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LAST OF BEB'S LADYVILLE GENERATORS FAILS; GOVERNMENT BLASTED

Report on Breakdown

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 10 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

THE WORST FEARS of the Belize Electricity Board were realized early this week when the last of the Board's three big Ladyville generators collapsed from overwork, thus confirming the truth of Murphy's Law: that if anything can go seriously wrong, it will!

Reston 2 expired with a loud clanging indicating that a connecting rod had broken loose and had pushed through the wall of the block. Reports say the giant crankshaft has been damaged beyond repair.

The collapse of Reston 2 before the Board has been able to re-build Reston 1, (which is also down with a busted block and damaged crank) has complicated immeasurably the problems of the Board by cutting its generating capacity to roughly half. It leaves the Board with one rented generator at Ladyville which is putting out 900 kilowatts of electricity and the incredible Mirlee Blackstone which has been patched up and is being run at quarter speed to eke out another 900 kilowatts. Belize mechanics have worked wonders at the Magazine Road plant and have actually resurrected an old generator which former General Manager Sergio Brull

had ordered scrapped. This generator is belching out thick black smoke, but it runs and is helping to produce the 2,300 kilowatts which the Magazine plant is now generating.

It may be another week before Reston 1 comes on line. If there are no more disasters (the collapse of Reston 2 could cost the Board a cool million) the Mirlee Blackstone will come in for much needed overhaul later this month - an overhaul that can take several months.

During this time Belize City will have to make do with four hours or more of black-outs every day.

Meanwhile there has been no move to bring in the two 18 cylinder Restons which are still in their packing crates. The Board does not have a prepared base large enough to accommodate these two behemoths which are already obsolete and no longer

in production. The two Reston 16's at Ladyville are also obsolete, and any attempt at further repairs will require the spares to be specially manufactured if they cannot be supplied from stock.

Slap at Price Administration

Belize City AMANDALA in English 8 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Fri. July 8

Despite \$15 million in loans guaranteed by Belize taxpayers and received in the last 6 years, the Belize Electricity Board, the worst scandal of the scandal-plagued Price administration, this week gave us its worst "service" ever, if we can dignify our treatment with the word "service."

(Despite the extra "P" petroleum charge for consumers, the Board fell \$7 million behind in its payments to our Mexican petroleum suppliers cum middlemen.)

This week's blackouts were interminable, unscheduled, and erratic. The Belize Electricity Board is costing Belize hundreds of thousands of dollars each month in wasted manpower hours and blown out appliances.

According to one city newspaper, the Board has available less than 60 per cent (4,180 kilowatts) of the juice Belize City needs (7,000 kilowatts).

And remember, even if our pig-headed leader will not admit it, Belize City is the industrial, trading, commercial, and cultural capital of this nation.

CSO: 3298/776

BRIEFS

NEW OIL DEPOSIT DISCOVERED--Punta Arenas--The existence of a new petroleum deposit on land in the sector known as Santiagosa Bay, near the northern shore of the Strait of Magellan, was confirmed yesterday. This deposit was discovered by the South Kimiraike 1 exploratory well that was being drilled by crew No. 8 of the National Petroleum Enterprise (ENAP). The strike was made at a depth of 3,200 meters, and the flow to date has been of a light crude (40 degrees API) in quantities that seem to indicate the existence of a commercial deposit in that location, an ENAP source pointed out to EL MERCURIO. Once the drilling is completed, a series of evaluation tests will be started which should determine the importance of the find and the eventual need to sink new wells. The new deposit, named the South Kimiraike, is located some 30 kilometers northeast of the Gregorio Terminal. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Jul 83 p C-3] 8414

CSO: 3348/594

TEXT OF SIMMONDS ADDRESS TO CARICOM SUMMIT MEETING

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 9 Jul 83 pp 3, 4

[Text] Distinguished Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Minister, Chief Minister, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

First, I would like to add my tribute and the tribute of my people to the late Dr. Eric Williams, for his vision in seeing the need for this Caribbean Integration Movement and for his scholarly contribution to our knowledge of ourselves, which I'm sure have earned him an honoured place in the hearts and minds of all Caribbean people.

Ten years ago today, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was born at Chaguaramas here in the exciting Twin Island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. It was born out of tribulation, it was born out of a process of little trial and much error, a process not unfamiliar in the Caribbean patterns of procreation.

Erudite Historians will no doubt record the travail of our earlier attempt at Caribbean Integration--the joy of its conception, the malaise and the malady of its confinement, and the agony of its still birth.

Today, however, although the memory of our first unhappy flirtation still lingers, we savour the present joy of ten years of Regional Co-operation and Joint Achievement. It is fitting indeed that we have returned here to Trinidad and Tobago where it all began.

I know that I echo the sentiments of all of my fellow delegates when I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Chambers and the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting this historic Conference. The hospitality has been lavish so far, and I have high hopes for the success of this Conference given the amiable surroundings in which we will conduct our deliberations.

In accepting the invitation to speak at this opening ceremony, I asked myself, whom should I address? To whom should I speak? Should I speak to my colleagues with whom I will in any case be closeted for many hours? Should I address the battery of officials without whose support this Conference would not be possible? Should I direct my remarks solely to the distinguished guests invited to share in person this moment of history?

Or should I surfeit the Press with juicy tidbits or sensational headlines? I concluded very quickly that it would be superfluous to exercise any of these options. Just as quickly, I realised that it is to the people of the Caribbean Community that I should speak. This Ceremony is, after all, their window to the Conference.

To the people I say that CARICOM has grown and survived because every member country without exception has benefitted in some way from the Association. We in the Lesser Developed Countries, the much maligned (LDC'S) have gained employment in manufacturing enterprises because of the wider markets provided by the MDC'S. This has given impetus to our efforts at economic diversification so vital to countries hitherto dependent on sugar, spices and bananas.

We have made progress in developing food and nutrition strategy supported by a growing capability in the field of agricultural research. We have implemented programmes in management training so essential to the provision of personnel capable of managing our scarce resources to achieve the optimum benefit.

In the fields of Civil Aviation, Shipping and Meteorology we have pooled our efforts so as to ensure the availability of these essential services to the region. Yet we take many of these services for granted and fail to give well-deserved credit to CARICOM.

The Caribbean Common Market Council of Ministers in their zeal to ensure the health of CARICOM, commissioned a group of "Wise Men", under the Chairmanship of William Demas, President of the Caribbean Development Bank, to prepare a strategy for the Caribbean Integration Movement during the decade of the 1980's. It is very important for us to note one of the group's first observation suitably edited--it is this:

"The idea of integration particularly as it applies to very small developing countries, is that through integration and cooperation we can together achieve a total result in economic development which is greater than the sum of our individual efforts acting alone".

This is a message which we must take to you the people of CARICOM and continue to bring it until you know it, understand it, and believe it.

Unfortunately, this is the area in which we the leaders have failed. Perhaps, it is that we have been so convinced of the rightness of what we are doing in CARICOM, that we have eschewed the hard sell, spurned the public-relations exercise and neglected the process of education.

Some individuals and special interest groups have been generously vocal in their peddling of simplistic solutions along these lines:--

"CARICOM not working good so let's mash it up--We have a problem with the University so let us destroy it--There are violations of the Trading Agreement so let's stop trading altogether--There are weaknesses in the CARICOM Treaty so let's tear it up".

The result of our negligence in the areas of communication and education and the detractors' misplaced zeal, is that you the people do not really believe or fully accept that together we can achieve greater results in economic development than we can acting alone.

It is true that we must solve our trade difficulties, we must develop energy strategy, we must undertake some meaningful and serious economic adjustments in the case of declining fortunes of sugar, bananas, bauxite and so on which after all are major foreign currency earners in our economic system.

But really, one of the difficulties that constantly plagues CARICOM is conflict either real or perceived, between national interests and regional considerations. Invariably in these circumstances, the political pressures at home tend to channel us in the direction of serving immediate national interests, even though in many cases, serving the cause of regionalism would lead to more lasting and more firmly based national development in the long term. We need to think more consistently in regional terms.

One of the main areas of economic development common to all of us is tourism. We spend substantial portions of our budgets on provision of tourism, support services, and on promotion in the Metropolitan Countries--as we must. However, we need to develop a strategy to increase intra-regional tourism. Apart from the economic benefit to be derived from spending our money within the region, the closer people to people contact which would result, would create greater understanding and deeper commitment to Regional Integration.

The University of the West Indies has provided this people to people contact at one level and its effect on the Regional Integration Movement has been salutary. Today the future of the University hangs in limbo. This is one of the most complex issues facing us here. Do you the people really understand the dilemma?

Do you appreciate that since its inception, the University has been undergoing a steady process of change and development? The University today has grown beyond our wildest dreams from the single Mona Campus whose portals I crossed with apprehension in 1955. It has gradually undergone a process of "restructuring" during this period. The challenge it faces today, is that it must on the one hand respond to the national development needs of the campus territories, and at the same time spread its wings more definitely into the non-campus territories to take a relevant development-oriented university education to a larger cross-section of the people there.

There is a right solution, and we will try to avoid threats and ultimatums and obstructionism, so that we can find that solution and so preserve the University as a Regional Institution for your benefit. We ask you to understand and give support when previously rigid positions have to be modified.

Apart from the challenge within, we face a greater threat from the world economic situation. As a region we have prepared together for the 6th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. We have consulted together to prepare a common strategy for negotiations with the European Economic Community to arrive at an agreement to succeed the 2nd Lome Convention. We need to go further and join with other developing countries throughout the world to call on the countries of the North to be more responsive to our need for an equitable share of the world's bounty.

We rejoice that our CARICOM partner, Jamaica, is now the Headquarters of the International Seabed Authority. It should help to bring into sharper focus the importance of the sea to our development.

It is encouraging that 117 countries have seen fit to sign the Law of the Sea Convention. It is regrettable that the United States of America has not yet decided to do so. Let us hope that very soon the United States will, by becoming a signatory to the convention, join those other countries which have accepted the principle that the resources of the ocean must be shared equitably by all mankind.

The people of St. Kitts and Nevis intend to sign this important Treaty after we achieve Full Sovereignty on the 19th September this year. We look forward to the presence and support of our colleagues on this momentous occasion.

CARICOM is very much alive. Our meeting in Ocho Rios revitalised it. It has attracted new membership and new associates. I extend congratulations to the Right Honourable, Sir Lynden Pindling, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, for becoming a member of this Organisation and also for celebrating ten years of Independence. Let us welcome the Bahamas into the fold with open arms as she brings new insights and new initiatives at this period of stocktaking. It is a time for us to consolidate our position and then set out sights on wider horizons.

The Institution has sprinted forward through ten years of CARICOM, not always ensuring that the people have kept pace. Fortunately, you, the people, have not stopped or slowed to a reluctant walk, you have been jogging along. The challenge now is for us to motivate you to increase your pace until we all move at the same tempo, propelled by understanding of and commitment to CARICOM.

All of us as Caribbean people owe a debt of gratitude to those persons who have worked for us in CARICOM, at the Secretariat, and in various Institutions of the Organisation. Today on this Tenth Anniversary we acknowledge that debt.

May God's blessings and human give and take flow bountifully on the future endeavours of CARICOM as it serves the people of the region over the next decade.

CSO: 3298/777

WINBAN MEETS IN DOMINICA, HEARS GOOD FINANCIAL NEWS

Castries THE VOICE in English 13 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

MR. HARRY ATKINSON, president of the Windward Islands Banana Association (WINBAN) has said that there has been a major improvement in the state of the Association's finances.

Addressing a meeting of the Association in Dominica on Monday Mr. Atkinson noted that the banana industry continued to provide the economic base for the islands, adding that in recent times, it had become even more important in the light of the substantial decline in the tourist and manufacturing industries brought about by international recession.

Dominica's Agriculture Minister Hesketh Alexander said that over the past six years, the industry had suffered setbacks, but that the time has come for increasing both production and quality in order to regain the competitiveness that the fruits from the Windward Islands once enjoyed.

"I think we will all agree that the grower has faced up to these challenges manfully and, as we have been hearing from our marketing agent recently, has been meeting the quality requirements," he said, adding: "Given the necessary incentive and encouragement, I am sure

we can very shortly be back to peak levels of production.

Mr. Alexander called on the various aid donors to continue lending assistance to the vital industry, which in the case of Dominica, provides for 70 percent of the total revenue received.

"However, it does not seem that in today's world many donor agencies are prepared to give grant assistance anymore and we have to learn to live with this and we must consequently make the necessary adjustment."

Mr. Atkinson said a year ago, WINBAN'S finances were in a parlous state, but there had been a positive turn around of over three quarter million East Caribbean dollars and its indebtedness was down to less than 25 percent of last year's figure.

APPOINTED

He called for a review of WINBAN's performance, looking mainly at the role it must

play in the future stability of the industry.

The WINBAN head said a committee appointed last year to review its administration structure, had already submitted its report which will be discussed during the meeting.

"I feel there is need to go further and review WINBAN'S structure at the director, and policy-making level and arrive at a framework more consistent with present day economic requirements for all our sister islands and to make WINBAN a model for cooperation at regional and international levels" he said.

Banana production from the four islands this year is expected to be in the vicinity of 125,000 to 130,000 tons, an increase from the 1982 figure of 106,000 tons, and 67,000 tons in 1980.

WINBAN'S production figure for the year had been put at 160,000 tons and Mr. Atkinson said that the reduction in tonnage from the four islands has resulted in suppliers seeking fruits from elsewhere.

CSO: 3298/777

SELA OUTLINES PROBLEMS, MEASURES IN MCC COUNTRIES

Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 3 Aug 83 pp 36, 37

[Special report: "Main Financial and Payments Problems in the Central American Common Market Countries"]

[Text] During a recent special meeting held at the proposal of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) on problems involving financing, payments and insurance in Latin America, the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), represented by Edgard Chamorro Marin, director of the Economic and Social Programing Department, submitted a document entitled "Main Financial and Payments Problems in the Central American Common Market Countries," which GRAFICO ECONOMICO is reprinting on this occasion for its readers' information, owing to its significance.

Scope

1. This document is not intended to be exhaustive, both because of the complexity of the topics discussed and because, in some instances, the countries have been or are determining individual policies in the area, especially with regard to the public foreign debt. Hence, the Secretariat has confined itself to citing the problems, and the plans and programs for execution, from a strictly regional standpoint. Moreover, the opinions expressed herein reflect only those of SIECA, and are not binding on those which other regional organizations and national institutions may have on the subject.

Background

Generally speaking, we can divide the recent evolution of the Central American economies into two quite identifiable periods:

1973-78: Years of economic growth accompanied by major external fluctuations and high levels of foreign debt. It is a period which put to the test the Central American countries' capacity to respond to a new economic reality: the inflationary process which appeared, to a greater or lesser extent, throughout all the years under consideration and which, among other effects, caused an unprecedented energy crisis in the area. Concurrently, the negative effects of the breakdown in the international monetary system established at the Bretton Woods Conference were felt, as was the uncertainty per se created by the constant fluctuations in the rates of

exchange among the leading reserve currencies. Regarding the latter, we should give a reminder that the devaluation of the U.S. dollar, besides causing major trade deviations for the nations of the area, also had a negative effect on the region's international monetary reserves, which had been largely represented by that currency. Nevertheless, the use of easy foreign credit, resulting from increased international liquidity due to the recycling of petrodollars, enabled Central America to offset the fluctuations in prices of its main export products and the deterioration in the terms of exchange, facilitating its coexistence with the inflationary phenomenon, despite the traditional balance that had typified its economies up until that time.

4. The present: A period of severe stagnation and subsequent decline in economic activity, with instability in the internal and external sectors. This depressing process affected the Central American countries with very little or almost no capacity for response; and even more so if one considers that its interaction with the already existing inflationary process severely hampered the adoption of individual economic policies for each phenomenon, as the opposite phenomenon intensified. This economic picture, added to the persistent, increasingly acute sociopolitical problems, has led the region's countries into the most deepseated and prolonged crisis that they have ever experienced.

5. Its effects have been disastrous in all areas: A marked shrinkage of the GDP in constant terms, accompanied by sizable cuts in domestic demand and export levels; increasing, intolerable fiscal deficits; high foreign debt levels, involving mainly short-term liabilities to private financial institutions; and the contracting of medium and long-term financing at high, floating interest rates * so as to partially offset the large current account deficits in the balance of payments; a steady rise in unemployment and underemployment levels, and the closing or dangerous weakening of a large number of manufacturing, agricultural and commercial firms; large, unchecked egress of hard currency abroad (capital flight), both for speculative reasons in view of the attractive profitability on the international capital markets, and as a precaution against the sociopolitical conditions prevailing in the area; and a marked decline in intra-Central American trade, which dropped from \$CA 1.1292 billion in 1980 to only \$CA 746.6 million in 1982;** and less net flow of external funds and reductions in net international reserve holdings, reaching a virtual state of illiquidity.

Recent Financial and Payments Problems

6. From 1979 to 1982, inclusive, the Central American region lost over U.S.\$1.5 billion in net international reserves, which drastically affected the ability to pay for imports and hence caused a significant cut in agricultural and manufacturing production, which is heavily dependent on raw materials and input from abroad.

7. Moreover, the economic crisis has shown the close interdependence between intra-regional trade, payments and production capacity of the countries which, for lack of reserves, have in some cases been forced to stop regular payments on their regional trade debts, creating increased unpaid balances in the Central American Compensation Chamber (CCC); which means, for the creditor country, keeping a volume of funds that could be used for its industrial reactivation blocked.

* The average long-term interest rate in six of the industrialized countries rose from 9.2 percent in 1978 to 14.75 percent in 1981.

** The Central American peso [\$CA] is a regional accounting unit equivalent to U.S.\$1.00.

Also, there are in all the countries unmet payments on the commercial level, which are not recorded in the respective exchange systems; and this directly affects the business firms' working capital.

8. Furthermore, in view of the size of the external imbalance, nearly all the Central American countries have adopted adjustment programs entailing measures to curb imports, some of which include those coming from MCCA member states. This, added to the reduction in the countries' domestic demand, explains the marked decline in intra-zonal exchange, thereby failing to use the most suitable regional mechanism for reducing the effects of the crisis.

9. Finally, the Central American countries have encountered a sizable decrease in net flow of external funds, both because of the sluggishness of private investment and the reduced entry of government and banking capital. Added to the foregoing is the fact that the international commercial banks, besides their political reasons, feel that the risk element for their loans to the region has risen considerably, owing to the large sums granted to other Latin American countries that have been, or are being subjected to renegotiation because of their inability to pay.

Regional Plans and Programs Under Way

10. We can divide the programs that are under way into two major groups: i. those designed to strengthen the financing and payments within the Central American Common Market (MCCA); and, ii. those related to cooperation with Latin American countries and integration systems, obtaining funds from the international financial markets.

Financing and Payments Within MCCA:

11.1 In seeking solutions to these problems, besides the mechanisms recently adopted or currently under study, the Central American countries have intensified those already in existence to a considerable extent. For example, in 1979 and 1980, years wherein the effects of the recession were already clearly visible, and two countries' economies were seriously eroded by non-economic problems, the area's central banks intensified their cooperation system, both through the Central American Monetary Stabilization Fund (FOCEM), * and by granting bilateral lines of credit. There was later an increment in the amounts in the regular reciprocal credit line within the Central American Compensation Chamber (CCC).

11.2 Moreover, the increased non-payment within CCC, aimed at intensifying intra-regional trade by financing owed balances resulting from liquidations, prompted the creation, in May 1981, of the Central American Common Market Fund (FCMC), administered by the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE). The fund started its operations with a trust loan of U.S.\$50 million, obtained on medium term through the Latin American Export Bank (BLADEX), the only foreign money possible to negotiate for the Fund to date.

11.3 More recently, in view of the problems stemming from some countries' adoption of unilateral measures to protect the balance of payments, which has upset intra-zonal exchange, the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Monetary Council * In 1964, the countries of the area, through their central banks, created the Central American Monetary Council, whose main instruments are the Central American Compensation Chamber (CCC) and the Central American Monetary Stabilization Fund (FOCEM).

and SIECA, in compliance with the resolution adopted at the Joint Meeting of Vice Ministers in Charge of Economic Integration with Vice Ministers of the Treasury or Finance and Delegates from Central Banks, held on 15 February 1983, in San Jose, Costa Rica, have been devising a regional mechanism which, in a first phase, would make it possible to mitigate the negative effects of those measures so that, in a subsequent phase, they might promote the gradual, progressive elimination of them.

11.4 As for the problem of unmet payments on the commercial level that are not recorded in the respective exchange systems, which has therefore caused problems in compensating for them in the CCC, SIECA and the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Monetary Council, based upon Resolution 3-82, issued by the 28th Meeting of Vice Ministers in Charge of Integration (Guatemala City, 27 October 1982), devised a "Plan for a Special Accounts System in National Currencies to Compensate for Debts Resulting from Intra-Regional Trade," which has been submitted for the consideration of the ministers in charge of Central American economic integration and the presidents of the central banks, and which is currently in a phase of study and approval.

11.5 Regarding the efforts expended for financing development, it should be stressed that, in 1980, BCIE adopted a policy for granting guarantees or backing to the region's banks and financial institutions, for the purpose of making it easy for them to procure funds abroad, so as to be able to finance imports of raw materials, machinery and the equipment and input required by the industries to maintain or expand production. It should also be emphasized that, in early 1982, the governments decided to increase the bank's authorized capital from U.S.\$200 million to U.S.\$600 million, thereby providing strong support enabling it to engage in the effort to procure foreign funds. In this respect, BCIE has obtained external funds amounting to U.S.\$1.084 billion since its operations began.

12. Cooperation with Latin American countries and integration systems, and the procurement of funds on the international financial markets.

12.1 Obviously, the Central American countries are faced with a deepseated liquidity crisis, aggravated by the need to make extensive imports to keep the production system, heavily dependent on raw materials and input from abroad, in operation. In addition to these short-term requirements, international financial aid is necessary to support the programs to reactivate the production system and the medium and long-term investment plans. Aware of these problems, the countries of the area have recently pooled efforts to obtain foreign funds jointly, creating the Regional Coordinating Group for External Financial Cooperation, which is coordinated by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Concurrently, there was created a Special Secretariat of the Coordinating Group, comprised of the various regional institutions, in which the positions of executive secretary and executive undersecretary are filled by the highest-ranking officials of SIECA and the CMCA Executive Secretariat, respectively. A meeting will soon be held by the Central American Group with the International Financial Community, in Brussels, Belgium, for the aforementioned purpose.

12.2 Moreover, it is important to mention the cooperation that the region has been receiving from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), through a new "industrial

reactivation" program, which has been subjected to testing until the end of this year. This mechanism has been devised to promote imports of raw materials and input from abroad, through the granting of loans in hard currency; which will strengthen the area's production capacity. At the present time, two countries are benefiting from this program.

12.3 Insofar as cooperation with other Latin American countries is concerned, emphasis should be placed on the agreements on monetary cooperation for the purpose of balance of payments, between the central banks of the Central American countries and the central banks of Venezuela, Mexico and Colombia. There are also agreements with the latter institutions for reciprocal compensation and loans. Furthermore, Central America has also received cooperation from Mexico and Venezuela in the area of granting special credit facilities for the payment of oil imports.

12.4 Finally, we should add that, in March 1982, the five Central American countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica) requested affiliation with the ALADI financial mechanisms; and it should be pointed out that, at the present time, this request for affiliation is still in the process of study by that Association.

2909

CSO: 3248/1166

ELECTORAL PROCESS CHARACTERIZED AS MODERATE, PRAGMATIC

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 7 Aug 83 pp 10-11

[Article: "The Election Conditions"]

[Text] Just as the return to the Constitution in 1973 was preceded by an election campaign surrounded by violence, and was unable to avoid the situation of a harsh confrontation with the military authorities currently in power, now, behind some illusions that might distract observers, one notes certain indications that the race for the government will have a more rational context.

Some fundamental reasons related to the approaching event were not so clear awhile ago as they are now, after the Radical Party's [UCR] major ticket has been decided and the same thing is close to occurring in the Jusicialist Party [PJ], with increasing certainty that, in this instance, the complex decision will go through acceptably democratic channels. Moreover, the wagers indicating one or two candidates as beneficiaries of the votes of the party's congressmen are in the majority.

The way in which the Radical Party has virtually brought its internal process to an end (Dr Antonio Troccoli told LA NACION: "Everything has been settled satisfactorily; there is a majority governing the party and a minority comprising the organizational entities") is one of the factors for political compromise, in turn influencing the internal process of its great rival which, though it has not yet reached the critical juncture, is managing thus far to avoid the risk of insurmountable disarray.

Furthermore, the need to ensure the negotiating area that the electoral college will most likely have to propose has forced on the presumably majority parties a preliminary moderate conduct with the other forces, which they must consider in advance as potential allies in the main decision and in the congressional commitments during a period that will be critical for obvious reasons.

Anyone who has closely observed all of Alfonsin's statements on key issues, since the time that he was sure he would win his nomination, and even more so since the latter was made official, would have noticed a moderate style which (without concealing the essence of his proposals) encourages this state of political rationality. To give an example: the Radical candidate favors abolishment of military service, but he has just stressed that, "it will continue insofar as it is possible, backed and accompanied by what I regard as the best specifically military thinking."

A similar conclusion has come from a potential election rival, Dr Italo Luder, who upon making his claim to the president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, as stipulated by the Constitution, completed his opinion as follows: "The military should not be excluded nor confined to their clubs, to grieve over their wounds and criticize the new authorities; rather, they should be included in the task of strengthening the institutional area."

With Sights on November

Now that the unpleasant surprise caused to the Peronists by the realization that the indirect election system, with proportionate representation, has reduced their chances of reaching power by a mere electoral majority is over, those most emphatically claiming sinister tricks in this regard have started to quiet down. To be sure, there is no assurance that on this occasion the Justicialists will not be faced with the same situation which prompted Dr Alfonsin to remark, on that occasion, that there is no tradition nor constitutional reason to possibly prevent confirmation of the second most voted for ticket.

It is now fitting to imagine the necessary options to prevent those who might find themselves in that situation from being caught by surprise without sufficient allies. Of course the Radicals are the ones who have observed this problem most clearly, and they, obviously, include Alfonsin and those who devised with him the strategy that prompted him, first, to head the prospects outside of the party and, later, to do so within it. It has not been until now, and as a result of this fact, that the matter is starting to concern the Peronists.

This development of the issue in UCR has caused a widespread agreement on certain essential points. In the first place, that the commitments with other political sectors must precede 30 October, to avoid the image of an "electoral trick" that might otherwise occur. This is being suggested by Alfonsin himself, while Troccoli and De la Rua cite the very same condition.

However, the latter told LA NACION that in no instance should too much precision be expected, and that such commitments might be hinted at or made tacitly before the election, "but with sufficient clarity to preclude surprises or a break in the mandate from the polls." In Troccoli's opinion, the election will be so even that no understanding such as those noted can evade the desire expressed in the election. Dr De la Rua, in turn, has given a reminder of the lack of tradition, citing the Yrigoyen-Luna combination which, in 1916, attained the few voters that it needed through Santa Fe's dissident UCR. That ticket attained 46 percent at the polls, while the latter achieved only 17 percent. To be sure, the constitutional arguments confirming the possible variants of the electoral college are not sufficient in the view of Dr Juan Carlos Pugliese, who thinks that the future government would have many problems surviving if it resulted from the second electoral term.

But, just as the major figures have an awareness of the possible options in the electoral college, the potential allies also realize, as never before when there has been an indirect election, that the commitments cannot end up deceiving the electorate. The meaning that Alfonsin's followers have attached to "integration," one that is now shared by most of the Radical Party, certainly encompasses this new fact; however, it cannot be claimed that "voters are being exchanged for positions."

Beyond Amnesty

In politics (the politicians are in the habit of saying), what matters is the result. Based on this pragmatic notion, the issue of amnesty, which is receiving ethical criticism in such a coincidental manner deserves one question: What might happen if there were no amnesty and the future constitutional government found itself in a situation such as might be caused by mass judicial action against Armed Forces chiefs which only an amnesty like the one objected to could mitigate?

Of course, the debate at present has not included such a question, much less an answer. Certainly no politician has been willing to respond to the query publicly, in this instance choosing not to consider the value of the result.

The moral discreditation (which, as in the case of Luder, certainly does not exclude the Congress' affirmation of the irrevocable legal effects) has been met with only political reasons by Dr Emilio Hardoy, nevertheless without disregarding the former. He told LA NACION: "Amnesty is required because of the nature of things, and it should not be a cause for confrontations during the election campaign. The violence was a shared phenomenon wherein the society first allowed the conditions to be created for the outbreak of terrorism and subversion, and later tolerated the repression in the reprehensible form that it assumed. Without amnesty, there would be hundreds of trials that would bring about real social upheaval."

Dr Raul Alfonsin's public commitment to the effect that, if he should come to power, he would abrogate the projected law would have merely a basically political significance in the view of the majority of those who maintain that the legal situation is unchangeable. De la Rúa, however, stresses that, although a policy decision is incumbent upon the Congress, "it must be the justice system, the Supreme Court, that is the authority indicated for passing judgment on the constitutionality of the law."

"A valid statement from the courts, during the next government, eliminating one of the problems that have divided Argentines" is precisely what Hardoy wants, although he confirms the amnesty to be decreed, "so as to avoid a greater evil, such as the breakdown of the Armed Forces would be."

Waiting, Just in Case

Not only were Mr Deolindo Bittel's investigations in Asuncion, Paraguay, thwarted, but also those of the government itself, through its diplomatic channels and the usual expedients of military intelligence. Actually, another week has ended without a single reliable item of information regarding the time (if there will be one) when Mrs Martinez de Peron is to arrive in Buenos Aires. According to the meager comments from those sources, the former president had not left Costa del Sol as of Tuesday, while no record could be found of any reservations for travel to Latin America.

Moreover, the unofficial comment obtained by this newspaper on Friday claiming that restoration of the possible traveler's political rights will not occur before the Justicialist national congress which must decide on the major candidates fits perfectly into the plan that President Bignone himself has continued to maintain during the past few days: If Mrs Peron wants to return in order to assume the party

authority and to influence the assembly, as the ultravertical group assumes she desires, she would have to have made this known somehow. Certainly no one in such a situation would fail to resolve what is essential beforehand.

This view is not very different from the one upheld and cited not only by Bittel, but also Luder, Cafiero and Lorenzo Miguel, among others, who have consistently been observed stressing the dominant tendency toward institutionalizing the party cadres, and promoting the most well-known candidacies; whether because, under the present circumstances, the power entails *faits accomplis*, or because, as the latter named individual thinks, the institutions give reason to assume that, "if the lady must come, it will happen when events make her trip fitting; in other words, when it is time for ratifications and not rectifications."

In the judgment of observers of the Peronist movement, it is likely that, in another week, with the internal elections in the federal capital and Buenos Aires Province, the by now rather languishing movements whereby the ultraverticalists had succeeded in upsetting even the sectors with the most party and trade union power will become totally irrelevant.

'More Swiftly Than the Party'

One of the members of the brand new board of directors of the UCR's National Committee, in commenting on the guidelines with which the Radicals' immediate election campaign will have to be directed cited "the unprecedented situation whereby Alfonsin is moving faster than the party."

The observation to some extent brings back the concerns a few months ago, when the candidate's expansion outside the party began to be noticed, voiced among his friends by Dr Juan Carlos Pugliese. Nevertheless, when commenting on the same topic, Dr Troccoli does not have such a worrisome view at present. He told LA NACION: "There is, of course, a massive outbreak in the party which is not easy to curb and which did not occur previously. Some leaders may be able to handle it, but others will have greater difficulty." At the same time, he made a distinction between the current situation and that of Frondizi, when the Radical split occurred in 1957. The authentic Balbanist leader remarked: "Alfonsin is not a man with parallel lines, and the integration that has occurred in the party must now have given him confidence outside, because he began with his own house."

The primary notions by which the Alfonsin-Martinez presidential campaign will be guided will be essentially affirmative in nature, "attempting to avoid polarization of the type that would leave the relations with Peronism damaged in the future," as one of the collaborators of the ticket commented.

In the order of priorities there stands out in first place the commitment "to restore freedom in all areas of Argentine life"; followed by "the recovery of the justice system, interpreted with a broad meaning extending to all levels of national life, especially the socioeconomic relations." That order of priorities continues with the education and culture issue, "but, of course, avoiding the old free or secular contradiction, to intensify the role of the state." The fundamental summary also lends greater significance to "the recovery of the country's international prestige, interpreted as a dynamic member of the Latin American community and, in addition, a definite promoter of South-South dialog."

The significance that other items, such as the one involving the trade unions, must necessarily hold in the Radical campaign during the next 90 days will always be marked by the feature of pluralistic democracy. Specifically in the case of the trade unions, the new party authorities are now attempting to emerge from the hybridism of the past, whereby the Peronist movement accrued great advantages. To be sure, it is not a matter of creating a special secretariat or agency of that type, "but rather of considering in a practical way that the Radical Party has a significant presence in associations such as those of the bank employees, commercial white collar workers, state workers, teachers and oil workers...."

The Center's Slate

This week a fog was added to the obstacles (more qualitative or image-related than quantitative) that the Federal Alliance is facing to prepare its slates of candidates in the local district. Actually, the head of Democratic Concentration, Dr Jose Manuel Avellaneda, who was due to arrive in Buenos Aires for a meeting with Manrique related to his negotiations with engineer Alsogaray, was delayed by the weather conditions in Tucuman. But this would not have been so important if, during that delay, Alsogaray and his party had not pressed for a decision from the Federal Alliance in terms that usually annoy the leaders of the center coalition.

On Thursday, Avellaneda met again with the head of the Democratic Center Union, and he is attempting to carry out his foiled negotiations next Wednesday, "although without being able to guarantee until that time that no further obstacles will arise." Just as the mediator's hopes were understandable during the preceding week, now they are very slight and only desires, because there are more indications that Alsogaray will appear before the electorate with his own ticket (simultaneously, as a candidate for president and national deputy), without any great effort among the majority of the center coalition to prevent it.

2909

CSO: 3348/615

REASONS FOR NAVY'S OBJECTION TO AMNESTY LAW DISCUSSED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 9 Aug 83 p 7

[Article: "Dissidence Over Amnesty"]

[Text] A Repeated Situation

The dealings with the amnesty law will continue for awhile longer, and it is almost certain that its passage will not take place until next month, as a result of the differences brought up by the Navy.

Nevertheless, this approval by the Military Junta might not be unanimous, but rather would be sent on to the Legislative Advisory Committee with the dissent of that branch of Armed Forces.

In this regard, a spokesman for the Navy explained that the branch would uphold its current position challenging the amnesty law to the end, but that, at the same time, the situation is not so serious as to prompt the assumption that there will be a break in the Junta on account of it.

He stated: "In any event, it is a repetition of situations that have already occurred." He was thereby referring to the Navy's positions on previous critical occasions, such as that of Videla's reelection as president, or Viola's election to the chief executive's office.

The Navy's position is that it is unacceptable to put the extremists and those who acted in the repression obeying orders on an equal footing through that law. The source who was queried said: "There must be another way of resolving the issue."

That other way would apparently be by having the military or civilian courts (both, if necessary) judge each case with every complaint about excesses. Of course the Navy is inclined toward the military courts, following a public reassessment of the function that the latter discharge.

The principle on which the Navy bases its opposition to the amnesty law is that it does not allow keeping offenders within the institution until the contrary has been proven. Furthermore, the Navy reportedly considers the interior minister's statement regarding the list of members of the military under arrest that each branch has to be hasty and unilateral. The spokesman commented: "There are none in the Navy."

This position on the Navy's part would, in principle, prove consistent with regard to the institutional record disseminated simultaneously with the document on the battle against subversion. On that occasion, it was emphasized that the Armed Forces were assuming full responsibility for the action taken in that respect.

To retain that consistency, it is conjectured that Adm Ruben Franco would have to order that no member of his institution was to have recourse to the amnesty law if it were put into effect without the Navy's complete agreement.

The Former President

While the amnesty law has brought about these disagreements within the Military Junta, the same thing does not hold true for the political rehabilitation of Maria Estela Martinez de Peron.

On this issue there is agreement among the three branches regarding the need for it to occur. At a time when the steps are being taken to enact a broad amnesty that would include the extremists, no reason is seen not to allow the rehabilitation of Peron's widow. The continuation of this situation would be a reason for questioning on the part of the Peronist sectors, which might observe an inexplicable discriminatory attitude therein.

Hence, the matter is confined to discovering the proper time and manner for making the rehabilitation viable. Whether a commutation of the sentence or a pardon is involved, this appears to have been already decided without any objection from the Armed Forces in the matter.

Institutionalization of the Multiparty Group

Meanwhile, in the party realm, the week has started with Dr Raul Alfonsin's invasion of a virtually abandoned area: that of the Multiparty Group.

It is true that the concern of the new UCR head over the combined group is nothing new. We should recall that Alfonsin left the competition over a year ago, when a large Radical delegation visited Dr Frondizi at his residence to lay the groundwork for the pentagon.

It is also a fact that, during the war in the South Atlantic, the leader of Renewal and Change kept a cautious distance from the group. But we must realize that this was a deliberate sign of disagreement with the policy decision itself which gave rise to the conflict and, consequently, with the leaders who in one way or another joined in a chorus of support.

With that special circumstance gone, it is obvious that the Radical chief thinks the right time has come to operate in that area also, which is not at all to be disdained by someone who is expending his greatest energy on conquering space outside of the Radical Party.

For the present, what is involved is a scenario shared with the Justicialists; this objective fact alone could be translated into a weakening of arguments among those who seem inclined to put the forthcoming critical electoral occasion in terms of an inflexible Peronism/anti-Peronism option.

It would appear that Alfonsin's intention now is to "institutionalize the Multiparty Group," in other words, make it last as a kind of reassurance for the stability of the future constitutional system.

At least that was the slogan with which the meeting took place yesterday between the Radical candidate and the Christian Democratic authorities.

Tacitly, there may be a meeting point between the two forces. In principle, the "institutionalization of the Multiparty Group" is a notion rather similar to that of the "democratic document" issued by PDC [Christian Democratic Party] some time ago.

Nevertheless, it is unlikely that this theoretical agreement has any immediate practical projections. Without going any further, within the Christian Democratic Party itself there are sectors which, yesterday, were not concealing their displeasure at the timing of the meeting. The remark was heard: "The only one who gained political profits was Dr Alfonsin; otherwise (the sources added) the meeting made no contribution of a positive nature to a group such as ours, currently attempting to delineate a profile of its own, beyond the game of options."

From these indications one realizes why a meeting between the new Radical leader and the official Justicialist leadership does not appear to be easy in the immediate future.

2909

CSO: 3348/615

ROUCO VIEWS INTRASERVICE DIFFERENCES OVER AMNESTY LAW

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Aug 83 pp 1, 4

[Commentary by J. Iglesias Rouco]

[Excerpts] Though without any overly virulent demonstrations, among the members of the Armed Forces, and particularly their lower and intermediate echelons, there has been noted for some time a strong dissatisfaction with the "amnesty" bill that has increased considerably during the past few days. According to reports conveyed to the commanders by all the units in the country, 90 percent of the officers, including those of the Army, reject the government's plan. Our sources claim that, in those reports, it was indicated to the higher commands that this opposition has varying degrees of intensity, but that only in isolated instances is it in the nature of active repudiation or organized rebellion. The top Navy echelons (there were no radio messages from Admiral Franco on the subject, but there has been a more or less regular, or organized system of consultations between the commander and all levels of his subordinates) and those of the Air Force only grudgingly "tolerated" the plan approved by the division generals at the beginning of July.

The predominant opinion among the officers of the three branches is that no type of "amnesty" is fitting for the action taken individually during the so-called "dirty war," because such acts were the result of orders received from their superiors. The majority of officers maintain: 1. that it is their supreme commanders who should assume total, express responsibility for the action taken, except, of course, for common crimes committed during the "war" which, in their view, should be subjected to trial and punishment; 2. that the "amnesty" tends to supplant the assumption of that responsibility, because it includes both the commanders and their subordinates; 3. that it lacks political effectiveness, because most of the political leaders oppose its promulgation or accept the "amnesty" with many reservations, including those who think its effects would be "irreversible" and also a very considerable group of bishops; 4. that any "amnesty" for the subversives and their agents would destroy the foundations and goals of the battle waged by the Armed Forces.

Stiff Opposition From the Navy

According to some Army informants, the Junta and the government are now only attempting to fit these views into or (as it is usually put in official jargon) "make them compatible" with the original plan, which is now many months old. But during the past few hours a new event has reportedly occurred: Admiral Franco who, as we say, has accepted the notion of "amnesty" or the notion of studying the idea (at least this is General Nicolaidis' understanding of it) only after a great deal of

resistance, has again brought up the "institutional" opposition of his branch as a whole to the plan. On the other hand, Brigadier General Hughes, who at first raised the most intransigent front against "amnesty," is now said to have assumed an intermediate position between the Navy and Army. From what we have learned, not even General Reston's enthusiasm for amnesty succeeded yesterday in overcoming the negative position of Franco, whose attitude regarding this issue is reportedly causing within the Junta a situation very similar to the one which occurred in 1980, during the deliberations preceding the appointment of General Viola as president.

Perhaps one cannot yet talk about a crisis within the crisis, or a complete crisis; because, just as at that time, the Army's commander has not yet put all the meat on the spit. But the fact is that Franco's position appears to be absolutely irrevocable. Moreover, although there was no radio message in the Navy, as had erroneously been claimed, it is quite possible that one was sent yesterday, after the deliberations, or sent today, to prevent "disclosures" from other military areas from confusing the Navy officers about the real purposes of what had been said and done by their commander in the Junta. As if that were not enough, Hughes, from his intermediate stance, has not appeared to be very willing to become aligned with Nicolaides either. But does all this mean that the Navy, for example, might end up withdrawing from the Junta, as occurred after the surrender of Puerto Argentino, if the Army insists upon going ahead with the "amnesty," protected by its greater force? A high-ranking naval officer told us the following yesterday: "No, this time we shall remain in the Junta. And so long as we are opposed, there will be no amnesty; because that is a decision that must be made unanimously. Only a coup could force us to leave...." We think that such a comment may not reflect the real situation accurately, but it does indicate the beginning of a break that is taking place in the top echelon of a defunct "process," a top echelon that is also up in the air, because it has for some time been lacking bases, so to speak.

Epidemic of Disintegration

Unfortunately, this upheaval in the supreme state organ has also spread to institutions such as the Church, which still comprise some of the very few reserves left to this hapless country. The criticism that bishops such as Monsignor Bufano have made of the "amnesty" is beginning to undermine the favorable view of Monsignor Aramburu or of the more conservative branch of the bishops. It would be better not to mention Monsignor Novak or Monsignor De Nevares. In short, these rash attempts to create forgetfulness by decree are only serving to disintegrate any possible center of power, which is so badly needed by the nation, further still. Even within the top Army echelon itself, the views do not coincide, regardless of how much all of them are activated in the amnesty-oriented context. For example, General Reston upholds the proposition that the law must be promulgated without prior consultations with the parties, in opposition to the desires of other division generals, who still believe that, with such a step, the rejection would be mitigated. Nor is there a lack of generals favoring an "amnesty" exclusively for the Armed Forces. The dissidents, in turn, are focusing on the date on which the "forgetfulness" might be put into effect; some want it now, while others consider the proper time to be 15 or 30 November, when it will be known who is to be the future president (and the issue has been negotiated with his party). The generals' 6 hours of discussion on 2 July, at the end of which the plan was approved, were not of much use.

The Bishops

For a long time we have been warning the public, and also this regime of deaf individuals, about the disintegrating effects of a measure that is as impolitic as it is immoral. It is not without reason that many officers (particularly those of the Navy) have stated that a regime which rightfully condemned the "amnesty" of 25 May 1973 cannot amnesty itself now, in addition to amnestying terrorists. An irreproachable logic is involved, to which it also is fitting to add the consideration that, although it is true that the state's juridical reconstruction and democratic "institutionalization" do not entail a Nueremberg, nor anything similar to it, they do require clear acknowledgment of responsibilities and, particularly, the express condemnation of the system which made the tragedy of the missing persons possible, as noted by the most judicious groups of bishops. Incidentally, this principle holds true also for those military sectors which had only indirect participation in that tragedy, for example, the Air Force, many of whose commanders have not explained that the majority of those arrested by them during the repression were turned over to various Army agencies in exchange for a receipt.

2909

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LUDER ENDORSES REVIEW OF ARMED FORCES ROLE

Buenos Aires LA VOZ in Spanish 12 Jul 83 pp 2, 3

[Text] The presidential precandidate for the Justicialist Party, Italo Argentino Luder would promote a radical restructuring of the armed forces in the event that he became the president of the nation after the next October's general elections.

Luder was interviewed yesterday morning in the program "Magdalena and the News" that is broadcast by Radio Continental. "The armed forces must be subordinated to the political power," said the precandidate. They are an institution that must respond to the commands of those who are representative and have the consensus of the people."

Asked if, in the event that he became president, he would maintain the junta of commanders, Luder replied, "by no means, because the junta of commanders is the expression of a de facto government."

He pointed out that "if the powers of the constitution--the three powers--are going to function, we are not going to replace a de facto government with a semi facto one, rather, the constitution will function in all of its fullness."

Luder stated that maintenance of the institution of the commanders in chief will depend on a joint study which the national congress will make with regard to restructuring the armed forces."

In his statements to Radio Continental, Luder added that "terrorism and subversion are a world problem, not only an Argentine one, so that all civilized communities must be prepared to cope with it within the law."

Luder reiterated that "we are not going to lower our guard in everything that means preserving the values of our community;" nevertheless, he warned that "the armed forces must not overstep their own framework of institutional operation, in which the president of the republic is the commander in chief, according to the constitution."

Pursuing the subject, the Peronist precandidate asserted that "we are going to guarantee the whole community the defense and respect of the guarantees of all citizens, and if we have to conduct an antisubversive struggle again, it will be done within the law."

Luder then declared that "the military government has committed many errors on the political level, in economic policy and on the international level, and the future constitutional government is going to be the recipient of that whole mass of problems.

"For that reason," he pointed out, "I maintain that we have to receive the contribution of all political and social sectors, to seek the agreements that are basic and that serve to unite the whole of the Argentine people."

In that regard, he declared that "the next president of the republic must be the president of all Argentines; he cannot be a sectarian president who feels obligated only to his own party.

"The situation of the country is so critical, so difficult, that I believe that it is not the time for a single party, rather, all political and social sectors will be summoned to seek agreements that will enable us to confront the problems," said Luder.

"I would call it (the next administration) a unity government more than a coalition government," declared the leader.

With regard to the support received from the winning groups in the internal elections of the Peronist movement, Luder declared: "I am collecting the results of a nonsectarian attitude, nonaggressive toward any of the internal groups but preserving the unity of the movement and presenting myself as a man of unity within Justicialism."

Asked if he could form a ticket with a unionist, he replied that "that is not a decision of mine but is a decision for the national congress."

In that regard, he pointed out that "all possibilities are open for the formation of the ticket" and noted that for that purpose, "the only thing the constitution requires is qualification" without specifying what should be the profession of the vice president of the republic."

Up to now, the Justicialist leader has made significant progress in the race for his presidential candidacy with his victories won last Sunday in the internal elections in La Rioja and Corrientes.

Immediately afterwards, Luder reiterated his concept that the restructuring of the armed forces should begin after a joint analysis of all the political positions that are represented in the next national congress.

He said that "the armed forces must be subordinated to the political power" and maintained that "they are an institution that must respond to the political commands, of those who are representative and have the consensus of the people."

8711

CSO: 3348/574

LEFTIST ECONOMISTS PLAN NEW MEASURES UNDER CIVILIAN RULE

Buenos Aires LA VOZ in Spanish 12 Jul 83 p 12

[Text] Inquiry: What will be the proposals in the economic area that your party will present on a priority basis at the next parliamentary session?

INTRANSIGENT PARTY (PI) (Hector Rodriguez, member of the economic committee):

The PI believes that the coming democratic government must adopt a number of measures of an urgent nature aimed at reversing the current economic crisis, assuring the permanence and intensification of democracy and marking the road toward liberation.

The first object must be to detach the domestic financial system from the international system to break the interest rate-foreign exchange rate link. For that purpose, we will favor the nationalization of banking to break the monopolistic power of the "financial antifatherland," the nationalization of foreign trade to detach domestic prices from international quotations, and the creation of a Foreign Trade Bank that will operate as an agency for financing foreign transactions.

Another point is the transformation of the state with a view to the latter taking charge of the strategic sectors that deal with national defense, economic development and the popular welfare. In dealing with the budget, we will promote the reduction of unproductive expenditures, with emphasis on the bloated military budget and the privileged retirement system (armed forces and security, former civil servants, former legislators, etc). We will promote a broad restructuring of the tax system on the basis of those who earn more and have more will pay more so that the tax burden will not fall on the consumer. We will assign priority to the tax on the income potential of land to eliminate the latter as a speculation asset and to increase agricultural-livestock production.

These basic guidelines are not exhaustive. It is clear that if the popular sectors do not assume a large share of political and economic power, there will be no guarantees of a true democracy. The action of the PI will be aimed at the objective.

Communist Party (Jaime Fuchs, member of the economic committee):

In the economic area, we will promote a combination of measures having the following objectives: in the first place, emergency measures to check the course of the aggravation of the economic crisis and to prevent the working class and the people from sustaining all of its impact. In the second place, from that starting point, implement a new economic policy which, in summary, consists in confronting the backwardness and the dependence imposed by imperialism and its native accomplices, laying the foundations for national reconstruction along independent lines with a view to substantially improving the living standard of the working class and the people.

We cannot fail to note that the current serious economic-social crisis, the result of the policy in effect since April 1976, has intensified the structural crisis that permanently conditions the development of Argentine society.

The program of immediate and intermediate closely interlaced measures would include the establishment of a real wage according to the needs of a typical city and farm family, which would include the retirees, complemented by effective price controls for a small number of "leader" companies, with maximum prices, with subsidies if necessary, for the main products in the family market-basket, and emergency tax on large fortunes and profits, together with a plan for the construction of low-cost housing; and the strengthening of public companies in the basic sector. In addition, among other measures, industrial and agricultural development would be promoted simultaneously, diversifying trade with all countries in the world.

In the proposals to be presented, account will be taken of the combination of measures that the coming constitutional government will favor, supporting all those that contribute to social progress and to guaranteeing democracy.

Popular Socialist Party (Julio Lotes, member of the economic committee):

Guarantee a policy of full employment through the intervention of the state.

A substantial increase of the minimum wage in order to insure that the purchasing power of the worker will guarantee his family suitable living conditions.

An overall income redistribution policy that will eliminate the sharp social and regional inequalities of the present system through wage, price, investment and tax policies.

Measures that aim at territorial and demographic rearrangement, promoting the priority development of regions of our interior that are economically disenfranchised.

Fighting inflation through a policy of austerity that does not fall on the workers but on the exorbitant profits of big capital; the superfluous expenditures of the government; corruption; the subsidies and favors of the big companies; the manipulation of prices by the monopolies; financial and real estate speculation; the payment of royalties; profits and dividends of the multinationals; the speculation and fraud connected with foreign trade; the financial relations and exchange with foreign countries.

Democratization of the use and ownership of land through an agrarian reform that, taking account of the different regional situations, will insure access to the land by those who work it and the development of associated forms of farm operation through cooperatives.

Nationalization of the farm machinery industry, fertilizers, chemical and pharmaceutical products for the farm, seeds, etc., that are in the hands of foreign monopolies. Establishment of a farm policy that technically and financially supports the small and medium farmer, guaranteeing him security and stability in his operations. Provide the rural worker with the same welfare conditions and cultural possibilities as those that exist in the cities.

Directing industrial and agricultural production with priority for satisfying the people's needs for food, housing and clothing and the domestic production of capital goods that will guarantee the independent development of our economy.

Combating the monopolies and their prejudicial practices, such as the unjustified raising of prices, black market and short-supply, through antitrust legislation that will be fulfilled with the full participation of the workers and consumers organizations and associations in the control of the "leader" companies.

Establishment of an energy policy based basically on the domestic resources of the country and in the development of a technology that protects the environment and the health of the population for the utilization of alternative forms of energy.

Establishment of a national science and technology plan based on the national scientific community and that is aimed at the country's technological needs, particularly public and national enterprise, resorting to foreign technology of only a supplementary nature, without detrimental conditions for our national sovereignty.

Definition of a national transportation policy that will reduce dependence on oil, favoring railroad and river transportation.

Organization of the national economy on the basis of coordination and planning of areas: social, cooperative and private.

The presence and action of foreign capital must be governed by legislation that strictly establishes its entry only in special cases and which defines the sectors where its participation will be established on a mandatorily minority basis.

The foreign debt will be analyzed for the purpose of determining its real magnitude and an agreement among the debtor nations of Latin America will be promoted to implement an economic policy vis-a-vis international usury.

The tax policy will be of an income redistribution and development promotion nature, falling, in the first place, on unproductive assets and capital, excessive profits and high incomes; and giving priority to direct taxes over indirect taxes.

Workers Party (V.C. Rath, member of the promotion board):

The parliamentary institution is incapable of serving as an instrument to consummate national and social emancipation. It is on the basis of this concept that the tactic of the Workers Party toward parliamentarianism is defined. Parliament is one of the institutions of the bourgeois state, that is, it serves the exploiting class, both national and imperialist. It must be added that there is not a revolutionary tradition in Argentina: even the principal national gains and those of the workers were imposed by the direct action of the masses against the political tendencies of parliament. Nor can the parliament by the place where a relative improvement of the situation of the masses is effected (not to mention the framework that will insure that that improvement will be lasting). The reason for this is that the bourgeois parliament cannot go against the objective and subjective tendencies of capitalism at the present time: crisis and economic retrogression, unemployment and reduction of the living standard of the masses, bankruptcy of the weaker nations, systematic policy of austerity--applied by governments ranging from rightist to democratizing ones (see what is occurring in Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, Venezuela, etc). The Workers Party is going to participate in parliament to emphasize the impotence of that bourgeois institution and its clear class nature at the service of the exploiters. It will strive to use it as a platform for enlightenment and even political agitation. In its parliamentary participation, it will seek to serve the purpose of mobilization of the exploited and maturation of their class conscience.

In pursuance of that objective, the Workers Party will propose the following as priorities:

First: Suspension of payment of the foreign debt until it is investigated by a committee of parliamentarians and direct representatives of the working class and until the drafting of an economic plan by those same representatives. The eventual payment of the debt must be conditioned on respect for the country's national autonomy by the imperialist powers.

Second: An emergency general raise that will enable the working family to cover the family market-basket, monthly indexing of wages and the establishment of maximum prices. Unemployment insurance equivalent to the minimum wage. Elimination of unemployment through a public works plan and the rehiring of the workers dismissed.

Third: The complete nationalization of banking and a national workers control committee to determine the fate of the bankrupt industries. Remission of mortgage debts. Freezing of rents.

Fourth: Nationalization of foreign trade and a control of foreign exchange that must include the opening of the books of the companies and the abolition of commercial secrecy.

Fifth: Reduction of the military budget by 80 percent and a heavily progressive tax on wealth.

8711

CSO: 3348/574

GOVERNMENT LOOKS AT FOREIGN FISHING PROBLEM

PY051845 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0008 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Aug (TELAM)--After a 2-hour meeting held at San Martin Palace to address the operation of foreign fishing boats in Argentine waters, Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari said tonight that a commission will be created to study supplementary measures to protect national interests.

Asked whether any measures had been adopted to control the operation of those fishing boats, Aguirre Lanari replied that the important thing is that foreign ships are not allowed to transfer their catches to other ships now.

The foreign minister met with the Chubut and Santa Cruz province governors, Rear Admiral Niceto Echauri Ayerra, retired, and Major General Antonio Diego Lopez, retired, respectively, Maritime Interests Secretary Rear Admiral Ciro Garcia, and other officials. They discussed the presence of foreign fishing boats in the South Atlantic and the existing regulations on the matter. They also decided to create a commission that will be made up of representatives of government agencies of the sector.

The commission was urged to propose supplementary measures for the defense of the national interests now at stake.

For his part, Secretary Ciro Garcia reported that the Maritime Interests Secretariat has already suspended the transfer of catches between ships in Argentine ports. He added that the issue is now in the hands of the Foreign Ministry, which can take action in each particular case through diplomatic and political measures.

Garcia declined to specify which flag the above ships fly and noted that fishing boats of all nationalities are operating in an area of Argentine waters which is not under the specific control of our country now.

"This means," he remarked, "that we have no control over that area, although it is located within Argentine waters." He explained that catches are transferred to other ships that in turn transport them to the centers of consumption, while fishing boats stay in the fishing area.

He noted that the operation of foreign boats results in a harmful price decline. He said that the idea is to prevent the transfer of catches between ships and to promote free and fair competition, so that the interests of local companies, which are established in Argentine ports, are not affected.

After saying that by local companies he was also referring to joint Argentine-Spanish, Argentine-German and even Japanese companies whose ships fly the Argentine flag, he noted that if foreign companies are granted preferential treatment, local companies which also sell their products on the same market will be harmed.

In this regard, he remarked that the joint enterprises that are established in Argentina are requested to build an infrastructure, to create jobs in the Patagonia region, and to promote development in the area. Therefore, he went on, they should not be affected by those companies which are not established in our country.

He concluded by saying that no foreign boats are operating in waters under Argentine control, that this control does not reach the restricted areas imposed by the usurper of the Malvinas, that the navy has always protected our interests and that all necessary measures will be taken to preserve our sea resources.

CSO: 3348/6161

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT CHARGES HOUSE DEBATES ARE EDITED

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 10 Jul 83 p 4

[Text]

DR. THEODORE ARANDA, Leader of the Christian Democrat Party in Dangriga has charged that Radio Belize is deliberately editing the reports of House debates.

Dr. Aranda said he was particularly incensed about the editing of the report of last Friday's question and answer period in the House in which he asked a number of questions concerning the abattoir.

Dr. Aranda asked if the Belize Government was represented on the Board of Directors of the company which now runs the abattoir. The reply was given by the Minister of Works, Mr. Fred Hunter, who said that the government was not represented, nor would it be represented.

Dr. Aranda then commented on this answer, saying it was

not a satisfactory reply to his question.

Under the Standing Orders of the House a member has the right to make oral questions on the spot or to make written questions for which a written answer is required, with prior notice. Question time is traditionally used

for eliciting information, but strict Parliamentary rules are employed to prevent the exercise from developing into a debate.

During this particular question period Dr. Aranda referred to the Minister of Works in a way which suggested that the Minister was not speaking the truth. He was called upon by the Speaker to retract the statement.

CSO: 3298/778

PRICE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THIEVERY IN MAIL SYSTEM

AMANDALA Attack

Belize City AMANDALA in English 8 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Fri. July 8

Prime Minister George Price, de facto dictator of Belize, can stop the mail theft which is crucifying Belizeans, especially poor people, whenever he so desires.

He has never so desired because it would cost his government between fifty and a hundred thousand dollars to institute a fool proof method of handling the mails.

Stealing of postal packets and letters from the General Post Office here has been going on for more than 20 years and has grown worse. Our sources say that the prevailing system of hiring 18 to 25 year old young men and paying them \$60 a week to handle the mail is like putting good cheese in front of hungry rats.

Time and again studies compiled by foreign as well as local

experts have been placed before the PUP government explaining exactly what has to be done to stop mail tampering. (This offence is so serious in the United States it is a federal offence.) Mr. Price has refused to pay the money necessary, a pittance compared to the vast amounts which would be saved, because apparently the man is, as they say, penny wise and pound foolish. He uses the back of old envelopes to write on and picks up paper off the sidewalks of Belmopan, but allows a system to continue which is ripping off the poor people he loves so much at election time.

What makes his negligence more glaring is that the post office is one of the few government departments which not only pays its way but makes a yearly profit for Mr. Price's coffers.

Prison for Postman

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 10 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] 24 years old postman, Charles Gordon was sentenced on Friday July 1 to years imprisonment with hard labour by the Chief Justice, Mr. George Moe. Gordon had earlier pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to unlawfully opening postal packets and steal money therefrom and theft of 23 postal packets belonging to the General Post Office. The offences took place on the 21st March, 1983 at Belize City.

Gordon's accomplice, Carlton Theus, also a postman absconded before the trail and a bench warrant has been issued for his arrest.

In passing sentence, the Chief Justice observed that he took a grave view of such offences as this was an unwarranted erosion of the lives and privacy of persons. "A letter interfered with may be one that is related to an important part of a person's future career", said the Chief Justice, and added that such offences deserved a deterrent sentence in view of the public interest involved.

CSO: 3298/779

UDP LEADER ESQUIVEL ACCUSED OF FUND DRIVE IRREGULARITIES

'False Pretenses' Charge

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 10 Jul 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] The following letter was sent to a number of Belizeans residing in the United States of America signed by Manuel Esquivel obviously trying to raise money under false pretences.

We publish below the entire contents so that you can see the lies and untruths being sponsored by the Senator and his party. We have deleted the name of the person to whom the letter was sent in order to protect his identity and possible victimization from the opposition sympathizers in the United States of America. The letter follows:

As you probably know, elections for the Belize City Council will be coming up in December, and these will be followed by National Elections sometime in 1984. Even though you are now abroad, I know that you still share our concern for the people and the country of your birth. I know that those of you who have become American citizens are concerned that under the present law in Belize you are about to loose your Belizean nationality. Like us, I am sure you are concerned about the violent struggle going on all around Belize, the influx of thousands of Central American refugees into the country, and the possibility of the present government remaining in power solely on the vote of these aliens. The United Democratic Party, as the only real alternative to the P.U.P., is continuing its battle to become the new government. We do not want to see Belizean born declared foreigners in the country of their birth. We do not want to see Belize become another Salvador. And only a change of government in Belize can stop these things from happening. We do not want to see de facto aliens become the determining factor in the next elections. But it is clear to us that the P.U.P. are in fact preparing to get these refugees on the voters list. It is up to us to prevent this, and you can help us. After long negotiation the UDP won the legal right to place an observer in every registering office to check on every person who applies to be registered to vote. However, these observers receive no official pay, even though they must spend the entire day at it if their work is to be effective. We need your help to enable us to offer the Party observers token payment. We feel that if we do not place full-time observers in the registering offices, we will be

making it easy for the PUP to register illegal voters. We cannot allow this to happen. We would greatly appreciate any donation you can give, whether as a single sum or as a monthly pledge. If you can help us, please remember not to send cash through the mail. Cheques or money orders should be made payable to the United Democratic Party. Thank you so much. For a secure and prosperous Belize,

Sincerely,

Manuel Esquivel

Details of Paper's Charges

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 10 Jul 83 pp 3, 10

[Text]

Senator Manuel Esquivel, obviously caught in a bind between Dean Lindo and the New York Freedom Committee, is desperately trying to raise money under false pretences. In order to set the record straight we publish the facts as they are:

a) Under the Constitution of Belize, Chapter III Section 26(b), a person may be registered as a citizen of Belize who has been continuously resident for a period of five years immediately before the date of his/her application to become a citizen. Therefore, the lie by the Senator that government intends to remain in power solely on the vote of these aliens is mathematically incorrect. If the Constitution came into force on September 21, 1981 and for an alien to reside in Belize for five years before becoming a citizen would mean that he or she will not be eligible until the year 1986. National Elections are scheduled for the year 1984, clearly two years before any alien can be qualified to become a citizen, then apply to become a voter.

b) The Senator says that thousands of Central Americans are coming into the country but he did not say that thousands are also leaving Belize for other countries. Like Mexico, Canada and what are involved with the United Nations Refugee Programme. The truth of the matter is that the refugee problem started in Belize sometime in 1981 as a result of the civil war in El Salvador and turbulence in other Central American countries. Some who fell in love with Belize stayed on and with the assistance of the United Nations are residing in the Valley of Peace where they are engaged in agriculture,

producing food for the Belizean table. At present there is an estimated 2,500 refugees in Belize who are contributing to the economy. But what to our mind Mr Esquivel is trying to do is to create issue of hate and racism amongst our neighboring countries.

c) Mr Esquivel says that the PUP are preparing these aliens to get on the voters list. This is impossible. There is an Elections and Boundaries Commission which is in charge of registration of voters and there are procedures to ensure that there is no fraud. For instance, an applicant must produce his or her birth certificate or passport to commence the process. In the absence of this, an application will be taken after which the Registering Officer will make investigations at the General Registry as to the person's nationality. It is not the PUP who are doing registration of voters, however, the UDP if they could have their way, would want to appoint their supporters on the Commission so that they in turn can do the same thing they are accusing the PUP of doing. There is a Commission set up by the Government to review and make recommendations on the present Representation of the People Ordinance and the Commission is presently doing its work.

d) Senator Esquivel says he does not want to see Belizeans become foreigners in their own country. Another impossibility. The Belize Constitution Chapter III Section 27 clearly stipulates that any citizen of Belize who acquires the citizenship of any other country shall cease to be a citizen of Belize. This means that a person can only give allegiance to one flag, one government and one country. The onus of decision lie with the Belizean. If he wishes to become an American citizen, in which case he will have to swear allegiance to the American symbols, then he must renunciate his rights as a Belizean. It works the same way for the American citizen who wishes to become a Belizean, and there are many Americans residing in Belize who have given up their American citizenship to become Belizeans.

e) The Senator says that we do not want to see Belize become another El Salvador. Frankly speaking, we can assure the Senator that this would never come to pass. But if our assurances are not enough, perhaps he would accept the

words of President Ronald Reagan of the United States of America who declared recently, in front of the Belizean delegation that went to Washington that, "Belize - Central America's Newest Independent Democracy - Serves as a Model of Peace and Stability."

f) And lastly, Mr Esquivel is trying to raise monies by way of donations. We will say in the words of a political analyst, "that it's a fraudulent way of raising money."

CSO: 3298/778

PAPER SLAMS PRICE, PUP ADMINISTRATION POLICY FAILURES

Belize City AMANDALA in English 8 Jul 83 p 6

[Article by Penance Master]

[Text]

In his June 19 speech to the 80 BELCAST graduates Prime Minister George Price was reported by Radio Belize as quoting from British novelist Evelyn Waugh the words of one of his characters: "To understand all is to forgive all."

But there are many more important things to be forgiven than PUP "inconveniences" (dug up streets, frequent blackouts,) "prudence (?) and caution in working foreign policy", and "(mere?) foibles of human nature". A short list includes:

- A vice-ridden, incompetent and partly pro-Communist Cabinet deliberately so chosen by the Prime Minister from way back to make sure that hidden sins stay hidden.

- A radio monopoly at the service of one political party only, although members and supporters of both parties pay for its upkeep.

- A threatened television monopoly to be controlled by a minister who has amply proven his despotism in radio communications, the army and police.

- A discrimination and victimization policy, especially in matters of jobs placement, that has sent thousands into exile from Belize to the U.S.A.

- A lifetime of flirtation with and attempted betrayal of Belize

to Guatemala that has placed the future of Belize in a state of uncertainty, limbo and impasse.

Could it be that having reached the ripe old age of 65, with some 40 years behind him in politics, Mr. Price now feels, like Alexander the Great, that there are no more worlds to conquer?

To foreigners like Chicago union leaders Mr. Price may be the father of our country; but in achieving his very doubtful independence, he is one father who has placed the future of his 'children' in very grave doubt and danger. He may be dead and gone when we must reap the whirlwind of the wind he did sow!

By the Waugh quotation the P.M. may be expressing contrition and a desire for pardon. It is not a few people whose lives and possibly brilliant careers he has destroyed by a deliberate policy of victimization and discrimination - people who might have become great credits to Belize destroyed by Mr. Price because he could not brook honest competition. In his firmament there could be only one star and one light, and that was George Price. Anyone else who dared to rival that light had to be extinguished!

So now at 65 the Prime Minister, like all mortal men, must think of the Divine Reckoner he soon inevitably meets, and has

asked the nation for reconciliation and forgiveness before it's too late.

The Bible says, "A humble and a contrite heart I will not despise." But true contrition and humility carry with them a deep sorrow for what one has done wrong, with a firm determination not to repeat the same evils. If one has robbed or hurt somebody, you MUST also make resti-

tution and correct the damage you have done! Otherwise your repentance and forgiveness are mere coverups, subterfuge, hypocrisy.

So Mr. Prime Minister, we await proof of your sincere repentance with action, not mere words. A good place to begin might be in your Cabinet. Then the eighty BELCAST graduates might take your advice to heart.

CSO: 3298/778

PRICE EVADES OPPOSITION QUERY ON CORRUPTION, COMMUNISM

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 10 Jul 83 p 4

[Text] The Clerk of the House of Representatives has written to inform the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Curl Thompson why it was that the Prime Minister, Mr. Price had not responded to his invitation to make a statement concerning certain charges of corruption which had been levelled by Ministers of his Government against each other at the recent national PUP Convention.

Mr. Thompson was informed by letter that the Standing Orders of the House prevents the House from debating or commenting on any matter currently before the court. [as published]

The reference is to the fact that the Attorney General, Mr. Musa, has brought a civil suit for libel against the REPORTER for repeating in print some of the charges made against him at the PUP Convention.

The Leader of the Opposition had actually introduced a resolution calling on the Prime Minister to make a statement to indicate whether he or any member of his government knows of any evidence supporting the charges of corruption and Communism brought against the various ministers.

The Prime Minister was required to indicate (a) what action he proposed to take against the offending ministers if it was true that they were guilty of any of the charges made, and or (b) what action he proposed to take against those responsible for circulating the reports if he was satisfied that none of the charges was true.

The refusal of the House Ways and Means Committee to forward the Thompson motion at this time on the grounds that the matter was before the court is regarded as a flimsy excuse. All that has happened is that the Attorney General Mr. Musa has issued a civil writ of libel against the REPORTER which is the first preliminary step to getting the matter before the court. The matter is not now being heard and it may take months, perhaps years before the actual libel charge is heard. The longer the matter is dragged out, the more time the Prime Minister has to evade his responsibility of making a no-nonsense statement to the House.

CSO: 3298/778

FISHING COOPERATIVES BRING BRIGHT PROSPECTS TO INDUSTRY

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 10 Jul 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] The fishing industry continues to gain strength as one of the major foreign exchange earners for the Belizean economy. In their last year of operations, the five major fishing cooperatives had sales amounting to nearly 12 million dollars.

Both the Northern Fishermen Cooperative (Caye Caulker) and the National Fishermen Cooperative (Belize City) had sales over 4 million dollars; Caribeña Cooperative (San Pedro) had over 2.5 million dollars in sales. The Placencia Cooperative had over 1 million dollars and Sarteneja's sales amounted to over 350,000 dollars.

Southern Fishermen Cooperative, based in Punta Gorda, sold nearly 40,000 dollars while the Barranco Cooperative sold just over 5,000 dollars. These two small cooperatives sell their produce locally and are seeking ways to expand their operations.

Together, these seven cooperatives have a total membership of over 1,000 fishermen.

A Cooperative Department spokesman says production fell this year as compared to last year. But, he adds, it was a better year than most fishermen had anticipated.

Last year's production was considered excellent by all standards. However, the "bumper season" was attributed to a phenomenon known as the "Red Tide." Some experts say the tide results in a concentration of marine products--lobster, conch, fish, shrimp--in waters accessible to fishermen. However, they claim that the year after the Red Tide is usually a lean one. This is the reason why this year's production was expected to drop sharply. But contrary to those predictions it was a very good year.

Production figures for the next year are expected to be similar to the 1983 season.

The Cooperatives Department says the Nationals and Placencia cooperatives in particular have improved their performance considerably. However, the Sarteneja cooperative continues to fight for survival.

The problem with this cooperative according to a Cooperatives Department official is the difficulty that fishermen have with transportation of their produce to Sarteneja. The operation is very costly since the fishing grounds are so far from Sarteneja and this serves to discourage fishermen who take an alternate route to Belize City. When they deliver in Belize City they hurt the overall performance of their cooperative, he says. This is because in Belize City they sell their produce to other cooperatives.

Recently, Minister of Health, Housing and Cooperatives, Mr. Assad Shoman outlined a five year Fisheries Development Plan. The plan is to be implemented by the Fisheries Unit and the Cooperatives Department. Under the plan it is hoped that Belizean fishermen will be able to go into deep sea fishing--a venture that is expected to improve production considerably.

The Plans also calls for additional measures to put an end to illegal fishing (poaching) in Belizean waters. [as published] It is widely known that fishermen from the neighbouring countries are in the habit of fishing illegally in Belizean waters.

CSO: 3298/778

BRIEFS

COSTA RICA ENVOY--Mr Rafael Lopez Garrido presented his credentials at the end of last month to Governor General, Dr Minita Gordon (left) in Belmopan. He became Costa Rica's second ambassador to Belize. Lopez Garrido replaced former ambassador Federico Alvarez and is now Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Belize. He resides in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. [Text] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 10 Jul 83 p 5]

NEW DISWEEK EDITOR--Belize City, Tues. July 5 Miss Diane Haylock, former Youth Patriotic Front (YPF) loyalist, will edit the DISWEEK newspaper. She replaces Jorge Aguilar, who resigned for personal reasons last weekend. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 8 Jul 83 p 7]

CSO: 3298/779

MILITARY ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE MALUF FROM SEEKING PRESIDENCY SEEN POSSIBLE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Aug 83 p 4

[Article by Carlos Chagas: "Military Could Veto Maluf's Candidacy"]

[Text] The four military ministers could meet with Paulo Maluf in the next few weeks, appealing to his patriotism, good sense and public spirit, to ask him to abandon his plans to run for the presidency in 1985. The strategy will be suggested to Gen Joao Figueiredo, in conjunction with or as an alternative to a direct presidential veto--also under consideration--of the former governor's candidacy, either by a specific presidential statement or through an authorized spokesman, not too long after the president returns to office.

The possibility of joint political action by the four military ministers was suggested to Figueiredo by one of the ministers in April, at Granja do Torto. This was before the president was faced with the need for the tests which determined the surgery from which he is now recovering in Cleveland. If the president did not reject the idea at the time, he did not give it the go-ahead, even when warned that time was working against his determination not to have the former governor succeed him. The strategy being pursued to "stop Maluf" was to release the other candidates to work on the PDS [Social Democratic Party] benches, and Minister Mario Andreazza was gaining favor, at the point of overcoming predictions and winning supporters.

Same as 1978

The military minister who, in a conversation last weekend, suggested the negotiated solution was the same one who in 1978, during the Geisel administration, approached Maluf, then the dissident candidate for governor of Sao Paulo, seeking to dissuade him from dividing forces and running against Laudo Natel. That meeting, in an apartment in the capital of Sao Paulo, was at first promising, because Maluf was willing to abandon his candidacy "since he had been offered an honorable way out." They telephoned to Brasilia that very moment and spoke with Joao Baptista Figueiredo, then a presidential candidate, who was anxiously awaiting the phone call and immediately gave his endorsement. In exchange for withdrawing his candidacy, the former mayor and former secretary of transportation would have the mayoralty of Sao Paulo and two or three secretariats. It was all agreed, but the agreement soon fell apart; when the military officer, a future minister under Figueiredo, approached Laudo Natel, Natel did not agree. He refused to deliver what Maluf had asked for, trusting that he could beat him at the convention. Natel lost.

The story is recounted now because the president is returning to the country to resume his mandate--with no haste, incidentally--and he will have to deal belatedly with a new Malufist adventure. He apparently intends to waste no time and, as we were told last Sunday, to make it publicly clear that he does not favor the candidacy of the former governor.

Meanwhile, if Figueiredo so wishes and specifically recommends, as will be suggested to him, Army Minister Walter Pires, Air Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos, Navy Minister Maximiano da Fonseca and Waldir Vasconcelos, of the EMFA [Armed Forces General Staff], could carry out the sensitive mission of speaking with Paulo Maluf. For the mission planners, it is not a question of military pressure, but of integrated political action by the government and its [military] back-up. If the mission is to be successful, it is important not to view the Sao Paulo deputy as the enemy, but to appeal to him as an ally, as the governor who has rendered services to Figueiredo and is called upon to assist him again. His agreement to forego his presidential candidacy would imply future commitment, either regarding the state elections in 1986 or the composition of the ministry to which, in the end, he could be nominated.

Alternatives

The alternative, it is well to reiterate, arose in recent days as one of many options, all of which have been examined, with the major goal of preventing Paulo Maluf from going forward and emerging the victor in the PDS convention.

The problem is that it will require all the care and tact possible, since it runs the risk of backfiring. If the move is seen as military intervention, which from a certain viewpoint it must be seen, the meeting of uniformed officers with Paulo Maluf could strengthen his constituency and confirm his victory. After all, these are different times. Institutional Act No 5 has disappeared, the Armed Forces are returning to the barracks and the PDS, lacking a constituency and still on the sidelines, is facing reaction and obvious dissidence. The example of Juscelino Kubitschek must always be remembered; if he had not stood up to the military vetoes, he might not have been elected president of the republic.

Hence the important thing about the planned strategy is to appeal to Maluf in a positive way, lining him up as an ally, not as an enemy, despite the singular and clear situation of the possible negotiators.

No Retreat

The doubts today are [not] few and even complicate the picture. If the strange suit is successful it will dispel them. It will be difficult to retreat or violate the rules of the game once it is begun. For this reason, things must be settled immediately. This year. Every day that passes works in Maluf's favor and against the government, which, given the ease with which his campaign is developing, does not want Maluf touring the states, garnering votes and securing commitments. It is a question of stopping him now, with a statement by Figueiredo, the action of the military ministers, the swift naming of the official candidate--or with these and other moves in combination--or of watching Maluf's growing progress, which will soon be impossible to contain.

The problem is serious and does not bear delay. According to the military minister engaged in finding a way out, whatever it may be, President Figueiredo will have to deal with this new phase of the succession process, as well as resume his duties. For this reason he must be fully recovered, allowing some weeks between his return to Brazil, scheduled for 12 August, and his return to Planalto Palace to take up the government again.

Among the presidential aides who are concerned with the matter, it is known that it will not be easy to destroy the lofty dream of the Sao Paulo congressman. He could reject proposals and ignore vetoes, continue to turn a deaf ear, deny that he is campaigning and persist in his venture. Nor will it be easy to control the reaction of the PDS and achieve party unity behind a name acceptable to everyone, or almost everyone. If the search for a solution is initiated immediately, there could still be time for coordination, surveys, soundings and discussions until the end of the year, not forcing a candidate on the PDS benches but, with their agreement, arriving at a candidate indicated by the president.

Picture Unclear

Today it still appears possible to change the succession picture. The personal preferences of General Figueiredo are known. He is inclined toward Minister Mario Andreazza, who suspended his pursuit of political backers when the president left for the United States. He has faithfully abided by the decision to freeze the succession process while the president is abroad. Vice President Aureliano Chaves has done the same, except that, in his case, his candidacy will be greatly strengthened by his having served as acting president of the republic.

Some observers admit that more water has passed under the succession bridge than has fallen in the south of the country in recent weeks. Other candidates could, in theory, appear and move ahead of the current candidates, but the issue remains that, as long as the process is unsettled, the only candidate making any progress is Paulo Maluf. So he is attracting all the attention and all the artillery, including the military artillery.

6362

CS0: 3342/166

SAO PAULO 'CECLAT' APPROVES 'CUT' CREATION

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Aug 83 p 3

[Article by Aristeu Moreira and Samuel Wainer Filho]

[Text] Creation of the Central Union of Workers (CUT) at the end of this month was approved yesterday at the closing session of the CECLAT (State Congress of the Working Classes). The decision was a victory for the union faction led by Luis Inacio da Silva, "Lula," national president of the PT [Workers Party], over Joaquim dos Santos ("Joaquinzao") Andrade, president of the Sao Paulo Metal-workers Union, and his allies--the PCB [Brazilian Communist Party], the PC do B [Communist Party of Brazil] and the MR-8 [8 October Revolutionary Movement]--who sought to postpone it.

With this CECLAT decision, Sao Paulo, which will have the largest delegation at the CONCLAT [National Conference of the Working Classes], to take place at the end of this month, will lead the way in the national debate on the creation of the CUT. In yesterday's meeting, which neither Lula nor Joaquinzaao attended, the decision on the general strike was ratified, having been approved in three full sessions on Saturday, with the date to be set in the CONCLAT.

Risks

Joaquinzao's advisors warned, however, that there is a "great difference" between the "theoretical creation" and the actual installation of the CUT. They pointed out that the CECLAT general session was attended mainly by representatives of middle class unions--for example, the unions of medical workers, architects and engineers--whose decisions might not have smooth sailing among the labor class unions.

The PT understood that observation as a threat. Its allies in the labor movement now fear that the faction opposing creation of the CUT in 1983 will not make the "necessary effort" to build it, and will even work to weaken it, and then argue that it is not representative.

Despite their concern with sticking to their positions to the end and seeing them prevail, the principal leaders of the two factions--Jaco Bittar and Jair Meneguelli, of the PT; Federal Deputy Aurelio Perez, supported by the PC do B; Jose Goncalves of the PC do P Central Committee; Arnaldo Goncalves, backed by the PCB; and independent labor leaders and representatives of such trends as Libelu--spent the entire day at the general session in continuing negotiations. The result was the constitution of a single slate of 10 names who will represent Sao Paulo in the new national Pro-CUT commission.

The issue was considered particularly sensitive and involved a major negotiating effort because it was a test of strength between the two factions. The PT ended up with five representatives, the independents with one, the Sao Paulo Metalworkers with one--possibly Joaquinzaio--the PC do B with one and the PCB with two.

Although the list was eight pages long, with countless items for final discussion among the almost 800 participants, the discussions did not, as the delegates had expected, drag on all night. They speedily disposed of the questions on the list which, to less knowledgeable observers, seemed minor, such as the debate on the "end of the recession" or the "revision of the economic policy." As the key items came up, the applause, shouts and calls for order in the auditorium clearly indicated the diverging positions.

The union representatives with ties to the PT shouted: "One, two, three, CUT in '83," while their adversaries in the PCB, PC do B and others opted for: "One, two, three, CUT honestly." Although the factions had acted together in the general strike on 21 July, the inside information on CECLAT and its results indicated that there are still disagreements and that, as a result of yesterday, Lula cannot be seen as completely victorious, because it is not yet known what the opposition has in wait for him. For 19 years, as president of the Sao Paulo Metalworkers Union, Joaquinzaio has already demonstrated his political endurance and his fire power, even in the face of defeat.

The dispute between the two factions (in a smaller arena, but one in which the two leaders belong) is continuing in the Cicada Ocian, in Baixada Santista, from today until next Friday, when the 11th National Congress of Metalworkers will take place. That congress will be attended by about 400 metalworkers, chosen by the country's 138 unions in that category and representing 1.5 million Brazilian metalworkers.

The agenda for the congress includes almost the same items as the 3-day CECLAT (items which will continue to be debated in the CONCLAT at the end of the month): the economic policy (which brings the two factions together in opposition to the government), unemployment, wages and social security, union activities and the assessment of the 21 July strike. The metalworkers will again take up the creation of the CUT, and who was against and who was for the "general strike" and who took part in it and who worked against it, a topic which provoked reciprocal accusations yesterday in the CECLAT.

The PT union leaders predict that, as a way of winning sympathy in the full session for his positions, Joaquinzaio will take advantage of the metalworkers' congress which opened today to launch his campaign to succeed Ari Campista in the elections for the CNTI (National Confederation of Industrial Workers) in April 1986.

Joaquinzaio and the National Pro-CUT Commission expect to meet today or tomorrow with Governor Franco Montoro, when they hope to determine the site for the CONCLAT.

6362

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GOVERNMENT TERMED DEFICIENT IN POLITICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Jul 83 p 5

[Article by Carlos Chagas]

[Text] The second political half of the year is beginning Monday, 1 month late. On that day the work of the Congress resumes, with the government facing innumerable problems, from the maintenance of the PDS [Social Democratic Party]-PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] agreement to the vote on the new wage policy decree law and the increasing dissidence within its own party. Then, with the return of Gen Joao Figueiredo to Brazil at the end of August or early September, the presidential succession issue will come to the fore again. The Planalto Palace has less maneuvering room today than it did in June for halting Paulo Maluf's venture, if it can, and for settling on an individual capable of reflecting its interests. Parallel with this, the question arises as to whether or not an alternative and final plan of action will be adopted for the remaining year and a half of the presidential term. Adding into this predictable agenda the usual unexpected and surprise events which always occur, the conclusion is that the government needs effective political coordination more than ever.

And political coordination, according to the general impression, is what is lacking. The ship continues to drift, near to partial or total disaster, since the ad hoc coordinator, Minister Leitao de Abreu, has shown a lack of the essential qualifications. Unfamiliar with this branch, with little fondness for dialogue or for the double meanings or familiarity with politicians, but at the same time inclined toward centralization and against delegating authority, the head of the Civilian Household has been the focus of increasing limitations and criticisms within the PDS and the ministry itself.

The provisional status of Aureliano Chaves has frozen the problem of lack of political coordination, either because the acting president has taken control and is carrying out a part of the task with the experience gained throughout his political life or because, as a function of the interregnum, certain subjects have been more or less set aside, for example the presidential succession. Similarly, the July parliamentary recess removed the very poor relationship between the government and the politicians from the front line of concern.

However, it is all beginning to surge forward again now, and if we are not mistaken, the prospects for the executive branch are disastrous, among other things because Gen Joao Figueiredo's qualifications do not include a taste for and patience with politics, with its intrigues and sinuosities. In a word, the government lacks coordination, despite the formal existence of a coordinator, and in a context in which the practice of it becomes urgent.

When Minister Leitao de Abreu took charge of the Civilian Household for the second time, with Figueiredo in this case, the president both offered him and, naturally, demanded of him administrative and political coordination. He had functioned similarly under the consulate of Garrastazu Medici, when he occupied the same post, and the same was true in the days of August 1981, with Gen Golbery do Couto e Silva. Apart from serving as a kind of prime minister responsible for the routine work with the ministries, it fell to the head of the Civilian Household to make the new era of political openness function, establishing directives and implementing the agenda defined by the president, as well as using the space allocated to the minister of justice, as a kind of operations officer. The activities of Golbery dovetailed well with those of Petronio Portella, and, after the senator from Piaui died, with those of Ibrahim Abi-Ackel.

The fact is that Leitao de Abreu excluded the minister of justice from the very beginning. He sought to carry out the tasks of maintaining relationships with the parties, headed by the PDS, alone, soothing complaints and winning a consensus. He seized control of the dialogue with the Congress, preparations for the elections and the structuring of forces in each state, as well as the ineffable and casuistic institutional and legal changes imposed by the government's need not to lose the electoral campaign, or at least by much.

In theory, there would be nothing against it, involving as it seemed to a mere change of personnel, or at most certain methods of action. Golbery, due to differences with the group surrounding Figueiredo, departed, and Leitao, the personal choice of the president, arrived. And if he was willing to return under another government, given another reality, it was with a view to a new cycle, as he made clear in his speech when he took up his post, quoting Lincoln, in whose view new situations required new solutions. Viewed as authoritarian and arbitrary under the Garrastazu Medici administration, he was called liberal 2 years later, because of his service in the Federal Supreme Court and some of the votes he cast.

A Lost Battle

Some time having passed, it is plain that the professor has lost the battle of coordination. Even though he began well, engaging in dialogue with various political and social sectors, from the press to the Congress, from the intellectuals to class organizations. Less than 2 months after taking office, faced with Figueiredo's heart attack and the temporary doubt about what would happen in the country if the president could not carry out his duties, some ministers and military leaders contemplated the undesirability of having Aureliano Chaves take over the government. And the now surprising

interviews with Gen Octavio Medeiros do not suffice to deny the episode. On the night of Friday, 18 September, a videotape of the events of August 1969 was being shown in a suite at the Othon Hotel. Leitao de Abreu came running from the south, constitution in hand, and the vice president took office just a few days later.

Gradually, therefore, in day-to-day dealings, the nature of things will have prevailed. The jurist was not a politician, and there was no magic wand which could make him one. He acknowledged an end to arbitrary action, but as to coordination--he did not know how. He began to be criticized in the Planalto Palace itself, ironically by those same individuals who had met to plot to remove Golbery and settled accounts with him with the warmest and most enthusiastic congratulations. Then everything was centralized, with no consultation, no delegation and no discussion. After filling posts, they were sealed off, and not infrequently many decisions were postponed and comrades were sometimes surprised with others, of which they had learned from the newspapers. The 9 am meeting officials had with the president became a model of caution, unimportance and florentine discussions in which no one moved forward for fear of a reaction.

The Civilian Household became known as a bunker, but, given his peculiar characteristics, Leitao de Abreu would not fight. Calling everyone "sir," leaving no room for intimacy, ceremonious by temperament and, in order to maintain his distance, making appointments 2 days ahead when ministers in the household needed to talk to him, and taking up the most delicate administrative and political matters with Figueiredo directly, he isolated himself and was caught in the crossfire from the Military Household, the SNI [National Service for Intelligence], the SEPLAN [Secretariat of Planning], the private secretariat and the Ministry of Justice. Even when Gen Rubem Ludwig came to the Military Household, things did not change, despite the fact that the former minister of education had been placed there precisely to serve as a buffer.

With the development of the political problems, the lack of coordination, still obvious today, became clear. His adversaries began to say that Leitao de Abreu intervened where he had no business and failed to do so where he should have. The state elections last year provided an example. In Minas, he ended up by demanding and imposing Eliseu Resende, who was defeated, ignoring despite all advice the fact that only someone from the old PSD would have the capacity to unite that party and defeat Tancredo Neves. In Espirito Santo and in Parana, however, he did not take steps to block the previously unsuccessful candidacies of the pupils of Eurico Resende and Ney Braga, a need which even Figueiredo perceived.

The vote at the polls showed the electoral inclination toward the opposition forces which were victorious in the richest and most populous states. On this basis, the recovery of the PDS, which had been reduced to tatters, leapt to the eye. Despite this, the coordinator continued to maintain an olympic distance from the PDS. The official party continued to drift at random and in the open, without participation in the government and with its demands and suggestions unsolicited and unheard. It was treated as if it were just an

appendix of the AI [Institutional Act]-5 era, only there was no longer any AI-5. No one enjoyed less prestige than its president, Sen Jose Sarney.

Tens of such episodes developed, giving rise in the end to dissidence and allowing the development of rebel groups in the PDS, which are now stubbornly continuing to inflict defeats on the government. There is no longer even any talk of the candidacy of Paulo Maluf, unblemished and a step away from creating chaos, which they and others urged.

In Sao Paulo, in an effort to limit the advance of the former governor, the head of the Civilian Household worked out a dissident slate for the local board of officers. Perhaps inspired by his new interlocutor, former opposition member Thales Ramalho sought to draw former governor Paulo Egydio Martins out of his placid retirement, so that he could create an internal opposition. It neither worked nor is working, and everyone knew that it would not. It discredited the federal scheme and Maluf controlled all of the members of the board. When the time came to choose a new regional president and members of the Executive Board, matters became still worse. Succeeding in enlisting Jose Maria Marin for another type of election, which he also lost, in the Brazilian Soccer Federation, Leitao de Abreu imagined the unimaginable, relying on the former governor of the anti-Maluf group and forgetting that the links between them date way back. And when Miguel Colasuonno and the head of the Civilian Household arranged the artificial sponsorship of Maluf himself for the presidency of the local PDS, knowing that he would not accept and thus attempting to force the withdrawal of the other Maluf supporters, the president was not informed, for reasons only known there. Thus irritation developed, in ignorance of the maneuver of the former prefect, who incurred the wrath of Gen Joao Figueiredo. Not even Leitao could save him there, his comment being "there will be some things about this young man..."

Later, in view of the national dissident movement headed by deputy Theodorico Ferraco, this same incapacity was evidenced. The rebels provided a thousand opportunities for reconciliation, and they wanted an understanding, but since they were given only bread and water, they decided in the end to go ahead with rebellion, the sole result being the inflicting of a serious defeat on the Planalto Palace. By failing to act, the coordinator prevented others from acting. The same can be said of the strange agreement with the PTB, now hanging by a thread, and not the result of the "adesismo" of Dona Ivete Vargas. Finally, all of the 35 promises the government made to the laborites have gone unkept or ineffective, including the last, pertaining to the maintenance of the inflationary index as the minimum level for wage adjustment. Not even a simple appointment of an COBAL [Brazilian Foods Company] office head has been forthcoming, but if it had, worse still, because where would this leave the PDS dissidents? If 13 deputies justify an appointment, and there is not even any thought of a ministry, what would the more than 100 rebels be worth?

In brief, the political reality reflects the confusion and the chaos caused by lack of coordination, at the beginning of a period when it is becoming most necessary. Given the importance, with the Congress in session, that the government not suffer parliamentary defeat, and in particular the importance

of a search for unity so as to deal with the succession issue, either the coordinator must be replaced or serious events will ensue. They say that Leitao de Abreu is not worried and is even drafting a "definitive formula" to ensure the victory of whatever individual Gen Figueiredo chooses as his successor, such as to defeat Paulo Maluf. It is said that the voting at the party convention will be open, no longer secret. If this were true, it would be the end. For if the Planalto Palace has the PDS majority needed to approve a draft law to that effect, this measure would be meaningless, since this same majority would suffice to elect the individual chosen by the president. But if this step is not taken, it will mean risking another early defeat. There would be no Maluf supporter willing to accept the change.

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PDS FACTION LEADER CRITICIZES ECONOMIC TEAM, MAJOR PROGRAMS

Rio de Janeiro MANCHETE in Portuguese 6 Aug 83 pp 96-97

[Text of interview with Theodomiro Ferraco, leader of "Participation," a dissident faction of the Social Democratic Party, date and place not given]

[Text] "We are reviving a party that was dead," Federal Deputy Theodomiro Ferraco (PDS-ES [Social Democratic Party-Espirito Santo]), said euphorically after the last party convention, held in Brasilia. Aged 45, Ferraco became known as "the man who challenged President Figueiredo," or as the "fire brand" who put the torch to the then monolithic PDS. Few people believed that the so-called Participation slate, challenging the official ticket, would win 35 percent of the votes at the convention, electing 42 members. Ferraco is a practicing Catholic, married, the father of four children (Marcos, aged 21, an engineering student; Ricardo, aged 19, a councilman in Cachoeiro do Itapemirim; Eduardo, 18, a pilot, and Patricia, aged 14). He is of Italian descent. He began his political career very early in life. He was twice elected federal deputy. He was elected mayor of Cachoeiro do Itapemirim and received the largest vote for reelection as federal deputy in the last elections. Nominated by the PDS as governor of Espirito Santo, his name was vetoed by the president himself. "He said that he could not accept me because, in the Federal Chamber, I demanded that the military return to the barracks." Now Ferraco is challenging the authority of Figueiredo, who does not like dissidence within the party. What does Ferraco intend? "Nothing," he answers. "I am not seeking ministries or other posts; I just want the political class to have a part in major national decisions."

[Question] Deputy, you are known as the man who challenged President Figueiredo.

[Answer] No, I didn't do that.

[Question] But the president was not happy with the results of the PDS convention.

[Answer] But this will pass. He should not be unhappy with me. He should be unhappy with those who did not vote for the official slate. We participated and we conducted an open campaign. Our dissatisfaction was public and well known.

[Question] Dissatisfaction with what?

[Answer] With the exclusion of the political class from the basic decisions. With the exclusion of the PDS from the major decisions of the government and, above all, dissatisfaction with the lack of a political liaison between the political class and the government, capable of giving heed to the complaints of the deputies and the politicians.

[Question] How was the Participation slate formed?

[Answer] Initially, we demanded that some places in the party directorate be given to the deputies, because we said that technocrats would be chosen to fill the posts--trusted people, connected with the government, and already thinking about the presidential succession and other things. We felt that the political class should, as it must, play a larger part in the national picture. We are the last to know what is happening. We want to share responsibility with the government in the crisis, to offer solutions to the problems. On the government's side, we want a spokesman who could dialogue and discuss not only the demands of the deputies but also proposals for projects which could benefit municipios and states. Hence, we wanted all these needs and disinterested concerns to reach Planalto Palace, along with the demands of the political class. Like radar, we took all this in and initiated the Participation slate, which no one had faith in. The campaign began in early June.

First Step: Signatures

[Question] You and who else began putting the slate together?

[Answer] I prepared the initial documents and the first step was to get signatures. At that time, no one was helping me. I got 165 signatures (federal and state deputies, councilmen, mayors, former deputies and even alternates). Then we held a meeting and several leaders emerged who were enthusiastic about the slate and with whom we divided the responsibilities. The Participation slate had no "boss." It was formed by consensus of the political class.

[Question] Did you expect to win 35 percent of the votes at the convention?

[Answer] Personally, I thought we could take from 25 to 35 percent. Newspapers were reporting this. I said more: anything below 25 percent would be disappointing and anything above 35 percent would be surprising. So I stayed within the predictions.

[Question] What plans does Participation have?

[Answer] At first, it was to participate in the party. Now it is to try to unify the party and to motivate the government to make a noble and democratic gesture, to discuss things with us, to dialogue. No one wants to demand anything. We are not asking for ministries or for the presidency. We simply want to be closer to the power, so we can voice our opinions on the decisions in this country.

[Question] The press reported that President Figueiredo declared you had betrayed him, that the PDS had assured that he would coordinate the succession process and that you had not contributed to this end.

[Answer] This does not mean that the statements in the press are true. But the press has been conscientious, so I assume they are true. But the statement that the president felt he was betrayed.... Actually, he was granted the coordination of the succession process, but we were disputing the elections within the directorate. The political class gave him the authority to lead the succession process but not to choose the National Directorate. The directorate was chosen by a convention of 800 and some delegates, so there is no reason for the president to be unhappy with us.

[Question] Does Participation support Maluf's presidential candidacy?

[Answer] Absolutely not! Quite the contrary, we defeated Maluf, who was on the other slate. We ousted Maluf from the directorate. He has many friends in Participation, just as Aureliano Chaves has friends and Andreazza has friends. I consider myself a friend of Andreazza.

[Question] But whom do you prefer?

[Answer] I cannot have preferences because we have taken a position and have also personally agreed that it would be a disservice to the country to discuss the succession issue at this time. I think the succession should not be debated before March 1984.

[Question] Former Minister Golbery, who supported the Participation slate, said his preference was for Deputy Maluf.

[Answer] Did Golbery support our slate? He never said anything to us.

[Question] He gave to understand....

[Answer] We have heard it said, but we are not certain. The vote was secret. He is supporting Maluf, but this does not necessarily mean that he supports Participation. And Maluf was going around soliciting votes for the official slate.

[Question] Did you meet with Deputy Maluf?

[Answer] No. I have not had any contact with him for a month. I greeted him here at the convention. But I can talk with him at any time. I can talk with any other citizen. The Participation slate has no commitment, and should not, because it includes many deputies, with differing thoughts on the presidential succession. We avoid this matter. In any meeting, discussion of the presidential issue is forbidden.

Each Member of Slate Contributed 100,000 Cruzeiros

[Question] Who financed the campaign?

[Answer] We financed ourselves. Each member of the slate put in 100,000 cruzeiros. The money was deposited in the Bank of Brazil. We elected a treasurer, Albino Coimbra, who can open the books to anyone who has any doubts. All our poster and banners, the payments to the young girls--the aides--who assisted us, were paid out of our chest. We had no government money or money from any ministry. There was not a penny from the party or from presidential candidates or from any economic group, foreign aid or such.

[Question] A Rio newspaper reported that Paulo Maluf gave a luncheon on Friday, 8 July, and solicited votes for Participation.

[Answer] I asked colleagues who had been there and they denied it. On the contrary, they queried Maluf, and he answered: "I am for the official slate." Since the vote was secret, no one can know. But I wish him well. Maluf is very likeable. He is very forceful in his understandings, in his conversations. But from the first day that I began to campaign for the slate, I have not met with him. This does not mean that, if he invited me to lunch or dinner tomorrow, I would not go with the greatest pleasure. Just as, if Andreazza invited me, I would go with great pleasure. I have been Andreazza's greatest defender here.

[Question] How?

[Answer] I feel, for example, that Minister Andreazza has been a great victim of the housing policy. No one has suffered any more than Andreazza over this policy, which is striking fear in Brazilian hearts and families. Where does the blame lie? With the three dictators of the government's economic-financial policy: with the minister of planning, the finance minister and the president of the Central Bank, who make the decisions, who change anything they want to in this country. They decide dictatorially, without listening to business, labor, the political class. We are under the heel of these men.

[Question] But Minister Delfim went before the Chamber to give his deposition.

[Answer] No, he went to announce what he had done. What we want is to have a say in what he wants to do. Example: I was speaking of Andreazza. He is a real work horse. He is a hard working man with many qualifications to be a presidential candidate. But he is paying dearly for the increase in mortgage payments on private homes--the 130 percent-- when he is not to blame. The blame lies with the economic and financial policy. Andreazza cannot say this because he is part of the government, but I can. For example, the case of the BNH [National Housing Bank], the Delfim scandal--which was one of the largest scandals in his country--Andreazza and Jose Lopes are both innocent, but they cannot talk. The revolutionary government is one of succession, from Castelo Branco to Costa e Silva, Medici and Geisel. So what happened? A past government gratuitously handed over what was left to Delfim. And with no guarantee.

[Question] You sound like a member of the opposition.

[Answer] I speak this way because I am in on the situation. There was favoritism, monstrous favoritism toward this individual, given the influence of certain groups, certain people. When Jose Lopes was handed this hot potato of the BNH, he had to find a solution. He tried to save it, but he had no surety whatever. They took the workers' money, from the Security Fund, sacred money earned by the sweat and tears of the Brazilian worker. What was Jose Lopes going to do then? He tried to ascertain what assets Delfim had to--at least--put up as security. But the country is mired in crises because of the irresponsibility of many people.

[Question] How? Could you explain that further?

[Answer] How can a country like ours, in a crisis, build nuclear plants that will never operate? How can it create a Carajas, when the Vale do Rio Doce already has four power plants idle for lack of an international market? Why are they doing these projects? Why build a railroad? This is the biggest crime against the country, the biggest theft of the hope, the optimism, the progress of Brazil; this is what they are doing. We have to assume the responsibility which belongs to us and not leave it to the opposition. We have to set the example at home.

PDS Born Again

[Question] Have you had contacts with the opposition?

[Answer] No, because we know more than the opposition.

[Question] How do you evaluate the post-convention PDS?

[Answer] I can say that before the convention the party had been dead and buried. It has come to life again now.

[Question] Incidentally, this is the first big convention of the party.

[Answer] It was certainly the most important. We revived a corpse. We wanted to revitalize the party, not only for the sake of the Brazilian nation but in support of the president himself, who has been complaining that it has not been the party he had hoped for.

[Question] And the trip to Asia? Why have you decided to go at a time like this?

[Answer] I was approached by members of the Bahai sect, from Iran, to intervene with the Khamenei government on behalf of 122 prisoners, members of the faith, who were threatened with execution, as has happened to many others. I called on the ambassador; he told me there was nothing to this and invited me to visit the country and investigate for myself. Now I am waiting for the green light from the Iranian Government.

6362

CS0: 3342/166

MINISTER FORESEES FURTHER ANTI-INFLATIONARY MEASURES

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Jul 83 p 25

[Text] Porto Alegre--The government does not exclude the possibility of approving further measures in the economic sector to force a reversal in the inflationary trend, Minister of Industry and Commerce Joao Camilo Penna announced yesterday in Porto Alegre. In his view, the indices should already begin to decline within 2 months, thanks to "the recent monetary measures and the wage law which will be approved." He stressed, moreover, that society needs to become involved in this struggle against inflation, in order to guarantee that the downward trend continues.

The main measures, Penna said, have already been adopted, but still other "tactical measures, with small adjustments having been made along the way," may further be adopted. Thereby "the government will force inflation down." However, he also said that more drastic measures than those already announced are not likely. "This is a gradualist government, and it does not want shock tactics. I stress this firmly. There is a democracy now, and government is not as strong a thing as it was before. It is less strong and less powerful than one thinks when one is not in government. The government is, par excellence, the sum of all of us. Now, then, much will depend on the attitude of the businessmen. If they truly embark upon increasing production to lower costs, we will reduce inflation and we will beat the crisis. But if Brazilian businessmen believe that demand will drop and reduce their production, costs will rise and demand will fall further." He said it is necessary for businessmen to increase production in order to reduce its costs, making use principally of the advantages of reduced wage increases.

Minister Camilo Penna again blamed monetary correction and wage indexing as the main causes of further nurturing the inflationary process, which he described as "absolutely incredible," since "past inflation generates future inflation, because Brazil has universal indexing. It is impossible to throttle or reduce inflation without abandoning indexing. We have been doped by the monetary correction mechanism, which is a tranquilizer." And he warned: "It is said that inflation is a pregnancy which grows and grows and then gives birth to a crisis. If monetary correction is a tranquilizer, pregnancy with tranquilizers produces monsters." In his view, monetary correction should be gradually eliminated.

When asked if major remarking abuses, mainly in trade, might not be a more serious problem than wages, the minister commented that without remarking,

tradesmen would have no way to replace goods, while on the other hand, he also urged consumer mobilization against possible abuses. "If prices double, consumers should not buy. The consumers," he recalled, "are careless. They do not compare prices and they do not buy seasonal products." In his view, they should also waste less.

Camilo Penna does not accept the arguments of the trade unionists to the effect that the reduced wage adjustments will limit consumer demand.

"Demand may drop the first month, but later, with fewer price increases as a result of reduced costs, it will stabilize again."

The new wage law, in his view, "is very important to the plans of the government to reduce inflation, and therefore, it should not be believed that it will not pass in the congress, because it will even increase the level of employment. We cannot deceive ourselves with nominal wages," the minister said, "but must instead have real wages." And this, he stated, will be aided by the reduction in costs which will occur as a result of the lower expenditure by enterprises on the wage mass.

Camilo Penna confirmed that the government is not thinking of rationing fuels, although there are "studies for emergency purposes, because the government must be farsighted. There could be a war, there could be difficulties in the Middle East, and so we have studies to this end."

5157

CSO: 3342/159

EXTENT, IMPACT OF REDUCTION IN IMPORTS EXAMINED

State-Owned Firms Cut Imports

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Jul 83 p 27

[Text] As a result of the measures approved by the government to reduce imports this year, seven of the largest state enterprises reduced their foreign purchases (excluding oil) by 53.16 percent between January and May of this year, as compared with the same period in 1982. This represents a saving of US\$418,584,000,000, figures released by the CACEX [Foreign Trade Department] in Rio indicated.

The enterprises concerned are PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation], National Iron and Steel Company, COSIPA [Sao Paulo Iron and Steel Company], USIMINAS [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc.], Furnas, EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] and the Tubarao Iron and Steel Company. These enterprises imported goods worth US\$475,213,000,000 during the first 5 months of this year, as compared to expenditures of US\$893,795,000,000 in the comparable period last year.

PETROBRAS led the list of importers, with a total of US\$245,403,000,000, or \$120,708,000,000 less than during the first 5 months of 1982, when its purchases on the foreign market, not counting imported oil, totaled US\$366,111,000,000. The second largest importer was USIMINAS, which spent US\$57,851,000,000 as compared to US\$63,304,000,000 in 1982, representing a reduction of US\$453.10 million [sic].

A New Phase

In view of these results, CACEX technicians argue that the country is finally embarking upon a new apprenticeship in selling more and buying less. And it must sell more with products with relatively high indices of nationalization. These technicians note that another important aspect of the efforts being made by these seven enterprises lies in the fact that they show a surplus of US\$383,370,000,000 in their trade balance for the first 5 months of this year, as compared to a deficit of US\$178,072,000,000 for the comparable period in 1982.

Going on to discuss the trade balances of the seven enterprises, these technicians said that although PETROBRAS imported goods worth a total of US\$245,403,000,000 during the first 5 months of 1983, it exported goods worth

US\$603,840,000,000 during the same period, thus obtaining the substantial positive balance figure of US\$358,473,000,000.

Another significant case is that of the COSIPA, with imports worth US\$53,090,000,000 and exports worth US\$92,764,000,000, thus yielding a positive balance of US\$39,674,000,000. The worst balance was that of Furnas, with imports of US\$29,415,000,000 and no exports. However, its purchases went "down the line" to Itaipu and the Angra I nuclear plant.

Loans

The Bank of Brazil and the Central Bank lent 1,450,000,000,000 cruzeiros to the export sector in the first half of the year, i.e., 358,100,000,000 cruzeiros more than was planned in the original draft of the monetary budget for the whole year. This budget was reviewed during Brazil's recent negotiations with the IMF, but the economic authorities have not yet released the new figures.

The Bank of Brazil loans to the export sector totaled 690,800,000,000 cruzeiros, and those of the Central Bank 759,300,000,000 cruzeiros. The monetary budget called for an overall credit flow to the export sector of 1,092,000,000,000 cruzeiros, including 315 billion in the normal line of the Bank of Brazil's FINEX [Financing and Export Fund] operations, and 418,800,000,000 for refinancing the production of exportable manufactured goods by the Central Bank. Other lines linked with the export sector had an estimated flow of 358,300,000,000 cruzeiros.

Import Problems

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Jul 83 p 25

[Text] One of the factors which is likely to contribute significantly to obtaining a surplus of nearly 6 billion U.S. dollars in the trade balance this year is the limitation of imports. A recently announced study by the Foreign Trade Studies Center Foundation (FUNCEX) clearly indicates how this reduction in foreign purchases is distributed by sectors for the first 5 months of this year.

Through May, imports totaled US\$6,303,200,000, a decrease of 21.73 percent from the figure for the comparable period last year. In the fuels and lubricants sector, the reduction of 10.15 percent in purchases of byproducts should be noted, such that expenditures on crude oil dropped both in value (15.7 percent) and in volume (8.94 percent). In the latter connection, the reduction in the average price per barrel from US\$32.73 to US\$30.30 should be stressed.

In terms of raw materials, the FUNCEX study provides a figure of importance to the farm sector: in the months in question, expenditures on fertilizers decreased by more than one-half, totaling only US\$37,300,000 as compared to US\$84,400,000 in 1982. The importance of this decline lies in the fact that

planting of the next harvest will begin soon, and the industries have practically no stocks, such that they are already saying it will be impossible to meet demand in satisfactory fashion.

Where consumer goods are concerned, the reduction of 17.09 percent in the value of imports is no surprise because of the administrative controls in effect, as well as the economic recession itself. Perhaps it is more important to note the development of purchases of capital goods. According to the FUNCEX, the total expenditure on these items showed a reduction of 31.76 percent, with the machine and equipment sector showing a drop in value of 38.36 percent.

In addition, some enterprises which are traditional purchasers on the foreign market have been reporting continuing difficulties in ensuring a normal supply flow. Apart from the usual bureaucratic procedures internally, they are facing problems in getting import contracts concluded, to the extent that their suppliers have recently begun to demand foreign bank guarantees before carrying out this type of operation. If such guarantees are not provided, they require payment in cash. Clearly, this situation is a direct result of the exchange crisis and the obstacles to economic normalization.

As a whole, the June imports showed the lowest value of the year. In other words, setting aside the role of oil, the June result is practically the same as that seen immediately after the first oil crisis in 1973. We should not fail to note that this development confirms another figure pertaining to the employment level: last June, Sao Paulo industry was employing the same number of individuals as in June of 1973.

Again in the oil sector, despite the domestic efforts to limit consumption, Brazil continues to import a volume above the daily limits established by the government itself, since the average up through June came to 730,000 barrels per day.

To judge from these figures, the import situation is not likely to change substantially in the months to come, insofar as more optimistic prospects cannot be glimpsed on the economic horizon. Thus the achievement of the planned surplus continues to be viable, although at the cost of serious recession, with dubious and questionable results. According to the information from the FUNCEX, with seasonal adjustments, foreign purchases should not exceed approximately US\$15,500,000,000 by the end of this year, when exports would total something like US\$21,500,000,000.

5157

CSO: 3342/159

CONTRACT SIGNING FOR ANTARCTIC INSTALLATION CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Jul 83 p 10

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--The Interministerial Commission for Ocean Resources (CIRM) will sign a contract with the SAEF enterprise in Sao Paulo for the production of modules to be installed at the first Brazilian station in the Antarctic. This document will be signed in Brasilia on Tuesday, representing an important advance toward the future research which will provide Brazil with the requirements for access to the closed Antarctic Club. This information was supplied on an exclusive basis to O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO and JORNAL DA TARDE by a high naval source yesterday.

SAEF is an enterprise with facilities in Embu and Botucatu, and it produces equipment for PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation]. The installation of Brazil's station in the Antarctic will be the first real step toward qualifying the country to engage in deeper study of the continent. The station will be built on the Antarctic Peninsula, and one of the areas under study is the Forte Rock Raoy area.

As a result of the expedition it carried out last summer, Brazil has already been invited to participate in the next meeting of the Advisory Council on the Antarctic Treaty, to be held in the city of Canberra, Australia, in September. Brazil is a supporting member of the treaty, and not an acting member. Only acting members have the right to vote. In 1991, the present treaty may be extended, with the approval of another document on the fate of the Antarctic, which may even cover exploitation of its natural resources, such as oil and the krill, a crustacean similar to the shrimp, but with a higher protein content.

Renovation

The commander of the oceanographic vessel Barao de Teffe, Capt Fernando Pastor, showed newsmen over the vessel at the naval shipyard in Rio yesterday. It is undergoing renovation which will provide it with a third generator, two laboratories and a hangar, which will offer its support personnel improved conditions.

The Barao de Teffe, a vessel which is 26 years old, will have a smaller capacity, accommodating eight fewer individuals. Its renovation will be completed by November, when it will be made available to the CIRM for the

next expedition, which is scheduled for December. This program is being coordinated, where the operational portion is concerned, by the secretary of the CIRM, Adm Mucio Ribeiro de Bakker, to whom the Brazilian Cartography Society will present the Ricardo Franco Prize in Rio on 29 July.

5157

CSO: 3342/159

BRIEFS

SEA STUDY REPORT--The Interministerial Commission for Ocean Resources (CIRM) announced yesterday, at the First Brazilian Symposium on Maritime Resources, that the first results of a survey to study the importance of the sea to the country are being obtained at the USP [Sao Paulo University] Oceanographic Institute. According to the CIRM, the studies were designed to develop public awareness of what an asset the sea is to the economy and the security of Brazil. According to Cmdr Francisco Nogueira de Oliveira, who coordinated the project, the study showed that the population of Brazil, "although it has some notion of the importance of the sea to the country, is unaware of its full potential in terms of resources." The coordinator also stressed the need to promote the sea as a source of food, energy and as a means of economical transportation. "The need for the protection of the maritime ecology, that of the coastal regions in particular, is another important point," Francisco de Oliveira said. He stated that the CIRM is now scheduled to develop a coastal management plan for the national utilization of the sea and the defense of its ecological system. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Jul 83 p 10] 5157

CSO: 3342/159

TRADE UNION COMMISSION EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR JAILED LABOR LEADERS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Jul 83 p C-3

[Text] Labor union officials of three international organizations arrived in the country yesterday "in a mission of solidarity with the workers and the people of Chile," according to a statement by Carlos Custer, executive secretary of the WFTU.

The delegation, which precedes the arrival of other leaders from Europe and the United States announced for next weekend, includes, among others, Venezuelan Deputy Ramon Petit, who proclaimed himself a member of the parliamentary trend in support of presidential candidate Rafael Caldera. He is also a delegate of the Latin American Confederation of Workers (CLAT) in his country, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV).

Others in it are Carlos Custer, WFTU executive, CLAT regional secretary for Latin America and state labor leader of Argentina; and Jorge Lasso, secretary general of the Latin American Peasant Federation (FCL), member of the CLAT Executive Committee and national leader of the Peasant Federation of Panama.

Yesterday morning, they went to the former Public Jail with the intention of visiting Rodolfo Seguel. They only greeted him from a distance because he was being taken at the time to the Court of Appeals, where he was to be interrogated again by the prosecutor handling his case.

They subsequently held a meeting with several labor union officials. About noon, they went to the headquarters of the National Copper Confederation, where they met with Hugo Estivales, interim president of the Confederation of Copper Workers (CTC), and other leaders.

In a brief exchange with newsmen, Carlos Custer said that this was "a trip of solidarity of three international labor organizations with the Chilean workers and people." He added that they will meet also with leaders of other labor unions and grassroots organizations. Even though he refused to elaborate, he said that they were arranging meetings with officials of the Judicial Power and the government.

Custer finally pointed out that "in reality, the trip to Chile evinces Latin America's concern over the jailing of labor leaders such as Rodolfo Seguel

and others, and the unemployment that has taken place in the copper labor sector, which has created uneasiness in South America."

For their part, CTC sources pointed out that delegations of leaders of the ICFTUO, the European labor organization, and the AFL-CIO, which represents the U.S. workers, should arrive in the country next weekend.

8414

CSO: 3348/594

BRIEFS

FOREIGN TRADE DECREASE--The aggregate of Chile's foreign trade activities underwent a drop of 22.5 percent in the first 5 months of the current year, according to a report released yesterday by the Operations Office of the Central Bank of Chile. Foreign trade totaled \$2,774,700,000. Export shipments amounted to \$1,615,500,000 during the January-May period, undergoing a decline of 5.4 percent in relation to the same period of last year. In the 12 months ending in May 1983, exports amounted to \$3,728,600,000, while imports amounted to \$3,120,600,000. These figures represent a drop of 5.8 percent in exports, and 47.6 percent in imports. [Text] [Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 15 Jul 83 p 6] 8414

CSO: 3348/594

BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON NEWLY APPOINTED CABINET MEMBERS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Aug 83 Sec A pp 1, 17

[Article by Roman Medina and Leonel Fierro: "Eight New Ministers"]

[Text] Within only 4 days of the first anniversary of his government, and amid great political suspense, President Belisario Betancur has made substantial changes in his group of immediate collaborators, giving marked participation to politicians, particularly those of the official Liberal Party.

Yesterday, six new ministers were appointed, and two who had been collaborating since the start of the present administration were shifted. The new list of ministers was received with discretion by the Liberal Party's Central Political Commission, and was backed entirely by the Conservatives and the New Liberal group.

The new Liberal ministers are Alfonso Gomez Gomez, for government; Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez Mosquera, for labor; Gustavo Castro Guerrero, for agriculture; and Rodrigo Escobar Navia, for education. And the Conservatives are Rodrigo Marin Bernal, for development; Jaime Arias Ramirez, for health; and Hernan Beltz Peralta, for public works. Also confirmed were Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Gen Fernando Landazabal Reyes, in the Defense Ministry; Edgar Gutierrez Castro, in the Finance Ministry; Carlos Martinez Simahan, in the Mines and Energy Ministry; and Bernardo Ramirez, in the Communications Ministry.

In this second team of collaborators accompanying President Betancur, the minister of government, Rodrigo Escobar, was shifted to education; and the holder of the latter post, Jaime Arias, was shifted to health.

With these changes in the group of ministers, the president of the republic maintained the equal representation in his cabinet; in other words, six Liberal ministers and six Conservatives, in addition to one member of the military in defense. This readjustment also offers a place in the government to a representative of the New Liberal party, in the Justice Ministry; while prominent militants of the government party were appointed to the other Liberal cabinet posts.

Circles associated with Galanism expressed reservations about cooperating in the cabinet, and it was reported that the movement's position will be officially established during a meeting of congressmen from that group within a short time.

The representation based on groups was as follows: four members of the government party, one Llerist and one Galanist, representing the Liberal Party; and three Pastranists, two Alvarists and one independent, representing the Conservative Party.

It should be noted that the cabinet shuffle involved eight ministries, as EL TIEMPO reported in yesterday's edition. Similarly, five changes were confirmed in ministries occupied by Liberals and three in those occupied by Conservatives.

Rodrigo Escobar Navia, who moves to education, is replaced in the Government Ministry by the Liberal senator from Santander and current ambassador to China, Alfonso Gomez Gomez, who assumed the latter position last January.

Jaime Pinzon Lopez, a Liberal from the Llerist movement, is replaced in the Labor Ministry by the former manager of the Agrarian Bank and political leader from Cauca, Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez Mosquera.

Jaime Arias Ramirez, a Conservative, is replaced by his colleague in the Government Ministry, Rodrigo Escobar Navia, a Liberal.

The Liberal Jorge Garcia Gomez is replaced in public health by Conservative Jaime Arias, former education minister.

The justice minister, Liberal Bernardo Gaitan Mahecha, is replaced by the current senator from Huila, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, of the New Liberal group, a movement headed by Luis Carlos Galan. The New Liberal group enters the government with this appointment.

In the Public Works Ministry, Liberal Jose Fernando Isaza is replaced by the present chief of the National Planning Department, Hernan Beltz Peralta, a Conservative.

The same political group is retained in the Development Ministry: Conservative Rodrigo Marin Bernal, current senator from Caldas, replaces his fellow party member Roberto Gerlein Echeverria.

When the order appointing the eight new ministers was made public yesterday afternoon, different political reactions occurred immediately among members of Congress.

On the one hand, the chairman of the Liberal Party's Central Political Commission, Jose Fernando Botero, asked the new Liberal ministers to refrain from making any decision regarding their appointments until they contacted the party's board members. It was announced that, today, the CPC members would meet to analyze the political composition of the new cabinet and then to call immediately a meeting of congressmen to assume the Liberal Party's official position on that occasion.

The New Liberal group, for its part, through its leader, Senator Luis Carlos Galan, refrained from making an official statement, considering this a situation on which they must reflect, although it announced that it would issue a policy statement today.

As for the head of Popular Alternative, Alberto Santofimio Botero, he declared that it had no representation in the new government team and hence bears no political responsibility for its actions.

It was commented that the readjustments in the governments would take place next week, after contacts are made between the new minister of government, Alfonso Gomez Gomez, and spokesmen for the various political parties.

As EL TIEMPO has reported, the changes will include at least 20 of the 23 governments. Only three will be confirmed: those in Antioquia, Cundinamarca and Valle; the former, with a Conservative, and the latter two with Liberals. The governments are distributed thusly: 12 Conservatives and 11 Liberals.

Offers

The new public works minister, Hernan Beltz Peralta, who is on an official visit to Narino, claimed that, during the term in which he holds this position, he will seek to make progress with the following works projects, among others, in Narino:

The Pasto-Tumaco highway, which will have priority in the National Road Plan.

The Pasto-Mocoa-Puerto Asis road, which will receive a very stringent, timely study from the ministry, because "by connecting Puerto Asis with Tumaco, we are integrating the Pacific Coast with the Atlantic Ocean."

Beltz Peralta stated in conclusion: "The plans for paving the Pasto-La Union highways and encircling the Galeras volcano will also be a reality by the end of my term as minister."

The news of his appointment as a new member of President Belisario Betancur's cabinet took him by surprise, a few minutes after he was almost forced to chair an impromptu meeting with the union of agave fiber workers, whose members, stationed on the highway, prevented the person who had been national planning director until today from continuing his journey to Pasto.

This happened shortly before 1000 hours, when the official, who was traveling with Governor Carlos Albornoz, was almost forced to get out of the vehicle and listen to the complaints voiced by a union which is experiencing difficulties of a social and economic nature.

The new public works minister was not able to resume his trip until about 20 minutes later.

Subsequently, in the local government office, he formally seated the first board of directors of the Narino-Putumayo Regional Autonomous Corporation, and was emphatic in stating that it was the national government's concern to achieve a suitable, equitable development in the most remote areas of the country.

He remarked that, for nearly a century, there has been talk of administrative decentralization in Colombia, but that not until now has this long-standing goal taken shape.

He stressed that President Betancur's government wants to establish a genuine policy of decentralization that will bring to each section of the country its free capacity for submitting its problems and for solving them.

He noted that three things would be necessary to convert these goals into a reality: the desire to accomplish them, having the necessary tools for channeling them and possessing the funds with which to carry them out.

He claimed that those tools have already been provided, basing his assessment on the fact that the country has an efficient infrastructure and the development corporations will be in charge of executing these policies.

Government

Alfonso Gomez Gomez, a legitimist Liberal from Santander, was born in Galan in 1921, and studied law at the National and Free Universities.

He served as a councilman for Bucaramanga and as a deputy. He reached the Chamber of Representatives when Alberto Lleras Camargo was president of the republic, and he headed the government of his department in 1969, during the presidency of Carlos Lleras Restrepo.

He was also Colombian ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1972 to 1973. He has been a senator since that time.

He was appointed governor of Santander for the second time in 1978, and he has also been a judge, magistrate and president of the Superior Court.

Moreover, he served as a professor at the Law School of the Autonomous University of Bucaramanga, of which he is a founder.

He was a member of the Liberal Party's Central Political Commission, and is currently Colombia's ambassador to the government of the People's Republic of China.

Justice

Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, a Galanist Liberal, has been a senator representing the Huila electoral district.

He is 37 years old and an attorney, who graduated from the Law School of the Day University of Colombia. He specialized in constitutional law at the Sorbonne University in Paris.

He was mayor of Neiva when he was only 23 years old, and he has continued to participate in politics ever since: first, in the ranks of the former MRL [Liberal Revolutionary Movement], and now in those of the New Liberal group, a movement for which he worked during the last election campaign and of which he is national coordinator.

He is married to Nancy Restrepo de Lara, a union from which there are three children, namely, Rodrigo, Juan Andres and Pablo Jose.

He was a professor at the Political Science Institute of Xaverian University, and of constitutional law and political science at the Day University of Colombia.

He has also been a representative to the Chamber.

Planning

Jorge Ospina Sardi is an economist from the University of California, in the United States.

He was born in Cali, in 1947.

At the beginning of the 1970's, he served as chief of economic research for the National Planning entity.

He was subsequently associated with the Foundation for Higher Studies and Development (FEDESARROLLO), in the capacity of an associate researcher. He also worked at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as a technical consultant to the national planning board of Ecuador.

He was deputy technical manager of the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI), served as technical consultant for the Wiesner Bird mission, and has currently been deputy general director of the National Planning entity.

He is a Pastranist Conservative, and has claimed that he will continue along the same line upheld by Hernan Beltz Peralta, whom he succeeds. He is married to Luisa Pizano, and has three children.

Labor

Guillermo A. Gonzalez, a legitimist Liberal, is 41 years old and is married to Maria Teresa Ayerbe de Gonzalez.

He is a civil engineer from the University of Cauca, where he has also served as a professor, dean and rector. He earned a master's degree in economics from Purdue University, in the United States.

He has served as planning chief in Cauca, and general director of communal action; he was vice minister of education and director of Didigec in the Ministry of Government during the Pastrana Borrero administration; he was secretary of public works for Cauca and mayor of Popayan during the Lopez Michelsen administration; he was general manager of the Agrarian Bank during the Turbay Ayala administration; and he was liquidator of the State Bank before its nationalization, during the latter administration.

A member of the Peace Commission, he is author of the book "The Struggle to Learn."

The new minister said that he would travel to Bogota today to talk with the head of state, and thank him for his confidence, and to analyze the country's labor situation with the outgoing minister, Jaime Pinzon Lopez.

Agriculture

Gustavo Castro Guerrero was born in Santa Marta on 3 May 1939. A Liberal, he is an attorney and an economist from Xaverian University, with a certificate in administration for development from London.

He has been general manager of the Finance Corporation for Agricultural-Livestock Development and Exports (COFIAGO), president of the Cattlemen's Bank, and a member of the boards of directors of the Bank of the Republic, Ingral, the National Cotton Growers Federation, the Colombian Confederation of Chambers of Commerce, the agricultural-livestock policy advisory board, Shore Fats, SAC [Association of Colombian Farmers], and Cartagena Industries Meat-Packing, among other entities.

During the 6 years that he has served as general manager of the Cattlemen's Bank, he succeeded in converting the entity until it ranked among the five largest in the country, with 117 branches and two agencies abroad: one in Miami and another in Panama.

He also divided the branches into eight regional entities, in order to decentralize the authority and decision-making, and to lend speed to the study and granting of loans.

Education

Rodrigo Escobar Navia, the new education minister who has been with President Betancur since 7 August 1982, served as government minister.

He holds a doctorate in economic and juridical sciences from Xaverian University in Bogota, and did post-graduate work at the University of Paris.

He has been a regular professor at the Andes, National, Valle and Antioquia Universities.

He was born in Cali on 6 November 1934.

He is married to Myriam de Nogales de Escobar, from which union there are four daughters.

He has been economic secretary for the Presidency of the Republic, Colombian ambassador to Washington, minister plenipotentiary, chairman of the Association of Colombian Sugarcane Growers (ASOCANA) and rector of Andes University.

He was especially successful as mayor of Cali during the Turbay Ayala government.

He is author of "The Constitutional Reform of 1957" and "Extra-Economic Factors of Development."

Public Health

Jaime Arias Ramirez, from Bogota, a Pastranist Conservative, leaves the Education Ministry to assume the position of health minister.

With a medical degree from Xaverian University, he graduated from Harvard University with a degree in social services administration and political science.

A professor at various universities in the country and abroad, he has been a researcher and consultant for various entities, including the Regional Population Center and the American Association of Medical Schools.

Director of the Simon Bolivar Foundation and of the program for development of social systems at the Xaverian University School of Interdisciplinary Studies, he has been a representative to the Chamber, a senator, a councilman for Bogota, health secretary for the district and chairman of the Conservative Board of Bogota.

He published a handbook for designing courses at Xaverian University, and is co-author of another similar one for Harvard.

He also collaborated on the health projects for the year 2000 in Bogota, carried out by the International Institute of Hospitals in London.

Development

Rodrigo Marin Bernal, a Conservative and an attorney who graduated from the National University, was born in Manizales 47 years ago.

He has been a councilman, deputy, representative to the Chamber and senator representing the Caldas Department electoral district.

He has also served as secretary general of the Conservative Party, and has been a member of diplomatic delegations, including those at UNESCO and ILO; and he is the author of the book entitled "The Corporation in Colombia."

He served for 20 months as minister of labor and social security, from 1978 to 1980, during the Turbay Ayala government. His work heading that ministry was lauded by the general public, and he distinguished himself by having obtained congressional authority to reform the labor legislation and for having brought to the table labor and management sectors to discuss a new minimum wage after 4 years of failures in this respect.

Marin Bernal was a key figure in the election campaign of the current president, Belisario Betancur.

He was also third municipal civil judge of Manizales.

Public Works

Hernan Beltz Peralta leaves the directorship of National Planning. A Conservative, he was born in Bogota in 1939, is married to Clemencia Iregui and is the father of three children.

He received a civil engineering degree from Xaverian University and a master's in the same field from Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and he pursued special studies on erosion and sedimentation at Colorado State University.

He served as a hydraulic engineer for the Colombian Institute for Agrarian Reform (INCORA), and for the Studies and Auditing company.

He was a founding partner of Technical Studies Ltd, and of Technical Computers (Computec) Inc, and a founding president of the Colombian Future Foundation.

He has served as a professor of civil engineering at Andes University, and of hydraulics and computer methods at Xaverian University.

He is also the author of various publications and technical reports associated with his profession and with computer techniques.

2909

CSO: 3348/610

BUDGET FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR WILL SHOW REDUCED SPENDING

Some Budgetary Considerations

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 9 Jul 83 p 1

[Excerpts] The Dominica Government proposes to cut spending by about 20 per cent in the next financial year.

Estimates of expenditure released yesterday in time for Monday's budget presentation show total expenditure of \$144,239,710. This is made up of \$61.4 million in recurrent expenditure and \$82.8 million in capital expenditure.

In her "Recovery" Budget speech in June last year, Finance Minister Eugenia Charles presented \$62.96 million in recurrent expenditure and capital expenditure of \$119.3 million, for a total of \$182.2 million.

However, Miss Charles will present, along with the draft estimates of expenditure two bills for additional supplementary for the current financial year totaling \$2.7 million.

If the Prime Minister's previous budgets are any indication, the economic necessities will prevail over political expediency.

We can expect, therefore, an austerity package guided by the principles of "spending wisely" and "saving wisely" as the Prime Minister likes to say.

From all indications, the International Monetary Fund (I.M.F.) targets set for 1982-83 will be met. This is an achievement when one realizes how many countries have failed to meet I.M.F. targets, Jamaica being a most recent example.

Although the current account deficit will probably be exceeded (due mainly to no growth in taxable imports during 1982-83), the overall deficit (capital and current accounts) is expected to fall within the \$8.4 million target as a result of expenditure controls, for example, controlling the increase in public service employment which accounts for about 57.4 per cent of revenues collected.

Another area where expenditures have been reduced is in the restriction of "transfers to, and debt servicing on behalf of, statutory bodies"; Government insisting that they be run on strictly business lines.

An example is the Agricultural, Industrial and Development (AID) Bank, which recently became the first and only development bank in the Lesser Developed Countries (LDCs) to be operated on a viable basis.

The upcoming budget, then, is likely to continue on the same path, with the long-term objective being to balance the current account, as set forth by the I.M.F. in the fiscal year 1983-1984. This will eventually enable Dominica to partially finance its own capital expenditure, something hitherto unknown in Dominica.

Like all budgets however, there will be criticisms. The trade unions will be concerned about unemployment especially among the youth.

Dominica Amalgamated Workers' Union's (DAWU) Anthony Frederick Joseph, would like to see a "definite budget bias in terms of direct government input in job creation" to meet the employment lag caused by the declining Banana Industry.

Undoubtedly, both employers and employees would like to see a reduction, if not elimination, of tax on overtime work as Prime Minister Seaga has recently done in Jamaica. This is an important incentive in getting employees to perform overtime work.

In many cases, overtime pay pushes employees into higher tax brackets which reduced the increase in income and thus acts as a disincentive.

The private sector would undoubtedly welcome a reduction in consumption taxes which are adversely affecting business trade and prices. They would also welcome the elimination of taxes on dividends and interest which are arguably affecting savings and bank liquidity. However, these two are unlikely.

Spending Breakdown

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 9 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] This is how the Government proposes to spend \$144.2 million over the next financial year.

Recurrent

President	118,980
Judiciary	294,700
Magistracy	317,990
Legal	430,980
Legislature	421,100
Audit	281,590

Services Commissions & Boards	80,010
Elections	103,210
Prime Minister's Office	12,282,610
Ministry of Finance	6,469,080
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Co-operatives	4,279,490
Ministry of Education and Health	22,312,540
Ministry of Communications and Works	6,920,440
Ministry of Home Affairs and Housing	5,020,780
External Transfers	2,075,090
Capital	
Supreme Court	500,000
Prime Minister's Office	1,903,090
Ministry of Finance	73,000
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Co-operatives	19,024,480
Ministry of Education, Health, Youth Affairs, Sports & Culture	5,437,450
Ministry of Communications and Works	45,550,970
Ministry of Home Affairs and Housing	10,342,130
Total Expenditure	144,239,710

CSO: 3298/780

BRIEFS

TOURIST INCREASE--The number of cruise ship calls into Dominica for the first quarter of 1983 was more than four times that of the same period last year and twice the number for the whole of 1982. As figures in the Quarterly Bulletin of Tourism Statistics issued recently by the Statistical Division shows, 13 cruise ships called here from January to March compared with 3 for the same period last year and 7 for the whole year. Also increasing by over 200% was the number of passengers on these ships. The figures also confirmed the feeling that the Canefield Airstrip is three times as busy as the Melville Hall Airport. From January to March '83 over two thousand aircraft landed at Canefield while Melville Hall recorded only 800 landings. Of the number of passengers who came or left by air, three quarters used the Canefield Airstrip. In the first quarter of this year more visitors to Dominica came from the French West Indies and the United States than any other country. However, according to the statistics, more people left Dominica than those coming in during the period January to March. The figures show an excess of departures over arrivals of 839. In 1982, 1945 more people arrived than departed. [Text] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 25 Jun 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/780

PLD MEMBERS RESIGN FROM CAPITAL CITY POSITIONS

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 14 Jul 83 p 10

[Text] Members of the Dominican Liberation Party [PLD] resigned yesterday from the various working commissions of the capital city council to which they belonged under protest that those commissions are ineffective and are sources of corruption.

The PLD councilmen indicated that the city council currently has 45 commissions the directors of which receive monthly salaries of 200 pesos in addition to the 50 pesos they receive for each city council meeting.

According to PLD members, a majority of the directors of these commissions belong to the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD].

They explained that in terms of salary expenses for those directors, the council pays 9,000 pesos monthly which multiplied by 12 (1 year) totals 108,000 pesos.

PLD members pointed out that the most annoying aspect about these commissions is that 90 percent of them have never even met to deal with problems of concern to the city.

They added, "This act which is being perpetrated is a corrupt one which Dr Pena Gomez is patronizing, and he is protecting the corruption which is becoming institutionalized in the city council."

The PLD members who yesterday announced their decision to resign from the city council commissions are Luis Fernandez, Joaquin Geronimo, Mario Mendez and Rafael Espinal. The latter is the spokesman for his party bloc at council meetings.

Referring to the working commissions mentioned above, PLD leaders explained that only one of their party members is a commission chairman, Dr Blanco Fernandez of the council cultural commission.

They indicated that it is one of the few commissions of the city council in the capital that actually meets and works. Nevertheless, they said that Blanco is also resigning from that commission.

"Even though the commission does its job, we cannot be accomplices nor legitimize the other 44 commissions that operate within the council of which perhaps 8 or 9 are active," declared the PLD members.

They reported that they will submit their resignations from all of the working commissions to the city council and that they then plan to request the council board to completely change the system for forming commissions if it wants PLD members to continue collaborating with the working commissions.

9787

CSO: 3248/1128

PENA GOMEZ DISCUSSES ADEMI, WORLD TOPICS

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 15 Jul 83 pp 1, 13

[Article by Octavio Mata Vargao and Saul Pimentel]

[Text] Trustee of the capital city, Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, reported yesterday that in the first 2 months alone since the existence of the Association for the Development of Micro-Companies [ADEMI], 300 small businesses have received financing with an inversion of 120,000 pesos, provided principally by businessmen from the private sector.

The city official stated that the financing of ADEMI has strengthened and created 1,800 jobs in the poorer sections of the capital with only 600 pesos, and the projections indicate that the amount of that investment will be reduced to 400 pesos.

Pena Gomez, who was the speaker invited to the American Chamber of Commerce luncheon, also stated in regard to the above that the federal government had just provided financing to ADEMI in the amount of 150,000.

He also said that the agency will receive a donation of .5 million pesos from IDB and that an equal amount was donated by the Inter-American Development Agency [AID].

Pena Gomez, city trustee and president of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD], explained that the experience has been so gratifying that AID is currently planning to establish a similar agency, through one of its organizations, in Ecuador.

He stated that the prospects for the city council to combat marginal existence and improve urban development in the city are excellent.

He explained that IDB plans to finance an urban development project for the coming year which involves a strong component for micro-businesses at more than \$10 million.

He added that although the concerted action of the federal and local governments with the private sector and public organizations is important, international cooperation with supportive organizations is also vital.

Pena Gomez pointed to the fact that no developing country, including those blessed by nature with vast petroleum resources, is exempt from crisis, and therefore none are able to resolve their problems alone.

World Situation

In his speech to the American Chamber of Commerce, the city official and PRD leader maintained that today's world economic crisis affects all countries in varying degrees and is shattering those utopian dreams that are the delight of theoreticians in the battle between capitalism and communism.

He added, "Although it is true that political stability has been preserved in the core areas of the systems, as in the case of the Soviet Union, the United States, the European Economic Community and Japan, on the periphery of the systems societies have found themselves in crisis and through an ironic twist of fate, the outcome has been the same.

He continued, "While in Chile, Uruguay and other countries military dictatorship and ultra economic liberalism was the fruitless reply to the clamor for social justice, in Poland under Marxism-Leninism, the results have been identical because there the institutionality of the system had to be denied, separating the civil duties of an incompetent and repudiated Communist party from the government to open the way for the military dictatorship of General Jaruzelski whose basic task was to crush the freedoms won by the workers of the Solidarity Union."

The trustee also said that ideology continues to be a cause of separation and struggle among men, but for those who look at the substance and not the surface of things, ideological battles are becoming less and less important.

"Because," he said, Uruguayan and Chilean workers, who under strongly anti-Communist systems, have tried to evoke and imitate the methods of struggle of the Polish workers, have suffered the identical fate of imprisonment, clandestine activity, loss of employment and exile."

Directing his attention to the management level people present at the luncheon, Dr Pena Gomez stressed, "If we want to maintain and strengthen our democracy, we must start from the point of view that we are living in a society in crisis and that the problems of our society will not be resolved by the leaders of just one class but by the best men and women of all social classes."

He stated that with that in mind, "in our PRD we have always advocated working in cooperation with the working class, farmers, middle-class technicians and professional people, as well as management level individuals so that by feeling committed to the democratic process, they accept orderly changes in society."

Population Density

In his speech Dr Pena Gomez emphasized the tremendous growth the capital has experienced in recent years, pointing out that the city now covers 185 square kilometers with more than 1,300 kilometers in streets.

He also said that conservative projections from the basic studies department of the city council indicate that the urban population for the federal district will be 1.704 million by 1986 which will represent 26.65 percent of the total population of the country at that time, and by the year 2000, the estimated city population will be 4 million which will represent 41.34 percent of the total population of 9.5 million people.

Pena Gomez indicated that if we intend to preserve the democratic system, there is a mandate for the city government and especially the federal government to offer this huge mass of humanity acceptable living conditions and halt the migratory flow into the city by attacking the problem at its sources which are the Dominican rural areas, the interior cities and the social problems of the people.

He also maintained that because of the large demographic growth in the city, the socioeconomic problems and the shortage of services, city and federal officials are feeling increasing pressure from the public.

He stressed that if this pressure is not dealt with in a timely manner, it will unleash outbreaks of social and political discontent which is likely to affect the climate of freedom now enjoyed by the Dominican Republic.

The city official emphasized that along with resolved city problems, the residents of Santo Domingo suffer from others, such as the shortage of hospital beds, the availability being only two beds per 1,000 people.

According to Pena Gomez, the same problem exists in regard to school facilities in meeting the needs of the youth population since there are only 372 elementary schools and 36 secondary schools in the entire federal district.

However, Pena Gomez indicated that the fundamental problem of capital residents, as well as Dominicans in general, is unemployment.

The official mentioned the support his administration has received from President Salvador Jorge Blanco to help alleviate serious shortages and to offer the community, although still in a precarious manner, the services that the city council must provide.

Nevertheless, he said that the cooperative efforts of the federal government, the city council and the private sector are essential to successfully confront the problems in the capital.

HAITIAN RELATIONS ISSUES DISCUSSED

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 20 Jun 83 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text] There are many Dominicans who are great Haitian patriots. Likewise, many other Dominicans are great Cuban patriots. They may be the same.

These patriotic Haitian Dominicans must experience great satisfaction from the report made by an International Labor Organization (ILO) mission in which officials of our country are accused of imposing a forced labor system on Haitian immigrants.

Indeed, the Haitian Government, through a protest note from its embassy here, made similar accusations. Except that the ILO report criticizes the agreement between the Haitian and Dominican Governments on bringing in laborers for cane cutting.

This aspect does not bother the Haitian embassy, but apparently there may have been Haitian laborers clandestinely in the margin of the agreement.

The impression that most Dominicans have--those who are not Haitian patriots--is that the Haitians prefer to live in the Dominican Republic because they find living conditions better than in their own country. But the ILO accusation, endorsed by the Haitian Government, is that Haitians in our country are treated inhumanly and subjected to forced labor.

It is quite probable that the above Haitian note was deliberately dreamed up, anticipating by a few days the ILO report, so as to show that the Haitian Government is concerned about the welfare of its citizens in the light of the uncivilized treatment by the Dominicans.

The problem basically is that as Dominicans become Haitianized, by destroying their natural resources, Haitians who come to our country become quickly Dominicanized.

Many come initially to cut cane, but shortly afterward have left the canefields and become involved in other jobs. They are quickly converted into city workers.

So they become peddlers, ticket sellers, construction workers, etc. It is now being said here that nothing can be raised or harvested without Haitian labor.

And Haitians, in growing numbers, prefer city life. From whence the accusation to have them work in the fields may arise.

Our opinion is that the Haitian immigrant is very good and that he is an example of good behavior, but the Dominican Republic is in no position to absorb massive immigration, legal or illegal, Haitian or Swedish.

Thus we are faced with a serious situation: the country receives an immigration it cannot absorb but which wants to remain among us. On whom, according to the accusations, we are trying to impose labor which they are already refusing to perform.

And along with suffering from that problem, the Dominican Republic is discredited internationally because of it.

In short, our country is full of Dominicans who are genuine Haitian patriots, yet immigrant Haitians become rapidly Dominicanized. Perhaps the ones could be exchanged for the others.

9436

CSO: 3248/1110

PENA GOMEZ DISCUSSES REASONS FOR HAITIAN IMMIGRATION

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 30 Jun 83, pp 1, 13

[Article by Octavio Mata Vargas]

[Text] National District official Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez expressed the opinion yesterday that clandestine immigration by Haitians into the Dominican Republic is a natural phenomenon which always occurs on the borders of two countries with unequal economic development.

The municipal executive and secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party pointed out that by contrast it would have to be assumed that we Dominicans have launched a peaceful invasion of Venezuela where more than 50,000 compatriots live.

Pena Gomez added that it would also have to be assumed that the Dominicans are planning to invade and take over Puerto Rico because nationals arrive there daily, legally or illegally, fleeing from poor living conditions in their country.

All of which occurs, stressed the official, with those Dominicans running the risk of losing their lives in foolhardy crossings of the La Mona channel in fragile small boats.

Pena Gomez made these assertions in response to allusions made by former president Joaquin Balaguer to the problem of Haitian invasion of the Dominican Republic and the problem which it represents "in the social and moral order of things as well as that of Dominican nationality itself."

As the PRD secretary general pointed out, Dr Balaguer and the traditional right theoreticians of our country have given a racist twist to a social-type problem by using arguments which, if they are valid, could be used against Dominican immigrants who--for the same reasons put forward here by the Haitians--see themselves forced to leave their homeland behind."

Pena Gomez cited the work by Dr Balaguer, "Dominican Reality, Portrait of a Country and a Regime," pointing out that in it the reformist leader analyzes Haitian immigration in depth from a decidedly racist point of view.

The official bases that evaluation on the part of the work which states that "the problem of race is, consequently, the primary problem of the Dominican Republic."

"In that work which exudes racism from the first to the last line, Dr Joaquin Balaguer pours out extremely disparaging judgments against the blacks such as, for example, when he says: "The excess population in Haiti, therefore, constitutes a growing threat to the Dominican Republic. This is so for a biological reason: the black, left to his instincts and without the restraint which a relatively high standard of living imposes in all countries on reproduction, multiplies with amazing rapidity," commented Pena Gomez.

On the other hand, the PRD leader pointed out that the racism of Dr Joaquin Balaguer is shown when it sees all Dominican virtues concentrated in the people of Bani because its population at that time was primarily white.

Among the words put into Dr Balaguer's mouth by the Santo Domingo municipal official on the reference made to Bani, it is the phrase that "the nucleus made up of Bani society is the republic's elite." Also, that "Bani society represents, also, better than any other area of the country, the evolution of national character toward the highest and purest forms of civilized life."

Pena Gomez said he is sure that Bani is still an industrious, hard-working community, but that this is not attributable to the enthusiasm of its inhabitants because if such were the case, San Pedro de Macoris, a community in which the colored race predominates, there would not be today a vigorous University of the East, nor would it be one of the country's communities making the greatest contribution with its human toil and in wealth to national development.

"It is true that Bani's women are beautiful but so are dark-skinned women from other areas, the product of the crossbreeding of blacks and whites, or the irresistible Indian women from the northeast, asserted the official.

Likewise, Dr Pena Gomez stated that Balaguer has no reason to accuse the PRD on Haitian immigration since in the 12 years of his administration he did nothing to prevent the migratory flow from the neighboring country, except to close the border. As he pointed out, the importation of foreign labor has been in existence more than a century.

He added that Dr Balaguer misses the truth deliberately when he states that the 200,000 Haitians living in our country arrived beginning in 1978.

Pena Gomez meant that already by 1968, 2 years after assuming power, Dr Balaguer considered the number of Haitian immigrants was so high that he judged it necessary to conduct a census of Haitian nationals.

The PRD leader emphatically held that the assertion by Dr Balaguer in the sense that the PRD and its government favor illegal immigration by Haitians is crafty and false. He added that until such time as the presidency press office issues a statement, the present government has been the one which in the shortest time has repatriated the largest number of undocumented Haitians.

He emphasized that in just 10 months this government has repatriated 7,434 undocumented Haitians while Dr Balaguer's government, during its 12-year mandate, repatriated 11,462 Haitians, i.e., only 4,028 more than this government.

"If the 7,434 undocumented Haitians are added to the 5,479 who were repatriated during the 4 years of president Antonio Guzman's administration, it will prove that the PRD governments have repatriated, in less than half the time as Dr Jaquin Balaguer's administration, a larger number of undocumented people," Dr Pena Gomez said in closing.

9436

CSO: 3248/1110

EGYPTIAN ENVOY NOTES CAIRO'S WISH FOR GOOD RELATIONS

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 2 Jul 83 p 13

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador to the Caribbean, Wahib El-Miniawy, presented his credentials to Governor General, Sir Paul Scoon, last Thursday.

Amb. Miniawy, who is based in Caracas, said he came here on a mission of friendship to strengthen relations between both countries. He said his official instructions are that Egypt is keen to have good relations with Grenada.

There are two main reasons for this, he said. Both countries are "Third World, developing countries, and members of the Non-Aligned Movement."

Amb. Miniawy said he believed that Grenada, as a young country, was doing its utmost to improve life for Grenadians. Egypt, he said, had already gone through this stage, and therefore understood Grenada's struggles. Egypt also had to struggle against colonialism and Zionism for its independence and integrity, he said.

In the future, Amb. Miniawy said, the two countries will explore the extent to which they can help each other economically, in terms of buying each other's goods.

Egypt, he said, does not insist on two-way trade. It is ready to buy from Grenada whenever the occasion arise, even if Grenada is not able to buy.

Egypt has agreed to offer Grenada scholarships in irrigation and new agricultural techniques at its International Centre for Agriculture. The courses are not sophisticated, and apply to the needs of developing countries in view of Egypt's experiences.

Grenada established relations with Egypt on September 14, 1976.

CSO: 3298/781

DETAILS OF VOTER REGISTRATION EXPLAINED

Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 19 Jul 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] This morning at a meeting held in the reception hall of the National Palace between the government and representatives of committees for establishing political parties, the procedures to be followed to provide new identification cards to all citizens were fully explained. Also present at the meeting were members of the European Parliament who are visiting our country.

The meeting was chaired by Eduardo Castillo Arriola, minister of foreign relations; Col Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, minister of interior; Col Manuel de Jesus Giron Sanchez, secretary-general of the Office of the President of the Republic; Gonzalo Asturias Montenegro, secretary of Public Relations of the Office of the President; and Col Jaime Rabanales, director of the General Registration of the Population, who was accompanied by his technical advisers.

Col Mendez Ruiz opened the meeting by explaining the steps which have been taken to establish a constitutional government and he mentioned that last week at the Presidential Palace it was agreed with Gen Jose Efraim Rios Montt, president of the republic, that today's meeting should be held to discuss the issuance of identification cards.

He said that this has various aspects, especially a political one, since in the past the citizenship and residence ID cards were used for decades as a means of carrying out fraud in the elections which were held. Therefore, it is imperative that those documents be replaced by one which is more reliable and more difficult to alter.

Col Mendez Ruiz said "Attempts are being made to make this appear as a means for the government to establish control over the population. This is true because the state must control all Guatemalans. But this means the state itself, that is, the present government and future governments.

"We must stress that there are now living in Guatemala half a million fellow Central Americans who have residence cards which they bought for 15, 20 or 25 quetzals in any one of the municipalities of the interior of the Republic and we need to identify these fellow Central Americans with the proper documentation.

"One must understand how the ID card will be introduced in Guatemala. It will function in the same way as it already does in almost all European and American countries, and it is a basis for statistics and development in the broad sense of the word."

A Government Without Any Political Commitments

Castillo Arriola said that it was an honor to have representatives of European parliaments at the meeting since it would be illuminating for them to participate in an exchange of ideas and information on the democratic process which has been initiated by Gen Efraín Ríos Montt's government.

He said that a technical explanation of the process for issuing ID cards and registering citizens to make lists of voters would be given at the meeting.

The foreign minister said that this would perhaps be a good time to repeat that under the government headed by Gen Ríos Montt, who has said and insisted that his government is provisional and transitory, Guatemala is experiencing one of the most interesting periods of the last 30 years of its life.

He added that the government has a characteristic which we should acknowledge and affirm: it has no political commitments to the traditional parties which existed before 23 March 1982 nor with the new committees planning to organize political parties, nor will it permit an official party after 25 years of corrupted process with official parties and an official candidate. At this historic moment, this government will not have an official party nor will it support any candidate.

"This government is moving with clean hands toward a permanent democratization, not just for one election, but is laying the fundamental basis for a permanent system which will make possible the exercise of one of the fundamental human rights: freedom of choice for the people, which has not honestly occurred in Guatemala during the last 25 years. That is the commitment of this government."

Castillo Arriola said that although this is a provisional and transitory government, it has, at both the national and international levels, made a historic commitment to the Guatemalan people, and that is to restructure government by law, based on democratic institutions which guarantee freedom, security and the welfare of the republic.

"To this end it is necessary to establish a permanent system for assuring the possibility of alternation in the exercise of the presidency and the other agencies by means of an electoral system in which the popular will shall from now on be respected faithfully so as to assure the exercise

of power by the majorities who win honest elections and with equitable representation of the minorities as a result of the establishment of a representative democracy in which a large majority of the nation participates.

"The government has been working in good faith to make and keep that commitment. After achieving peace and tranquility, which are relative but exist to a high degree, the government understands that the hour is here for a political opening leading with sure steps to the permanent democratization of the nation. For this reason, it has opened a political dialogue with all important sectors of the country."

Importance of the ID Card

Col Rabanales Reyes said that it is necessary to provide the public more information since the people need to know what are the functions and attributes of each one of the institutions since at the present time there are large numbers of persons who believe that the ID card is only necessary as a short term measure to facilitate an election, but this is not the case.

Col Rabanales Reyes stressed the importance of the personal ID card. He said that the general registration of the population is the government's most ambitious project since it will make it possible to document all Guatemalans.

He showed how there has been certain confusion between the General Registration of the Population and the Registration of Citizens. He stressed that the identification process is basic for elections.

Even the Most Humble Citizen Will Be Issued an ID Card

Capt Luis Vega of the technical group of the General Registration of the Population showed how each person will be identified, beginning with the form for compiling personal data.

He said that data will be collected in all parts of the Republic, to which the registrars will travel. This will guarantee that there will be no duplication of documents. He said they have the technological resources required to insure this. He showed a minicomputer which will be connected to a large complete one where all the data and information will be recorded.

He also explained the technical procedure by which the personal ID cards will be processed and he said that an ID card will be issued to each person, including the humblest peasant in the most isolated corner. They will use Guatemalan Air Force helicopters to reach such places.

"When the document is ready," Capt Vega said, "it will be securely encased in plastic which will not only make it durable but the plastic itself will have four different types of security devices and seals which can be detected with ultraviolet light and also with the naked eye."

He explained that the paper used for those documents is special and will deteriorate on contact with a chemical eraser, making it difficult to falsify.

After the demonstration, the representatives of the committees for the establishment of political parties asked questions which were answered by Col Rabanales Reyes and his technicians.

9204

CSO: 3248/1113

BRIEFS

U.S. MARKET FOR PINEAPPLES--An esteemed compatriot living in Miami, Florida, sent a thoughtful note mentioning the interest existing in that American city in pineapples raised in our country. The person concerned is Eduardo Amezcuita Vargas, son of the deceased theatrical figure Rufino Amezcuita and Carmen Vargas de Amezcuita, at present counselor of state. He says in his letter that at the present time he is engaged in the export and import of products, including agricultural products. Taking into account our country's potential and with the endorsement of the Guatemalan Consulate in Miami, he says he sees that this city offers an excellent opportunity for Guatemala to send about 20,000 pineapples monthly. Article by Fernando Coronado C. [Excerpt] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Jul 83 p 4] 9204

GREATER ROLE IN CATIE--The Tropical Agronomic Center for Research and Teaching [CATIE], with headquarters in Turrialba, Costa Rica, will redouble its efforts to increase its cooperation with Guatemala for 20 more years, according to a statement by Dr Gilverto Paez, director of this international organization, during his visit to Agronomist Leopoldo Sandoval Villeda, minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food. Dr Paez' visit to the minister took place last weekend. Dr Paez expressed his interest in pushing forward new projects especially in support of programs being carried out by the Ministry through ICTA [Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology], INAFOR [National Forestry Service], DIGESEPE [General Directorate of Livestock Services] and other institutions. Sandoval Villeda spoke of the importance of this visit. He said that some programs will be revised and talks will be held on the selection of a new CATIE directive council within 2 weeks. Since Guatemala is a member, he expects that the 20-year extension of the cooperation agreement which was signed will be ratified before 24 July to begin a new period of cooperation. [Text] [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 19 Jul 83 p 2] 9204

CSO: 3248

MEDIA MAINTAINS FOCUS ON FOOD PROBLEMS, STRIKE ACTION

Strikers' Support for PNC

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 19 Jul 83 p 2

[Text] A number of striking workers in the bauxite industry, including GMWU Kwakwani-based executive, Michael Hyles, have said they do not want the People's National Congress out of office. In fact they have pledged their support of the Party.

Cde Hyles said no WPA or PPP could speak to him about anything political since he has always been and will continue to be a PNC supporter.

Other workers who spoke to New Nation last weekend have expressed the same view. They have, however, failed to see their present action as a form of opposition to the

government's call for increased production.

One of the sore points is the food distribution system in the area. They have charged the management of the leading food distribution outlets in the area with discrimination and with encouraging black-marketing.

They cited instances of people entering outlets with 'paper bags' going directly to the cashier and leaving with goods. They also told of persons getting much more than the half-pint of edible oil issued to workers when the commodity was available.

Toothpaste, soap and some other scarce commodities could be found on the streets

when the plaza and shopping complexes report that they had none, they said.

They said the one-day work stoppage each week was for an improved food distribution rather than for flour and split peas as some opposition elements in their midst tried to make people believe.

A remarkably small group of people in the industry is bent on using the strike for its political ends. They deliberately seek to convey the misleading impression that they have the support of the workers much to the annoyance of those who feel they have a just grievance.

PNC Strike Role

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 20 Jun 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] The People's determination to resist the government's plan for hunger and malnutrition has made itself felt all through the Guyanese society.

Some papers which did not give much space to the fight for food are now carrying the topic very boldly. This can only add to the power of the struggle.

Trade union executives in the unions affiliated to the PNC should note a passage in yesterday's NEW NATION. The passage quoted a Michael Hyles, allegedly a bauxite worker on strike, as saying that while on strike he and others "have pledged their support to the Party"--that is, the PNC.

In other words, PNC union officials, feel free to join your fellow workers in the fight for food. /The PNC knows that it is an all-party fight in which people of every shade of opinion are taking part./ [in italics]

Union officials should see the light. If your membership is hungry, the union can go on strike. Those who strike while being loyal to the PNC have nothing to fear. They only have to give an interview to the NEW NATION and make their party loyalty quite clear to all.

The TUC should therefore find it quite easy to back up the resolutions which it passed on Saturday, May 21. It can hasten the victory against the food bans by calling on all its affiliates for a one-day-a-week strike on the food question--whether for flour, oil, split peas and butter as the TUC says or for "improved food distribution" as the PNC says.

OPEN WORD is glad that the PNC has come to its senses. Even PNC members are entitled to have stomachs and are free to disobey the 11th Commandment against the eating of wheat.

Wheat-Ban Issue

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 20 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] The strike at all of the bauxite locations in Guyana remained firm last week, as workers battled to win back their forty-hour week. The attempt to use scabs or unskilled workers has caused damage to the No 14 kiln at Mackenzie, according to bauxite workers. Last week the power plant joined the strike. On the coast, the one-day strike called by GAWU was successful at a majority of locations.

The TUC's VOICE OF LABOUR headlined a possibility that the TUC might march for wheat flour. A hard-hitting editorial called wheat flour "political dynamite".

The ruling party finds itself in deep trouble on the issue of a continued ban on wheat flour. Most dramatic is the failure of the PNC to pin responsibility for the strikes on the opposition forces. It also ate its own vomit by blaming the foreign media for making too much of the government's own charge against foreign diplomats for meddling in the labour situation.

Speaking at a massive assembly at the Rodney Freedom Festival, Dr Roopnaraine of the WPA said it was an insult to workers to suggest that someone had to tell them they were hungry. "The agenda of the bauxite workers has come out of your hungry bellies. It has come out of the hungry bellies of your children. The WPA respects your agenda because it is yours."

There is widespread resentment at fresh news of the overseas shopping missions of the country's leaders for banned food items. The exposure of /Mouton Cadet/ [in italics] as one of the wines used by Mr Burnham on foreign trips and placed on his printed menus has had a healthy effect. This wine, according to hotel experts, is the wine of aristocrats. It is made by the super rich de Rothschilds' vineyards in France and costs \$US40 up per bottle.

The failure of the first rice crop because of bad management puts the government in a poor position to defend its policy of starvation.

Reportage on Actions Nationwide

Georgetown MIRROR in English 19 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] The country's major bauxite and sugar industries are still hit hard by separate strikes. In the case of the bauxite industry the general strike against the reduction of the work-week which flowed over from sporadic food strikes, completes its second full week. In the sugar belt, GAWU continued for a third time on Thursday last its once-a-week food protest strike which has been hitting hardest factory maintenance operations in the out-of-crop period.

Union sources in Linden told the MIRROR on Friday last that the bauxite strike is 'solid', but admitted an insignificant trek back to work which has kept 'the smoke going' from the kilns. The PNC regime on the other hand has put on its blinkers and is making the incredible claim that production is even higher in spite of the strike.

The union sources said that talks are being held with the Ministry of Labour to work out an acceptable negotiated settlement of the work-week dispute, which was sprung on the mining community by the government as punishment for the food strikes during May month. A round of talks between the bauxite unions and the Minister of Labour took place in Georgetown on Thursday night last, but no immediate disclosures were made as to the outcome.

The regime propaganda machine sought to discredit the food strike by alleging that a union leader had absolved the government of blame for the food crisis. However, the union leader claimed that he had been misquoted, the sources said.

On Thursday the sugar belt was again in ferment with a reported 85 per cent of the present work-force heeding the GAWU strike call in the ten estates. There was picketing again at several estates. At Wales a 300-strong procession of protesting workers marched from the factory to Sister's Village where a rally to remember the Enmore Martyrs was addressed by GAWU Secretary Komal Chand.

Another demonstration on the West Coast took place from Tuschen to Ocean View, involving some 1,400 workers. The protest marchers, drawn mainly

from the Uitvlugt and Leonora estates, went through the housing schemes, carrying their food campaign to the residents. A rally to mark June 16 was held at Ocean View, with GAWU Secretary James Dastajir speaking.

The police denied permission for GAWU meetings in West Berbice. In Eastern Berbice and the Corentyne the strike-cum-protest action was a success. One Berbice correspondent reported on a 2,000-strong meeting in Adelphi, Canje; a 1,200 strong rally in Hampshire; and meetings in smaller communities as No. 1 Road, Seawell, and No. 19 villages.

In the Upper Corentyne where the Skeldon estate went down on strike, owners of hire cars withdrew their taxis from service in solidarity with the food struggle of GAWU and in honour of the memory of the June 16 martyrs.

Meanwhile, the dozen workers who were arrested on a June 1 food demonstration at Leonora were bailed by their union, GAWU, at \$100 each after they appeared before the court to answer a charge of staging an illegal procession. The union has provided legal representation for the Food Dozen who will again appear before the court for trial on July 1.

Nine other persons including GAWU activists and PPP leaders, who have been charged with disorderly behaviour for being on a food picket line outside Parliament Buildings on May 28 last will go on trial in Georgetown on June 22.

The GAWU, it is understood, is looking into the case of one West Demerara worker who was beaten by police during a food demonstration. The worker has since been examined, and is being treated by a doctor.

GAWU, union sources stated, will continue the food protest which is growing even sharper with the reported discriminatory distribution of cooking oil in some places. Reports reaching the MIRROR stated that 19 drums of oil have been taken to West Demerara but lists have been supplied to the outlets stipulating the names and party cards of PNC members for preferential treatment.

Attack on TUC Stand

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 26 Jun 83 p 4

[Text] IN A PAGE ONE comment in the May-June Voice of Labour, TUC General Secretary Joseph Pollydore has taken to task the management of the Bauxite Industry for unilaterally reducing the work week for certain categories of workers from five to three days. He says that this contemptuous treatment of Collective Labour

Agreement by the present management is not dissimilar to that received at the hands of the former expatriate owners.

Mr. Pollydore declared that "the workers struggle at Linden was being fought by them not only in their own self interest, but in the interests of workers throughout the country.

"They are entitled therefore to the fullest support of the TUC, its affiliates and workers throughout the country".

Any Trade Union Leader, he said, who fails to lend support to the bauxite workers "should be seen as partisan to the betrayal of the workers".

The Special Delegates Conference held last month had also supported the Bauxite Unions' demand for the importation of "an adequate supply of basic food items, including wheaten flour", and called on the TUC to take such immediate steps, including protest demonstration, if necessary, to ensure the importation of these food items and that the distribution be on a fair and equitable basis to all".

No such action, however, has to date been taken by the TUC.

The Voice of Labour, in its editorial, attacks the "customary political dogmatism" of the Government in declaring that wheat flour shall not be imported, against the express wish of the overwhelming majority of the people.

The writer goes on "this advocacy by the people (for wheat flour) must continue with even greater vigour and determination ... because of the need for the people to preserve the right to express their will at all times by legitimate means, even though they may be doing so in direct opposition to the position taken by those in the political hierarchy".

Government Media Blackout

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 26 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

THE BAUXITE UNIONS have continued an almost 100% strike for the past three weeks with little or nothing reported of it in the national press.

Of a normal work force of almost 4,000, only 300 workers have reported for duty in Linden.

Kwakwani, the second major bauxite mining area is similarly paralysed thus rendering Everton which depends on Kwakwani for ore equally inactive.

In contrast the Chronicle has given detailed coverage of the strike at the Hand-in-Hand Insurance Company.

The State-owned media has published no comments from any executive of the Bauxite Workers Unions.

Reports from the mining town indicate that the morale of the work-force is adamant against returning to work on the three-day work week which the manage-

ment of GUYMINE has unilaterally imposed on the industry.

Ministry of Labour officials are demanding that the workers return to work before negotiations over a return to a five day week can be resumed.

Detachments of the GDF have been drafted into Linden and in an attempt to cower the workers have taken to doing physical exercises in front of the Mine Workers' Union Hall.

In an effort to give the impression that the plant is active the 300 workers are being asked to undertake work for which they are not skilled and some damage has resulted in the process to the largest kiln.

Workers have also reported that scab labour was being used.

Solidarity action over the food issue has also sparked off a one-day-per-week strike in the sugar industry.

PPP Condemnation of Government Policy

Georgetown MIRROR in English 26 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] Noting the deteriorating food situation in Guyana, the People's Progressive Party has called on the government to address itself to a swift resolution of the escalating food crisis. The Party in a week-end press statement insists that the government imports wheat flour without any more prevarication, and also imports adequate quantities of split peas, cooking oil, materials to manufacture margarine and ghee, and also adequate quantities of milk and milk products. This emergency package of importation should continue until the nation's farmers with the necessary incentives can produce some of these items in sufficient quantities. The full statement follows:

The PPP condemns the government's wrong agricultural policy, which is counter-productive. There should be a realistic policy based on popular demand, and a viable import-substitution programme. It is cruel for the government (which claims to have the people's interests at heart) to ban essential food items ostensibly to "save foreign exchange" when the same scarce foreign exchange is wasted on other comparative non-essentials including expensive military hardware and onerous debt charges.

The Party points out that if all the countries in the world were fully self-sufficient, there would have been no trade among nations from time immemorial. There is therefore nothing basically wrong with the concept of importing essentials. Guyana however, if it had good management and correct plans over the past 18 years, could now have been self-sufficient in many of the items being imported or banned, rather than deficient in them.

The government is lying when it says that it does not have foreign exchange to finance food imports like flour, peas and oil. Flour is a vital and basic essential. The government cannot now argue that wheat flour is non-essential, since it has already spent large sums in an unsuccessful attempt to grow wheat in the hinterland. It is therefore committed to the continued importation of wheat or wheat flour.

Official statistics show that merchandise imports into Guyana for 1983 are estimated to reach \$878 million, out of which only \$99m or 11.2 per cent are envisaged for consumer goods. Out of this \$99 million, only \$32 million are for food items...3.6 per cent. In contrast, food imports were \$36.5 m in 1982; \$69.8 m in 1981; and \$67.5 m in 1980. Between 1980-83 therefore, imports of vital food items have been chopped to less than half. A high-protein food like cheese for instance will not be imported in 1983, when in 1980 some \$5.8 m worth were imported. "Other foods" besides milk, milk products, cheese, and beverages which were \$28.5 million in 1980, have been slashed down to a mere \$9 million in 1983.

Where are the local cheese and the local peas government spokesmen have been prattling about? The dairy industry has been wrecked, so is the copra and coconut industry. Local manufacturers are paralysed for lack of

inputs. Eager farmers are denied incentives to produce. Thieves roam the land with impunity, and corruption in the distribution process even for agricultural inputs is widespread.

For 1983 the regime plans to collect \$819 million in foreign exchange from merchandise exports alone which proves that there are sufficient funds for essential imports. Is it so impossible for the government to spare money to buy flour, milk and oil? According to a 1982 IFAD Report on Guyana, in the 1976-80 period food items made up only 13-17 per cent of total imports. Dairy products, wheat flour and oils and fats accounted for \$69 million per annum.

The PPP therefore finds it hard to believe that of \$819 m in export earnings, the government is so mean that it cannot afford even \$55 million for flour and milk alone! Oils and fats are another \$14 million. Large sums in foreign exchange are being borrowed from the IMF and elsewhere to be frittered away unproductively on non-essentials. Foreign debt charges for instance will swallow up 15.3 per cent of export earnings or \$125.9 m. compared to \$110.4 million in 1981, or 11.3 per cent. The government has patently failed to secure substantial rescheduling of this onerous debt burden, but goes on merrily piling up more and more debts.

The PPP says that if there is entrenched government reluctance to spend foreign exchange to buy flour, split peas, cooking oil, fats etc, then resort must be made urgently to barter trade. There should be a special production effort to facilitate barter trade in this dire economic emergency. If the government itself cannot and would not barter, then let the private and co-operative sectors do so.

Charge Against TUC

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 27 Jun 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] This week OPEN WORD has devoted most of its issue to reporting the strike of the bauxite workers. Given the immense sacrifices these workers are making in the fight for food for all Guyanese, it is the least we can do.

PNC leaders have been making one-sided efforts to get trade unions to end the strike action over food, particularly, to ease President Burnham's visit to Trinidad & Tobago to attend the Caricom Summit, starting July 4, 1983.

Observers say this is the main aim of PNC policy at the present time.

The TUC has failed to alert Caribbean labour organisations about the struggles of the Guyana Mine Workers' Union (GMWU) and Guyanese unions in general. In 1977, at the time of the 135 day-sugar strike, the TUC treated GAWU in exactly the same way.

The Caribbean Public Services Association (CPSA) has expressed its solidarity with the GMWU although the GMWU is not its affiliate. The MIRROR

quoted the CPSA as saying that an application for assistance would be favourably considered. The MIRROR report confirmed a similar report made by Dr Roopnaraine of the WPA at a WisMac Public meeting.

On the home front, PNC diplomacy with union leaders has succeeded in keeping the TUC quiet. GMWU's General Secretary said that his Union's letter to the TUC will only be discussed this week. OPEN WORD sees this delay as political and calculated to drag things out.

The GPSU Conference, addressed by the President, has just been concluded. Nothing has come out yet about its attitude toward the Guymine strike. GAWU referred to its solidarity action in 1979 with the assurance that it would continue. NAACIE has pledged action if GMWU should still be on strike at the start of the sugar crop.

The state-owned media completely ignored the GMWU press conference. This is an indication of the active diplomacy being conducted around the strike, with a view to tidying up Burnham's image for the July Caricom Summit.

For separate reasons, no doubt, GAWU did not call a sugar strike last week. A MIRROR report said, "last week sugar workers continued to press demands for adequate food supplies and a fair distribution of same during one day protest strikes at LBI, Uitvlugt and Leonora".

President Burnham will like a passive week for the sake of his own peace of mind at the summit where he will boast about the good sense (read weakness) of most union leaders who he will say refused to heed the GMWU. He prefers not to admit that unions were on food strikes, as this may force him to give in on the wheat flour issue.

While the PNC is winning time, rank and file members of all unions are asking why their unions have not moved to call one day a week strikes for the return of staple food items.

Workers' Financial Bind

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 27 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] In a newsletter issued on June 8 the GMWU put the matter of their strike for "food and 40 hours a week" very simply. They said:

"The Union without going into any in-depth research would point out simply why under no circumstances they can agree to a twenty-four hour work week.

"Using the top rate of \$3.60 per hour (which not all workers earn) would give a gross pay of (\$3.60x24 hours) = \$86.40. After making necessary deductions for:

NIS	\$4.50
GBPP	1.25
Housing	25.00
Union	1.50
	<u>\$32.25</u>
net pay of	\$54.15

would leave a

"A family of six with a minimum of three meals per day would need 7 days x3x6 = 126 meals per week.

"At today's prices all he can buy is

1 tin milk	\$21.68
10 lbs sugar	1.30
paper bag	.25
2 gals rice	7.84
paper bag	.50
3 lbs chicken	22.50
	<u>\$54.07</u>

Note: There is no money to buy cooking oil and kerosene to cook these things.

Bauxite Union Press Conference

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 3 Jul 83 p 4

[Text]

BAUXITE UNION officials, including GMWU General Secretary C. James, told a press conference held at NAACIE Headquarters, High St., on June 24 last that the workers were not prepared to return to work until they were assured of an adequate supply of basic food items and the return of the 5-day week which the Company had arbitrarily reduced to three days.

They stressed that the workers could not possibly live on 3-day-a-week wages. They would rather strike and starve than starve on a 3-day week.

Overtures had been made to their unions, they said, by the Company for the members to return to work, after which the 5-day week would be restored, but they were required to give an undertaking not to carry on with their one-day-a week strike for basic food items.

This they would not agree to.

The officials stressed that the change in the work week was definitely in retaliation for the calling of the one-day-a-week strike, and not a result of adverse market conditions in the industry, as the Company had claimed.

The four-week-old strike had been very effective in stopping mining activities. Only 400 of some 4,000 workers were still on the job at Linden, as well as the engineers.

At Kwakwani the strike was almost 100% effective and little work was being carried on at Everton which depended on Kwakwani.

At Mackenzie some ore was being brought in from the stock piles at the mines to add to those at the plant, and shipments were being made, but these stockpiles, they said, would not last forever and overseas customers would be getting apprehensive about the reliability of the Company to ship quality products.

The struggle for food for the bauxite community was nothing new, the press conference was told. There were protests in 1977, 1979, 1980 and 1982 over the scarcity of food and discrimination in its distribution.

The last meeting of the union and Company officials was held on Sat. June 18. It was chaired by Minister of Manpower Denny.

Minister Corbin spoke to workers at Kwakwani last Sunday

before a cinema show and is reported to have said that the strike was not industrial but for wheat flour and split peas.

The next day GMWU President Lewis visited them and praised them for the selfless stand they had taken in solidarity with their Mackenzie brothers and sisters, as Kwakwani had not been affected by the reduction in the work week.

After the meeting which lasted five hours from 08.30 hrs. to 13.30 hrs., the mood of the workers was said to be determined and resolute to carry on the strike.

Questioned about the alleged attempt to derail a locomotive, reported in last Tuesday's Chronicle, a union official denied that the Union had any interest

in sabotaging the Company's operation.

Because of neglected maintenance, he said, 10 to 12 derailments a day were common and would be more frequent now that inexperienced workers were manning the equipment.

The official disclaimed any knowledge of an alleged arson attempt on a non-striking worker's house.

The workers have been encouraged to persuade peacefully the 300 workers who have not answered the strike call and a number, whose names have been put up on the notice board, have reported back to the union.

No. 14 kiln was put back into operation last Sunday, but on Tuesday No. 13 kiln went down.

MIRROR Report

Georgetown MIRROR in English 3 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Ashton Angel, President of the Commercial and Technical Branch of the Guyana Mine Workers' Union (GMWU) told the MIRROR that in the present strike situation they expect from the government media "distortions" appearing in "brazen statements" and that the Union is "not alarmed".

During the course of the crippling 5-week bauxite strike the PNC regime slapped a news blackout on events in the industry and the position of the workers. However, from time to time statements by officials appear, accusing the Union of sabotage and use of violence and claiming that production is on target despite the fact that 80-odd per cent of the workforce is on strike.

This action was evident on Friday, June 24 when sections of the government media were absent from a press conference called by the Union at the headquarters of the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees, Georgetown.

The GMWU team at the Press Conference was led by General Secretary, C. James and included four others: Desmond Muffat, Secretary of the Industrial Branch, Executive Member, A. Majeed, Treasurer A. Thomson and Ashton Angel.

At the press conference the General Secretary reiterated the Union's position that it will not compromise in the present negotiations on the issue of a 40-hour week which has been slashed by Guymine to 24 hours. He pointed out that the workforce is solidly behind the strike and that workers prefer to "strike and starve rather than work and starve."

The Union is at the moment locked in negotiations with Guymine under the chairmanship of the Labour Ministry. Since Wednesday, June 22, no meetings were held. The Union said at the press conference that the TUC and individual unions have been asked for assistance. The TUC met with the Union last week but indications are that that body is dragging its feet on the question of taking firm action in support of the bauxite workers' struggle. However, TUC General Secretary, Joseph Pollydore has declared that the reduction of the work-week by Guymine is a clear violation of the Collective Labour Agreement.

The Union has described the actions of Guymine as retaliatory. The reduction of the work week was introduced at a time when the Union had decided to stage a one-day strike each week in protest over the acute food shortage at Linden. It is understood that the food situation is still not adequate to satisfy the needs of the community.

The Union has been receiving assistance from the Linden community and has been providing meals for strikers. NAACIE has pledged support and GAWU, in response to an appeal from the GMWU, has indicated its solidarity and willingness to assist in specific ways as requested by the bauxite workers.

The last two weeks have seen the police refusing permission to hold public meetings at Linden. The Guyana Mine Workers' Union had requested permission to hold a meeting at Linden to inform members of the situation but was refused permission. The meeting was shifted to the Union hall. Also the four-union grouping, GAWU, CCWU, NAACIE and UGSA requested permission to hold a meeting in Georgetown scheduled for Wednesday, June 29. On the said day the police replied saying permission was not granted. No explanation was given for the refusal.

Harassment of bauxite militants has been stepped up. Police last week arrested three strikers at Linden. There are reports that others have been detained at Kwakwani.

In reply to a question, a GAWU representative at the press conference said the union is not involved in a Sugar/Bauxite Workers' Committee formed on the West Demerara.

Plight of Amerindians

Georgetown MIRROR in English 3 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Starvation stalks the people in the South Savannahs of the Rupununi--an area predominantly populated by Amerindians. Due to an unusually prolonged period of dry weather conditions, cassava crops perished for want of water. Cassava is traditionally the basic food of the Amerindian people. Since last August there was no rainfall and farmlands which were subjected to an excessively long drawn out period of drought became parched and crops prematurely withered away. Now the Amerindians have to battle in a survival test with whatever food supplies are in store. At their disposal are rapidly depleting small stocks of Farine, a cassava by-product, and Tasso--a form of dry beef--and wild fruit.

Reports from Macushi, Ambrose, Karandarnauwau, Achiweb and Shea villages in the South Rupununi state that villagers have had to resort to eating green guavas, mangoes and Ethay palm. Government food outlets are empty. Not even salt or sugar is available to consumers. The scourge of malnutrition is on the increase, especially among children who never see milk or eggs or other vitamin, protein and mineral rich foods.

The plight of the Amerindian people is much more aggravated by the widespread outbreak of malaria in that area. Although malaria inspection personnel are present, essential drugs and transportation are unavailable. The former practice of distributing salt which was impregnated with anti-malaria drugs, and which had controlled the spread of malaria, has been abandoned. Since then malaria has spread again.

Villagers have to trek long distances to fetch water from the creeks and rivers for domestic purposes. This is necessary because of the dry weather and the shallow wells and pumps which were installed by the PPP government being out of order through the PNC government's neglect.

Farmers also face the chronic problem of inadequate transportation. Airstrips have been closed down by the government, apart from the only one 'Lumid Pay' which is 60 miles away from the settlement. Aircraft passengers have to travel by bullock carts, by horse back and by walking to catch flights. At the same time gasoline has been in short supply. Balata bleeders cannot get transportation for balata already tapped for the market and which remain deposited on the river banks. Unless the balata is taken to the markets the bleeders will receive no money.

During 1978 many children in the village of Shea died from hunger and in the present circumstances, with widespread malnutrition in Rupununi, there are grave dangers to the people. Residents are calling on the government to provide emergency relief to the people and are requesting that government agriculture officers speedily visit the affected area to make an assessment of the impact of the ordeal. The government must step up supplies of food and drugs to the area and build more wells, the Amerindians are demanding.

CSO: 3298/782/783

SOLIDARITY RALLIES HEAR BLASTS AT U.S., PRIVILEGED GROUPS

Aggression in Caribbean

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Jun 83 p 4

[Text] Central Executive Member of the People's National Congress, Cde. Robert Williams, echoed the sentiment of an international solidarity rally on Monday night when he stated that Guyana will not fail to deal with the monster of aggression.

The rally was called in support of the peoples of Cuba, Grenada, Nicaragua, Suriname, El Salvador, and Guyana at the Bishop's High School. It was well attended with the audience comprising foreign diplomats and Guyanese. Presentations were made by Cuban Ambassador to Guyana, Cde. Lazarv Cebezas Gonzales, People's Progressive Party Central Committee Member, Cde. Moses Nagamootoo and Cde. Robert Williams.

Cde. Williams noted that Guyana supported resolutions in favour of Latin America and Suriname at all international forums and will continue to do so. He urged the Guyanese representatives to the World Assembly for Peace, in Czechoslovakia from June 21 to 26, to convey the nation's feelings of solidarity. He declared that Guyana cannot consider itself free unless the countries in Latin America are free.

Cde. Nagamootoo said that Monday night was historic because the various forces in Guyana came together at the rally to give solidarity, to the people fighting for peace.

He urged those present to close ranks and identify the principal enemy. He accused the United States of America of being a great imperialist force, and stated that the placing of MX missiles in Europe by that country would endanger the entire world and put it on the brink of a third world war. He further stated that not since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 was the Latin American and Caribbean regions threatened like the way they are threatened now. [as published]

[Editor's Note: The Georgetown PPP organ MIRROR in English on 19 June, page 3, also reported on this meeting, as follows, under the headline "US--No. 1 Peace Enemy":

[United States imperialism has been identified as the number one enemy of mankind and the principal violator of world peace at a rally on June 13 which was called to give solidarity to the peoples of Cuba, Grenada, Nicaragua, Suriname and El Salvador.

[This call to "identify the enemy" was made by journalist Moses Nagamootoo and Cuban Ambassador Lazarv Gonzales who highlighted the grave threat which the Reagan Administration poses to the Central American and Caribbean region. They denounced U.S. support for the present aggression against Nicaragua, and its open backing for the fascist regime in El Salvador.

[A third speaker Robert Williams, a PNC functionary, warned imperialism that the peoples of the region will fight to the last drop of blood to defend their sovereignty. He attacked the Salvadoran junta and criticised imperialist meddling in Nicaragua.

[A communique approved by the large Bishops' High School audience, the successes of the Cuban and Grenadian revolutions, saluted the revolutionary process in Suriname, backed Nicaragua against imperialist engineered invasion by Somocist bandits and the Honduran military, and recognised the Farabundo Marti and Democratic Front revolutionary forces as the de facto government of El Salvador. The communique was presented and read at the rally by Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Basdeo Bhaggan.

[The rally was sponsored jointly by the Guyana Peace Council and the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace, and not as government propaganda made out, by the PPP and PNC. It was part of the activities in preparation for the World Peace Assembly in Prague.]

Struggle Against Tryanny

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Jun 83 p 6

[Text] Addressing the Rally held locally in commoration of Africa Liberation Day, Comrade Rashleigh Jackson, Guyana's Foreign Minister, told a massive crowd that the racist South Africa regime intends to stall the independence of Namibia "through prevarication while pretending co-operation. He said that the resolute fight against oppression and for freedom should be saluted by freedom-loving peoples around the world, and Guyana pledged its continuing support against colonial tyranny.

It is known that tyranny is a horse--identifiably a trojan horse--of many colours. In racist South Africa tyranny has taken the colour of apartheid and, in this guise, freedom-loving peoples know it and are irreversibly opposed to it.

But tyranny elsewhere is not so inpenitently and arrogantly undisguised. With Guyana in the throes of transition from colonialism to Socialism and with the elite and privileged groups doomed by the irreversible march of egalitarianism, tyranny is dying hard as it fights a last-ditch battle.

But the adroitness of tyranny is not to be underrated and all the mal-practices, the corruption and the misuse of groups and unions to foment industrial strife and civil disorder are being done with the intention of reestablishing the tyranny of the elite and the colonials.

CSO: 3298/784

ESSEQUIBO RICE FARMERS REPORTEDLY SEEK WORK IN VENEZUELA

Georgetown MIRROR in English 3 Jul 83 pp 2-3

[Text] Reports from the Essequibo region state that a growing number of rice farmers are trekking over to neighbouring Venezuela where rice cultivation is presently being encouraged. Farmers from North West District, Moruka, Pomeroon and on the Essequibo coast are crossing the borders in search of jobs, largely due to the raw deal farmers are experiencing under the PNC administration.

Heavy rainfall was responsible for the flooding of large acreages under cassava cultivation resulting in an untimely harvesting and now the cassava mill at Charity cannot cope with the volume of unusually large quantities of the produce. The mill had ceased operations for lengthy periods because of the high price of cassava and only recently resumed operations. Large amounts of cassava are now deteriorating at the mill. Floods have also completely ruined the 700 acres which were allocated to Guysuco for cassava production--all at a time when wheat flour is not in the country.

Severe flooding in the Charity, Cozier and Somerset regions have demonstrated the failure of Phase 2 of the Tapacuma project, according to the views of leading government engineers who were supported by the regional chairman.

The RDC chairman said the authorities did not heed advice on the construction of the scheme. Two major hydro pumps did not work effectively and canals were blocked. More than 75 farmers suffered total losses as a result of the flooding of their farms.

Meanwhile, the plant breeding stations which were closed down for a number of years will be reopened shortly. In Parliament the PPP has been agitating and making demands for the re-opening of these plants. Farmers were having great difficulties in obtaining plants and technical advice and faced the problem of on going shortages of Gramosone, acushi ant poison and spray cans. Government neglect to the farming population on the Essequibo coast has had a severe impact on food production.

CSO: 3298/784

NATION 'HELPS LEAD REVOLUTIONARY ADVANCE IN CARIBBEAN'

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 3 Jul 83 p 3

[Text] The contributions which revolutionary Socialist Cuba and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana continue to make to the development of revolutionary consciousness in the Caribbean are already a matter of history. Cuba first made its contribution at the celebrated Bay of Pigs battle and the defiant stand she has taken against being jockeyed off her chosen course of Socialism.

Led by the People's National Congress, powered by the strategy and tactics of Comrade Leader, President Burnham, Guyana is on the course of the Socialist revolution. The capitalist-imperialist conspirators who wanted Guyana to be basically a colony with the surface embellishment of a new flag and a national anthem, launched a campaign to turn us back from the Socialist course. The conspirators tried everything, from economic blackmail to threats of territorial aggression.

The steadfast stand which the People's National Congress has taken, supported by the people; the taciturn and defiant declaration that the Socialist course on which the country is set is irreversible, this stand by the Party and government is Guyana's contribution to the development of revolutionary consciousness in the Caribbean.

Independence, which the P.N.C. won for the country in 1966 has given the Guyana Government the indisputable right to set the country on an ideological course approved by the party, mandated by the people to govern. The attempt to turn us back from the course of the Socialist revolution is, logically, a presumptuous questioning of the totality of the nation's independence. This questioning of our independence is a characteristic propensity of imperialism.

This questioning of Guyana's independence should be seen in its true light by the revolutionary Caribbean as a threat to every independent country in the region. The stand which the People's National Congress has taken against this threat is the contribution which the vanguard Party is making to development in the Independent Caribbean of a sensitivity to political rights and a determination to resist the subtle recolonisation of our region.

The battle for freedom was fought and won on the slave plantations. Colonialism was the intermediate stage between the plantations and independence. We have attained independence but we have to retain the revolutionary consciousness of what independence means in terms of our inalienable right to set out on the Socialist course chosen by the Party mandated by the people to govern.

The decision by the government of the People's National Congress not to reverse from the source of the Socialist revolution has electrified the independent Caribbean into sensitivity to its right, and has drawn approval from the Socialist nations that Guyana is fit to stand in their revolutionary company.

CSO: 3298/784

PNC EMPHASIZES CONTACTS WITH PUBLIC, PARTY FUNCTIONARIES

Outreach Program

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Jun 83 p 4

[Text] Contact of the People's National Congress with the Guyanese people reached a high point during the crisis years when the Party, then in opposition, led the people through the communal conflict created by the blundering and maladministration of the rejected minority. After the Party, battling on two fronts, had brought peace to Guyana and won independence for the people, the people reciprocally showed their commitment for the Party by successively mandating it as the government.

Over the decades, the Party's contact with the people became closer and closer into an integratory movement. This close contact has been maintained with the people at all levels of life and activities and the Outreach Programme launched by the Party for meetings with its general membership is part of the intensified integratory movement between the People and their Party which goes on and on.

The Outreach Programme represents the Paramountcy of the People in operation, the Party leaders going out to the people and meeting them, learning of their problems and giving solutions to them. The Comrade Leader, President Burnham, has joined other party functionaries in meeting the people and consolidating the close contact which the party maintains and the people reciprocate in remandating the Party to govern.

There is no comparably close contact between people and political parties in the history of our country. The old pattern was for parties to forget the people once they had been placed in power and to remember them only when their votes were needed. So ungratefully had the practice of forgetting the people taken root that, when the minority misgoverned and workers in the public sector asked for an increment in salaries and wages, the disregard for the people was so total that (the records bear this out) the minority's misleader told the workers "not a penny more." That rebuff to the people came from those who now, at this period of economic crisis say the people should be given more imported flour--instead of eating what they produce to recover and survive.

Out-reach to the people because they are paramount and all power comes from them, and they will reach out to the Party and repay its commitment and concern when the time comes for mandating a government. But at this period of crisis when contact between people and Party is essential to knowing each other's problems, many problems will be clarified and solved. The vanguard Party walked with the people through the crisis years and led them to Independence. The Party will continue to walk with the people through the current economic crisis to inevitable recovery and survival as a Co-operative Republic where the people, being paramount, will power the Socialist revolution on its irreversible course.

Burnham Visits

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Jun 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Over the past week, Party Leader Forbes Burnham visited the Central and South Georgetown Sub-Districts. On Monday last at St Rose's High School, the Comrade Leader met with the General Membership of the Central Georgetown Sub-District and on Wednesday he met with the members of the South Georgetown Sub-District at the Dolphin Community High School.

Both meetings were conducted with the primary objective of providing a forum for Party functionaries at the highest level to meet the general membership; to inform the leadership of initiatives taken by the group to solve problems in their communities and to provide a forum for discussions on issues that could be dealt with at the forthcoming Fifth Biennial Congress.

In Comrade Leader's presentations to both groups, he outlined the country's economic situation, what efforts are being made to turn the economy around and how members could assist in the economic recovery.

He emphasised that all are involved, but to be involved one must understand the situation as it presently exists. He pleaded with the leaders of the various Sub-Districts to fully apprise themselves of the country's problems, so that they could knowledgeably impart the true situation to their individual memberships.

At both meetings, on the spot solutions were found to some of the existing problems and arrangements made to investigate and find solutions to the more long-term problems.

Tomorrow, Cde Hamilton Green will meet members of the North Georgetown Sub-District at the St. Gabriel's Primary School, Crown and Albert Streets, on Wednesday, Party Chairman, Cde B. Ramsaroop will meet members of the Wortmanville/Werk-en-Rust Sub-District at St Cyril's Primary School, Norton Street. Both meetings will commence at 19:30 hrs.

Friday Meetings Program

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 3 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The People's National Congress has reintroduced the programme of weekly visits (every Friday) of Senior Party Officials at Congress Place and other Party District Offices from June 24.

These visits have been programmed to give members of the public an opportunity to raise issues which affect them and which for one reason or another are not being dealt with.

Cde Harun Rashid, Minister of Energy and Mines and member of the Central Executive Committee of the People's National Congress met members of the Public on Friday, June 24.

On Friday, July 1, Cde Malcolm Corrica, Minister of State for Internal Trade and Consumer Protection met members of the Public at South District, P.N.C. Office, Evans Street, Charlestown.

This programme has traditionally been associated with Congress Place and has not been operational for some time. With the advent of Regionalism, many issues which traditionally were dealt with at the centre are now being handled at the level of Regional Chairmen.

Arising out of the out-reach programmes of the Party, it has come to the attention of the Party Secretariat that there are problems specific to subject Ministries and of a general nature, which could be dealt with expeditiously if this kind of open forum, which existed in the past is reintroduced.

This measure is therefore a further indication of the Party's commitment to dealing with issues of Public Welfare, which could make a significant impact on the lives of Guyanese everywhere.

The schedule for July is as follows:

Friday July 8--Cde Kenneth Denny, Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives.

Venue:--Georgetown Central Sub-District, North Road Bourda.

Time:--09:00-13:00 hrs.

Friday July 15,--Cde Bishwaishwar Ramsaroop, M.P. Vice President, Party & State Relations.

Venue:--Congress Place, Sophia.

Time:--09-13:00 hrs.

Friday, July 22--There will be no visits on Friday, July 22, 1983, due to the holding of the Party's General Council Meeting on this day.

Friday, July 29--Cde Hamilton Green, M.P. Vice President, Production.

Venue:--Georgetown South, Sub-District Office.

Time:--09:00-13:00 hrs.

CSO: 3298/784/785

PRIME MINISTER STRESSES SELF-RELIANCE IN ENMORE SPEECH

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Jun 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] A mammoth crowd comprising a wide cross section of Guyanese and foreign diplomats gathered at Enmore to pay tribute to the sacrifice paid by five brave men who gave their lives so that we may live with greater ease today.

Speaking at the Monument on the 35th Anniversary of the Enmore Martyrs on Sunday last, Cde Prime Minister highlighted many instances in which deliberate efforts were used to separate or disintegrate the Guyanese people, and warned of the dangers of fragmentation.

Tracing the pages of history, he reviewed the subtleties, chicanery and uncharitableness which characterised the acts of the colonisers. Their policies used to undermine unity and solidarity, and to spread dissension succeeded to some extent. But after a while the people saw the need of working together to solve the common ills, from which they all suffered.

Times were when decent and humane administrators worked in the interest of the down trodden and themselves become martyrs. [as published]

Cde Reid said inter alia, "Where in 1948 our predecessors were challenging the continuation of the political system built by colonialism, today we are fighting against the economic system developed under colonialism and maintained as a fetter even though we are now politically independent. The linkage between 1948 and our present struggle is clear as we seek to learn more of that period. The second World War came to an end in 1945. However, in 1964 the then British Guiana Governor having some Colonial Development and Welfare Fund decided to pursue the small, but useful manufacturing industries based for the greater part on our agricultural raw materials. The Governor was informed that such activities were inimical to Her Imperial Majesty's markets. When the Governor did not act promptly enough to implement what was a direction he was removed from office.

In this way the growth of a self-reliant economy was hindered in the post-war years. This deliberate act which was part and parcel of the system against which the Enmore Martyrs struggled, left a result which is today part of what we struggle against in our effort to build a self-reliant economy.

The hostility of the masses to Governor Woolley was premised on the fact that the reversion of policies put forth during Lethem's regime was designed to deny the economic gains which had been constructed through the sacrifice and the commitment of this country so that we would survive the dislocations of the war years.

Referring to self reliance which is nothing new as it has grown out of necessity he said: "It is typical of underdeveloped countries that the things which we produce we do not consume, and that the things which we consume we do not produce. But due to the 1939-45 War, the shortage, unavailability, and unreliability of some imports propelled significant increases in domestic production, not only of food but also of manufacturers, to meet home demand. Even the sugar industry took an interest in the Grow More Food Campaign of short-term food crops such as vegetables, peas and beans.

This should be understandable for the working masses of British Guiana had approached the "Grow More Food" campaign with an enthusiasm and a commitment born of a recognition that the heritage handed down by the slaves and the indentures who had moved off the estates to start a vibrant peasant agriculture would at least receive its just recompense.

In a final injunction Cde Prime Minister warned: We would not succeed in preserving the gains we have won for ourselves by our own efforts unless we seek to take full control of our resources and, most especially, our food resources; for as a well-known writer, Susan George, on the World Food Situation has said in a recent publication--Feeding the Few: "It is not an exaggeration to say that the economic and social and political future of underdeveloped countries will largely be determined by the kinds of food systems they adopt.

Should that food system be against the development of our country then the same writer continues:

"The process will be accelerated in direct proportion to the degree of servility...to outside interests or...ignorance of their true aims."

These are very important words from one who has looked carefully at the food policies of developed countries and the effect they have and could have on the food systems of developing and underdeveloped countries; and I ask that we think upon those words deeply so as to arrive at the message they seek to convey, for whatever decision we arrive at can affect our welfare in the future for good or ill.

CSO: 3298/785

CO-OP WEEK OPENS; PPP CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Celebration Aims

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Jun 83 pp 4-5

[Text] Today marks the beginning of Co-operative Week celebrations under the theme "Will to Co-operate; Will to Survive".

The programme for the first day of the week of activities includes the Co-operative Week message by Minister for Manpower and Co-operatives Cde Kenneth Denny and the holding of general meetings of Co-operative Unions in the seven Regions that accommodate them.

The major aim of these meetings is to bring together members of the Union and other co-operatives at one forum to discuss issues pertinent to the development of co-operatives.

Regions Seven, Eight and Nine, which do not accommodate Co-operative Unions, will hold appropriate public activities to begin the week of activities.

Minister Denny's Message

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Jun 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] Today, we in Guyana Sunday 26th June, 1983 will commence the celebration of National Co-operative Week. We will utilise this period to reflect on the contributions which the Co-operative as an economic and social organisation has made to national development and to plan to bring about greater effectiveness and efficiency within the Co-operative Movement.

Co-operativism can be described as a way of life of the Guyanese people and in terms of our ideological thrust--that of socialism--there is nothing incompatible between co-operativism and Socialism. In our view in all aspects of Guyanese life--in the home, in the school, in the office, field and factory co-operativism is being demonstrated.

It has taught us that reflection without consequential action in no way contributes towards effective problem resolution or goal achievement; as

such I use this forum not only to reflect on the past and present action but also to stimulate the mood of practical co-operation which must be seen as a primary step in the journey we have collectively agreed to embark on, even though it might be hazardous by the throes of the international economic situation which has bedevilled our society. Manufacturing and Industrial Co-operatives will assist us to produce, market and earn foreign exchange and not have us rely entirely on sugar, rice and bauxite for our foreign earnings.

We in Guyana have learnt much from our predecessors and forefathers. It was they who taught us that we as a people are the only ones who could solve those problems which face us at any point in time. We can pull ourselves up by our own boot straps. These lessons have been seen in the experiences of the early Victoria Village Co-operators of the 19th Century in their struggles to survive pressures of the then harsh colonial system which engaged in the battle with them. Theirs was a battle for human dignity and integrity.

Today we in Guyana under the aegis and guidance of the People's National Congress as a government have the opportunity to do better, have an opportunity to demonstrate the will to co-operate and therefore the will to survive.

Against this background, it is imperative that we expand our horizons to view Co-operative development not only as a one-week celebration but as an on-going exercise which must be pervasive and expensive. The international nature of the co-operative movement fortifies us.

Co-operative Week 1983 affords us the opportunity to respond to a view held in some quarters that Co-operatives as a part of our tri-sectoral economy have not been successful and have not made a worthwhile contribution. In fact it is apposite to note, it is realistic to make the point that more co-operatives have been successful than those which have not succeeded.

To give credence to this contention, I would refer directly to the Cane Farming Co-operatives which accounted for fifteen thousand, two hundred and ninety one (15,291) tons of the country's total sugar production while the artisanal Fishermen Co-operatives within the regions accounted for more than seventy-five per cent of the total finfish catch of the country for 1982.

From a representative sample of Co-operative Societies in two economic areas of activity for the five-year period 1976 to 1981, namely Agriculture and Credit Services it has been observed that the growth of societies in these important areas has been of the following order:

In the Agricultural Sector Share Capital grew by seven per cent (7%) and net assets increased by one hundred and fifty-two percent (152%). In the Agriculture and Credit Sector Share Capital increased by approximately two hundred and thirty-eight (238 per cent) while net assets increased by two hundred and fifty-one (251 per cent).

This to my mind indicates a substantial growth by any standards. It becomes clear that one important ongoing task we will have to undertake is to bring, before the public, information about the successes in co-operatives; but equally important there will be an exercise aimed at tidying up the Movement. This will entail the removal of those societies that are moribund; those societies which are not performing in a co-operative manner; those societies that are not operating as true co-operatives; and are not willing to conform to the required legal provisions in their operations as set out in the Co-operative Societies Act Chap. 88:01. It has to be remembered that since a co-operative is a business, effective management must be in place.

Another area of importance is that of co-operative education and training. Apart from the presence of the Kuru Kuru Co-operative College which can be described as the apex of co-operative education in this country, the onus and responsibility will also be that of the Co-operatives Division of the Ministry of Manpower and Co-operatives to ensure that we educate, motivate, mobilise, organise and galvanise the broad masses of the people for their all-round development, for their meaningful participation and involvement in the developmental process.

Co-operatives will give people the opportunity to be meaningfully involved in business management and administration. The primary objective of these tasks is the strengthening of confidence in the co-operative movement--an increased confidence which the Movement needs and which it rightfully deserves to have reposed in it by every Guyanese.

I see the Co-operative framework as most applicable for this task. Co-operative activity ushers in a new democratic culture which could only contribute positively towards the attitudinal objectives as set out in the pre-conditions for social development.

That people come together self-reliantly to fulfill a common need in itself has enormous effect on the type of self-confidence we strive so much for today. We must therefore challenge ourselves to utilise this organisational tool of liberation to rid ourselves of the economic and social problems that face us. We need to consolidate our gains and aim at greater member involvement in the work of the Guyana National Co-operative Union with regional unions as devolution of power, authority and responsibility.

The Credit Union sector of the movement is another area of significant importance. The Credit Union sector must truly become the financial co-operative; it must expand itself to involve a greater number of our rural workers, our urban workers, in all regions in such areas as the sugar industry, bauxite industry, the rice industry, the private sector and the entire public sector.

As a necessary prerequisite for development, the Credit Union must truly be a type of co-operative that can be used as the base in setting up other types of societies, i.e., housing co-operatives, agricultural co-operatives,

manufacturing and industrial types. The Guyana Credit Union League has greater responsibilities to the credit unions which have a share capital of millions of Guyana dollars.

The small farmer must pool his resources with others to ensure that the services as needed for a viable agricultural sector could be rationally acquired through their own collective action.

In this year 1983 this government has clearly said that the emphasis is on agriculture--agriculture for survival. It is true that this year is the 'Year of Will' but we have not merely said 'Will' and have left it at that, but we have expanded it to read "The Will To Survive". We of the Co-operative Movement are saying that once we have the Will to Co-operate it follows automatically and naturally that there will be the Will To Survive.

I therefore on this opening day of Co-operative Week '83 on behalf of the Government of Guyana through the Ministry of Manpower and Co-operatives, call on all the Guyanese people for us to promote the sense of solidarity, the sense of involvement, the sense of belonging recognising that in unity there is strength.

Our watchword in the co-operative movement should be Planning, Implementation and Evaluation.

Since we have the 'Will To Co-operate and the Will to Survive' we will survive and eventually prosper.

PPP Criticism

Georgetown MIRROR in English 3 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The People's Progressive Party salutes genuine co-operators in Guyana who are languishing under tremendous odds, with little or no help from the government. The Party notes that in some cases, the government is hostile to specific co-op societies for reasons connected with narrow partisan politics. The sad case of the Non Pareil Livestock Producers Co-operatives Society whose lands were seized at gunpoint is still fresh in mind. On the occasion of Co-op Week 1983, the PPP reiterates its support for co-ops and calls on the government to help this sector in a more meaningful manner, rather than with fine words alone.

Co-ops are a vital aspect of the tri-sectoral economy advocated by the PPP, but in Guyana today they are experiencing untold hardships, neglect, and frauds. Scores of them have collapsed since the PNC came to office, despite Guyana being made a 'Co-operative Republic.' In real socialist states the co-operative sector is of prime importance, and ranks second to the dominant state sector. In Guyana however the co-operative sector trails behind the capitalist or private sector.

While the central government claims that 'co-operatives will play the dominant role in the economy' the opposite is the truth. Government

statistics showing total spent on Co-ops for each year and from this, amount spent on development and employment costs of the bureaucracy are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Development</u>	<u>Employment</u>
1983	\$0.35 m	\$ 50,000	\$246,000
1982	\$1.0 m	\$300,000	\$536,000
1981	\$1.4 m	\$600,000	\$375,000

The dwindling sums being spent on developing the co-operative sector is vividly apparent. Spending overall has plummeted, but the bureaucracy is disproportionately getting funds. While in 1981 the employment costs amounted to 26.7 per cent of the total expenditure, in 1982 this rose to 53.5 per cent; and in 1983 to 70.2 per cent. Sums for development in the same period fell by 91.6% which is shocking. It is also noted that sums for development amounted to \$2.1 million in 1973, and were \$211,770 in 1971, the year after the Co-op Republic was set up.

The PPP construes from these figures that the government is not really interested in co-op development, but in private and state capitalist development. Indeed, many of the so-called co-ops are really skilfully disguised capitalist companies, which in essence evade income tax by posing and organising as co-operative societies. Real co-ops are flopping all over the place owing to some basic reasons which could be summed up as: Corruption, mismanagement, government neglect, lack of technical assistance and credit, internal strife, government attacks.

Relevant statistics are very scant. There are some voluminous official reports but they lack comprehension and relevance. In an independent study in 1982 however, the International Fund for Agricultural Development came up with the following conclusions: /'Only about half of all co-ops are functioning as co-ops, the rest being either defunct (but still registered on the books) or registered as co-ops for secondary objectives.'/ [in boldface]

In 1981, nine of the 35 cane farming societies did not function; 4 of the 5 primary rice mill co-ops did not operate; none of the 3 registered farm supply co-ops functioned; only 3 of the 23 machinery co-ops operated; only 1 of the 4 drainage and irrigation co-ops was in existence. Out of 120,000 acres controlled by co-ops, a large proportion remains idle.

/These shocking figures can be traceable to government neglect./ [in boldface] Not even auditing is carried out in a methodical manner. The annual report of the Ministry of Co-operatives for 1981 said: 'During 1981, 133 audits of co-op societies were completed. They fell short of the number projected in the 1981 work programme which were 175 audits....' Failure to audit means delay in pin-pointing malpractices, frauds, settling disputes, proposing advice, etc.

In the 1970-71 report of the Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation, it is revealed that '35 societies were being liquidated'

while in the 1972-73 report it is said that '46 liquidations were in progress at December 31, 1973'. 13 co-ops were also dissolved in that year. In the 1969 report it is revealed that 5 co-ops were cancelled, while there were '37 liquidations in progress at 31/12/69.' In the 1981 report (the latest so far) 6 co-ops were cancelled.

The co-operative sector therefore needs a lot of help in systematic auditing, logistics and liquidity support, marketing expertise, managerial training courses, sound knowledge in commercial practices, and realistic lectures at the Kuru Kuru Co-op College.

Government Seizure of Co-op Land

Georgetown MIRROR in English 3 Jul 83 p 2

[Text] Members of the Light-town Macaw Co-operative Society on the Corentyne are upset over government plans to seize their lands and hand them over to other persons in the area. These fears were conveyed to Agriculture Minister Sallahuddin recently at a meeting held in the Winifred Gaskin Secondary School at Manchester. The meeting was attended by rice farmers, government officials, Regional officials and PPP Regional Council members.

Stemming from the discussion on agricultural problems in the area, Minister Sallahuddin undertook to visit the Crabwood Creek area to inspect certain works which have been done there. The farmers in Crabwood Creek have been consistently agitating for proper maintenance works, and effective drainage and irrigation facilities. Many farms in the area need urgent rehabilitation.

According to reports the Minister then enquired about the position of the Co-op Society. The government Co-operative Officer explained that he and an officer from the Lands and Surveys Department are working on the matter to "reallocate the lands according to the ability of the society and the farmers to cultivate them."

Arising from this disclosure, a spokesman for the society objected strongly and told the Minister that the society's lands should not be given to other persons. The Minister thereupon asked the spokesman how many acres of land the Society can cultivate for this crop, to which the spokesman replied '15 acres'. The spokesman then tried to explain to the Minister the exact nature of the hardships facing the Society.

Members expressed the view that if any land is taken away from the Society, it would be another nail in the coffin of co-operativism in Guyana.

Subsequent to this meeting, Minister Sallahuddin visited Crabwood Creek and held a meeting with agitated farmers at the Primary School. He was flanked by a phalanx of officials, but was confronted with a demonstration by farmers outside the building. There were 30 farmers in the picketline chanting slogans and waving placards while another 50 farmers stood by in

solidarity. Some 250 farmers later participated in the stormy meeting. The demonstrators called on the local authority to resign, and demanded compensation for losses incurred to crops. They also denounced corruption and malpractices.

Field officers told the Minister that they estimate losses to be over \$9 million due to flooding. The chairman of the local authority was criticised by the farmers, who rejected his assurances to the Minister. The chairman was duly cautioned and warned by the Minister, who also advised him on how best to proceed with his tasks. He was told to list the works to be undertaken and post up the lists at the office and the school building and whatever tasks are accomplished, that information should be conveyed to the Regional Chairman. A farmer's signature must also be on the lists posted up.

CSO: 3298/785

MIRROR HITS CATHOLIC STANDARD FOR POSITION ON PPP

Georgetown MIRROR in English 26 Jun 83 p 2

[Editorial: "STANDARD's Gutter Attacks Repelled"]

[Text] The CATHOLIC STANDARD is at it again! This time it has taken the holier than thou, sanctimonious position of claiming that the "main political parties have tended to keep us apart". It is also, again and again, trying to equate the PPP with the PNC, a really impossible task when one deals with history and reality. The two parties bear no resemblance, as the CATHOLIC STANDARD knows quite well. It is also aware, from historical records, that the United Force which was backed fully by the Catholic Church, is the party which actually put the PNC into office. The United Force and the People's National Congress joined hands in a coalition in 1964 which lasted until the PNC out-manoeuvred the UF, after it gave that party all the instruments to rig and to continue to rig elections.

How has the PPP kept the people apart? What does the CATHOLIC STANDARD really mean by that? It does not spell out the words, but merely throws out the slander. Let's go back again into history. It was the PPP which brought the Guyanese working people together in the '50s, to one of the great people's victories of this era, the 1953 elections. Who harmed this? Can we forget that the Church was influential in the Churchill government's decision to suspend the Constitution, when it strongly objected to the PPP government's bid to end dual control of schools? Can we forget that one of the Catholic Church's chief spokesmen at the time, John Fernandes, joined a delegation comprising the President of the Chamber of Commerce, John Dave, John Carter, Lionel Luckhoo and Rudy Kendall who flew to London to back the Conservative Government in its suspension of the Constitution? Can we forget the role played by local reactionaries who backed Britain in its bid to split the PPP, which it achieved by clever and cunning means in 1955?

Despite the split, which was (not along racial lines as some have sought to suggest) mainly for rightist-opportunistic and ideological reasons, to satisfy British imperialist aspirations, the PPP survived.

From that time on, the reactionaries have been after the PPP, seeking to destroy it by various means, the most notorious being the CIA backed

bombings and killings of the '60s. Where were leading Church members then, if not on the streets with paid mercenaries who were bent on destabilising the only progressive government Guyana has ever had? Who was keeping the people apart in the '50s and '60s is a question the CATHOLIC STANDARD cannot or dare not answer! And who put and kept the PNC in office after the PPP was ousted?

The CATHOLIC STANDARD does not like the PPP for the very reason that the Party seeks to unite the people on class, and the STANDARD has consistently been part of the class which has always exploited the working class. The CATHOLIC STANDARD does not agree with the PPP's position of "democracy, socialist orientation and anti-imperialism" as it noted in its editorial of June 19 as being conditions "unacceptable to many Guyanese." Which Guyanese? Obviously those who want the PPP wrecked so they can step into its shoes!

What is wrong with advocating democracy? Without democracy Guyana cannot come out of the present crisis. Lack of democracy is at the very root of the country's problems.

What is wrong with socialist orientation? Must the people forever be ridden roughshod by the exploiters? Must not the people enjoy the fruits of their labours, instead of others peeling it off in profits? Look at Cuba! Look at Grenada! Unemployment is solved. Crime is down to the lowest percentage possible. The people are eating, working, studying and living in freedom. Do we have that here or in any island of the Caribbean? Socialist orientation is basic to the people's needs.

Anti-imperialism, which the CATHOLIC STANDARD professes is unacceptable to the people is fundamental. If we don't know our enemies, then we cannot be on the alert for their treacherous moves. Imperialism subjects people in a slightly different way than did colonialism, but is basically the same and prevents the free growth and development of a nation. Would the CATHOLIC STANDARD have us pro-imperialist or just silent on the most important subject in today's politics?

It is more than clear by these recent remarks of the CATHOLIC STANDARD that it stands four square behind reaction and is trying to embolden reaction in Guyana.

CSO: 3298/786

BRIEFS

PNC 'WORKPLACE GROUP'--Workers in the Office of the Prime Minister were joined by others in the Public Buildings in forming a workplace group of the People's National Congress. At the inaugural meeting they were given a brief but stimulating talk by Cde Prime Minister and General Secretary of the PNC. The enthusiastic group of about forty members, had lively discussions and have formulated plans to ensure the success of the group. At elections the following comrades were returned to office. Chairman--Cde Kenneth Bancroft; Vice Chairman--Cde B. Teekasingh; Secretary--Cde Anne Oudkerk; Asst. Secretary--Cde Douglas Baird; Treasurer--Cde Beatrice Gordon; Org. Secretary Cde Gordon Chase; Asst. Org. Secretary Cde Wendell Collins. Committee members are Cdes Brian Daniels, S. Singh, Sgt Bancroft, Lionel Lucas and Enid Halley. The group meets fortnightly. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Jun 83 p 1]

ANTI-NUCLEAR DELEGATION--A five-member delegation from the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace was scheduled to leave Guyana for Prague, Czechoslovakia to participate at the Conference on World Assembly for Peace and Life Against Nuclear War. The delegation includes Cdes Patrick Denny, Elvin McDavis, Edwin James, Denzil Hinds and Basdeo Bhaggan. They are to be joined by Cde Roy Sawh who is based in London and Cde Avril Bacchus who is in Moscow. The conference begins June 21 but a week-end of prayer has been planned before the opening date. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 19 Jun 83 p 5]

BOND PURCHASE PRESSURE--Farmers in Region 6 are being called upon to first purchase \$50 worth of defence bonds before they can obtain "knapsack sprayers" from the Regional authorities. This requirement is reportedly irking the farmers who are insisting on the free purchase of this important device. The reports say that the farmers are first told to buy the defence bonds, after which they are given "permission" by the Regional administration to buy the sprayers for their crops. Elsewhere reports are reaching the MIRROR of orchestrated pressures being mounted by the regime on a wide cross-section of citizens to buy defence bonds. The targets include school children, teachers, schools, workers who fear retrenchment, businessmen who want licences, and farmers who want vital inputs. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 19 Jun 83 p 4]

CSO: 3298/786

GOVERNOR GENERAL NAMES CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 25 Jun 83 p 12

[Text] Constitutional instruments signed by His Excellency the Governor Sir Clement Arrindell on 14th June 1983 have constituted a Constituency Boundaries Commission for the State of St. Kitts-Nevis. The Constitution provides for two of the appointees to be nominated by the Premier of the State and two others to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition. The Commission includes the Speaker of the House of Assembly as Chairman, with a casting vote. All members of the Commission must be members of the House of Assembly.

Appointed on the advice of the Premier are the Honourable Michael O. Powell and the Honourable Ivor A. Stevens, while the Opposition members are the Honourable Lee L. Moore and the Honourable E. St. John Payne. The Commission will hold its first meeting on Wednesday 29th June in the Cabinet Chambers of Government Headquarters.

This Constituency Boundaries Commission is the fourth to be set up under the State's Constitution. The previous Commission was appointed on 29th November 1976. That body was comprised of the Honourable Simeon Daniel, the Honourable Ivor A. Stevens, the Honourable Lee L. Moore, and the then Honourable Fitzroy Bryant, with Speaker the then Honourable Ada Mae Edwards as Chairman.

Under the provisions of the Constitution, the Commission is required to give a Report of its activities within five year periods. The previous Commission submitted Reports on 5th January 1977 and 9th May 1979. Prior to that the earlier Commissions reported on 26th February 1972 and in February 1967 respectively.

The function of the Constituency Boundaries Commission is to review the number and boundaries of the electoral constituencies which have been delimited for the State. It is a matter of record that there has been a serious anomaly in the constitutionality of the composition of the Legislature of this State for some time prior to December 1980. This was due to the rebellion in Anguilla which rendered the holding of elections in that island an impossibility in 1971, 1975 and 1980, with the result that the direction that there should be ten (10) seats in the House of Assembly

was ignored. The present Constitution, prior to December 1980, called for 7 constituencies in St. Kitts, 2 in Nevis, and 1 in Anguilla.

It is also a matter of record that the previous Commissions all reported that no alteration was necessary in the existing situation. This entrenched a boundary shake-up which took place just before the general elections of 1961.

However, the position now is that under the new Constitution which comes into effect on 19th September 1983, there must be 8 constituencies in St. Kitts and 3 in Nevis. It stands to reason, therefore, that a re-allocation of boundaries will have to be undertaken by the Commission in order to satisfy the increased number of constituencies required by the Independence Constitution.

CSO: 3298/787

BRIEFS

LABOR CODE--Regional Adviser to the International Labour Organisation, Mr. Leslie, is in the State to meet with Officials of the Ministry of Labour and with Legal Draughtsman Mr. Mendes. The Government is finalizing the drafting of a comprehensive Labour Code which will introduce for the first time in the Laws of St. Kitts-Nevis statutory provisions for redundancy and compensation for unfair dismissal, inter alia. The Labour Code will regulate industrial relations in the State in general. [Text]
[Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 25 Jun 83 p 11]

CSO: 3298/787

GOVERNMENT OPENS TALKS WITH UNIONS ON IMPROVING RELATIONS

Meeting With Compton

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 25 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

THE Government and three of the island's largest trade unions are moving to improve relations which have been cold for over a year.

The Unions — the Civil Service Association, National Workers Union and the St. Lucia Teachers' Union — met Prime Minister John Compton last weekend, at his instance, and discussed a wide range of issues.

According to an NWU spokesman, the meeting discussed problems confronting workers in the teaching profession, the civil service, Halcyon Days Hotel and Dennery Farm Company who are represented by the three Unions.

The spokesman said it was also felt that both sides should avoid making public statements which only served to antagonise each other.

The meeting discussed the Government's proposed National Economic Council and both parties agreed to work towards its establishment. However, the Unions stressed the need for the broadest possible representation on the Council.

The NWU spokesman said that during the meeting, Mr. Compton said he was prepared to do all in his power to elevate the standards of the workers of St. Lucia but he told the Unions that this was a mammoth task,

bearing in mind the current climate of international recession.

Mr. Compton added that in order to achieve the desired results, he would need the support of the trade union movement.

Both parties also agreed that there was need for frequent dialogue between the Government and the three Unions which have grouped themselves into a special committee.

Editorial Evaluation

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 25 Jun 83 p 2

[Text]

WE commend what appear to be moves to heal the year old rift between the Government and the three biggest Unions in the Country which surfaced when the Government proposed the establishment of a Tripartite Commission involving both sides and the employ-

ers, in an effort to come to grips with the economic problems of the country.

During the past year a lot of harsh words have been traded on both sides and there are even those who forecast that the Government and the three Unions were heading along a course of confrontation.

The talks held last week between the Prime Minister and representatives of the three Unions might not have solved everything, and certainly not the element of mistrust that has been an important aspect of relations between the Unions and this Government, but the fact that they are talking again on issues other than collective agreements, is a good news.

What has happened now actually supports the stand which we took in our criticism of the Unions for turning their backs on the tripartite table: that differences can be resolved by talking and that nothing can be gained by confrontation.

The fact is that both the Unions and the Government need each other. We believe that it is the recognition of this mutual need which has resulted in last week's meeting between the Prime Minister and representatives of the Civil Service Association, National Workers' Union and St. Lucia Teachers' Union.

During the talks, Mr. Compton is said to have received the support of the Unions for his Government's pro-

posed National Economic Council, and perhaps with this endorsement, the Government should accelerate its plans for bringing this agency on stream.

And in what appeared to be an atmosphere of give and take, the Prime Minister is said to have promised that his Government would do all in its power to improve the lot of the country's employees.

Of course, Mr. Compton might probably start by getting through Parliament some vital pieces of legislation which we discussed in this column last weekend, and which were brought up by the Unions in the discussions with him. We maintain that the question of Union recognition, for instance, is too basic and crucial not to be made mandatory by an act of Parliament.

Finally, we cannot commend the recent talks without commenting on the continuing rift in the trade union movement itself. Perhaps it is time for a truce and making up all-round so that collective and united efforts can breathe life into the country.

UNEMPLOYMENT WORSENS AS NUMBER OF ILLEGAL WORKERS RISES

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 25 Jun 83 p 3

[Article by Sharon Williams]

[Text]

UNEMPLOYMENT — one of the most chronic problems crippling St. Lucia increases steadily every year as schools spew out hundreds of young, fresh-faced graduates who promptly join the ranks of the unemployed.

Over the years we all have listened intently to the politicians' promises of miracle solutions and while some may have benefitted, the number is so small not to have made any effect on the situation which lives on with us.

Recently, the outcries against unfair employment have reached a startling crescendo with more and more complaints being voiced.

During the past two weeks, incidents have been related by disgruntled locals concerning particularly foreign members of the management staff at various hotels who allegedly ignore the laws of the country, importing friends and relatives from their motherland on the pretence of vacationing in "sunny St. Lucia" and being given very good jobs in the establishment upon their arrival here.

It has reached such alarming proportions now that these offenders are even being advised by their benefactors not to leave the country so that their passports are unavailable for scrutiny.

Also, the spouses of these executives who in some cases have permits which have expired and even those who never possessed one loyally stand by their husbands sides, unlawfully working whilst they disdainfully defy authorities who deliver them half-hearted warnings.

If one were to look around closely, the number of aliens occupying jobs in St. Lucia both legally and illegally would be made obvious. Many of these posts could be efficiently filled by nationals who are well qualified to occupy them but are forced to work outside their fields. Is it a wonder then that most young people who leave the island to study abroad have no desire to return home?

Even in the educational field, foreigners have a strong presence on the teaching staff; one or two with land. Such positions as vice principal.

With all the political, economic and social unrest in Guyana, citizens of that country have been known to migrate primarily to the other islands of the Caribbean.

While, as CARICOM partners, we are sympathetic to their woes, should they be allowed to flock the island, and becoming so well established that they even send for the rest of their families with the assurance that jobs would be available.

It may be true that many of these people are experts and are very well qualified but that does not mean that they should be given priority over locals.

Where they are more qualified to do the jobs by all means employ them, but for a limited time with a local understudy who will be able to learn the ropes and eventually take over the job. This was the original intention of the work permit system. There are cases where there are no understudies for foreigners.

This problem in St. Lucia has become so ridiculous that we even have foreigners representing St. Lucia both here and abroad.

The authorities concerned with issuing work permits should be more restrictive, perhaps as has been previously suggested first advertising all applications for permits so that locals are given a chance to object if the foreign applicant is likely to compete with an existing local business.

An intense investigation should be mounted immediately to flush out all illegal aliens to St. Lucia who are keeping jobs away from our people and severe action should be taken to stop the illegal importation of foreigners.

CSO: 3298/788

REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE ACT REMAINS IN SPOTLIGHT

Opposition Parties' Meeting

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 24 Jun 83 p 12

[Text] On Saturday 18th June, 1983, leading members of Political parties met to discuss the Representation of the People's Act. The parties represented were Movement for National Unity and the United, People's Movement. The New Democratic Party sent an observer. One other Opposition party, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Movement, was invited to attend the meeting. The meeting, held in a cordial and business-like atmosphere, was opened by Osar Allen whose party, the UPM initiated the call for the meeting. Allen recalled the fact that each

of the parties represented had already condemned the Act and he suggested that a joint approach to the Act would meet the interests of all political parties as well as the people of the country as a whole.

In the course of the discussions it was suggested that joint public meetings to raise the awareness of the general public on the issue, and perhaps lead up to a mass demonstration, might be a most effective means of struggling against the Act. However, final decision on this course of action was left pending a subsequent meeting.

It was agreed that

1. A Select Committee would meet to identify the precise areas of the Act which are in need of repeal or which acquire substantial amendment;
2. Work will continue where possible against these provisions of the Act which militate against free and fair elections;
3. A further meeting will be held on Friday 8th July to try to carry forward the process of joint action;
4. Greater efforts will be made to have the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Movement become actively involved in the process.

Voters Lists Revision

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 1 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] All the democratic minded people of St Vincent and the Grenadines are anxious that amendments be made to the Representation of the People Act 1982 to make sure that free and fair elections are safeguarded in this country.

There is an equally strong demand for a new voters' list which will correct the disenfranchisement of people who attained the voting age of 18 even before the last general election but whose names are not on the list.

Last Friday some forty people picketed the Ministry building in connection with their demands. The picketers were not confined to politicians.

This week has come the welcome news that revision of the Voters' List commencing with the Central Leeward Constituency, will get underway forthwith.

Registration for the Central Leeward Constituency is actually in motion. Enumeration will start today Friday 1st July 1983. The recent death of M.P. Arthur Woods left the Constituency without parliamentary representation.

The news that the Central Leeward residents would be photographed in connection with the issuance of identification cards as called for in the Representation of People Act 1982 was disclosed by the Supervisor of Elections Mr G. F. Jack in a statement on Radio 705 on Wednesday afternoon. Mr Jack said that three photographic centres would be set up in the constituency.

Those entitled to vote are persons who will have attained the age of 18 years on 1st July, 1983, and have been resident in the Constituency for at least three months prior to that date.

No information is available on the date of the bye-election. It has to be between a minimum of 25 days and a maximum of 90 days after the seat fell vacant.

CSO: 3298/789

OPPOSITION MP CONCERNED ABOUT DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 8 Jul 83 pp 4, 5

[Text] The House of Assembly met on Thursday 30th June. At this meeting MP for East Kingstown, Randolph Russell, sitting in opposition asked the Minister of Finance (Prime Minister Milton Cato) if the most recent Statements of Accounts and Balance Sheets of Government investments could be made available. Russell was told that the information was available, so he immediately put a supplementary question. He asked whether the Balance Sheets and Statements of Accounts could be tabled during that sitting of the House. Cato's reply was that he did not know the procedure.

A news bulletin on CBC the day after the meeting noted that Mr Russell had told news agent Mike Findlay, when questioned by him, that if the audited accounts requested were not made available the member for East Kingstown would seek a vote of No Confidence in Cato's Government in the House.

THE VINCENTIAN got Russell's story.

The parliamentarian said that he was very worried about the steady erosion of democracy that was taking place under the St. Vincent Labour Party Government. He noted that power was being transferred steadily to the Cabinet. He pointed out the obvious tendency to this demonstrated by the Representation of the People Act 1982.

An item on the agenda for the sitting, an amendment to the Teachers Pension Act which aimed at increasing the age of retirement of teachers from 55 to 60, gave Russell the chance "to force a full debate" on this subject of the vestage of power in the Cabinet, to the detriment of democracy. Russell showed how the need for Cabinet approval of the individual teachers retirement age was undermining a long-established principle prohibiting political interference in the appointment of government employees, and at the same time usurping the authority and function of the Public Services Commission.

Russell mentioned the odds against which Opposition Members operated in a House so overwhelmingly Government. "It is not easy," he said, "especially as the public gallery is usually empty."

THE VINCENTIAN asked the East Kingstown MP if his fellow Opposition Members had given him support. He said that both Opposition Leader James Mitchell (Grenadines) and Calder Williams (North Leeward) had been absent from the House for a large part of the session.

CSO: 3298/789

GOVERNMENT HOPES TO GALVANIZE FISHING POTENTIAL

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 24 Jun 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

Fisheries (Canal Feature, St Vincent and the Grenadines is laying the groundwork for a major thrust in the area of fisheries.....and from the look of things the resource around the islands are vast and largely untapped.

Government has decided to give the sector high priority and if all goes well, St Vincent and the Grenadines, with its 110,000 people, could develop a thriving fishing industry within a few years.

Since 1979, Prime Minister Milton Catos government has been placing a great deal more emphasis on fisheries, with the Food and Agricultural Organisation

(FAO) of the United Nations (UN) playing a key role

Seminars for local fishermen have been organised here, and last month St Vincent and the Grenadines was represented at a regional conference in St Lucia that spent a lot of time discussing important issues affecting fisheries in the region.

It tackled efficient management of fishing resources, the rights and obligations regarding fishing in coastal areas, and the basis for drafting

new flexible fisheries legislation.

In 1981 the FAO provided a quarter million dollar US grant to expand the industry, while Trinidad and Tobago provided a similar amount for fishing equipment.

The following year, a three-men technical mission from the FAO spent a week here to analyse the opportunities and constraints for developing the fisheries sector and determine the need for financial and technical assistance.

Now, an FAO consultant, Herbert Mathes, is conducting a six-month study in the fishing industry.

The study is aimed at eventually drawing up a development plan for fisheries. Dr Mathes said it will involve the actual catching, the fisheries operations

that is boats engines, gear methods, handling, cold storage, processing, marketing and distribution.

Dr Mathes said the social and economic conditions in which fishermen live, their problems in obtaining credit, as well as training, will form part of the study.

Another aim of the study is to reinforce fisheries

infrastructure and administration.

There are already plans to introduce a two-year fishery course at the Richmond Vale Academy. Inaugurated here last September by the school Co-operative Tivind of Denmark, the Academy offers various technical training courses to Vincentians.

The course will enable fishermen to train in seamanship, navigation, ship machinery and engineering on the Academy 19 metre-trawler and smaller sailing ketch.

In addition, it will teach boat building, fishing methods, the use of fishing gear, fish processing and the economics of fisheries such as accounting, costing and marketing.

Vincentian fishermen do not have the range and autonomy to fish beyond the continental shelf around St Vincent and the Grenadines. As a result, most of the fishing grounds around the shelf are heavily overfished.

But the pelagic off-shore resource is hardly ever touched, although foreigners, mainly from neighbouring Martinique, now have a fleet operating freely in St Vincent and the Grenadines exclusive economic zone.

Once the proposed fisheries plan become operative, the Frenchmen may have to fish elsewhere or operate under a licence, paying royalties to government.

Besides the unexploited pelagic off-shore resources, there is also the bottom resource in some areas both on and off the "shelf". These areas abound in crabs, which like lobsters, are a high value fishing resource.

The whaling industry could also be exploited.

Since the decline of whaling here during the 1920s and 1930s only the occasional whale is caught each year between

Bequia and Mustique, said to be once one of the worlds major whaling grounds.

Although the study leading to the formulation of the National Fisheries Development plan has just begun, government has already started to set in motion the machinery to monitor the industry.

A United States Peace Corps volunteer, Dave Johnson, now has the responsibility to keep records of production, consumption, and distribution of fish in the Southern Grenadines, South of the St Vincent mainland.

Johnson will also monitor the economic benefits fishermen derive from their catch and be on the alert for any pollution which may occur in the waters around the Southern Grenadines.

CSO: 3298/789

END