institutions dealing in this sphere would be re-appraised and innovative methods for solving these problems would be encouraged.

Dealing further with industrial relations of the NAR document states:

- Changes at the operative levels are necessary to achieve better labour/capital relations and the State has the responsibility to ensure better industrial relations;

NEW PARTNERSHIP

- The promotion of economic justice will be encouraged so as to foster productivity and better industrial relations and in this regard appropriate measures will be necessary to ensure workers a stake in the national economy. To achieve same, ownership of shares by workers should be facilitated by appropriate monetary and fiscal devices and workers participation encouraged;
- The State must also intervene in social processes to realise equal economic opportunities for workers.

On the role of the private sector, NAR says the public and private sectors must complement each other and work harmoniously towards the satisfaction of the national interest.

Under this heading, NAR points out:

- There must be a secure role for the private sector in this new partnership and the private sector is expected to discharge a clear and tangible social responsibility to the nation;

- A programme of social and corporate responsibility for the private sector must be actively pursued, and;

- The regulatory system of taxation, fiscal incentives and industrial policies must have as its goal the congruence between private and social benefits.

Dwelling on foreign investment, the document emphasised there must be a national selective screening process to examine, approve and monitor and evaluate foreign investment.

The purpose of this screening process is to ensure a complementarity between private and social benefits and a consistency in objectives among all forms of investments.

Also, once foreign investment was approved, there should be a removal of all legal and bureaucratic constraints to its implementation.

"With respect to Trinidad and Tobago investments abroad, foreign exchange management practices and monitoring procedures must ensure that among other economic objectives, such investments will result in a net foreign exchange earner within a specified time period, based on well-defined procedures and criteria."

The State has the responsibility to develop social programmes to uplift all citizens, especially that of economically disadvantaged and weak groups, NAR said dealing with social policy.

On this theme NAR expanded that such a social programme would reject popular distribution policies and protect the standard of living of low and middle income groups.

Also, place heavy emphasis on

expenditure towards the development of human capital at all economic levels, ensure that our industrialisation policy would take into consideration target groups and target area approaches.

It would also put the social and economic mobility of low income groups at the centre of social policy and programmes.

On the news media NAR pledges to uphold the fundamental rights of the freedom of the Press and, as a concomitant, freedom of access to the Press.

The media ought to have a public education role and play a positive role in the process of nation-building. In order to achieve the highest professional standard and a balanced approach, consideration would be given to the establishment of an Independent Authority.

There must be a liberalisation of the electronic media and journalists should be encouraged to aspire to the highest professional standards and there must be no monopoly in this field.

NEW WORLD ORDER

The democratisation of the World Information Order must be supported and efforts to establish a New World Information Order should be encouraged.

In the realm of public administration NAR stated the unresponsiveness of the Public Sector to the dictates of a modern national economy and the needs of the people demanded that it be reorganised to meet the requirements of a modern state and appropriate measures to "managerialise" and "systematise" the operation of the Public Sector must be instituted to achieve this end.

A NAR government in this regard would take advantage of the newest and most recent technology, management systems, as well as modern approaches in the area of public service.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DEVELOPMENTS ON LABOR FRONT, IN UNIONS REPORTED

OWTU Protest Plans

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 85 p 3

[Text]

THE OILFIELDS Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), has planned a series of protest activities over the next few weeks to demonstrate dissatisfaction with the industrial relations climate in the country.

Labour organisations from throughout the country have been invited to play an active role in the protests which will involve a series of public meetings and a protest march from Arima to Port-of-Spain.

In a lengthy statement released yesterday, the union described its programme of activities as the direct intervention of workers in the industrial relations crisis.

Over the next few weeks executive members of OWTU will be visiting its units throughout the island to mobilise its membership. They have invited all local trade unions to hold a National COSSABO (Commit-

tee of Shop Stewards and Branch Officers) and a national mass membership meeting.

A series of public meetings will be held to enlist the support of all working people, regardless of political and union affiliation.

The first phase of this programme takes place on Saturday in Arima when there will be a mass public demonstration through the streets of the borough. The march starts at 9 a.m. near the Arima Velodrome.

This will be followed on August 14 by a public meeting to be held at Frisco Junction, Point Fortin.

According to the union's statement, the Ministry of Labour has become a "mere conduit to channel grievances to the Industrial Court." They have accused the employer class of treating the Court and the Ministry with contempt.

Warning of Unrest

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Aug 85 p 3

[Text]

GENERAL SECRETARY of the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress, Mr Carl Tull, warned businessmen yesterday of a social explosion "that would make the 1970 revolution look like a picnic" if the industrial relations climate in this country continues to worsen.

In an address that was criticised by many members of his audience, Mr Tull, described the present trend in industrial relations as "complex and disturbing" and said that the solution could be found through discussion and not confrontation.

At the time Mr Tull was speaking to members of the Port-of-Spain Rotary Club at their regular luncheon meeting.

UNFORGIVEABLE

He told the club members that the present crisis in industrial relations was due to retrenchment and the state of the economy, among other factors.

He defined retrenchment as a "callous and unforgivable practice perpetrated by a number of employers."

"I make no apologies for saying so," he declared.

"Apart from the economic downturn, we have ourselves to blame. A lot of our present problems emanate from within Trinidad and Tobago."

He added: "The present situation is explosive. Unless there is a meeting of minds between the employers, labour and Government, we cannot solve the problems confronting us."

Referring specifically to the Retrenchment and Severance Benefits Bill (1984), which is now before the Senate, Mr Tull said that a number of persons had not taken time to study its implication — in particular Clause 24.

"Instead," he said, "we have had vicious attacks in the Press and mass hysteria over the Bill."

"What we (labour) are very cut up about is that the Bill was passed in the Lower House in February 1985 and it was held up for months before going to the Senate because some employers were making a lot of noise and the Press went to town on it."

"People who talk against Clause 24, I would like to ask them certain questions. Are they saying that a worker must work for 20 to 25 years and leave without anything? If they think so they must come out and say so. They have not said anything yet."

He noted that while the Bill was being dis-

cussed employers were continuing to retrench workers. He said the Labour Congress withdrew from discussions on the issue after seeing this trend being taken.

He said the Labour Congress and the entire trade union movement supported the Bill in its entirety because it is for the protection of workers.

Mr Tull said his organisation has found only three companies and two banks with provisions for payment of severance benefits to workers.

"We accept the reality that a lot of companies, if they are to retrench, would not have ready cash to pay workers their total severance benefits. But that is something they have to work out."

TIWU Leadership

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Aug 85 p 3

[Text]

CLIVE Nunez, the outspoken President General of the Transport and Industrial Workers Union (TIWU), has rescinded his decision to resign from the union's top post and will be resuming active duty with immediate effect.

In an emotional and lengthy announcement yesterday, Mr Nunez said he was resuming office although he expects it to be extremely difficult to work with other members of TIWU's Central Executive.

He declared: "The survival of TIWU is paramount and something has to be done."

He claimed that in the eight months since he went on vacation leave from the union, he noticed its steady and rapid deterioration.

Mr Nunez said his decision was prompted by appeals by some members of the union. Over the weekend, with the support of 36 union members representing 11 branches of the union, Mr Nunez held a meeting at his home. It was at that meeting that he made his decision to return to office.

Last year a team, headed by supporters of Mr Nunez was defeated at the union's elections. Mr Nunez, who was nominated unopposed, was the only member of that team to remain in office. Shortly after the results of the elections were announced he tendered his resignation and stated that he would remain as an ordinary member of the union.

At that time, in his resignation letter, he said that he found it difficult to work with other

members of the executive. He then proceeded on vacation leave and his resignation was to take effect at the end of that time.

Originally, Mr Nunez's accumulated vacation leave was due to end on July 31, but during that time he became entitled to 28 days' sick leave and vacation time was extended to the end of this month.

TIWU's first vice-president, Mr Desmond Bishop, has been acting as President General over the past eight months.

MEMBERS LOST

During his announcement yesterday Mr Nunez referred to a number of areas in which he said the leadership of the union had failed during his absence from office. He said the union had lost approximately 1,000 members during this year, most of them through retrenchment.

He was also critical of the union's handling of a number of labour matters including the retrenchment issue at Amalgamated Industries Limited and protracted issue at National Brewing Company (NBC).

Other members of the TIWU executive could not be contacted yesterday for comment on Mr Nunez's decision.

TELCO Wage Dispute

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 13 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] The Communication Workers Union said yesterday that the Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company had unilaterally decided to increase the salaries of workers by six percent from September.

Ian Clarke, general secretary of the union said the unilateral decision was in violation of the collective agreement. He said the Ministry of Labour, where the parties had been conducting negotiations, had been informed. He said the matter will also be taken to the Industrial Court as a violation of the collective agreement and the company's refusal to meet and treat with the union.

A release from the union said the salary adjustment followed unsuccessful efforts to resolve the protracted wage talks through bilateral discussions between the company's executive director Neilson McKay and the union's executive.

The union said the meetings were initiated by Telco's management after the executive director informed workers that he would become personally involved in the negotiations with a view to ending the protracted talks.

The CWU said that in the memo, dated August 9, 1985, and released yesterday, McKay indicated to the workers that it was unfortunate that negotiations had not been able to come to a conclusion and he did not believe that workers should suffer unduly because of the protracted nature of the negotiations.

However, Clarke said that the decision by the management of Telco was a deliberate attempt to undermine the union because of the union's election of officers which takes place today.

"The secretarial of the CWU wishes to condemn this kind of action and views this as a most dangerous precedent particularly when one takes into account that the matter is engaging the attention of the Ministry of Labour."

In recent bilateral discussions with Telco, the company adjusted its position on wages by one percent from ten percent over three years to 11 percent over three years.

The union rejected this proposal and advised the company that efforts should be made to have conciliatory proceedings resumed at the Ministry of Labour as matter of urgency.

Helen Drayton, Telco's Public Relations Manager, yesterday claimed that the union's statement has been designed to deliberately distort the Executive Director's letter to all senior and junior staff. She said the company and the union have been meeting up to quite recently so the statement that the company has refused to meet with the union is inaccurate.

The six percent implemented is based on the company's last offer for the first two years. The Executive Director made it quite clear to all staff that the increase has been made to bring relief to them until the negotiations have been completed, she said.

CWU Actions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Aug 85 p 3

[Text]

LYLE TOWNSEND, who has been re-elected General Secretary of the Communication Workers' Union (CWU) after a two-year absence from office, said he was confident that he had the support of the union's membership when he started campaigning for the elections.

"We knew why he lost the last elections and we knew that history would absolve us the and that two years later the workers would recognise they had made a mistake," he said hours after his victory was announced.

Townsend's team, the "Progressive Workers", scored a resounding victory over CURD, a team made up of members of the last CWU executive, in elections held on Tuesday.

In a brief interview shortly after the results of the elections were announced Townsend said that his team had set down a two-year programme to regain the leadership of CWU shortly after their defeat in 1983. He served as General Secretary of the union from 1976 until he was defeated by Ian Clarke in 1983.

A RECOUNT

Counting of ballots in the elections was completed at 2 a.m. yesterday. A recount of votes is now in progress for the position of Deputy Treasurer where there is a tie between Carol Adams of CURD and Oliver Elcock of the Progressive Workers.

The results are as follows:-

President: Wayne Edwards (CURD) 686; DENNISE OLIVIER (PW) 838.

General Secretary Ian Clarke (CURD) 668; LYLE TOWNSEND (PW) 951.

Asst. Gen. Sec. Anthony Zephyrine (CURD) 649; WESLEY FELIX (PW) 767.

Treasurer Conrad Browne (CURD) 710; LISA ALEXANDER (PW) 798.

Dep. Treasurer CAROL ADAMS (CURD) 752; OLIVER ELECOCK (PW) 752.

Education Off. Bertyl Baird (CURD) 633; CARL REGIS (PW) 767.

Reseach Off. Allan McLatchie (CURD) 650; ARTHUR RAMJATTAN (PW) 785.

TRUSTEES: Rita Dell (CURD) 669; Hollingsworth Forbes (CURD) 619; Fitzroy Ashby (CURD) 604; MICHAEL CARLOW (PW) 787; MALCOLM OTTLEY (PW) 766; WINSTON JULIEN (PW) 782.

CSO: 3298/950

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FOREIGN LINK SUSPECTED IN ASSASSINATION OF MUSLIM LEADER

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] San Fernando--There is no doubt in the minds of orthodox Muslims living in Trinidad that the slaying of Pakistani missionary Mohammed Aslam Qureshi, 45, of Taylor Street, Marabella on Saturday night has international connections.

The view is that a radical Muslim group wants to discourage the Ahmadiyya sect wherever they settle, whether in Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean or other parts of the world, from spreading their belief.

Missionary Qureshi was shot in the head when he was attacked by three men who blocked his car at a turnaround point at Mission Road, Freeport.

It is believed that he died on the spot. His 16-year-old son Mohammed Naseem escaped unhurt.

Now the victim's wife and other children want to return to Pakistan but they are afraid to do so at the moment. They came to Trinidad two years ago to spread the work of their Ahmadiyya movement, which believes that there was a prophet after prophet Mohammed (Upon Whom Be Peace).

Barred from Mecca

Other Muslim groups in Trinidad are the Anjuman Sunnat-ul-Jamaat Association (ASJA), the Tackveeyatul Islamic Association (TIA), Trinidad Muslim League, Islamic Missionary Guild with the ASJA being the largest. All of them carry on similar worship and belong to the Sunni sect.

One top ASJA official said yesterday that members of the ASJA, TIA, TML and Islamic Missionary Guild can and do go to Mecca in Saudi Arabia on pilgrimages but the Ahmadiyya followers cannot enter Mecca since they have a different belief.

One source said that there is every belief that Saturday's attack on the Pakistani missionary "Must have international connections." He asked "Why members of the other Muslim groups are not being attacked?"

One official from ASJA said he firmly believed that the attack has international connections, but that was as far as he was prepared to go for the moment.

It will be recalled that in August 1983 three bombs exploded at the Marabella Senior Comprehensive School where 20 persons were injured during the opening of the Ninth International Convention of another Ahmadiyya movement, known as the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha-At-I-Islam Inc.

And officials of the particular organisation believed then that it was the work of international terrorists.

No one was held although Police had a dragnet out, covering the airport and harbours.

Following Saturday night's killing, Police were expected to spread out a dragnet for the killers. It was explained by a staunch Muslim that the Tahireek Jadeed Ahmadiyya Anjuman Association of Trinidad and Tobago, of which the deceased was religious head, is a different body from the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha-At-I-Islam Inc.

Funeral in Pakistan

Mr Heyasat Ali Kajim, a top executive of the Tahireek Jadeed Ahmadiyya Anjuman Association of Trinidad and Tobago, said he believed that the incident has "international connections." He said he firmly believes that terrorists are attempting to prevent them from spreading their teachings of Islam.

Mr Kajim said that since the death of the missionary, they have been in contact regularly with the head of their organisation in London, Khalisatal Masiah IV, the spiritual leader.

The body of the missionary is expected to be flown to Pakistan tomorrow, provided all arrangements are finalised.

Mr Kajim said that the official launching of the religious body in Trinidad took place in 1952 and to date they have established ten branches throughout the country in such places as Diego Martin, San Juan, McBean, Siparia, Marabella, San Fernando, with headquarters in Freeport.

He said their organisation has about ten million members throughout the world. He explained that because of a recent law passed in Pakistan which described them as non-Muslims because of their teachings, they are unable to visit Mecca.

Mr Kajim said that their belief is that there was a prophet after prophet Mohammed and that is the main reason why followers of the particular sect were being attacked.

An official of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha-At-I-Islam condemned the violent attack on the head of the Tahireek Jadeed Ahmadiyya Anjuman Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

He said it seemed that both organisations were the targets of attacks and went on to state "we will be taking precautions for the safety of our leader and members generally."

CSO: 3298/951

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS STRESSES NEED FOR RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

THERE are two important areas that require urgent attention if Trinidad and Tobago intends to attract prospective investors:

- the allocation of more substantial resources to research, science and technology; and
- the enhancement of information systems in the public sector.

So said Prime Minister George Chambers yesterday at a news briefing at Whitehall, where he presented the report on the accomplishments of his Far East trip to the media.

Notwithstanding the slowdown of development in the country, Trinidad and Tobago is regarded still as most essential to the continued survival of the Caribbean region, the report indicated.

"However, like any other newly developing country, Trinidad and Tobago has had its fair share of complaints from investors about impediments they encounter in seeking to establish new enterprises," the report said.

"There has been recognition by the Government that such hindrances exist and remedial action was already being taken. What became evident during the mission is the need to accelerate action on such matters."

TWO CRUCIAL AREAS

Mr. Chambers then cited the need for better information systems and the allocation of funds for research, science, and development, as the two crucial areas that need attention. The others are:

- better arrangements for the issue of visas to businessmen and bonafide tourists, as well as the review of other requirements for entry into Trinidad and Tobago.
- the establishment of a presence in the Far East and other strategic areas to promote Trinidad and Tobago's interest.
- the review of politics towards foreign investment.
- an attitudinal change in respect of the role of tourism as a major foreign exchange earner and a generator of employment opportunities.

CSO: 3298/948

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PLAN PROPOSED TO TEST POLICE, MILITARY FOR DRUG USE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by George Harvey]

[Text] Random dope tests for police and military personnel have been recommended to Government to tackle a suspected unacceptable high level of drug abuse by members of the protective services.

The recommendation is contained in the Action Plan Report on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention submitted to the Ministry of Health.

The report outlines a series of legal and medical drug-curbing measures and was drawn up by a six-member committee of health officials under the chairmanship of psychiatrist Dr Peter Lewis, Head of the Alcoholism Treatment Centre (ATC) at the St Ann's Hospital.

It calls for the setting up of systems for the random testing of special essential services groups (Police, Army, Prisons and Fire Services) along with other "high risk groups for psychoactive substances in their body fluids."

Objective of the proposed medical tests is to assist in lowering "the incidence of drug abuse among members of the essential services and identified high risk groups."

It was pointed out that "methods have been developed to fairly quickly detect drugs in body fluid such as urine and blood."

Mixed Reaction

Introduction of urinalysis checks for workers in the United States has met with mixed reaction. Employees have been fired when results showed them to be users of illicit drugs like marijuana and cocaine.

The Lewis Report has also called for the establishment of Employee Assistance Programmes (EAP) in the protective services. EAP systems are also recommended generally for the public service and selected private sector organisations as part of an overall plan for early identification of drug abusers and addicts.

State-owned Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company (Telco) operates an EAP with counselling services for employees. Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago has a standing programme known as REACH (Royal Employees Access to Counsel and Help) to deal with drug, alcohol and emotional problems.

The report explains that the assistance scheme is essentially a management tool for detecting concealed alcohol, drug and mental health problems at the work place.

Supervisors are trained to deal with workers whose performances indicate the possibility of human problems. Supervisors are not encouraged to diagnose, but merely to refer to a confidential counsellor who recommends appropriate treatment as a condition for the worker retaining employment.

The report notes: "When properly implemented EAPs have shown to have one of the highest treatment outcome success rate.

"In view of the high proportion of employed persons being treated for drug related disorders, it is important that EAPs should be developed in the public and private sectors."

Other early detection proposals:

--Continuing education of primary care workers to increase their sensitivity to the detection of drug related problems.

--Legislation for the introduction of breathalyser tests for drivers.

--Powers for the court to refer drug abusers identified in judicial cases for treatment.

The report suggests programmes to educate officers of the court on drug-related matters:

--Establish laws and services to facilitate introduction of other devices along with the breathalyser for detecting the relationship between drug use and motor vehicle accidents.

--Outline clear procedures for the courts to deal with drug-related offences that will take in referral to treatment centres.

CSO: 3298/951

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ENERGY MINISTER REPORTS ON SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

Refinery, Gas Output

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 Jul 85 p 1

[Article by Jerry Johnson]

[Text]

IT WOULD take a throughput of more than 100,000 barrels a day to turn the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery into a profitable venture.

Subsequently, the Board of Directors, Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) has commissioned a study to come up with the appropriate mechanism for rationalisation.

Mr. Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, made the disclosures yesterday in answer to questions posed at the Hilton Hotel after he delivered his mid-year review 1985 of the Petroleum Industry.

"We have been looking at capacity, availability, and refinery," Mr. Manning said.

He refused to predict whether one or the other refinery (Pointe-a-Pierre or Point Fortin) might be closed saying it would be asking him to guess what a study might reveal.

But the Managing Director, Trintoc, is on record as stating he does not envisage the closure of the Point Fortin refinery as he believes there are reasonable deposits of heavy crude in certain fields.

Taking the cost factor of moving the crude into consideration, Mr. Walton James has argued that the Point Fortin refinery is an appropriate place for it.

Between January and June 1985, the Trintoc, Point Fortin, refinery, with a rated capacity of 220,000 bpd, had average throughput of 24,350 bpd — a 53 per cent increase over the corresponding period in 1984.

The Pointe-a-Pierre refinery, with a rated capacity of 220,000 bpd, had a throughput average of 57,480 bpd — a drop of 4.4 per cent over the same period in 1984.

"During the first half of 1985, there was a continuation of the Tex-

aco/Trintoc agreement whereby Trintoc, Point Fortin, supplied Texaco (now Trintoc, Pointe-a-Pierre) with 37,000 bpd of crude oil in order to maintain the throughput at the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery at approximately 65,000 bpd," Mr. Manning disclosed.

AMOCO TREND

This year Amoco Trinidad Oil Company continued the trend of increasing oil production averaging 95,972 bpd for the first half of 1985 which was 15.2 per cent higher than the production for the corresponding period in 1984, Mr. Manning said.

The company's primary objection for 1985 is to maintain production above 95,000 bpd. It has been successful so far through the improved production performance of its secondary recovery operations and the completion of successful workovers on its Teak and Samaan fields.

Despite the optimism over improved oil production, the question of markets have lingered because of a drop in demand for oil.

On the major plans for 1985, Mr. Manning disclosed that tax adjustments "have facilitated increased activity with the use of additional drilling rigs. This increase will stimulate employment in the petroleum sector."

Natural Gas production has maintained a steady increase since 1976, the Minister continued, averaging 21 million cubic metres a day during the first half of the year.

"This increase is directly related to both the growth in demand for natural gas as well as the increased quantities of associated gas accompanying the rise in oil production," he explained.

Oil Depletion Plan

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Aug 85 p 4

[Article by Jerry Johnson]

[Text]

MINISTER of Energy and Natural Resources Patrick Manning, has called for a depletion plan to look at fiscalisation and market monitoring, following discussions with oil exporting countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Manning disclosed this in the 3rd mid-year review of the Petroleum Industry on Monday at the Trinidad Hilton.

The Minister, at the meeting, said that the Board of Directors of the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) had commissioned a study to come up with the appropriate mechanisms for rationalisation.

An energy official, however, when asked about the delay in providing a rationalisation plan, suggested it was "political." Any plan would include a reduction in staff. So Government was waiting on the new ICI methanol plant following which it could redeploy workers.

Mr. Manning, in speaking about the depletion plan, ruled out an oil pact with Venezuela. Market conditions did not facilitate such an arrangement, he said.

He said Government's approach to the country was for a processing agreement, details of which he was not at liberty to reveal.

But he did say that his meeting with oil exporting countries in Latin American and the Caribbean was rewarding. The intention was to have informal consultations with regard to market instability and projections for prices.

LATIN EQUIPMENT

Based on the talks, Mr. Manning said his Ministry was considering developing systems to look at what was taking place in the market and at what was likely to happen.

To this extent, the Ministry, after receiving increased allowances this year, was moving to computerise its library and improve its database.

Mr. Manning said that while old habits died hard, the Ministry was also looking at equipment manufactured and utilised by the Latin American petroleum sector which he found was of high quality and reasonably priced.

At the last meeting, member countries discussed the illegal trade in petroleum products. Trinidad and Tobago held further discussions with Ecuador and Venezuela on the subject sharing its experiences.

CSO: 3298/952

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

TAX ACCORD WITH VENEZUELA--Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela took one more step towards the coming into force of a double taxation agreement on air transport between both countries. This took place when an agreement to this effect was signed in the Venezuelan capital yesterday. Doing so for this country was Mr Overand Padmore, Minister of National Security. At a meeting of the Mixed Commission on Economic Relations in 1984, the double taxation agreement was identified as one of the items for early attention. The text of the draft agreement was approved by both governments, hence the signing ceremony yesterday. Mr Padmore said in part at the function: "As a consequence of the signing of this agreement, steps will be taken by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to have an order issued by the President and it is anticipated that the Government of Venezuela will receive the approval of its Congress, to facilitate ratification before the end of 1985 and the entry into force of this agreement by January 1986." [Text]
[Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 Jul 85 p 1]

AUGMENTED POLICE TRAINING--Recruits into the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service will now have to undergo a 16-month basic training course instead of six-months which has been the normal duration. The new arrangements start at the end of this month when about 100 young men enter the Police Training College at St James as recruits. These are among the many recommendations of the Bruce Report into the Police Service which could be implemented with little or possibly no additional costs. The new recruits will do their first six months of training at the Police Training College, followed by six months at out stations before proceeding on a month's vacation leave. After their vacation they will return to the Police Training College and St James to complete a further four months of rigid training. before they become full-fledged policemen, ready for posting. [Excerpts] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 85 p 1]

CSO: 3298/952

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

NEW NAVAL BASE COMMANDER--Rear Adm Ignacio Pena Cimarro has been appointed commander of the Rear Adm Agustin Armario Base in Puerto Cabello. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 7 Aug 85 p 1-19]

NEW DISIP DIRECTOR--Porfirio Valero has been appointed new director of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services, DISIP. He replaces Hector Aponte Lopez, who will be appointed adviser to Minister of Interior Octavio Lepage. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 7 Aug 85 p 1-1]

NEW OCI DIRECTOR--Caracas, 15 Aug (DPA)--Alberto Federico Ravell was appointed new director general of the Central Information Office, OCI, which replaced the former ministry of information and tourism. [Summary] [Hamburg DPA Spanish 2106 GMT 15 Aug 85]

CSO: 3348/925

END