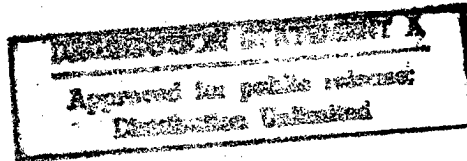


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JPRS-LAM-84-012

24 JANUARY 1984



Latin America Report

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24 January 1984

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OIL COMPANY IN 3-YEAR DOCK REFURBISHING PROGRAM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Dec 83 p 14

[Text] Esso Standard Oil (S.A.) Limited is currently engaged in a dock refurbishing programme which is expected to cost more than J\$1 million over a three-year period.

The dock, over which some 800,000 barrels of oil moved in 1983, handles both lube oil receivals for Esso's Lube Plant, and fuel to the Esso barge.

The first phase of the programme, which is currently underway, involves the hose handling platform which forms the mid-section of the Esso dock and is scheduled to take 8 weeks, with divers working in four hour shifts from a barge berthed at the dock.

The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of the year, at a cost of \$500,000. The second phase, scheduled for 1984 at a cost of a further \$500,000, will involve work on the hose handling platform, as well as the start of work on the western dolphin, with the completion of work on the western dolphin scheduled for 1985.

Esso's Engineer, Jamaica Division, Mr. Jim Fairweather, explained that the work--which got underway in October 1983 after several months of surveying--was part of Esso's overall safety programme.

"We will end up spending over J\$1 million to ensure that the dock meets the required safety operating standards for personnel and shipping making use of the facility," Mr. Fairweather said.

Esso's Division Engineer explained that at the end of the refurbishing exercise, the dock facilities would be given a routine undersea inspection once each year, as part of an ongoing maintenance programme.

CSO: 3298/303

INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE CALLED ALARMING

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 29 Nov 83 p 30-A

[Text] The country's various economic and industrial sectors are making alarmingly inefficient use of energy, and if this continues, the country will face increasingly serious problems meeting its growing demand for energy.

Juan Jose Ambriz, from the Autonomous Metropolitan University (UAM), made this comment in announcing the Fourth Seminar on the Efficient Use of Energy in Industry, in which the Federal Electricity Commission, the Mexican Petroleum Institute, the Association of Vallejo Industrialists and the Autonomous Metropolitan University will take part.

He explained that the purpose of the seminar is to make known what domestic industry has learned about the conservation and efficient use of energy and to publicize domestic and international scientific and technological developments this year.

He underscored that industry's involvement is important on this occasion; "we are especially interested in this sector because it has previously not shown much interest in this problem."

He claimed that industry accounts for one-third of Mexico's total energy use. He attributed this to the fact that energy has been very inexpensive in our country and that companies have not been careful enough in selecting and monitoring installation processes, perhaps because they felt that this was not as important as the choice of the raw material.

He also came out in favor of moves to cut down on the irrational use of energy, such as equipment maintenance and monitoring furnace combustion by installing gauges to ascertain the percentage of energy use, with the possibility of changing the monitoring systems if they are unsuitable.

Mexico, he said, is heavily dependent on hydrocarbons, inasmuch as 90 percent of the energy it consumes is produced by burning hydrocarbons; 4 percent is hydroelectric, and 1 percent is geothermal. These percentages are more balanced in other countries.

Referring to our oil reserves, he emphasized that "we have to develop alternative sources that will enable us to better utilize the reserves we still have."

He said that better public transportation systems have to be developed and that as individuals we should keep household appliances in optimum condition because otherwise they consume four times more energy than necessary."

In conclusion, he said that the single biggest energy user in Mexico is industry (34 percent of overall domestic output), while the energy sector (Pemex and the Federal Electricity Commission) and the transportation sector each account for 30 percent; households account for the remaining 6 percent of total energy use.

8743

CSO: 3248/288

SELA CREATES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Panama City (PL)--The Latin American Economic System (SELA) decided here to create a Central American Social and Economic Development Action Committee (CADESCA), which will be officially inaugurated today after the signing of the incorporation documents.

On Tuesday in this capital, representatives of 26 countries which are members of SELA began a meeting for that purpose, which was opened by the Panamanian minister of economic planning and policy, Manalco Solis, and attended by the entity's permanent assistant secretary, Homero Luis Hernandez.

In his opening speech, Solis said that the present conflicts in Central America have been manifested in disturbing incidents, including an escalation of violence, a heightening of tensions and the threat of a widespread outbreak of war.

He stressed the importance of the pacification negotiations being conducted by the Contadora Group, and emphasized that this initiative is inextricably linked with the economic strengthening of the Central American nations.

He remarked that the new agency attached to SELA would constitute a link in the chain of activities undertaken to date for the purpose of contributing to the solution of the tragedy being experienced by the nations of the Isthmus.

The draft of the incorporation documents for CADESCA states that it is necessary to systematize the various activities associated with Central American cooperation for social and economic development, with a coordinating mechanism that will facilitate the mobilization of the support from outside the region.

Included among the fundamental goals of CADESCA are the promotion of agreements on physical integration of the area's countries and the execution of development programs of mutual concern, for the optimal use of its human and natural resources.

As Minister Solis explained, the new agency will be required to act in a coordinated manner and as an intermediary with entities such as the International Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, the governments of Latin America and ther rest of the world, international agencies and financial markets.

2909

CSO: 3248/281

GUYANA COMPANY 'CORRECTS' CARIBBEAN CONGRESS OF LABOUR

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Nov 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] THE Guyana Bauxite Company [Guymine] yesterday issued a statement correcting a number of what it called "significant inaccuracies" contained in a resolution passed by the Caribbean Congress of Labour [CCL] at its recent Triennial Conference in Barbados.

The resolution relating to the recent necessary reduction of the workforce in the local bauxite industry, and which reportedly was not carried unanimously, was passed on November 9.

In its statement, Guymine said it found it necessary to reduce its workforce by 1 428 persons in both management and non-management categories and not 1,700 unionised workers as stated in the resolution.

In addition, Guymine refuted the CCL's charges that it failed to provide the unions with the list of names of workers it planned to retrench prior to executing the retrenchment exercise.

"The company was very careful to provide the unions with lists of the workers whom it proposed to retrench" it stressed.

Guymine also commented on the assertion in the resolution that a number of union officials were included among those workers whom it was necessary to retrench.

Structure

It said that as part of a package of measures about which the unions concerned were notified and of which the reduction of the workforce was only one, it was necessary to restructure the organisation of the company and retain only those members of the work force who were essential to the new organisational structure having regard to the anticipated levels of activity of the company and bearing in mind the marketing possibilities.

"Consequently, while it is true that a number of the workers whom it was necessary to retrench also held offices of various kinds in the unions, they were retrenched as workers and for the reasons stated above and not as officers of the unions."

Guymine added: "It is absolutely untrue to state as the resolution does that the company has refused to have direct negotiations with the unions on this matter.

"Indeed, on the 9th November, the very day on which the resolution was passed, a previously scheduled meeting between the company and the unions took place to discuss this matter and it is difficult to believe that this fact was not known to the two members of the bauxite unions who it is understood attended the CCL meeting as observers."

Firm Basis

"In the light of the foregoing, the final paragraph of the resolution which calls upon the Guyana Government and Guymine to discuss this matter with the unions is somewhat difficult to understand," the statement said.

Commenting on the CCL's call on Guymine to "establish a firm basis for the retrenchment," the company noted that if by "firm basis" is meant the rationale for the retrenchment, "it must surely be universally known by now what were the dire economic and financial circumstances facing the company which gave rise to the need for the reduction in the workforce which was effected, and which was merely one of a package of measures designed to ensure the survival of the company."

It added: "If on the other hand a "firm basis" connotes the criteria and the procedures for retrenchment, then these are clearly set out in the collective labour agreement between the company and the Guyana Mine Workers Union."

Those criteria and procedures, it said, have been faithfully followed by the company.

It said that in the case of the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Union, the criteria and procedures while not included in that collective labour agreement, had previously been settled with the union and in their case also, were faithfully adhered to by the company.

The company stressed further that "all the workers concerned were retrenched and not dismissed, with the result that they will benefit from retrenchment benefits."

In addition, while in the case of the GMWU those benefits are prescribed in the collective labour agreement, this was not so in the case of the collective labour agreement with the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Union.

"Notwithstanding this, however, the company, in full recognition of its moral responsibilities towards its workers and as a reflection of its concern to minimise the effects of the retrenchment on them, voluntarily agreed in principle to the payment of retrenchment benefits to them and, accordingly, negotiated those benefits with the union."

BRIEFS

IDB INVESTMENT CORPORATION--MEMBER countries of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have agreed in principle to form an Inter-American Investment Corporation. +According to a press release issued by the IDB, representatives of most of the member countries met in Rome from November 3 to 4 in order to have final discussions for the creation of the institution. And President of the Bank Antonio Ortiz Mena, during the meeting, said that "the recognition of the high degree of interdependence between the industrialised countries and the Latin American region and the increasing need to move forward with the task of economic integration, provide the *raison d'etre* of the new institution." The idea of having a specialised multinational institution to support the establishment and the development of productive ventures, has been a long standing aspiration of the Latin American countries, according to the President. Such an institution, he said, can be effective in revitalising existing productive enterprises. The new corporation will be part of the IDB and will complement and enhance its traditional functions as a development institution. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Nov 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/304

SELECTION OF NEWLY APPOINTED MILITARY LEADERS EVALUATED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 29 Dec 83 p 10

[Excerpts] With the appointment of Brig Gen Jorge H. Argindegui as army chief of staff, the highest post in the army--which is as is known, now carries this title--is once again held by a cavalry officer. At the time, jokes were made about "the return of the cavalry." But such an interpretation is without foundation. Look at what has happened: the head of the joint higher staff, the top echelon in the army organization, is an infantry general. Under Argindegui are the following: as deputy chief of the army general staff, Brig Gen Ricardo Pianta, an artillery officer; as inspector for training, Brig Gen Braulio Sanchez Avalso of communications; as commander of the fifth corps, Brig Gen Mario Aguado Benitez of the cavalry; as commander of the third corps, Brig Gen Pedro Pablo Mansilla of the artillery; as commander of the second corps, Brig Gen Hector Rios Erenu of the infantry; and, as commander of the first corps, Brig Gen Buillermo Fonseca of the cavalry. In the next most important posts are other senior officers, three of whom are infantrymen, three engineers and one an artilleryman. This simple enumeration makes any further comment superfluous.

Reorganization

Apart from what we have noted above, there is continuing speculation on the reorganization of the three military arms. According to the version most often heard, only 18 generals will be retained on active duty and 9 colonels will be promoted, i.e., there will be a total of 27 officers of the highest rank, somewhat less than half the number there was until recently. The number of civilians taken into the armed forces will also be reduced considerably. It is said that, insofar as the army is concerned, the reduction could go as high as 50 percent.

Transfer of the First Corps?

Other points are included in the reorganization of the military. A joint command, subordinate to the fifth corps, will be set up somewhere in the region of Patagonia (the exact place has not yet been decided on). Finally, according to the same source, the first corps will be transferred to the interior of the country. The first infantry regiment ("Patricios") will

continue to be stationed at the headquarters in Palermo, and other military units will occupy part of the installation there.

With regard to such matters, it has definitely been decided that the fourth corps, based in Santa Rosa, will be disbanded.

So far, the outlook for the navy and air force is less clear. Some military sources say that a total of 17 or 19 admirals might remain in the former. Comments concerning the air force are less precise. There is talk only about the creation of a higher staff advisory group, whose head would carry out the functions that used to belong to the former secretary general.

Comment on the considerations influencing the present civilian leadership of the armed forces in appointing the new commanders of the navy and air force is in order.

In the appointment of Rear Admiral Ramon Arosa to the top navy job, two desiderata--not to appoint any man compromised as a disciple of Massera or any of the latter's most determined opponents--played the decisive role. That is to say, the choice was made of an intermediate solution--the appointment of a neutral in the internal conflicts that have been going on for several years in the navy.

A different strategy was given effect in the air force with the appointment of Brig Gen Teodoro Waldner. In this instance, the preference was for choosing the candidate best qualified professionally, and, from among the professionals, the fighter pilots--the epitome of those who handle the "wild beasts"--were chosen.

Prison Sentences

Furthermore, it can be affirmed that, in high government circles, there is the impression that members of the three military juntas who were responsible for the cases of those who "disappeared" will be sentenced to prison and will serve their terms in military prisons.

12336

CSO: 3348/164

NEW AIR FORCE APPOINTMENTS PERCEIVED AS DANGEROUSLY ANTI-WEST

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Dec 83 pp 1, 10

[Article by J. Iglesias Rouco]

[Excerpts] The government's decision to resolve the Beagle Channel problem quickly (there will probably be important news in this regard between 7 and 10 January) and its intention to renounce all plans for the military use of nuclear power, and even to establish an inspection system setting at rest the fears of the North Americans and Europeans in this regard, are the principal positive steps taken by the new democratic administration in the field of foreign policy. The Alfonsin government has also gotten promises of economic assistance from Washington and the European social democracies, France in particular, which according to our sources, recently offered, through a special emissary sent to Buenos Aires, to invest some 200 million dollars in the south of the country with a view to exploiting our rich gas deposits and making butane for export.

Among the negative aspects of Alfonsin's foreign policy, in our opinion, are his intention, recently reiterated, that Argentina should remain a member of the so-called Non-Aligned Movement and especially the government's reticence toward, and even distancing from, the United States in political and strategic matters, on which questions will ultimately depend Washington's decision on whether or not to provide financial backing to Buenos Aires for the renegotiation of the foreign debt. But there is something even worse: the attention that, according to our informants, is being given in certain parts of the government or party--not necessarily in the Palacio San Martin--to the calls being made by various Argentine leftist groups, as well as by the Soviet bloc, for the establishment of diplomatic relations with nations such as North Korea that, together with Libya and communist Yemen (and the PLO), form the world terrorist front--so to speak--the government level. Insofar as we are aware, a good part of the country's diplomatic establishment has a low opinion of this idea but the pressure is getting heavier.

Fighter Pilots

The decisions being taken in domestic political matters, including military policy, are also having their repercussions abroad, with varying results.

It should be noted that the reorganization of the army and command changes are beginning to be viewed here (we refer to liberal countries) with satisfaction, as Argentina has thus acquired a military instrument that is both more democratic and closer to the West, the majority of its new leaders, with Gen Arguindegui at their head, being in favor of a quick restoration of relations with the United States and NATO. Nevertheless, this has not happened in the air force, which is surprising to even the most experienced and renders incomprehensible the policy of a party such as Alfonsin's UCR [Radical Civic Union] that has never concealed its intention of purging the armed forces of their most ideologically radical elements.

Because what is certain is that the men the government has placed in the top air force jobs are, almost without exception, adherents of the Genta line and, moreover, have shown an equivocal and dangerous "pragmatism" with respect to Argentina's international relations, as a result no doubt, of having been imbued with the fascistic ultranationalism of their mentor; this tendency reached such an extreme that some of them in recent months enthusiastically promoted military transactions with Libya (they sent a secret mission to Tripoli and another to Moscow) at which the North Americans and Europeans looked askance.

Disciples of Professor Genta

In fact, despite the retirement of Brig Gen Insua, a fighter pilot and former air force chief of staff, the new appointments presuppose the consolidation of power of the famous 17th graduating class of the air force school, which until now has been headed by Insua together with Brig Gens Crespo (likewise a fighter pilot) and Simari (an engineer on the general promotion list), both of whom will continue to serve and, consequently, to exert influence in a force whose new commander, Waldner, is also a fighter pilot and a disciple of Genta. In addition, there is Brig Gen Cambor, likewise a fighter pilot, who played a leading role in the removal of Brig Gen Lami Dozo at the time he commanded the Tandil Brigade, and who now will head the numbered air regions, and also Brig Gen Santuccioni, an intelligence officer known for his Peronist ties and once denounced by the Radicals. Practically, among those at the top, the only "uncertain" one is Arcelio Gonzalez. As if this were not enough, Waldner, who is the third fighter pilot to lead the force (the first was Cayo Alsina, in 1961, and the second, Hughes, from last year until a few days ago), has named Brig Gen De Blasis, who belongs to the 19th graduating class and is also a fighter pilot, as deputy chief of staff.

Two officers who are decidedly not disciples of Genta, Brig Gens Bonino and Martinez Viademonte, were simultaneously retired. In the case of Martinez Viademonte, the decision must have been influenced by his having been indicted on the occasion of the foolhardy attempt to strike by noncommissioned officers some months ago that shortly afterward spread to the army and navy, though without reaching the same proportions.

This story is worth recalling. According to our information, air force intelligence had learned some days before that the move was developing, including the fact that the confrontation was scheduled to take place on a Sunday, of all of which they informed, well in advance, the commanders of all the brigades, except--curiously--Martinez Viademonte's (the second or bomber brigade, based in Parana). Well then, on that very Sunday, Brig Gen Crespo presented himself at the brigade to carry out an inspection--because of the strike, obviously. Since, as it happened, Martinez Viademonte had heard nothing about what was being cooked up, when Crespo arrived he was away from his command post. The rest is easy to imagine.

Of course, there is no lack of people, inside and outside the country, who maintain that the fact that the fighter pilots now control the air force--and there is more to the air force than fighter pilots, since there are also the pilots of transport aircraft and bombers, as well as enigneers--necessarily satisfies the desires of the nondeomcratic Left, since even if the two extremes of the ideological spectrum have ideological differences, they at least share an electoral predilection. Moreover, in view of the inclination of the anti-West fighterpilots toward Tripoli and Moscow, the group's irresistible domination is interpreted also as a victory for those supporters of Alfonsin who favor an active, pro-Soviet Third World policy, even more pronounced than that inaugurated by Gen Bigonone in New Delhi.

So far, we do not know which members of the government created this situation nor why. No doubt, Borrás must be aware of some details that have escaped us, though we doubt that he intended, by means of these appointments, to express a sympathy for the East that he certainly does not have. Perhaps these details are known also to such important officials in the president's office as Giadone who, for example, recently insisted on the desirability of retiring Gen Cerda (an objective that, in the end, was not achieved). But we repeat, little or nothing is yet known about what is happening at the top of the government. Nev. theless, sooner or later--certainly sooner--we will succeed in "apprehending"--as the French sometimes say--the whole story.

12336

CSO: 3348/164

POLL SHOWS ONLY 40 PERCENT OPTIMISTIC REGARDING 1984 PROSPECTS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Dec 83 p 32

[Excerpt] With the euphoria of the election campaign and the hope that the new governors would change the country's situation in the past, Brazilians in 1983 experienced an unprecedented crisis that brought inflation and the cost of living to levels never before seen. After a year of unemployment, hunger, violence, drought, and floods, the little optimism that existed in 1981 and 1982 has disappeared: most Brazilians feel that 1984 will be worse than 1983.

Pessimism has been rising since 1974, when the so-called Brazilian miracle came to an end, but in 1981 there was still a big dose of optimism in the country, probably because of the prospects associated with the 1982 elections. But the rising pessimism among Brazilians contrasts with the hopes for a better year that are being entertained by Argentines, Americans, Canadians, and others.

The poll conducted by the Gallup Public Opinion Institute between 9 and 30 November in 180 Brazilian cities--in 20 states--revealed that only 24 percent of the 2,587 persons polled were satisfied with 1983, whereas the corresponding level of satisfaction at the end of 1982 had been 31 percent. In 1982, when the crisis was just beginning, 15 percent of those polled felt that the preceding 12 months had been bad or very bad. In 1983, that figure had climbed to 31 percent.

Only 4 percent of those polled considered 1983 an excellent year, but it was good for 20 percent and average for 44 percent. And 16 percent of those polled felt that it had been bad, while 15 percent said it had been very bad. The trend was noted in all Brazilian regions, but the inhabitants of the Northeast (30 percent) and the Southeast (35 percent) said that the year had been worse for them than for those living in the South (25 percent) and the North and Center-West (24 percent).

In all regions, there was also a considerable decline in the number of people viewing the year as excellent or good. The figure fell from 33 percent in 1982 to 27 percent in 1983 in the South Region, from 28 to 23 percent in the Southeast, from 32 to 22 percent in the Northeast, and from 35 to 31 percent in the North and Center-West. It can also be noted that the percentage feeling that 1982 had been an average year was higher than the percentage feeling that way about 1983. In the North and Center-West Regions, the figure dropped from 49

to 43 percent, in the Northeast from 51 to 46 percent, in the Southeast from 55 to 42 percent, and in the South from 53 to 47 percent.

Government Promises Unconvincing

Brazil's agreements with the IMF and the promises that inflation will be controlled and that the economic situation is going to improve do not seem to be convincing Brazilians. Whereas 45 percent of those polled by the Gallup Institute in 1982 were expecting a better year in 1983, only 40 percent of those polled in 1983 saw good prospects for 1984. Moreover, only 27 percent felt in 1982 that 1983 would be worse than 1982. In 1983, the number of those "expecting the worst" had risen to 40 percent. And the number of people expecting the new year to be the same fell from 19 percent in 1982 to 11 percent in 1983, while the number with no opinion remained the same at 9 percent.

The optimism of a great number of Brazilians began to fade in 1974, when 66 percent of the population was still expecting something better in the coming year. But 1975 did not live up to their expectations, and hopes for 1976 fell--only 59 percent of those polled were expecting a good year. In 1976 and 1977, optimism remained at 54 percent among those polled, but their number fell to 50 percent in 1978 and to 43 percent in 1979. Pessimism dominated in 1980, and only 38 percent expected 1981 to be better. The prospect of elections in 1982 boosted hopes, and 58 percent of those polled believed at that time that the next year would be better. But the economic crisis was already making its presence felt, and the election results did not improve the outlook: at the end of 1982, only 45 percent of those polled felt that they would have a better year in 1983.

The pessimism that began to spread in all Brazilian regions starting in 1978--with a small decline in 1980--has continued to affect Brazil's entire population, and in 1983 it increased chiefly in the Southeast Region, where 47 percent of the inhabitants expected 1984 to be worse than 1983, whereas in 1982, only 29 percent of those polled felt that 1983 would be worse than 1982. In the South Region, the number of those expecting a worse year increased from 29 percent in 1982 to 35 percent in 1983. It rose from 22 to 31 percent in the Northeast and from 27 to 33 percent in the North and Center-West Regions.

However, only in the Southeast Region was there a significant decline in the number of people expecting the following year to be better (48 percent in 1982 and 37 percent in 1983). In the South Region, the percentage even rose--from 42 to 45 percent--and the same happened in the North and Center-West, where it rose from 49 to 50 percent. In the Northeast, the decline was only 1 percent: from 42 to 41 percent.

The greatest decline between 1982 and 1983 was among those expecting the next year to be the same. In the South Region, the figure dropped from 23 to 12 percent, in the Southeast from 17 to 10 percent, in the North and Center-West from 18 to 11 percent, and in the Northeast from 20 to 10 percent.

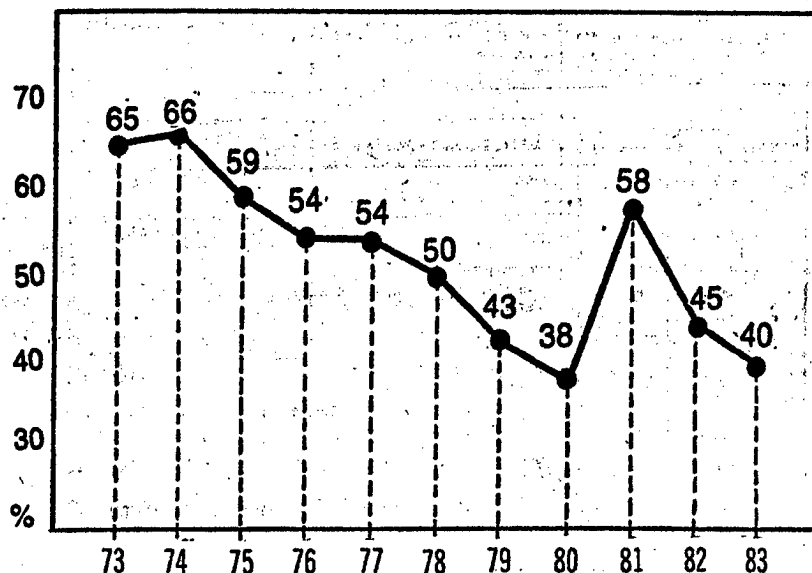
Results of Polls (in percentages)

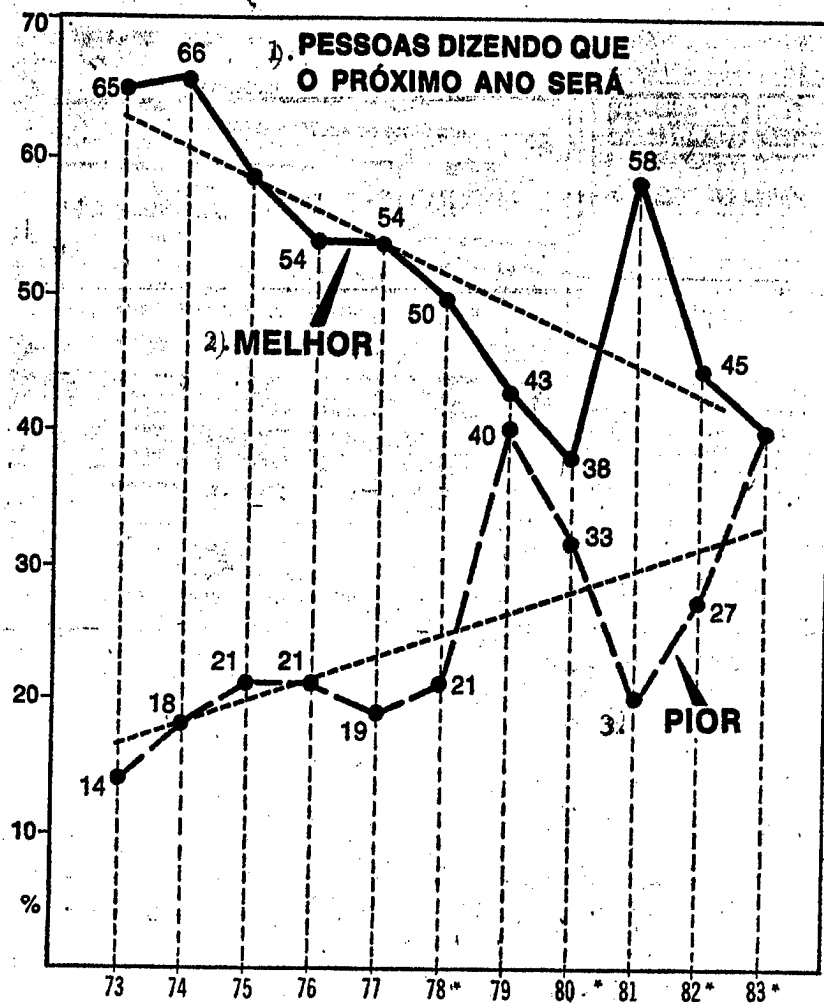
	<u>Regions of Brazil</u>							
	<u>South</u>		<u>Southeast</u>		<u>Northeast</u>		<u>North and Center-West</u>	
	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
<u>This year has been:</u>								
An excellent year	4	2	4	4	10	4	7	8
A good year	29	25	24	19	22	18	28	23
An average year	53	47	55	42	51	46	49	43
A bad year	9	14	8	17	9	16	8	13
A very bad year	5	11	9	18	6	14	6	11
No answer	-	1	-	-	2	2	2	2
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Sample	454	383	1,637	1,381	671	567	303	256

Brazil (in percentages)

<u>Next year will be:</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Better than this year	50	38	45	40
Worse than this year	21	33	27	40
The same as this year	23	16	19	11
Don't know	6	13	9	9
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Sample	2,613	2,821	3,065	2,587

Percentage Saying that the Next Year Will Be Better





Key:

1. Percentage of persons saying that the next year will be:
2. Better
3. Worse

11798

CSO: 3342/43

PREFERENCES OF MILITARY IN SUCCESSION ISSUE VIEWED

Rio de Janeiro GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 20 Dec 83 pp 1, 5

[Article by Getulio Bittencourt: "The Discreet Influence of the Military on the Succession"]

[Text] Although they have no votes in the national PDS [Social Democratic Party] convention which will choose the official candidate to succeed President Joao Figueiredo, the high-ranking military officers are particularly active in discussing the matter, in the corridors, with the politicians. An admiral, with the weight of his four stars on his shoulders, told an influential PDS politician the results of his succession survey, which the politician passed on to this newspaper yesterday.

The seven four-star admirals would prefer Vice President Aureliano Chaves to succeed General Figueiredo in March 1985, as would the seven air force generals and 90 percent of the army generals. By the accounting of the same admiral, the three military ministers have the same preference.

Adm Maximiano da Fonseca, minister of the navy, is frequently host to the vice president in the army's transit hotel in Rio de Janeiro, but he has not publicly revealed his preference. Gen Walter Pires and Gen Delio Jardim de Mattos, army and aeronautics ministers, respectively, are personal friends of another presidential hopeful, Deputy Paulo Maluf, but they respect the restrictions which the president has placed on the "promotion" of the Sao Paulo congressman.

General Pires is the most discreet of all on political topics. Recently, when a PDS governor told him that apparently Deputy Maluf would only give up the candidacy in favor of the minister of the army, Pires was very clear: "I don't want it."

For his part, Delio Jardim de Mattos "submerged" after a luncheon with senators in which he disagreed with the president of the republic, but he makes regular telephone calls to PDS politicians and governors.

In his own free-wheeling way, Gen Delio Jardim de Mattos does not limit his informal consultations to the government party; he also talks discreetly with opposition politicians. The admirals are beginning to follow his example. It has been reported that at least one important PDS politician was recently

invited to lunch with all the admirals in Brasilia. The "main course": the succession.

Even General Pires discusses the matter with the few politicians with whom he is close, such as Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, former governor of Bahia, but nothing has transpired regarding his contacts.

From a preliminary assessment of these political-military contacts, it is clear that the general officers are not vetoing any candidate, neither Deputy Maluf nor Col Mario Andreazza, minister of the interior. They were, however, quite impressed with the performance of Aureliano Chaves as acting president in July, and feel he is the best choice.

The current line of action by the vice president, who has harshly criticized the economic policy and the credibility of the Figueiredo government in his campaign through the states, could place new obstacles in his path. Chaves' criticism has irritated some of the president's close advisors.

Support

In a recent confrontation between Aureliano Chaves and Mario Andreazza, former Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes recommended that the vice president maintain his low profile for a while longer, and he appeared to be inclined to accept the suggestion. Something new has changed his mind, and it appears to have been Minister Andreazza's campaign to obtain pledges from the convention delegates and hence to impose his candidacy on the president.

The petitions are being sent to PDS governors, but not all of them. Luiz Gonzaga da Fonseca Motta, governor of Ceara, who is closely identified with the vice president, did not receive one. Joao Alves, governor of Sergipe, received one, as did Jose Agripino Maia, governor of Rio Grande do Norte, who has meanwhile begun to lean toward the nomination of Aureliano Chaves.

The more liberal PDS governors are beginning to be sought out by other types of campaigning for the presidential succession. For example, one of them was recently invited to join both the new party of PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] Governor Tancredo Neves and the dark-complexioned socialist party of PDT [Democratic Workers' Party] Governor Leonel Brizola.

One of these campaigns by signal is beginning to be clarified. It was not actually a declaration. Professor Joao Leitao de Abreu, chief of the civilian household, in a rare interview, denied that he was a presidential aspirant. The minister apparently took this precaution after it was discovered that, on his own account, Transport Minister Cloraldino Severo, who is closely linked to Abreu, asked the PDS politicians if the professor would not be a good president for the stopgap mandate.

MIXED SOVIET DELEGATION VISITS TO STRENGTHEN TIES

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 18 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] A delegation of 19 Soviet citizens from various republics is visiting Brazil as a "tourist" group, for the "purpose of strengthening relations between the peoples of Brazil and the USSR.

The delegation consists of scientist, artists and workers. The coordinator of this third delegation to come to Brazil (prior delegations came in 1977 and 1980) is Pavel Boiko, chief of the sector for Latin American countries and Brazil, a department of the Latin American Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Earlier, the group was in Argentina, and after its stay in Brazil it will go to Lima, Peru. Then it will complete the second part of the excursion, visiting Cuba, Hungary and Senegal. Aleksei Kudriavtsev, of the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, explained: "This type of excursion is common practice in the Soviet Union, because we are very interested in closer relations with peoples of other countries. Our interest is such that, just before the national days of all the friendly countries, we promote conferences, discussions and films which offer us new information about the social and political life of these nationalities."

The delegation to Brazil included two historians (Pavel Boiko, chief of the mission, and Zenta Kimene), five physicians (Marat Abdullakhodjalev, Guera Gramova, Romaldas Dumtochins, Iria Kalitz, Djalita Melikian), an odontologist (Pirimkuli Taurikuliev), two artists (pianist Evguenliy Malinin and painter Viktor Kuzmenko), a mining engineer (Yuriy Baranov), a translator (Ludmila Klimenkova), a journalist (Aleksandr Kolodiev), a highway engineer (Vladimir Mirgorodskiy), a factory worker (Leonid Shetnik, from the Kirov watch factory, who was decorated with the Order of Lenin), a deputy (Viusentas Nermantas, of the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania) and two officials of state agencies (Viruta Chueiden and Aleksei Kudriavtsev). The 19th member of the delegation deserves special mention. She is Helena Moiselevna Volf, doctor of philological sciences and an official of the Institute of Linguistic Research, of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Helena speaks Portuguese with unusual fluency. It was Helena who acted as interpreter in the conversation which CORREIO BRAZILIENSE had with the delegation in one of the salons of the Soviet Embassy, just before the piano recital by Malinin. The pianist performed a work of Beethoven and other classical music for an attentive audience, which included Claudio Santoro, Moises Mandell,

maestro of the National Theater Orchestra, and Lucia Toller, among other Brazilian and foreign guests.

Pavel Boiko explained that "the intent of the Soviet Government in sending delegations to friendly countries is to strengthen cultural relations, particularly in professional fields." She noted that in each country they visit, the Soviet physicians, engineers, linguists and artists share their experiences.

Boiko lamented that "in certain social brackets in Brazil, there is still a false idea of the Soviet people. We want to show the Brazilians that we are a people like any other people, who work, love and struggle for peace."

The delegation visited Sao Paulo, Santos Rio and Brasilia. They were all fascinated by the beauty of Rio de Janeiro and were impressed with the architecture of Brasilia. And it could not be otherwise. After all, Oscar Niemeyer, the creator of the city's monuments, is considered by the Soviets to be "one of the greatest architects in the world." Niemeyer recently received a special award from the USSR Academy of Sciences. Kudriavtsev explained: "In addition to being the best-known foreign architect in the Soviet Union, he is one of the greatest in the world. He is also recognized in the USSR for his social activity, which we know is highly significant."

Engineer Yuriy Baranov, director of the Donbass Coal Mine, hopes this trip will also help to strengthen industrial relations between the two countries. After all, he said, Brazil is an enormously wealthy country. "Our mining industry," he continued, "is quite large and we could collaborate with Brazil in the extraction of iron ore and non-ferrous metals."

Russians

The Soviets laughed heartily when Helena translated a question from our reporter: "Is it true that the Soviets do not like to be called Russians?"

The laughter was followed by two replies. Kudriavtsev said: "No, the Soviets know that Russia (one of the 15 republics in the USSR) is the symbol of the state built upon the Revolution of 1917, and thus they feel no discomfort at being identified with it." As a historian, Boiko added: "We are not put out at being called Russians, but it is actually inaccurate, because the Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Armenians and other peoples who constitute the USSR are not Russians, but Soviets. To make an analogy: the Amazonians, Acreans and Gauchos are Brazilians, but they are not Paulistas, are they? Just as Brazil is divided into states and territories, the USSR is divided into republics."

Anyone who thinks the Soviets are familiar only with Jorge Amado and Oscar Niemeyer is roundly mistaken. Here is the reply from Helena Volf regarding the Brazilian writers and artists known to the Soviets. "In addition to Jorge Amado, we are familiar with Graciliano Ramos, Jose Lins do Rego, Machado de Assis, Antonio Callado, Castro Alves and, particularly, Erico Verissimo. There are about 3 million copies of works by this Gaucho author in Russia," she said. She cited other Brazilian names known and greatly appreciated in the USSR, from Villa-Lobos to soccer stars. According to the Soviets, Brazil still has the best soccer in the world, even though it lost the last World Cup matches.

Learning that the film "Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears" was very successful in Brazil, the Soviets said that there was a real run on theaters which showed the "Week of Brazilian Cinema" in Moscow. The Muscovites viewed such films are "Bye, Bye Brazil," by Caca Diegues, and Gaijin," by Tisuka Yammazaki, among others. In the last Moscow festival, Helena recalled, "we enjoyed 'Sargento Getulio,' by Hermano Penna, and other Brazilian films. In 1981, 'O Homem Que Virou Suco' took first prize at the Moscow Festival."

Marata Abdullakodjalev, a pediatrician from Tashkent, capital of the Uzbek Republic, said that last year the Tashkent Festival (dedicated to Latin American, African and Asian films) showed Brazilian films which were immensely popular with the citizens of that southern Asian republic.

Helena recalled that her generation had seen many New Wave films, and that she had never forgotten two of them: "Pagador de Promessas," by Anselmo Duarte, and "Vidas Secas," by Nelson Pereira dos Santos.

The Soviets preferred not to comment on Brazilian political life. When we asked if the visits by Soviet delegations to Brazil were related to the redemocratization process in the country, they would only say: "The political issues are strictly Brazil's business. The purpose of our visit is simply to strengthen the bonds between the Soviet and Brazilian peoples."

6362

CS0: 3342/44

'CUT,' 'CONCLAT' TO CALL NATIONWIDE STRIKE IN 1984

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Dec 83 p 12

[Article by Cecilia Pires]

[Text] The labor movement has already defined the principal activity on its agenda for 1984: a national general strike, to be called by the two currents of the union movement, CONCLAT (National Conference of the Working Classes) and CUT (Sole Central Organization of Workers). The decision is the culmination of a series of meetings between the leaders of the two groups, aimed at formulating a minimal unitarian program to reunify the movement.

The first official meeting between the two top leaders, Joaquim dos Santos Andrade, of the Sao Paulo Metalworkers Union, and Jair Meneguelli, cassated president of the Sao Bernardo Metalworkers Union, took place at the beginning of this week. No dates were set nor was there any discussion of the details of the strike, which union members hope will be a generalized version of the strike on 21 July 1983. Both men admitted yesterday, however, that the preparation for the strike was the principal motive that brought the two diverging currents to attempt a joint action, and that it would probably be launched in the month of April.

Before that time, the unions and leaders affiliated with CUT and CONCLAT will follow a minimum agenda which could gradually lead, albeit cautiously, to unified action at specific moments. The coordinators of CUT will hold meetings on 13 and 14 January, and CONCLAT will meet on 19 and 20 January. Then, on 23 January, the coordinators of both organizations will hold a joint meeting to assess the level of mobilization of the union rank and file, which will be preparing for protest throughout the month.

For the CUT, Jair Meneguelli plans large demonstrations at factory gates and locations where large numbers of workers gather, culminating in a national day of protest in January or early in February. Joaquim dos Santos Andrade, along with his followers, is planning public acts, debates, conferences and discussions. After a joint assessment of the mobilization, in 23 January, CUT and CONCLAT will call the union movement throughout the nation together for a general meeting on 17 February, and try to establish a joint agenda for 1984, which will include a national general strike.

To this end, the leaders of the two currents have defined common issues toward which a series of jointly planned activities could be directed: a national campaign for direct elections at all levels; a program of protests against the recessionary policy which they feel is imposed by the IMF; a campaign against the modification being proposed for social security, with what they feel is a loss of rights which have been won; and a systematic campaign against the revisions which Minister Murilo Macedo is announcing in the labor legislation, regarding the strike law and collective bargaining. In addition, the leadership intends to initiate a campaign for the establishment of a sufficient minimum wage for the survival of the worker and his family.

Although this is the first consistent attempt to unify the most important activities of the labor movement, it is foreseen that it will be difficult to prevent some disagreements from jeopardizing the progress of the program. One of these disagreements will be over the date for the general strike. CUT wants to prepare its rank and file for April, but Joaquinzaio warns that it will be necessary to consult with the other leaders, and says that the timing might coincide with the wage campaign of the ABC [Greater Sao Paulo] metalworkers. Jair

Meneguelli argues that the metalworkers will be making their demands at the beginning of the month and that one thing has nothing to do with the other.

6362

CSO: 3342/44

EXPORTS TO EAST EUROPE RISE 30 PERCENT OVER 1982

Rio de Janeiro GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 16 Dec 83 p 3

[Report by Norton Godoy, from Brasilia]

[Text] Brazilian exports to East European countries began to grow again this year, resuming their historical behavior. Sales to this economic bloc grew 30 percent over 1982, and should end the year at about \$1.5 billion, as against \$1.2 billion last year, but still somewhat below 1981. Also contributing to this was the fact that Brazilian purchases from East Europe fell 3.1 percent from 1982. According to specialists in the sector, the outlook for 1984 is encouraging, despite the world recession. They foresee only two problems: to comply with the IMF decision to eliminate the "clearing" system with Hungary and Romania.

CACEX [Foreign Trade Department of the Bank of Brazil] figures, by country and by economic bloc, are definitive up to September. The overall balance with the East European countries shows exports in the amount of \$1,121 million and imports of \$336 million, resulting in a positive balance of \$785.5 million. This is significant, inasmuch as the 1982 figure showed a decline of 16.5 percent from 1981, whereas 1983 shows an overall growth of 18.5 percent from 1982, computed on the period from January to September.

Trade with some individual countries in that bloc was impressive. Exports to Soviet Russia rose 43.8 percent; \$511.4 [million] as against 355.8 million in 1982, from January to September. Imports declined from \$150.9 million to \$109.8 million for the period from January to September. With Czechoslovakia, the results are similar. Exports rose 43.7 percent, from \$74.4 million to \$107 million, and imports declined 0.1 percent--\$14,041,000 in 1983, as against \$14,058,000 in 1982.

The major growth was in exports to Bulgaria (144 percent), registering \$30.7 million from January to September, and to Hungary, with a growth of 54.3 percent. Sales to the GDR declined 3.2 percent; exports to Yugoslavia were down 8.2 percent; sales to Poland and Albania declined by 38.8 percent and 63 percent, respectively.

FOREIGN TRADE DROPS 6.87 PERCENT THROUGH OCTOBER 1983

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Dec 83 p 13

[Text] Brazil's foreign trade fell 6.87 percent in the first 10 months of this year, relative to the same period in 1982, declining from \$33 billion to \$30.7 billion.

This decline was primarily due to the cutback in imports, which declined 22.52 percent, to \$12.6 billion, as against \$16.3 billion in the period from January through October 1982. Despite an unfavorable international picture, exports rose 8.38 percent, reaching \$18.1 billion, as against \$16.7 billion [in 1982].

According to statistics provided by the Foreign Trade Department of the Bank of Brazil [CACEX], the United States is still Brazil's major trading partner, with trade amounting to \$5.9 billion. The United States also contributed most to Brazil's favorable trade balance in the first 10 months, since our exports totalled over \$4 billion and our purchases from the United States came to about \$1.9 billion.

As a bloc, the EEC is in first place, with trade amounting to \$6.3 billion. Brazil's trade surplus with the EEC was almost \$3.2 billion, with \$1,564 million in imports and \$4.74 billion in exports to the EEC.

According to the official statistics, there was a slight decline in trade with the Middle East (oil producing countries) from \$6.5 billion to \$5.88 billion. This is explained by the diversification of our sources of petroleum supplies.

There was also a decline in trade with Africa, which was almost \$2 billion in [the first 10 months of] 1982, and declined to less than \$1.5 billion in the same period this year.

Also according to CACEX, from January through October of this year, the industrialized countries absorbed 58.15 percent of Brazil's exports, up 11.53 percent over the first 10 months of 1982, but Brazilian imports from these countries showed a decline of 24.52 percent.

BRIEFS

SAUDI TRADE INTEREST--Saudi Arabia is going to send a businessmen's mission to Brazil, probably in April 1984, with the objective of intensifying relations between the two countries in an attempt to reduce Brazil's trade balance deficit. Lourenco Chohfi, chairman of the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, made that announcement in Sao Paulo yesterday to businessmen attending the seminar at FUNCEX (Foundation of the Center for Foreign Trade Studies). Speaking through Abdallah Al-Hababi, its ambassador to Brazil, the Saudi Government expressed its intention to stimulate the private sector to buy more Brazilian products. During the meeting, the businessmen had the opportunity to obtain information about the various sociocultural variables so as to know which marketing channels must be used. Antonio Carlos Greggio, director of the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, analyzed the effects of the crisis in Saudi Arabia, saying that despite the cutbacks in big undertakings, the projects are being carried out. The country's recovery is expected in May; however, there are reserves on the order of \$170 billion, and the foreign debt is zero. Antonio Carlos Greggio took pains to suggest practical solutions for Brazilian exporters, explaining Saudi trade legislation and going into detail on the subject of laws governing commercial firms, trade representation, foreign investment, and bids. Brazil buys almost nothing except crude oil from Saudi Arabia, while exporting commodities or semiprocessed goods, examples being sugar, frozen or refrigerated meat, and iron ore. The negative trade balance totaled \$2.7 billion for 1982, and for 1983 it was down to \$1.2 billion. Diversification of Brazil's exports to Saudi Arabia is possible in the areas of services and capital goods, as two examples. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Dec 83 p 33] 11798

TRADE BALANCE WITH USSR--Porto Alegre--Soviet Ambassador Wladimir Chernishov said yesterday in Porto Alegre that for 1983, Brazil will again show its historical surplus in the trade balance between the two countries. By 31 December [1983], Brazil will have exported \$500 million worth of goods to the Soviet Union and imported \$300 million worth from that country. Over the past 20 years, Brazil has accumulated a surplus of \$3 billion in its trade with the USSR. Chernishov did not provide any figures, but he predicted that the imbalance would remain in 1984 because Brazil has been experiencing difficulty in absorbing the full Soviet export quotas. The ambassador added that the change of government in Argentina is not expected to alter the Soviet Union's trade policy toward that country. At least that is what the Soviet ambassador in Buenos Aires has said. This means that Brazil is not going to export much more to the

Soviet Union during 1984. After all, Brazil is the country that could supply the Soviet market if the Soviets reduced their purchases from Argentina. The chief products on the list of Brazilian exports to the Soviet Union are agricultural (mainly soybeans and sugar). [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Dec 83 p 24] 11798

CHINESE TERRORIST IN COUNTRY--Taipeh, Taiwan--Huang Shih-tsung, 26, who was involved in the bombing attack on the newspapers UNITED DAILY NEWS and CENTRAL DAILY NEWS in Taipeh, is reported to have fled to Brazil, according to an announcement yesterday by security officials in Taiwan. The newspapers, both of which are owned by the government party, were the targets last 26 April of time bombs that injured 12 persons, most of them passers-by. Police announced that they had arrested Huang Shih-keng, the brother of the accused fugitive, and that he had confessed to the entire plot after the discovery in his home of materials for making bombs identical to those used in the attack. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by a dissident organization called United Formosans of the World for Independence, which has its base in the United States. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Dec 83 p 6] 11798

PHOSPHATE EXPORTS TO PRC--Brazil is negotiating with the Government of the PRC the possibility of exporting phosphates next year, in "natural" form, to be sold by Chinese firms on its domestic market. The negotiations are in an advanced stage, and may have been concluded by now by a new Chinese trade mission which has arrived in Brazil. The central idea of the Brazilian deal, to be closed by INTERBRAS [PETROBRAS International Trade, Inc], is to use the current stocks of phosphate rock (800,000 to 1 million tons) and export them to China as natural fertilizer. The first samples were sent to Beijing by Brazilian firms, and they have been approved. They consisted mainly of phosphate from Patos de Minas, which serves as a natural fertilizer, and from the southern region of Goias (Catalao). The great impasse in the negotiations, which could be overcome, is the form in which the phosphate is to be shipped to the Chinese. They want the Brazilian companies to package the mineral in amounts from 1/2 to 1 kilogram, for sale in the Chinese "supermarkets," a source in the sector told this newspaper. The Chinese may also be interested in importing phosphates for strategic reasons, since, as a source of phosphorus, they could be used in the production of "napalm" bombs, since the phosphorus from the Brazilian phosphate is ideal for this. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 21 Dec 83 p 3. Article by Sergio Danilo] 6362

CSO: 3342/44

MOSCOW ON PINOCHET'S ANDROMACO PLAN

PY291700 Moscow Radio Magallanes in Spanish to Chile 0200 GMT 28 Dec 83

[From poor reception]

[Text] New information received from Chile adds further credibility to the charges made some time ago by the editors of the newspaper EL SIGLO regarding a so-called Andromaco Plan.

The Andromaco Plan is the code name for a self-coup on which Pinochet is currently working. This plan has given rise to some concern mainly among navy, air force, and Carabineros commanders, although there are indications that it is also worrying high-ranking army echelons.

It is (?felt) that Pinochet's new coup d'etat will be radically different from that of 1973. It will not be an institutional coup d'etat, but rather one based on certain links which Pinochet has with groups and organizations which operate within the armed forces, especially at the colonel-level.

Furthermore, the Chilean opposition will not be the only target of the offensive that will be unleashed, since it will be aimed at the highest echelons of the various armed forces branches, the army included, as well.

Three separate lists have been drawn up: one of those who will be executed, the other of those who will be imprisoned, and the third and last of those who will be banished. These lists include both civilians and military men.

The pretext that will be used for the coup d'etat is that the current chiefs of staff have (?sided) with the enemies of the regime and even [words indistinct]. Thus, the army will have a staff made up of colonels whose aim will be to reestablish the authority of the regime, thus strengthening Pinochet's authority as well.

Following Pinochet's guidelines, the conspirators believe that the timetable outlined in the 1980 Constitution should not be changed because, quote, Chile's course for the future has already been laid out, unquote.

The name Andromaco, chosen for the plan, is that of a doctor who centuries ago discovered the cure for every poison known at that time.

CSO: 3348/189

ARMY DIVISIONS REORGANIZED FOR EFFICIENT OPERATION

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 5 Jan 84 p 10-A

[Text] Five army divisions, created to unify the commands and to facilitate troop maneuverability, are scheduled to be operative before 10 January throughout the entire national region, in compliance with the orders issued by Defense Minister General Fernando Landazabal Reyes and by Commander of the Army Major General Guillermo Jaramillo Berrio.

The commanders of these military units should not only watch over military discipline and maintain public order, but must direct and guide the intense activities to be carried out this year in all poor areas of the country by the so-called "Development Commands," conforming to the guidelines drawn up by General Jaramillo Berrio, who has announced that in 1984 intense efforts will be made in this area.

The military units which are stationed in Caqueta, in the mid-Magdalena region, and in other sectors affected by guerrilla actions, had to limit their activity in 1983 because the national government did not deliver on time the announced allocation for the development commands, which were established by President Betancur in Florencia shortly after he assumed his duties as chief of state.

The New Divisions

Yesterday at 5 pm, as this newspaper announced in its earlier edition, the command of the 5th Division was assumed by Major General Oscar Botero Restrepo. Present at the ceremony held at the Rincon Quinones Group were high military forces officers, among them Commander of the Army General Guillermo Jaramillo.

The 5th Division is comprised of the 10th and 13th brigades, with its headquarters in Bogota and Melgar, and its present commands are now subordinate to General Botero Restrepo.

The remaining four divisions are composed in the following manner:

First Division: with the 2d and 4th brigades with headquarters in Barranquilla and Medellin, respectively; 2d Division, with the 1st, 5th and 14th brigades, with headquarters in Tunja, Bucaramanga and Puerto Berrio; 3d Division, with the 6th, 8th and 3d brigades, whose installations are located in Ibague,

Armenia and Cali, and the 4th Division, with the 7th and 9th brigades, with headquarters in Villavicencio and Neiva.

The commanders of these four divisions are the following major generals: 1st, Josue Leal Barrea; 2d, Diego Alfonso Gonzalez Ossa; 3d, Hernando Diaz Sanmiguel, and 4th Luis Enrique Rodriguez Botiva.

CSO: 3348/207

ACOPI REPORTS ON BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN 1983

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Dec 83 p 6-A

[Article by Felio Augusto Plazas]

[Text] Cali, 21 Dec--The Colombian Association of Small Industries (ACOPI), Cali branch, has characterized 1983 as "confused and inconsistent," while at the same time expressing confidence that next year "the frustrated hopes" for the country's economic reactivation will be fulfilled.

Rodrigo Salazar Giraldo, executive director of ACOPI in Cali, has said that at the conclusion of 1982, "small and medium-sized industries had hoped that the year now ending was going to offset the terrible semester which preceded it."

According to ACOPI, this has been "the year of frustrated hopes, because each month aspirations for an effective reactivation were further eroded."

Salazar Giraldo pointed out that the country's economic situation, which became known after several years of concealment, discouraged investors and decreased consumer demand.

He stated that at the close of the year an improvement has been noticed, but this cannot serve as a model, since the Christmas season is traditionally a time of great demand in the commercial sector.

Discouragement

The tax reform which went into effect for 1983, according to the director of ACOPI, "was a discouraging factor, because the government erroneously looked upon the limited liability company as an impenitent tax evader, forgetting or ignoring that small industrialists are almost always organized under that legal title."

The ACOPI director noted that labor costs have a negative effect on the creation of employment and job security. He emphasized that "trade union awareness is needed to find a formula for creating jobs so that young people who desire or want to work, may find jobs to do so."

ACOPI released the results of a survey among its affiliates concerning the performance of their enterprises during the year.

--In December 1982 there were more workers than in November 1983.

--Sales maintained the same volume, but increased in price by 11.76 percent.

--Thirty-five percent of the enterprises surveyed consider financing the major burden.

--In 35.29 percent of the cases, fiscal problems were considered to be the major burden.

--For 29.41 percent, the major burden is labor cost.

--Among the affiliates surveyed, 82.35 of the enterprises employ skilled labor, which demonstrated the importance of small and medium-sized industries.

--Due to the difficulties of 1983, 70.59 percent of the enterprises expressed no desire to expand in 1984.

And the Incentives?

"The preceding indicates that what is needed is a true incentive to enable the small industry, which could be the country's salvation, to prosper and have the assurance that investment in it is profitable and secure," Salazar Giraldo said.

According to the ACOPI survey in Cali, the clothing industry sector, which was the hardest hit at the beginning of the year, has recently shown signs of a general recovery, which may be explained by the battle against smugglers and government incentives for cotton growers.

The graphic arts sector has experienced, perhaps, one of its worst years due to the reduction in sales in general, which is an inevitable result, since the demand for boxes, packages, labels, polychromatic printing and stationery is tied to the country's production.

"The metallurgical sectors has also endured the import restrictions on raw materials, which have diminished its potential."

CSO: 3348/208

AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY WILL REQUIRE 66 BILLION PESOS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Dec 83 p 13-A

[Text] This coming year the agricultural sector will need 66.2 billion Colombian pesos in loans for investment purposes to fulfill expectations for economic reactivation expressed by the government.

Likewise, this sector should seek methods for lessening the cost of money through the gradual reduction in interest payments by rescheduling these payments, not to reflect anticipated interest, but rather in terms of payments due, now that the rate of inflation is down and the interest rates are up.

The recommendations were made by the Advisory Council for Agricultural Policy at the conclusion of a meeting with Agriculture Minister Gustavo Castro Guerrero and the participating production trade unions and decentralized agencies of the state.

Well-informed sources pointed out to EL TIEMPO that the amount of credit granted for the past year has increased by 25 percent.

However, the agency consulted suggests that it might increase to 26 percent in order to utilize more resources in long-term enterprises, such as cattle-raising, and the cultivation of cocoa, African palms and bananas.

The conclusions and suggestions will be forwarded to the Monetary Board for further study. The board is scheduled to decide the loan policy for 1984 within a few days.

Concerning the DRI

This newspaper learned that during the meeting the minister of agriculture made reference to the letter of resignation, now before President Belisario Betancur, from the director of the Integrated Rural Development Program (DRI), Martin Echavarria.

The director of the DRI considered that the recent reassignment of this national planning agency to the Ministry of Agriculture, at a time when it is suffering from a lack of strong, defined organization, would mean the end for the most significant development program for the small farmer.

Even though the agriculture minister has not expressed an opinion publicly on this issue, a reliable source has reported that Castro Guerrero has said that the reassignment was decreed in order to comply with a presidential order, and in addition that the state was not able to discriminate between the strong and the powerful. He said the government was a single entity and now the ministry of agriculture would be able to demonstrate its capacity to enforce this policy.

Castro Guerrero reportedly also said that the administrative structure of the DRI is unclear, and despite the competent management by its present director, his management did not clearly know, support or enhance the government, whether working within or outside of the government structure.

The minister also lamented the fact that Echavarria had resigned several times in such a brief period, forcing the government to adopt a definitive position on the DRI director.

Also rumored was the lack of flexibility in appropriating resources from international entities which, at a given moment, could jeopardize programs outlined by the administration.

Today a final statement is expected from National Planning Director Jorge Ospina Sardi, Agriculture Minister Gustavo Castro Guerrero and the president himself, Belisario Betancur.

CSO: 3348/183

ANGOLA REAFFIRMS ITS NEED FOR CUBAN TROOPS

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 19 Nov 83 p 5

[Text] Luanda--The Popular Republic of Angola rejects any proposal to replace the internationalist Cuban troops with a multinational force, say the broadcasting media of this African nation.

There are too many historical examples of the ominous role of this sort of force for Angola to accept becoming entangled in another imperialistic plot, they say.

It is a matter of misleading and deceptive imperialistic maneuvers that seek to obtain Cuban withdrawal from Angola in order to destroy the revolution and overthrow by force the legitimate government of our country, led by the MPLA--Labor Party, they report.

The editorial that the broadcasting media divulged here today indicates that the presence of the internationalist Cuban troops in its territory constitutes a strictly bilateral matter between the governments of Cuba and Angola.

It emphasizes that the Cuban soldiers are in Angola at the request of the Angolan government, under the protection of Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, and their withdrawal will be studied bilaterally, after the factors that obliged it to seek Cuban military support disappear.

Furthermore, we may once more recall that the attempts made in the past at gradual withdrawal of the Cuban contingents always had to be suspended owing to the intensification of South African attacks on the Peoples Republic of Angola.

One of the peculiar characteristics of imperialism consists of its historic tendency to resort to old tactics and maneuvers in a new guise, though their usefulness may have already been tested, it adds.

The editorial shows that the UN Security Council recently reaffirmed "UN Resolution 435/78 announcing the United Nations Plan for the independence of Namibia constitutes the only basis for a peaceful solution of the Namibian problem."

12448

CSO: 3248/270

'FREE FLOW' OF INFORMATION CALLED ONE-SIDED

Havana TRIBUNA DE LA HABANA in Spanish 30 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] The noticeable intensification of internal tensions, caused by the policy being carried out by the current U.S. administration, also includes information.

The prevailing climate in international relations, the level of these relations between governments, as well as mutual distrust, depend to a large extent on the information the press, radio and television disseminate.

The aggressive actions which the United States government has undertaken go hand in hand with information campaigns that misrepresent the facts, manipulate them, and present deliberate distortions.

It is no accident that the United States has undertaken to wage a ferocious campaign against attempts to achieve a new international informative order to make the exchange of news more equitable.

The U.S. representatives and their sworn followers sabotage in the meetings they attend any resolution that may lead to changing the prevailing status quo affecting information, imposed by the multinational information agencies.

This is how the U.S. delegation acted at the Fourth Intergovernmental Council of the Communications Development Program (PIDC), held in Tashkent, Soviet Union, at the beginning of last September.

In Tashkent the fact was reported that the developing countries receive only falsified information sent them by the multinational news agencies but experience many difficulties in transmitting their own information.

The so-called "free flow" of information is no more than the unilateral instrument for the ideological penetration of imperialism.

The president of the African group of UNESCO, Jean Ping, explained to those attending the Tashkent meeting that the African peoples are the least developed, both economically as well as where information is concerned.

Ping revealed that in his country, Gabon, when independence was proclaimed in 1960, they did not have a single mass communications medium (currently they have radio and television, but have a shortage of good journalists and qualified experts).

The African group set great hopes on the help they expect to receive from the PIDC, whose programs the U.S. Government is trying to sabotage.

An absurd fact emerges: the Gabonese find out what happens in Kenya or in another African country through the transnational information agencies, which carry the news selected by such agencies and the interests they represent, and not what the receivers need and desire.

12448

CSO: 3248/270

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGIANS' CONFERENCE--Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State, received over 100 theologians and social scientists who are holding a 2nd International Meeting at the Matanzas Evangelical Theological Seminary. At the aforementioned meeting, there was discussion of subjects such as the international relations of imperialism and their repercussion in Central America, as well as its economic and militaristic policy and its ideological offensive and in particular the Salvadoran case. Before initiating the meetings with Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, the theologians and social scientists of over 15 Latin American countries, Canada and the United States, 5 European nations and African peoples made their way to the Colon necropolis where they placed a wreath in memory of the Cubans who fell in Grenada after the U.S. military invasion of the small Caribbean island. The meeting with Carlos Rafael took place in a climate of cordial, mutual understanding of the matters dealt with. [Text] [Havana GRANMA in Spanish 19 Nov 83 p 4] 12448

CSO: 3248/270

ARENA, CGT, UPD STATE VIEWS ON LAND OWNERSHIP LIMIT

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 17 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] The General Confederation of Labor (CGT) said in a press conference (yesterday) that it lamented the Constituent Assembly's decision to establish 245 hectares as the limit of land ownership in this country.

Jose Luis Grande Preza, secretary general of the CGT, said that "Practically speaking, the possibility of a second phase of the agrarian reform in this country has been definitively ruled out." The CGT added that "this ends the legitimate hopes of the Salvadoran peasant and is regarded as a trick since the delegates committed themselves to respecting the reforms initiated on the basis of the Armed Forces Proclamation."

Given this situation, the CGT made an appeal to the country's democratic forces to defend the postulates of this Armed Forces Proclamation and the Basic Law of the Agrarian Reform.

If this proclamation is not respected, "for the workers it means that in this country there has been no change and the blood of the comrades, who struggle within the democratic and pacifist framework for a more just society, has been spilled in vain."

In a press conference yesterday the Popular Democratic Unity (UPD) also lamented the recent decision of the Constituent Assembly that in the UPD's judgement the new Magna Charta established "a limit that destroyed the Agrarian Reform here and could have grave consequences."

It is said that without a doubt, the part having greatest national and international importance was that regarding articles 104 and 105 of the project, which referred to the limits of land ownership.

In the judgement of ARENA, this issue was resolved in a way favorable to the country's productive interests, and it is hoped that this will generate confidence. On the other hand, the worker and peasant sectors believe that this destroys the peasants' expectations and reduces the possibilities of alleviating social tensions.

The president of the assembly, Roberto D'Aubuisson, said that the most important thing is that this constitution is the product of a series of currents and that it removed the rigidity of previous Magna Chartas which did not permit reforms such as this, which need only approval by a legislature and ratification by the following one.

D'Aubuisson said that "this establishes that each election of delegates will be a type of referendum because if a party announces reforms of the constitution and the people give that party a victory in the elections, it means that that project of reforms has the backing for the next assembly."

CSO: 3248/325

RELATIONS, EXCHANGES WITH SOCIALIST NATIONS REPORTED

Soviet Anniversary Meeting

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 13 Nov 83 pp 1, 6

[Text] THE Soviet Union is in solidarity with Guyana and all progressive countries which are struggling against imperialism, Soviet Ambassador in Guyana Cde. Konstantin Karchev said Friday night.

Speaking at a rally to mark the 66th Anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution, the Soviet diplomat observed that Guyana is in the forefront of the struggle against foreign domination and said the Soviet people appreciate the aspirations of Guyanese for genuine independence.

He accused the United States of increasing world tension and contended that US imperialism has resorted to violence in order to stop the revolutionary forces in Cuba, Grenada and other parts of the world.

History, the Ambassador said, teaches that there is no simple way to an advanced society. He referred to the experience of building socialism in the USSR as a demonstration of this.

The rally, sponsored by the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP) was held in the auditorium of the Bishops' High School. Chairman was Cde. Vibert Cambridge of the Office of the President who described the October Socialist Revolution as a significant step in the history of mankind.

Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives Cde. Kenneth Denny also spoke to the packed hall of foreign diplomats, government officials and students about the lessons to be learnt from the 1971 Socialist Revolution in the USSR.

In a review of the Socialist experience of the Soviet people Cde. Denny said the USSR served as an inspiration to Guyana in the struggle to build socialism.

During the meeting a congratulatory message was read by Member of Parliament and Public Relations Officer of the GCSP Cde. Walter Bipat. He said the rally was being held at a time when US imperialism was on the rampage in the Caribbean. He referred specifically to the rape of a people's revolution in Grenada by the United States.

On behalf of his association, he congratulated the USSR for its stance on the question of peace.

Example

Also present at the rally were members of the Police Force Band who played a number of musical renditions as part of the programme.

In his detailed presentation on the Socialist Revolution in the Soviet Union, Ambassador Karchev held up the Soviet Union as a shining example of what Socialism can achieve through the selfless work of a people.

Since the Revolution, the Soviet economy has been developing steadily. Not only were they able to eradicate exploitation, discrimination, unemployment and other forms of backwardness, but they were able to make provision for education, housing, medical care and other social services.

He said today, imperialism is losing ground as a result of which it has become desperate. It has thus been accelerating the arms race. In addition, the ambassador said the United States is involved in military conflicts all over the globe including Central America and the Middle East, where thousands of people have been killed.

According to the Soviet spokesman, the USSR has not only pursued a peaceful foreign policy in its conduct of international affairs but has even made new proposals for disarmament and a reduction of tension.

Cde. Denny similarly dealt at length with the Socialist Revolution. Noting that Marxism-Leninism has today become the ideology of the working class.

And, in underlining the task of the Socialist Revolution, he said these included the:

- Establishment of a government of workers, peasants and revolutionary intellectuals, based on Socialist democracy.

- Suppression of the capitalist class and its allies of reaction.

- Defending the gains fo the revolution.

- Establishment of people's control over the means of production; and

- Education of the people about Socialism.

The United States, he added, cannot escape condemnation for its action in Grenada which aims at the subjugation of the people.

PNC Message to CPSU

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 13 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

Message from the Central Executive Committee of the People's National Congress to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The Central Executive Committee of the People's National Congress extends congratulations and best wishes to the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and its General Secretary Cde Yuri Andropov on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Many years have gone by since the Great October Socialist Revolution opened a new chapter in human history. The Soviet people, no longer chained by capitalist exploitation, embarked upon the construction of a new society, under the guidance of the Communist Party led by Vladimir Lenin.

The sixty-six years during which you have laboured, have earned your country success and advancement in all fields of human endeavour

and most importantly the admiration of the working people of the world over.

We in Guyana, recognise the tremendous progress the Soviet people have made and are still making under Socialism. We find your experiences very helpful to us, as we enter a period of increased external threats to our territorial integrity and national sovereignty. We are strengthened by your countless and heroic examples in overcoming economic obstacles through self-reliance and maximum utilisation of all resources, both natural and human.

Once again, please accept our best wishes. It is our fondest wish our desire for peace, peaceful co-existence, meaningful disarmament, sovereign equality will be significantly advanced in the coming years.

Long Live the friendship between the Peoples of Guyana and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics!

Long Live the People's National Congress of Guyana and the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics!

Long Live Proletarian Solidarity!

Cuban, GDR Visitors

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Nov 83 p 3

[Text]

A GUYANESE delegation returned from Cuba last weekend after discussing trade issues and a number of matters dealt with earlier this year at the Guyana-Soviet-Cuba Joint Commission meeting.

The team was headed by Minister of Health and Public Welfare Richard Van-West Charles.

While no further details are readily available, it is understood that a Cuban trade mission should pay a follow-up visit to Guyana shortly for further talks. The Cuban team was originally scheduled to arrive in Georgetown yesterday, but reliable sources said Wednesday the visit is likely to be postponed to a later date.

The Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission met in March this year in Georgetown for the eighth time since its establishment in 1975.

At that meeting, Guyana and Cuba agreed to explore the possibility of co-operating in the establishment of a Publishing House and a Medical School in Guyana. Counter-trade proposals were also featured in the discussions.

Meanwhile, it is understood that a team of officials from the German Democratic Republic (GDR) will be coming to Guyana next week for talks on economic issues.

Earlier reports from the Department of International Economic Co-operation (DIEC) had explained that the GDR was interested in entering into a barter protocol with Guyana.

GDR officials, head of the DIEC, Cde. Winston Murray had said, were scheduled to visit Georgetown in the last quarter of this year to

discuss and finalise the barter protocol. The upcoming visit is reportedly linked to this matter.

At the Guyana-GDR Joint Commission meeting in East Berlin in July, when the barter protocol idea was discussed, the GDR had expressed an interest in purchasing bauxite, rice, bulk and bottled alcohol, carambola, alligator skins and garments, to the value of \$10 million (U.S.) from Guyana under a barter arrangement.

In return, Guyana hopes to obtain pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, newsprint and spare parts for equipment previously imported from the GDR.

Guyana has also raised the possibility of obtaining an alcohol distillation plant and a stockfeed plant from the GDR.

Trade Talks with GDR

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Nov 83 p 8

[Text]

Proposals for increasing trade and economic co-operation between Guyana and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) were discussed yesterday during a meeting of officials from the two countries.

The GDR delegation to the talks is headed by Director-General of that country's Ministry of Foreign Trade.

The three-member delegation which arrived Saturday night also includes Director in the Ministry of Foreign Trade Cde G. Seidnow and in-

terpreter Cde S. Prause.

Head of the Department of International Economic Co-operation within the Ministry of Economic Planning, Cde Winston Murray is heading the Guyanese team in the discussions. Talks should conclude Friday.

During their stay in Guyana the GDR representatives will pay a courtesy call on recently-appointed Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Carl Greenidge.

Party Talks in Havana

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 20 Nov 83 p 4

[Text]

+ Guyanese officials are now back home after visiting their Cuban counterparts in Havana, where they were able to identify a number of interesting areas of co-operation.

The Guyana delegation which comprised members

of the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement, the Young Socialist Movement and other Party representatives, among other matters reached agreements on issues relating to international relations, the current Grenada crisis and

problems of world economies.

Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement took the opportunity to discuss with Cuban women's groups, possible areas for the exchange of ideas for the further development of women's organisation in the two countries. Cde. Brian Scott of the YSM and his Cuban counterparts looked at the ideological and political orientation of the youths and possible areas of co-operation.

The report of the joint commission comprising all

the members of the delegation was also discussed by the officials during the visit. The joint commission teams are expected to meet late January in Havana, where they are expected to discuss among other things further areas of political, economic and cultural co-operation.

In Havana, too, Cde Richard Van West Charles, met with his Cuban counterparts and there are expected to exchange visits between Cuban and Guyanese medical specialists in the near future.

Gold Mining Pact With Belgrade

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Nov 83 p 3

[Text]

+ AN AGREEMENT for co-operation in the development of a gold mining project in the Upper Konawaruk region has been signed by Guyana and Yugoslavia.

Under the agreement, signed in Georgetown this week, the Yugoslavia firm Rudis, will undertake exploratory works in the Upper Konawaruk area.

Further development of the project will be determined by the results of those exploratory activities, a Guyanese official explained Thursday.

A four-member Yugoslavia delegation arrived in Guyana last Friday to discuss issues related to the gold project.

They included Mr. V. Bozicevic, Director of the Solidarity Fund for Non-Aligned and Developing Countries, and Mr. Manourk, Director of Business Association of Rudis.

They were joined by Yugoslav Ambassador to Guyana Janko Lazarevski, and Second Secretary in the Yugoslav Embassy, Aljaz Gosnar.

Signing the agreement on behalf of Guyana was Commissioner of Geology and Mines Dr. Grantley Waldron.

CUBAN EMBASSY GETS EQUIPMENT FROM PARAMARIBO MISSION

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Nov 83 p 5

[Text]

THE Cuban embassy in Georgetown Tuesday said it has received cars and equipment from the Cuban embassy in Suriname for use by diplomats stationed here.

The cars and equipment arrived at Guyana's eastern port, Springlands, Saturday, via Nickerie, following the closure of the Cuban embassy in Paramaribo, the Suriname capital.

An embassy official denied earlier reports that three Cuban diplomats accredited to neighbouring Suriname had also crossed over to Guyana. He explained that his country's mission in Suriname has been closed and the last of the Cuban diplomats there departed for Havana last Thursday.

However, he could not say whether the closure would be a temporary or permanent one. Cuba was requested to temporarily

reduce its representation in Paramaribo to the level of charge d'affaires within 14 days on the same day that US-led forces invaded independent and sovereign Grenada.

The Suriname government had also asked Cuban President Fidel Castro to recall his ambassador in Paramaribo, Oscar Osvaldo Cardenas, within six days.

Suriname had claimed a lack of clarity in relations with Cuba as one of the reasons for downgrading its relations with Havana.

Military commander Desi Bouterse said the decision was part of moves to ensure that there was no repetition in Suriname of the disastrous development taking place in Grenada.

Cuba and Suriname established diplomatic relations in 1979. The two countries signed an agreement for co-operation in 1982.

CSO: 3298/306

SURINAME MEASURES CAUSE PUBLIC CONCERN, UNHAPPINESS

Impact on Travel

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Nov 83 p 8

[Text] EAST BERBICE (GNA)--Foreign visitors to the Republic of Suriname are now required to pay 25 guilders as a tourist tax on entering the country, to declare all money being taken into the country and while there, to change all foreign money at commercial banks only.

In addition, the Suriname authorities have reportedly placed tight restrictions on hucksters who will not be allowed to leave Suriname with more than 100 guilders worth of goods.

The new measures which were reportedly introduced last Tuesday are intended to control the outflow of foreign exchange from Suriname and, at the same time, to improve Suriname's system for monitoring the outflow of goods.

The action by the Suriname authorities Tuesday sparked off a protest and a picketing exercise at the Springlands Stelling--departure point for the town of Nickerie.

Meanwhile the new measures are already having some readily noticeable impact on the volume of traffic between Springlands and Nickerie.

Only six passengers--four Suriname nationals and two Guyanese--travelled from Springlands Tuesday. Yesterday another handful was expected to leave Port Springlands.

Up to 15.30 hrs (GST) yesterday, no passengers had been booked for crossing in the two Suriname launches moored alongside the stelling.

Prior to the introduction of these latest measures, some 200 Guyanese and other visitors used the ferry service daily.

Tourist Boycott

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Nov 83 p 8

[Text] EAST BERBICE (GNA)--The Suriname ferry service operating between Nickerie and Springlands on the Guyana eastern border was severely affected following a boycott staged Wednesday by Guyanese tourists and traders.

The boycott by the visitors is in protest against a set of new measures reported to have been introduced by the Suriname authorities against foreigners. (See story below).

The new measures were disclosed to the Guyanese Customs authorities and police by two officials from Suriname who visited Springlands to explain the new measures.

As a result, several Guyanese who were scheduled to leave Springlands on Monday abandoned their trip and protested against the new measures.

And the police in the Corentyne reported that a Surinamese vessel Wednesday brought across 25 Guyanese who were reported to have been deported from the Republic of Suriname.

Up to late yesterday afternoon two Surinamese launches were still anchored alongside the Springlands stelling awaiting passengers to take to the neighbouring country.

Return of Deportees

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

EAST B'CE (GNA) — Over 110 Guyanese returned home yesterday after they were deported from the Republic of Suriname.

The deportees, who arrived at Springlands in a special Suriname Vessel Lilly 11, are alleged to have breached Suriname's Customs and Immigration by-laws.

Some were caught by the Suriname police Tuesday after they were found with travel documents out of order.

Some had over-stayed their time.

Meanwhile, the ferry service between Nickerie and Springlands is returning to normal after protest action by commuters against new tax laws recently announced by the Suriname government.

Yesterday, some 150 Guyanese commuters left Springlands for Suriname and 116 passengers came into the country from Nickerie.

CSO: 3298/306

GRENADA AFTERMATH: CALL FOR VIGILANCE, ROW WITH BARBADOS

Reid on Need for Unity

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 20 Nov 83 p 1

[Column "From the Cde. Gen. Secretary's [Ptolemy Reid] Desk": "Grenada: A Lesson to Learn"]

[Text] "WE ARE A PEACEFUL PEOPLE". So says the opening line of what is now hailed as "our second National anthem" celebrating in song our firm determination to survive as an independent Nation and not as a client--State.

Recent events should now make clearer to us in Guyana that though ours is a peaceful country and ours is the responsibility to work for its development for ourselves and for our generations to come, proper development is painful and even bitter.

That is why this weekend at our Sophia gatherings and in our house-to-house fan-out exercises in Regions Three and Six we are laying so much emphasis on mobilisation to ensure the survival of our country and the need for all of us to be vigilant.

It is now our season of district conferences in all Regions. At these meetings it is necessary that we examine together carefully, the lesson to be learnt from the tragedy that has befallen our comrades in Grenada--a sister state now occupied by invading forces who have taken it upon themselves to decide for the people of that once independent island, the government they should have.

Young Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, lit a lamp of hope in the hearts of his people that achievement of a better society was within their grasp as a result of positively identifying Socialism as the dominant development idea. He and other leaders of the PRG (People's Revolutionary Government) met untimely death as a result of unresolved internal conflicts.

While our district conference discussions will see the wisdom of ridding ourselves of conflicts and establishing unity, it would be worthwhile considering that the internal conflicts were used as a pretext for the enemy's execution of what had been planned as far back as 1979.

Mobilisation is an urgent task that leaves us no time for conflict. We have to see ourselves as a country in a danger zone and to conduct ourselves accordingly.

Grenada's drive towards achieving a prosperous Socialist society since the 1979 Revolution manifested so much material success that the enemy could not allow it to succeed, since for their purposes that would have been a "bad example" for other small states struggling to break free of imperialist domination.

Vigilance against aggression is for us a non-partisan national issue on which the major political parties are in full agreement. Let us also resolve that the proper development of this dear land of Guyana is a COMMON TASK above internal conflicts for the betterment of all. We must remedy any porosity in any organisation and close ranks against our common enemy.

Let us take this opportunity during our season of district conferences to remind ourselves of our need TO BE STEADFAST....IN SEASON... AND OUT OF SEASON!

Paper's Slap at Adams

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Nov 83 p 1

[Untitled, unsigned "Comment"]

[Text] A Barbados Parliamentarian has called upon the Tom Adams government to make a firm decision about Guyana.

And Tom Adams himself has accused Guyana of abusing his country "unmercifully" and of showing little regard for democracy and decency in the region.

Regarded all by themselves, the remarks appear spiteful and bitter and unworthy of any challenge from the Guyana Government.

But in times like these, with memories of the US-led invasion of Grenada, in collaboration with the Barbados and other Caribbean governments, still rising like bile in those truly concerned with democracy and decency, it would be wise to take note of pronouncements coming out of Bridgetown.

A new familiar orchestration seems to have begun. This time, the crescendo could very well be played in Guyana.

Within recent days, there have been persistent reports, and from a variety of sources, that there are Cuban troops here. That of course, is not true.

The American Embassy in Georgetown has complained to the State Department in Washington that the safety of its personnel is threatened. And one night, Embassy officials reported someone sniped at the compound where US marines are housed on Church Street. This proved later to be untrue.

Is that not how it all began with Grenada?

Is the Tom Adams administration being used to strike the opening chords in this new arrangement?

And by the way, speaking of decency and democracy, there is still some speculation as to where Caribbean Contact editor Rickey Singh will go, after being booted out of Barbados by Tom Adams.

What was the Editor's sin? He published his views on the invasion of Grenada.

CSO: 3298/306

MINISTER REPLIES TO 'HOSTILITY' CHARGES FROM NEIGHBORS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Nov 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] MINISTER of Education Ranji Chandisingh yesterday expressed "utter surprise and disbelief" over allegations that Guyana displayed hostility towards certain Caribbean countries at the UNESCO General Conference which opened in Paris October 25.

Reports circulated in the region quoted a Caribbean delegate as accusing Guyana of being hostile towards, and of making life difficult for, some Caribbean countries attending the current 35-day meeting.

Chandisingh, who participated in the general policy debate earlier in the conference said relations between Caribbean Ministers had been "very cordial", with even a joint Caribbean reception being hosted for other participating countries.

If any Caribbean delegation found life difficult, then those circumstances were totally isolated from Guyana, he said.

In an hour-long interview, the Guyanese Education Minister also spoke of problems associated with the approval of the UNESCO draft programme and budget for the up-coming two-year period, and Guyana's election to the Executive Board of the UN body.

Guyana (115 votes) was elected to one of three Caribbean and Latin American seats, a post which will be filled by former High Commissioner to India, Edward V. Luckhoo. The other two seats went to Mexico (103 votes) and Venezuela (88 votes). Dominica (69 votes) and Honduras (67 votes) also contested the elections.

Cde. Chandisingh explained that contrary to certain views expressed in the region, Guyana had publicly and privately supported Dominica's bid to secure one of three Caribbean and Latin American seats on the executive board.

Guyana, he explained, voted for Dominica in keeping with an agreement reached by Caribbean UNESCO ministers at a regional meeting.

Cde. Chandisingh also noted that Guyana's backing of Dominica was indicative of its firm commitment to the belief that the Caribbean is entitled to a larger representation on the UNESCO executive board. With Guyana's successful election to the Board, Caribbean countries now occupy two seats. The other is filled by Jamaica.

Asked whether the invasion of Grenada by the USA had a token contingent of forces from some Caribbean countries had influenced the voting against Dominica, the Guyanese Education Minister noted that the violation of Grenada's territorial integrity had been extremely unpopular among the vast majority of delegations.

He contended that Dominica might have had a much better chance of securing a seat had it not been for its role in the invasion of Grenada.

Guyana's public support for Dominica, he further contended, might have even helped that country secure more votes than it might have received otherwise.

He dismissed suggestions that Guyana's condemnation of the invasion of Grenada could have been interpreted as being hostile towards Caribbean nations which participated in the invasion.

It was Guyana's right and duty to explain and uphold its position, Chandisingh said, adding that, in their addresses to the conference, Caribbean countries whose troops formed part of the invasion-cum-occupation forces had sought to justify their action and vindicate themselves.

Meanwhile, on the UNESCO draft programme and budget for 1984-1985, the Education Minister explained that some highly industrialised countries were hedging on giving approval to a proposal to increase the UN body's expenditure by some six per cent.

One developed country, he said, had "put forward the concept of zero growth for a budget already taken over by inflation."

If the increased expenditure is not approved then the implementation of UNESCO's major programmes in the field of education, science and culture would be greatly affected, Cde. Chandisingh noted.

Objection to a larger budget for UNESCO, he contended, was really a challenge to UNESCO's direction towards reducing the dependence of poorer countries on highly industrialised nations.

Among the projects which Guyana had put up for funding during 1984-85 is the establishment of an education research centre which would assist in improving training for teachers and in improving the administration of schools.

FOREIGN MINISTER HAS PRAISE FOR COMMONWEALTH SYSTEM

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] FOREIGN Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson sees the Commonwealth as a "valuable association" which has given the lead to the international community on crucial issues such as apartheid in sports.

Referring to the grouping of over 40 developing and developed nations as a "microcosm of the international community," Jackson said in an interview earlier this week that the Commonwealth had been instrumental in facilitating and advancing the process of decolonisation. He referred to Zimbabwe's attainment of independence as a prime example of this.

In outlining reasons for Guyana's continued membership in the Commonwealth, one week before the grouping's leaders begin discourse on crucial political and economic issues in New Delhi, he also spoke of the technical and economic benefits associated with Commonwealth membership, through agencies such as the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation.

And, on the Heads of Government meetings, held every two years, Jackson said these provided opportunities not only for conferring on major issues facing the international community, but also for advancing bilateral co-operation between member states.

He noted that the Melbourne Summit in 1981 had been very positive and heartening in that the leaders had expressed support for Guyana in the territorial controversy with Venezuela.

Support

At the Melbourne Summit, the Heads of Government had noted that the existing boundary was laid down by an International Arbitral Award in 1899 which had been accepted by all concerned as the final settlement. They expressed support for Guyana and called for a peaceful settlement of the controversy.

Melbourne, held just after sporting contacts between New Zealand, a Commonwealth member state, and South Africa, was also very important from the point of view of apartheid in sports, he explained.

At Melbourne, the Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the 1977 Gleneagles Agreement and reiterated their commitment to fulfilling effectively their obligations under it.

Commonwealth leaders also used that opportunity to call on the international community to strengthen its collective resolve to eradicate apartheid by adopting effective measures against it.

It was as a result of the Melbourne efforts coupled with others that the Brisbane Code of Conduct is intended to guide the actions of all Commonwealth Games sportsmen and administrators.

And, according to Commonwealth Secretary-General, Guyanese Shridath Ramphal in the introduction to his 1983 report, the Code should "serve to protect future Commonwealth Games from the unhappy disruptions of the past and to reinforce the commitment of sportsmen and administrators to fulfil the expectations of Commonwealth leaders."

CSO: 3298/307

REVIEW, ASSESSMENT OF RECENT RESHUFFLE IN CABINET

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 30 Nov 83 p 6

[Text] THE multi-megaton events in Grenada along with the non-publication of this newspaper due to a shortage of newsprint precluded me from commenting until now on the long and eagerly awaited Cabinet reshuffle. To tell the truth, it did not live up to the wild speculations and expectations of those who see 'Cabinet reshuffle' as events of gory head-rolling, and fore-shadowing dramatic shifts in policy with the rising of a few obscure back-benchers to instant political stardom.

There was none of this drama and surprise in the announcements a few weeks ago but those who read political tea leaves and gaze desperately into crystal balls for signs, omens and portents tend to see these not-too-significant shifts as just setting the stage for a major Cabinet re-organisation that is bound to come by Republic Day 1984 at the latest.

Although the shuffle does not rate more than one point on the political Richter scale, there is still one big talking point: Was Desmond Hoyte and Hammie Greene promoted or demoted?

I purposely will not try to answer that question at this point in this column because I want you to come along with me and weigh the pros and cons--plus I get a perverse delight in keeping you hanging on while I launch out at various tangents.

Let's first begin with the elevation of Vice President Steve Naraine as our ambassador to Delhi. In making the announcement it was stressed that his appointment underscores the importance of India as the hub of the Non-Aligned Movement and the growing warm relations between Guyana and India. All that is absolutely true, but the appointment will also allow him to continue his prestigious work which will be a little less taxing on his health.

Thus was created a vacancy for a Vice President and Attorney-General Shahabuddeen was just the right man to fill it. I am most impressed with Shahab. I wrung my hands when it was announced that a home-grown international statesman was leaving to become Secretary General of the Commonwealth. Then I heard Shahab at the Benab making a farewell speech to Ramphal. He was fluent, he was witty, he was knowledgeable and while the law of averages does not allow a

tiny country like Guyana to produce two Ramphals in one generation, I was convinced he would do a good job with Sonny's AG's part of the portfolio. Rashleigh Jackson became Foreign Minister and he has acquitted himself so well among his peers on the international scene that Guyana has been sought out for leadership, advice and support on many crucial issues.

Now we come back to Hammie and Hoyte, two of the names most often mentioned before and after the cabinet changes and whenever we indulge in the pointless pastime of picking political brides, bridesmaids and rejected suitors.

I have sworn off that sort of speculation years ago after I described a minister as 'heir apparent'. The rebuke and rebuttal was swift and I was told that the party picks the leaders and it is not by the arbitrary decision of either President or Prime Minister. Notwithstanding all that, there are ways of picking up clues as to whose star is in the wane and who is doomed to be just political hacks.

The man on the left of Stalin and Andropov at the October Revolution Red Square parade is usually seen as the front runner in the battle for succession and surely the men holding key portfolios are obviously destined for big things.

But the Hoyte-Hammie scenario is a perplexing one and any attempt at instant analysis would lead to premature and wrong conclusions.

V. P. Greene's new title as Minister of Social Infrastructure may not sound too imposing but a closer look would show that with exclusive responsibility for Communications and Works and oversight of among others education, Health he will be involved in several key areas so sensitive that after food, they are our most discussed topics.

Just check: Education means school books, exercise books, shortage of teachers, quality of education. Health--and up crops nutrition, milk, lack of drugs, conditions at hospitals and the mentally ill and aged roaming the streets.

The list is that long with Action Line type of problems, the irritants that make daily life a bother and damper our optimism about the future and further weaken our will to survive.

Greene has his following inside and outside the party, and he also has his detractors inside and outside the party. But all sides agree he is a 'roots' man, a take-charge man who can slash the red tape in half the time of the desk bound bureaucrats.

I suspect he has been chosen for the task of trouble shooter for the sensitive domestic issues. For after all, lack of water could start a train reaction that culminates in absenteeism and a lack of motivation to carry on the task of survival.

As for V. P Hoyte, agriculture is and always will be the road to salvation so no one can down-grade his post. His legal experience and his years as financial czar gives him all the knowledge and attributes to make an outstanding success of his job.

In summary the shift seems to have no more or no less significance than changing a batsman from number four to number five in a crisis. Both VP's were perceived to be the best persons to hold down the ministries at this state of the game.

The next reshuffle however should see some more significant changes--but then let me not start rushing to stand vigil by the guillotine.

As a matter of fact I predict that the next shuffle will cause more sorrow than jubilation as one or two respected familiar faces bow out. But that would give room for new blood. I hope the party reaches out even beyond its circles to tap new blood with fresh ideas like the new Finance Minister Carl Greenidge. Even at five minutes to twelve I believe that if we really sit down and look at our economic positions with an impersonal eye and fresh approaches we can climb back to a reasonable standard of living in as short a time as one year and put the economic ship on even keel in two.

And then by dramatic demonstrations of austerity at the top, the trickle-down effect will truly motivate men to dig canals with their fingernails and jump to the jugular of a jaguar with bare hands.

A really streamlined new look Cabinet can trigger all that--and I think it's coming. At least it has to if we are to really survive.

CSO: 3298/307

REID TO HEAD REGIONAL 'LIVE-IN' PROGRAMS FOR PNC OFFICIALS

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 13 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] THE ruling People's National Congress Party will be conducting what it terms as intensive "live-in fan-out" exercises in Regions Three and Six from November 18 to 27.

These exercises, according to a Party Secretariat release, will involve senior party officials, including General Secretary Cde. Ptolemy Reid and government ministers.

The programmes include field and house to house visits as well as the holding of worksite, community and public meetings. For Region Three, (West Demerara and Essequibo Islands) the programme will be launched by Cde. Reid at the Den Amstel Primary School.

Region Six's (East Berbice/Corentyne) programme will be launched by National Mobilisation Minister Cde. Robert Corbin from the Eversham Community Centre.

The programmes aim at sensitising workers and members of the community about the importance and urgency of achieving self-reliance in food and assisting them in identifying relevant strategies in solving community problems.

Meanwhile, the Party Secretariat will on Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19, sponsor a mobilisation seminar for party members and supportive agencies at the Sophia Auditorium.

The seminar aims at making participants aware of the purposes and importance of mobilisation in Guyana's concept.

Prime Minister Reid will declare the seminar open.

CSO: 3298/307

CAPITAL, TOWNS DRAW UP 1984 BUDGETS; SOME RATES CHANGE

Greater Say for Regions

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] THE 1984 Budget is expected to take the programme of economic decentralisation a step further with an aim to place more responsibility in the hands of the ten Administrative Regions.

Next year's Budget, preparations for which are already under way, is also expected to reflect the government's desire to reduce this country's overdependence on earnings from sugar, rice and bauxite for its foreign exchange.

This desire was clearly spelt out in the 1983 Budget which was structured to place greater emphasis on agriculture diversification, concomitant with the national aim of self-sufficiency in food.

Reports this week said the Ministry of Finance along with senior economic technicians of the State Planning Secretariat are working towards an early deadline this year. And the Secretary to the Treasury has already sent out letters requesting that Permanent Secretaries submit their estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1984 fiscal year.

In addition, several Regions have already begun discussion their 1984 Budget proposals.

These strategies included:

- The lifting of consumption taxes on raw material imports for export-oriented industries.

- Restructuring of Income Tax bands to remove the disincentives to increased production, and,

- Introduction of the Personal Investment Accounts to generate savings at the individual, corporate and national levels.

Because of the current world economic crisis, it is anticipated that the 1984 Budget will show a deficit.

The \$1,3-billion (G) 1983 Budget had an estimated deficit of \$453 million. This deficit is being financed through local and foreign bank borrowings and the sale of government securities.

The declining performances of the public agencies have over the years posed a strain on Central Government financial resources. And taxes collected from these agencies have declined from \$58 million in 1980 to a projected \$28 million by the end of this year.

Georgetown Council Action

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] THE Georgetown City Council yesterday approved a \$37.6M budget for 1984 in which there are no increases in rates and taxes.

Water and sewerage rates remain at last year's figure of 23.5 per cent, while the general rates are the same 24.75 per cent. Residents in areas like Campbellville and Newtown, who do not depend on the city's sewerage system, will be required to pay 20.3 per cent.

During her budget presentation speech, Mayor Mavis Benn who according to regulations, is in her last term of office, observed that the budget contains a surplus from this year because several road-repair and drainage-construction projects had to be shelved owing to shortage of foreign exchange, and equipment.

"Had these items been available, we would have been able to do much more in respect of construction of roads, pavements and drains; but we have to face the situation with a certain amount of optimism. I expect that in the coming year, we may be able, by one means or another, to obtain some of these essential items," Cde Benn observed.

Among programmes listed as priority for next year are the remodelling of Bourda market in which there will be significant improvement to the meat and fish sections. This re-modelling programme Cde Benn said, is designed to make Bourda "a model market."

Cde Benn also spoke of a review of the road and pavement-construction programmes and said that they are expected to do better next year with the arrival of a large shipment of asphalt.

Additionally, the current upsurge in agricultural activity has forced the municipality to seek ways and means of providing more selling space and marketing facilities. She said that the assistance of relevant agencies will be sought in carrying out feasibility studies to determine the necessity of a wholesale market or whether more retail markets are needed to cater for the volume of produce reaching the city.

Councillors spent the greater part of the day considering the 1984 budget.

PPP Report on Georgetown

Georgetown MIRROR in English 20 Nov 83 pp 2-3

[Text] THE Georgetown City Council on Tuesday last approved a 1984 budget of \$37.6 million, with no increases in general and water rates included in the proposals. The general rate remains therefore at 24.75%, which is the same as in 1983. Water and sewerage rates combined also remain at 23.5%. However water rates for outlying areas such as Campbellville and Prashad Nagar where there are no sewerage facilities remain at the lower level of 20.3 per cent.

A small surplus of \$106,321 is expected to be realised in 1984. It is also envisaged in the proposals that a huge sum (\$11 million) would be a carryover from 1983 into 1984. This sum is realised because of the failure of the Council to have undertaken certain projects in 1983.

Mayor Mavis Benn in her Budget speech reminded councillors that 1982 had been a hard one and said 1983, the present year, was not better. She said that the Council was unable to carry out several works on roads and the drainage system due to lack of materials and equipment, since there was insufficient foreign exchange available.

Shortage of cement, no import licences for asphalt, lack of spare parts for bulldozers, excavators, front line loaders, and other vehicles have all restricted work, she stressed. However it is hoped that with an improvement in "production and productivity" Guyana will earn sufficient foreign exchange for the importation of these items, in the new year, said the Mayor who is in her last term.

Development of recreational parts, a multi-structure complex for Bourda market with separate meat and fish sections and the construction of additional offices were outlined as the major plans for 1984.

PPP Councillor H Snagg declared that the budget spells no improvement in the conditions, and life of the citizens of Georgetown, for the new year, and observed that the excuse about 'lack of foreign exchange' merely substitutes for the excuse "international economic crisis" which was used last year. Noting that increased allowances were voted for the managerial staff, Councillor Snagg called for corresponding increases in the wages of workers, particularly those in the cleansing and sewerage section.

The PPP councillor charged that the lack of democracy at the national level (which is also reflected in the Council) has led to a deep economic crisis in our country. The solution lies in the restoration of that democratic process to move the country forward, he said. It is no accident that foreign exchange is unavailable. The economic policies of the government are tied to the capitalist system and our problems can never be resolved by imperialism. While a political solution at the national level is necessary, the Council in the meantime should establish links with socialist countries. The Council must also embark on a new electrification programme, construction of wells, etc. to ease the problems of citizens, urged the PPP councillor.

The impacts of the economic crisis have been producing untold hardships on the citizens of Georgetown, therefore the already high charges for rates and taxes only maintain the hardships he said. The PPP Councillor expressed fears that there may be quarterly hikes in rates for 1984 as it has been the pattern recently.

Consideration of the estimates lasted over three hours. Meanwhile speculations are high concerning the successor to Mavis Benn, as Mayor of Georgetown.

Foreign Exchange Problem

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] GEORGETOWN Mayor Mavis Benn is concerned about the inability of the Council to carry out its works because of the absence of foreign exchange, and the refusal of proprietors to pay up arrears until their properties are advertised for sale.

The Mayor made this disclosure during her weekly weekend broadcast.

The City Treasurer has compiled a budget of requirements for 1984 and the estimates envisaged a requirement of \$23,345,176 for the General Rate and \$10,774,995 for the water rate.

She added "The figures submitted indicated a certain surplus but it must be remembered that during the current year, 1983, we were unable to carry out several works on our roads and the drainage system due to the lack of materials and equipment which was caused, in many instances, by our inability to obtain the necessary foreign exchange to provide these requirements.

New Amsterdam Water Rates

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Nov 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] EAST BERBICE: [GNA]--The New Amsterdam Town Council yesterday approved a \$3.5 million Budget for 1984 in which residents will be called upon to pay a 100 per cent increase in water rates to help develop the pure water service in the town.

The new water rates for domestic use will now be \$100 annually while for commercial and industrial use it will vary from \$200 to \$950.

Property Tax, however, remains the same as in 1983 with a figure of 30 per cent in the residential area and 40 per cent in the commercial areas on appraised value of properties.

Mayor Gerald Scotland said that despite the increase in water rates, the Council will be subsidising the water works department to the tune of over \$85,000.

In the budget, the biggest sum of \$975 000 will be spent on the Town Engineer's Department followed by waterworks with \$574 000 and the Health Department with \$427 000.

In his Budget Speech, Mayor Scotland spoke about plans to improve the potable water supply in the town. He also discussed the expansion and development of the municipal markets in the new year.

He said that a new turbine pump for the Water Works Department will be purchased and a booster pump will be installed in the Smythfield area.

He also disclosed plans for a new car park in the township next year.

The Council will also establish agricultural projects and will set up a plant nursery, he explained.

The Mayor observed that 1983 has been one of the toughest years for the municipality which was plagued by prolonged loadshedding and corresponding water problems. He said that 1984 should bring more service to the residents but claimed that the economic depression is likely to affect the Council's plans for capital works.

Linden Budget

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] LINDEN--[GNA]--The Mayor and Town Council of Linden has approved \$4,1 million tax free budget for 1984.

Expenditure has been structured to the dollar, and the Council's projected income is based primarily on the collection of rates and taxes.

More than three and a half million dollars will be spent on the Council's drive to improve its services to the community with most of it being earmarked for the General Engineering Department.

Emphasis will be placed on rehabilitation of the main roads for which \$680 000 has been earmarked, and refuse disposal and general cleaning of the town.

Half a million dollars has been set aside for the Health Department. The construction of a sorely needed abattoir and rehabilitation works on the two municipal markets comprise the major capital works.

Mayor Evelyn Dodson drawing attention to the slowdown in services and the pace of development has issued a call to Lindeners to honour their obligations in the interest of the town's development.

And Town Clerk Rudolph Earle has said that come next year the Council will continue its determined efforts to collect its revenue, \$2,1 million of which are in arrears rates and taxes.

He added "there is a lot we could have achieved this year in terms of making our town healthier and our roads better if our residents had been co-operating with the municipality. We still hope to achieve these tasks this year".

Lindeniers are reminded of the five per cent rebate on current rates and taxes if payments are made on or before January 31, 1984. This is the sixth consecutive year that the town has had a tax free budget.

CSO: 3298/308

SMUGGLING FOUND TO BE INCREASING ACROSS VENEZUELAN BORDER

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Nov 83 p 8

[Text] THERE has been a substantial increase in smuggling activities within recent months across the Guyana-Venezuela border, transforming the Pomeroon waterway into a haven for covert contraband dealings.

Despite stepped-up vigilance by Essequibo police, smugglers continue to defy the authorities with faster boats and find markets for their banned and uncustomed goods at Charity and along the Essequibo Coast and even sometimes as far as Georgetown.

Earlier in the year the level of smuggling was minimal but recently there has been a reportedly giant leap in these activities. It is believed that farmers living in the Pomeroon river are engaged in these illegal activities.

Smugglers are reported to have built special high-speed boats and have equipped themselves with bigger outboard engines acquired from neighbouring Venezuela. Repeated police chases end up in the lawmen being left behind, according to reports from the area.

Illegal cross-border trading has become a profitable pastime for many who store their goods in farms and other unlikely places.

The situation in the area has reached the stage where the "business" has also attracted pirates who engage in a waiting game, arm themselves, and pounce on unsuspecting smugglers on their way into the Pomeroon and relieve them of their contraband items.

There are reports of several smugglers who suffered this fate but who still insist on making the long journey to Tucupita, a small port in Venezuela, where the contraband goods are purchased.

In an invited comment, Customs Comptroller Paul Burnett yesterday declared that smuggling is on the increase along the entire length of the Guyana coastline and added that the situation will continue to prevail at that level until the department is equipped with a suitable vessel.

He explained that with the limited resources, at the disposal of the authorities, the Customs Department is still able to apprehend smugglers and seize boat loads of contraband.

He said the acquisition of a patrol boat will impact tremendously on the campaign against smuggling. The opportunity for smugglers will then be greatly reduced he noted, adding that this "opportunity plus market equal smuggling."

CSO: 3298/308

ILLICIT TRADE COSTS 10,000 LBS OF PRAWN EACH WEEK

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by George Barclay]

[Text] EXECUTIVE Chairman of Guyana Fisheries, Limited, Robert Williams yesterday disclosed that Government was losing over 10,000 tons [a correction carried in the 17 November GUYANA CHRONICLE, page 1, says this should read "10,000 pounds" rather than tons.] of prawns per week via the illicit trade, and told of a plan to introduce legislation to bring the offenders to justice.

Comrade Williams said this at the signing of a union agreement in which the Guyana Labour Union is now recognised as the bargaining agent for all the work-ers at Guyana Fisheries Limited, apart from the managerial staff. Formerly three unions represented the workers numbering more than 300.

At the ceremony held at the Ministry of Labour yesterday, Cde. Williams exhorted the leaders of the G.L.U. to implore on the workers the necessity for vigilance at this time of the country's development.

According to him, they must be made aware of the need to assist in the tracking down of would-be destabilizers and other persons involved in grave irregularities in the Guyana economic zone.

And they are becoming more sophisticated in the disposal of the product on the high seas, as well as to local consumers.

The foreign exchange they receive from sale at sea, he said, is used for purposes not related to the development of Guyana.

The Executive Chairman said that already a meeting has been arranged with the Vice President for Production with regard to legislation to protect the industry from the illicit sale of prawns and to provide the climate for an improved foreign exchange balance.

The matter, he said, is expected to reach the National Assembly shortly.

CSO: 3298/308

SUGAR INDUSTRY DIVERSIFICATION TO TAKE NEW PATHS

Hoyte Speech

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] VICE-PRESIDENT, Desmond Hoyte yesterday told Guysuco workers and managers that diversification in the sugar industry must not only be the introduction of new crops but also finding new uses for sugar cane.

He reminded them that the corporation's mandate at the time of nationalisation was to expand, diversify, and to be a leader in setting standards and examples in devising new ways for higher production.

Cde. Hoyte's remarks came as he made the feature presentation at the commissioning of the Bagasse Baling Equipment at Albion Sugar Estate, East Berbice.

Speaking in the bay area where baled bagasse is to be stored, he congratulated Guysuco for living up to its mission and said that the significance of the project is in its nature. It will enable Guysuco to make more efficient and wider use of this raw material and get into energy conservation, thereby reducing energy costs.

He noted that in pursuit of self-sufficiency Guyana was hampered by the cost of importing fuel.

The Bagasse Baling Equipment was installed at the Albion Sugar Estate, the largest and most productive sugar estate at the cost of \$2.2M. It can produce 50 bales or 6 tons of bagasse per hour which is used in steam generation for the sugar boilers and for power generation. Previously, much of this sugar cane by-product was discarded because of inadequate and improper storage systems.

The Production Vice-President, within whose office falls the responsibility for energy, said that the hallmark for economic backwardness in any country is the belief that there is something to be considered as waste.

He revealed that Guysuco lost \$92M last year and government \$225M as equity to that corporation. In addition \$184M will be required in 1984.

In spite of this he said, Guysuco is too intricately woven in the social and economic fabric of Guyanese society for its closure to be considered. Further, the philosophy of government is not to close down an industry because it incurs a loss.

Cde. Hoyte gave the example of Jamaica closing some sugar estates and making 11 000 workers redundant, indicating that in many other countries, Guysuco would have been closed and 25 000 workers made destitute.

"We all have a vested interest in ensuring the viability of Guysuco," he said.

Effect of Bagasse Baler

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] EAST BERBICE: [GNA]--With the commissioning of a two-million-dollar Bagasse Baler at Guysuco's sugar factory at Albion, Corentyne Thursday, the Corporation is now to make a decision on the direction in which the nine other factories will go.

The equipment which is the first phase of a seven-million-dollar producer gas plant complex will conserve on fuel and will put into economic use some 40 000 tons of cane waste

According to Guysuco Chairman Hardol Davis the system will pay for itself within five years and will bring a saving of some one million dollars annually. This project he said is merely an extension of Guysuco's energy programme.

Cde. Davis disclosed that Guysuco is continuing its investigation into the use of bagasse and a foreign company--Duvant Moteurs--is currently carrying out experiment in the same field.

In addition, Guysuco will be sending a quantity of bagasse to another company, Tillard, in France for use in an experiment.

The bagasse equipment at Albion will provide the electrical energy to the estate and a surplus 1 000 kilowatts to the traditional grid in Berbice.

CSO: 3298/309

SECOND CROP SUGAR OUTPUT SURPASSES TARGET FOR FIRST TIME

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Nov 83 p 3

[Text]

THE sugar industry this week surpassed its estimate with a production achievement of 9,240 tons sugar.

This was the first time for the second crop that production exceeded a week's estimate due mainly to the fact that two estates were scheduled to be off the production stream have been kept operational because of three factors—late start because of unfavourable weather in the early part of the crop, strikes and mechanical down time — all of which slowed down operations.

Together the ten Guysuco factories produced 9,240 tons sugar which represent 110,6 per cent of the week's estimate of 8,355 tons.

The crop total has reached 132,105 tons or 76,7 per cent of the estimate of 172,160 tons to date, while the year's production now stands at 218,200 tons.

Albion-Port Mourant, Guysuco's largest sugar production unit for the third successive week achieved its target with a production of

1,835 tons or 101,9 per cent of the estimate of 1,800 tons. Also making its target was Rose Hall with a production attainment of 1,415 tons, an achievement of 104,8 per cent of its target of 1,350 tons.

Albion-Port Mourant, Rose Hall, Diamond and Wales have earned placements on the Guysuco Production Honours Roll.

Creditable performance rating goes to Skeldon, Blairmont, Enmore and LBI-Ogle estates each having made over 80 per cent of their respective targets.

The Corporation continues to express concern over the regularity of strikes which have so far been a main hindrance to production. During the week five estates—Albion-Port Mourant, Enmore, Diamond, Leonora and Uitvlugt suffered considerably from strikes while Uitvlugt was also affected by arson which accounted for the destruction of 58,5 acres of 5th ratoon canes.

CSO: 3298/309

WATER CONTROL PROJECT WILL HELP BOOST RICE CROP

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Nov 83 p 3

[Text]

SEVERAL farmers in the West Berbice sub-region of Region Five have been returning to the land as prospects for the rice industry begin to look good since the completion of the major part of the multi-million dollar Mahaica-Mahalcony-Abary Water Control Project.

The rehabilitation of several hectares of land within the project signals not only better returns for rice farmers, but also better days for the industry which will be able to satisfy the increasing demands for rice overseas.

The project has made possible the proper drainage and irrigation of thousands of hectares of land abandoned over a number of years.

Efforts by farmers to utilise the land productively have ended in frustration more than once as a result of inadequate infrastructure.

Recently, a number of farmers begun investing funds in internal drainage and irrigation works in order to get the best out of the land which in many instances has been taken over by bush.

Official estimates claim that some 12 000 hectares (30 000 acres) of this land are at present receiving attention as farmers move to recommence cultivation.

At an average yield of 21 bags of paddy per acre (now being achieved) if 12 000 additional hectares of land are cultivated next year, over 600 thousand more bags of paddy will be sold to the Guyana Rice Board. This will produce well over 300 thousand bags of rice.

If achieved, this will spell good for the nation's foreign exchange situation.

The MMA Scheme will provide proper drainage and irrigation systems for some 422 600 hectares of land. (GNA).

CSO: 3298/309

BRIEFS

MOBILIZATION WORKSHOP--GENERAL Secretary of the People's National Congress, Cde. Ptolemy Reid told a national mobilisation workshop Friday that at this time, there is urgent need for us to bring the People's National Congress to such a pitch that the nation can be organised overnight if necessary. Delivering the opening address at the two-day seminar organised by Department of Education and Research of the Party, Cde. Reid said that if one is not organised then those who want to destroy us can do so rather easily. "Organisation is unity in action," he said. Grenada is an example of what can happen when people are not solidly organised, he added. But organisation without ideology or idea would result in absurdity, he said. In Guyana we have an ideology for the construction of a new society in which every person is a human being and as a result of our ideology we have been seen as a bad example although it has been propounded that an independent nation is free to develop itself along lines best suited to its development, Cde. Reid said. The fact that millions die from starvation each year, notwithstanding the immense wealth in the world is proof enough for the development of a new society, he added. Mobilisation must be seen as the door to learning and the PNC must be able to mobilise people from all over the society since the strength of the masses for which the strength of the masses for which the revolution is organised is organisation, Cde. Reid said. Other contributors in the seminar were drawn from the Ministry of Education and the University of Guyana. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 20 Nov 83 p 1]

PNC FINANCE OFFICER--Minister for Transport in the Vice Presidency for Social Infrastructure, Cde Seeram Prashad, has been appointed Chairman of the Finance sub-Committee of the People's National Congress, filling the vacancy created by the appointment of Cde Steve Naraine to another office. Cde Steve Naraine, who has been appointed Guyana's High Commissioner to India was the previous chairman of the sub-committee which co-ordinated the construction of Congress Place and the other physical achievements of the Party. That this duty now falls under the jurisdiction of Cde. Seerem Prashad is indicative of his skill at financial management within the Party. The other members of the sub-committee are Party Treasurer, Cde Hyacinth Godett and Executive Secretary for Administration and Finance, Cde Leslie Dundas. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 20 Nov 83 p 3]

MONDAY PAPER--THE Guyana Chronicle resumes publication of a Monday paper tomorrow. The Monday edition was discontinued more than a year ago. And now

that adequate supplies of newsprint have been promised Guyana National Newspapers Limited, we are happy to announce the return of our Monday paper. We are sure that you share our satisfaction at this. We were reluctant to cease the Monday publication, and we did so only when there was no alternative. Now that we are back, the Chronicle assumes more of a desired normalcy, at a time when many enterprises are slipping away from this. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Nov 83 p 1]

TOBACCO COMPANY-UNION ACCORD--THE Guyana Labour Union and the management of the Demerara Tobacco Company have reached agreement on a new collective agreement for the 100-odd workers of the company. As a result workers there will benefit from increased salaries and better working conditions. The parties are scheduled to sign the agreement at the Ministry of Manpower today. Meanwhile, the GLU and the management of Guyana Fisheries Limited have reached agreement on the question of the union recognition. As a result the GLU will be the sole bargaining agent for all outlets and departments that are run by the company. The agreement is expected to be signed at the Ministry of Manpower early next week. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Nov 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/310

CONGRESS PASSES ECONOMIC EMERGENCY LAW

Revival As Goal

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa--Yesterday, the National Congress passed the bill for the Economic Emergency Law to Reactivate the National Economy, the statement of reasons for which was released last Tuesday night.

Among other aspects, in stating the reasons the executive branch noted that one of the factors that has most upset the country's finances is the absence of investment in the entire region on the part of business firms and the international private financial system.

The bill subsequently observes: "For all the foregoing reasons, the honorable president of the republic has deemed it necessary for the National Congress to allow legal, financial and administrative facilities, on a temporary basis, to cope with and surmount the difficult current historical situation."

The Economic Emergency Law will last for a year, authorizing the deputies to extend the period of its effectiveness if, by the end of 1984, the circumstances prompting it at present still persist.

In the section containing the "whereas" clauses, it states, verbatim: "It is impossible to permit a greater deterioration in the standards of living, employment and production, because that would be a serious threat to the very structure of our social entity, jeopardizing political stability and the democratic process that we have been constructing with so much effort and determination, and that threat is greater owing to the subversion that exists in the Central American area."

The decree empowers the chief executive to adopt measures aimed at reducing the fiscal deficit and the decline in the balance of payments; to take action to increase and maintain the competitive status of our exports; to procure financial assistance from governments and international agencies; and to establish an exchange budget that would give priority to foreign exchange.

The head of the executive branch is also authorized to promote the creation of employment, to create new financial mechanisms and incentives to stimulate the

establishment of activities to generate new jobs, to create necessary incentives in the tax area or of another type, to foster agricultural and livestock production and to eliminate legal obstacles that discourage investment in the rural areas.

Other powers conferred by the new law relate to issuing the appropriate instruction to make it possible for the installed capacity existing in the country in industries and agro-industrial activities to immediately resume their productive work, particularly in those wherein there are investments or loans from CONADI [National Corporation for Investment] and BANADESA [National Agricultural Development Bank].

At yesterday's session, the bill for the Law for Promotion of Exports, submitted by the Ministry of Economy, was also introduced to the members of the Legislative Chamber.

Political Implications

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] The chairman of the Honduran Association of Economists, Ramon Velasquez Nassar, claimed that the Economic Emergency Law is, rather, "a political law which gives the executive branch the power to legislate."

In addition to the fact that this law "constitutes an unfortunate precedent for democracy," in the statement of reasons for the bill "the government admits the failure of the economic policy that it has been implementing," Velasquez Nassar added.

According to the economist, the law leaves the doors open for the creation of new fiscal agencies to promote production, "and that could mean further burdens for the state."

He is also concerned that the executive branch has the authority not only to dictate measures "to protect the economy, wages and employment, but also those involving internal security and calmness. In other words, the citizen president of the Council of Ministers can make decisions that could prove to be extremely critical for the entire nation."

He added: "This law constitutes a very unfortunate precedent for the country's democracy. We have acted hastily, despite the outcry that has been raised; and we shall have more problems, owing to the greater centralization of decision-making."

According to Velasquez Nassar, the greatest concern of the president and his advisory team is concentrated on issues of an economic nature, neglecting fundamental areas, such as raising production and improving the distribution of income in favor of the groups with the greatest economic need.

The chairman of CHE remarked: "There is unwillingness to adopt concrete measures relating to increased production, which is the only way of extricating ourselves from our economic problems."

But he promptly warned that increased production alone would not suffice. "An increase in production is not sufficient if it is not accompanied by a revision in the distribution of income and wealth."

In fact, the subject of the interview commented, what has happened traditionally is that the minority elite groups keep the country's economic surpluses, "at the cost of a decline in the welfare of the entire Honduran people and an increase in poverty."

The economist concluded by stating: "The population has every right to wonder what Congress is doing. The interesting thing now is that the deputies too are asking that same question. During the discussion of the law, there was a deputy who cited the fact that it was no longer worthwhile to inquire who was coming to the sessions and that he was waiting for them to send him his 60,000 lempiras per year to his home. If the deputies have that feeling, it seems to me that they should act honestly and not fail to keep up the charge regarding this point, even though the law has been passed, and possibly waive their salaries if they are not really earning them."

2909

CSO: 3248/246

AGUAN VALLEY RAILROAD EXTENSION

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Nov 83 p 16

[Excerpts] The executive director of the National Agrarian Institute [INA], Ubodoro Arriaga Iraheta, remarked that the extension of the railroad system to the Aguan Valley area would contribute greatly to the marketing of the agricultural production from that section.

As everyone knows, the National Railroad system is going to be extended to the Aguan Valley where, during recent years, several farming settlements have lost their harvests owing to the lack of communications routes suitable for transporting them to the market.

According to a report from official sources, the government will invest approximately 90 million lempiras in this project, which was recently set up.

On Wednesday, at the Presidential House where he met with National Railroad (FN) executives, Arriaga Iraheta stated that the extension of this system would be of benefit to the farmers settled there who are growing intensive crops of large size, such as African palm.

In addition, there are banana and citrus fruit plantations and livestock farms; hence, if this project is executed, it will be of great benefit, particularly to the farming groups engaged in the agrarian reform process in the middle Aguan area and Aguan Valley, in the opinion of the INA director, who noted that they are selling African palm oil to Great Britain.

2909

CSO: 3248/246

GLENER: GRENADA IS CARIBBEAN, NOT U.S., PROBLEM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Dec 83 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

After the successful invasion by US forces with the support of Jamaica and Barbados and with police support from the OECS countries, the question is: how will Grenadian democracy develop? From reports reaching us, it appears that the people of Grenada do not wish the US troops and the Caribbean troops to leave too quickly.

Indeed, despite the views of many far from the scene who would wish the troops to leave at once; some of the people it seems do not wish to have elections for a long time as their bitter experiences under Gairy and under the Bishop dictatorship, and then the murder of Bishop — who has become a saint personally, though some members of his government were hated — have led many people in Grenada to declare that they want no elections which would allow any Grenadians to run the country entirely by themselves.

In other words, the feeling is that if there was a referendum now as to whether Grenada wished to remain independent, or to become an associated state of the UK or the USA the result would be overwhelmingly in favour of associated status.

But we hope that this will not

ensue. For we believe that the Grenadians, in concert with their colleagues in the Windward Islands and the Leeward Islands, can become a viable entity; but we stress in concert. For it would appear to us from this distance that it's very difficult for small states of 100,000 population to be independent and be viable at the same time. The moment cries out for closer relationship in perhaps some sort of federation. The OECS is the first move. Let us hope that what has happened in Grenada can now hasten the movement from being a closer association to being a Federation of the Leewards and Windwards which can speak with one strong voice instead of six smaller voices.

As far as Grenada itself is concerned at the moment, we should hope that CARICOM leaders could meet soon to discuss in what ways CARICOM, that is the more developed countries and the lesser developed countries, can help Grenada in finding its way out of its present difficulties. For it is not right that Grenada should now have to depend upon handouts from the USA however generous and well intentioned these might be. Grenada is, after all, a Caribbean responsibility.

PNP FULL-PAGE AD EXPLAINS HOW REPRESENTATION WILL WORK

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Dec 83 p 9

[PNP paid advertisement]

[Text]

HOW THE PNP WILL CONTINUE
TO REPRESENT YOU

*CONSTITUENCY REPRESENTATIVES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

- Our sixty constituency representatives will be organising new party groups and acting as caretakers for the PNP in each constituency
- Constituency executives will select parish council representatives to advise on problems and needs in their divisions.
- Our constituency executives will create community organisations in towns and villages (districts) so that everyone, party member or non-member, can become involved in community development programmes.
- Constituency executive representatives and community organisations will make representations to ministries and departments of government, as well as local government authorities, about any remedial or development programme needed in your community (e.g. road repairs, health facilities, etc.)

*OFFICIAL PARTY SPOKESPERSONS

Immediately following the appointment of the JLP's cabinet, the People's National Party Will:

- Appoint spokespersons to cover such sectors as finance, agriculture, industry, consumer problems, youth concerns, health, education, etc. They will constantly monitor the government's performance and, with the assistance of resource personnel, research, analyse and assess its programmes. Our spokespersons will then address national issues through speeches, broadcasts, statements, news releases and letters to the editor.

WE WILL CONTINUE
TO REPRESENT YOU
AND PROTECT YOUR
CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHTS AND
FREEDOMS

***THE PEOPLE'S FORUM**

This forum will meet at a suitable place in Kingston (and sometimes in parish capitals) on the first Tuesday of each month during sessions of Parliament. At this forum, the party's spokespersons will formally present our analyses, comments and critiques of proposed government legislation, programmes and projects. They will also review the special problems of the economy. Their presentations will be discussed and debated with interested private sector representatives, commodity organisations, trade unions, the church, etc. The media will be invited to report on all meetings of the people's forum.

Special sessions of the people's forum will be held to debate urgent national developments (e.g. presentations made during the JLP's budget debate in Parliament).

PNP

WE WILL NOT ABDICATE OUR NATIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEBATE
AND BRING TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
ATTENTION, ISSUES OF VITAL CONCERN TO
THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA.

This is a paid Advertisement by the People's National Party

CSO: 3298/311

SEAGA OUTLINES HOPE FOR JOBS IN AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Dec 83 pp 1, 10

[Text] SCIENTIFIC, COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE has the "most prospects" in terms of unemployment, one of Jamaica's major problems, said Prime Minister Edward Seaga last Saturday, at the end of a three-hour tour of the agricultural, horticultural and aquaculture projects at the 4,000-acres Spring Plains and St. Jago Farms in South West Clarendon.

The Prime Minister also said that young men and young women who acquired such skills could be assisted in establishing themselves in commercial agricultural business, out of the Government's \$14 million Self-Start Fund which he had set up this year.

The Prime Minister was accompanied on the tour by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick; the Minister of Youth and Community Development, Hon. Errol Anderson; Mr. Brascoe Lee, a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture; Mr. Harold Milner, Financial Secretary; Mr. Derrick Dyer, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; Mr. Cedrick McCulloch, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Community Development; Mr. Jim Rinella, Executive Director of the Agro 21 programme, and several other officers from the three Ministries.

Mr. G. E. (Ted) Tatham, General Manager of Jamaica Agro Products Limited, was in charge of the tour.

The agricultural section of the operations involve the production and export of non-traditional crops mainly for the North American Winter markets. A pilot project established on 180 acres at Spring Plain in October 1982 grew to 600 acres and involved small farmers of the Spring Plain area. Eventually it will embrace about 3,000 acres.

The project required that polishing, grading and packaging of 100 tons of vegetables for air-freighting be accomplished within 24 hours to meet the North American market demands and specifications on a regular basis.

As a result a modern packaging house is now being constructed on a 54,000 square feet floor area to provide all the required facilities and is scheduled "to be operational by January 1, 1984". It is being financed partly through a

line of credit from the Government of Israel and is considered to be one of the most modern developed to date.

The aquaculture project being conducted by Jamaican Aquacapia Limited, represents a joint venture between the Jamaica National Investment Corporation (JNIC) and two Israeli investors, for the development of 400 acres of ponds devoted to growing fish and shrimp primarily for export, and also to supply the local market.

This project was mounted in April this year at the St. Jago Estate and has introduced an advanced level of technology in aquaculture to Jamaica.

A tissue culture laboratory and plant propagation nursery are to be established as part of the overall project, and is designed to assist the Agro 21 thrust. This is regarded as a critical area of weakness in Jamaica's agriculture today, and with this in mind the Government has decided that it is urgent and critical for the establishment of plant propagation facilities, including the use of tissue culture, the agricultural connections explained.

A banana plantation is also to be established as part of the venture.

There are 11 Israeli experts engaged in work and development on the two farms.

During the tour these experts explained and demonstrated to the Prime Minister and his entourage, the methods and details involved in the growing of vegetables on the farms as well as the aquaculture techniques.

Asked by the *Gleaner* for his impressions about what he had seen and heard, the Prime Minister said:

"I am very gratified that what started out as a dream in November 1982... just over a year, has produced so much result. It was started with the idea that in 12 months we were expected to do a lot in the whole objective of reducing the amount of unused acreage in the country and eventually in three or four years, to eliminate the unused acreage.

"We took the decision not to make announcements, but to start with projects. When I announced the projects in October, this was among them, and to see how far they have come, and to see how quickly they have worked in putting up buildings, in clearing land, in getting everything prepared, we may have to revise our projections as to how quickly we will reach the targets.

"But there are others. What you have seen is only two groups — the original group, the Tissona Group and the Beth Haemek group, which are just coming in. They are doing the management of the tissue culture, they'll be doing the management of the banana plantation, they'll be doing the flowers. They are all interrelated in joint ventures with the JNIC.

"There is another group which is coming in. Negotiations have reached a very far stage, with six new projects. And each of these new projects, when they come in we will advise you. Again, we want to get them in the ground and then we will talk about them. Those are very far-reaching...different from these. Projects that will have considerable implications for foreign exchange and for jobs.

"As you heard from the information given here, this will employ on an average two persons per acre, and in the harvesting period an extra person, so three persons per acre. There is nothing that anybody can do in the rural areas to provide that kind of work in industry, and everybody is looking to industry to solve the

unemployment problem. It's not so. The unemployment problem will be solved by successful commercial agriculture.

"You will have agro-industry associated with it, which will provide some jobs. But if you count the number of jobs coming from the agro-industrial component, it's minor in comparison with the field jobs, and other elements of the technology. So that the employment factor is really paramount in our minds and is one that has the most prospects in terms of solving one of Jamaica's major problems, through scientific commercial agriculture.

We are very impressed too with the way these investors operate. They are in the field; they are not in their offices; they are operating with the people and they are operating behind them, teaching them the technology, and they operate behind them to allow them to learn."

Mr. Seaga said that the house which was now being used as the present base would eventually be turned into a training centre as soon as the packing centre is finished. The office would be located in the packing centre. Farmers would then be able to go to the training centre and learn the technology, and then go out and be able to radiate the knowledge out into the surrounding areas.

"The HEART Academy going up next door, at Ebony Park was deliberately placed there so that the boys and girls can learn that new technology, especially in the fish farming," the PM explained.

The Prime Minister referred to the Self-Start Fund of \$14 million which was set up this year, from which youngsters can borrow to set up their ponds and buy their seed stock, their fingerlings." It is easy to set up a young boy in intensive cultivation using scientific methods, once he understands it. And that's where we get our new generation of farmers from, and that's how we are going to have to tackle our youth problem, you are not going to find industrial jobs for all youth problem, you are not going to find industrial jobs for all the youth of the country.

"They don't want to do the things their parents have been doing. Show them something new, show them something that has a good earning capacity, and show them something that has some technology with it, and that is what they are going to be attracted to," he concluded.

GOVERNMENT 'ECONOMIC FARMLETS' PROGRAM OPENS IN ST THOMAS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Dec 83 p 7

[Text] THE INITIAL STEP to a phased major development programme of "Economic Farmlets" for the parish of St. Thomas, was taken on Monday, November 14, when the Ministry of Agriculture issued application forms for lots in a sub-divided 300 acres of land adjoining the Works Yard, part of Leith Hall and Prospect Estates in the parish, states a release from the J.I.S.

The application forms were exhausted long before the issuing office was scheduled to close at 3 p.m., causing hundreds to be turned away, disappointed, the JIS said.

The 300 acres, sub-divided into lots of five acres and upward, are designed to be "economic farmlets" according to the MP for East St. Thomas, Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, Hon. Pearnel Charles. That meant, he said, that the land must be put into productive use, with the successful applicant having the opportunity to live on it, and be more or less self-employed and be self-sufficient.

Sale of the lots are under Land Settlement rules, which call for prior approval for any type of building to be erected on the land.

Leith Hall and Prospect Estates are bounded easterly by the town of Port Morant which adjoins Bowden Wharf Estates, Clifton Hill north-

easterly, the shoreline on the south, Retreat Development on the west and John's Town northern.

The sub-division aims to achieve, firstly, an expansion of the town of Port Morant which, with the new development, is to benefit from an improved water supply system now being established by the National Water Commission, and will serve not only the larger townships, but also Stokes Hall and Duckenfield, among others.

Mr. Charles, the release states, who is also studying the future of the Bowden Wharf which was closed during the 1970s, said that this aspect of the sub-division "fulfills Government's commitment to make lands privately owned by Jamaicans with freehold title tenure".

The programme of development for St. Thomas is being put in place by the Government, through the Ministries of Agriculture, Construction (Hous-

ing and Works) and Public Utilities. Housing has been scheduled for the Hampton Court/Chiswick area, for Arcadia, for the people now occupying Golden Grove barracks and at Amity Hall. This follows a tour of the parish's two constituencies by Construction Minister, Senator Hon. Bruce Golding, accompanied by Mr. Charles, and the Minister of Youth and Community Development, Hon. Errol Anderson, MP for West St. Thomas, last year.

Under Land Settlement rules, purchasers of lots in the subdivision will be allowed 25 years to complete payment for their allotments. With the Housing Ministry's new Build-on-Own-Land (BOL) programme, allottees could receive financial assistance, if they so desire, Mr. Charles said.

Sub-divisions of other Government-owned lands in the vicinity are expected to follow, as other phases of the development come on stream.

These phases include proposed expansion of the Bath Fountains, the curative mineral Spa in the valley gorge of the ancient town of Bath.

Mr. Charles said that this phase of the development would increase tourism attraction in the parish, generally. Facilities at the fountain are expected to be improved, including accommodation. Care will be exercised during the process of improvement not to disturb the hot-and-cold fissures of the mineral springs serving the Fountain, the release quoted Mr. Charles as saying.

SAUDI LOAN TO BE USED FOR ROADS, CLARENDON IRRIGATION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] A J\$60.3 million loan to assist in the improvement of the Clarendon Plains Irrigation system and major roads in various parts of the country has been made available to the Government of Jamaica by the Government of Saudi Arabi through its Saudi Development Fund (SDF).

These arrangements were negotiated as a result of discussions between the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and Chairman of the SDF of Saudi Arabia beginning at the World Bank Annual Meeting of September 1982.

Making the announcement of the loan, Mr. Seaga said that this was the first loan to Jamaica by the Saudi Development Fund. Of it, J\$44.65 million will be utilised on the the Clarendon Plains Irrigation Project and J\$15.65 million on the Road Improvement and Maintenance Programme.

Under the Clarendon Plains Irrigation Project, the use of available water resources on the plains will be maximised and irrigation provided for some 15,000 acres on which agricultural crops including Agro 21 farms will be established.

In addition, 1,200 acres of saline land will be reclaimed and flood control measures effected.

The work will involve:

- Putting 100 wells into operation. Some will be constructed and others deepend and repaired;

- Construction and reconstruction of approximately 2.5 miles of canals and extension of distribution canals for irrigation;

- Construction of deep drains levelling and searching for saline soil.

"The Project will lead to an increase in the level of crop production and by so doing raise the income of farmers. It will also provide employment for some 3,000 persons on a part-time basis," the Prime Minister said.

The Road Improvement and Maintenance Programme is an on-going one. It provides for the improvement and maintenance of major roads and about 2,000 persons on a part-time basis will be employed on this particular project.

Mr Seaga said that agricultural development and the quick movement of goods and service by road are essential elements in the Economic Recovery Programme and the loan from the Saudi Development Fund will assist in these two areas.

The terms of the loan are regarded as extremely concessional. It will be repaid over a period of 20 years including a grace period of 5 years. The interest on the loan will be 3% per annum.

CSO: 3298/311

IDB APPROVES LOAN TO BOOST PRIVATE INDUSTRY SECTOR

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Dec 83 pp 1, 14

[Text] The Inter-American Development Bank has announced the approval of a \$42-million loan to help finance the rehabilitation of the private industrial sector in Jamaica.

The purpose of the programme is to sustain manufacturing levels by providing the foreign exchange to import essential components and to help increase the use of installed industrial capacity in the country, a news release by the Bank said.

The loan was extended to the Government of Jamaica and will be used by the Jamaica Export Credit Insurance Corporation (JECIC), an agency of the Bank of Jamaica.

The JECIC will channel the loan resources through the Rehabilitation Fund in the form of short and medium term credits to private industrial enterprises for the importation of raw materials, semi-processed goods, packaging materials, spare parts and light equipment.

Giving the background to the loan, the IDB said: "The institution of new economic policies in late 1980, combined with large amounts of foreign assistance, arrested a period of decline and enabled the Jamaican economy to register a real growth of 3.3 per cent in 1981.

"Despite continued growth in most sectors, however, the economy as a whole expanded only 0.2 per cent in 1982, due in large measure to a 30 per cent drop in earnings from bauxite and alumina, the country's principal export. This resulted in a scarcity of foreign exchange which has placed serious constraints on the economy.

"The manufacturing sector, meanwhile, registered a 4.2 per cent increase in 1982, reversion a long and steady decline in value-added. Also, employment in the industrial sector expanded 13 percent from 1980 and now representing 11 per cent of the country's total work force.

The sector continues to be affected, however, by foreign trade and incentive policies and by balance-of-payments problems. Due to the lack of foreign exchange with which to purchase inputs and spare parts, furthermore, the utilization of installed industrial capacity remains low.

"A recent study indicates that the external financing needs for imported raw materials and spare parts total approximately 231 million per year, of which Jamaica's Export Development Fund and other sources will be able to provide some 117 million. This will leave approximately 114 million to be financed yearly by the Inter-American Bank or other international financing agencies.

"The loan includes technical co-operation in the amount of 285,000 to finance the consulting services needed to help the rehabilitation fund execute the project.

"Execution of the project is expected to increase and consolidate the results achieved by the programme for the rehabilitation of the industrial and construction sectors of the Jamaican economy, instituted by the Jamaican Government in 1981 with the help of two previous Bank loans totaling 35 million, and to assist the country in meeting its short, medium and long-term growth objective.

The total cost of the project approved today is estimated at 50 million, of which the bank loan will cover 80 per cent and local sources the remaining 20 per cent.

Loan was extended from the Bank's inter-regional capital resources for a term of 10 years at a variable interest rate applicable to yearly disbursement and linked to the Bank's cost of borrowing funds. It will be disbursed in dollars or other convertible currencies.

The loan will be repaid in semi-annual installments, the first of which will be due eight months after the date scheduled for the last disbursement of the financing.

The approval of the loan is subject to final action when the Board of Executive Directors determine that the funds are available. The Bank's member countries are currently taking steps to put into the loan is subject to final action when the Board of Executive Directors det

CSO: 3298/312

REPORT ON VARIOUS UNION-COMPANY RELATIONS, DISCUSSIONS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Dec 83 p 29

[Text]

Nutrition Assistants attached to the Ministry of Health at islandwide hospitals have been reporting sick since Tuesday last, according a release from the Union of Technical Administrative and Supervisory Personnel (UTASP).

The Nutrition Assistants were protesting the Government's tardiness to "favourably respond" to their demands for reclassification, the union said.

The Ministry of Labour had been informed of the dispute, the release said.

In another matter, the General Secretary of UTASP, Mr. Reg Ennis has written to Hampden Estates Limited, protesting what he said was enforcement of early retirement on some of the workers represented by the union while retaining many workers who had past retirement age but not members of the union.

"I consider your action to be reprehensible, unlawful and victimising," his letter said.

Mr. Ennis said that unless the decision was revoked by today the union would be left without option but to instruct industrial action without further notice.

Still on the labour scene, the Trades Union

Congress (TUC) and Allied Stores Limited have signed a new labour agreement replacing one which expired July 31, 1983.

The agreement ranges from a wage increase of \$49 over two years to washing and discomfort allowances and three weeks pay in the event of redundancy. According to a TUC release, the heads of agreement will expire on July 31, 1985.

The TUC also signed a new labour contract with Lawrence Manufacturing Company. Arising from this agreement, workers are to be given an increase of \$9 from July 1, 1983 to December 31, 1983. Seven dollars are to be given as from January 1, 1984 until December 31, 1984 and another seven dollars as from January 1, 1985 to December 31, 1985.

Over 350 workers of the University of the West Indies (Mona) represented by the University and Allied Workers Union (UA-WU) last week received payments for uniform allowances, amounting to over \$150,000.

The payment had been made, a release from the union said, as a result of the Collective Bargaining Agreement signed between the union and the University earlier this year and

approved recently by the University Grants Committee at its meeting held in Barbados last month.

Workers would also be receiving additional payments of salary increase and fringe benefits with retroactive effect to April 1, 1983.

The National Workers Union (NWU) and the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union have written jointly to the Sugar Producers' Federation of Jamaica, seeking a meeting to settle what they said were outstanding claims made on behalf of the clerical, technical and supervisory employees at the various sugar estates.

In a release from both unions, they said that it was pointed out by them that in light of the increased savings to the sugar industry resulting from the recent devaluation and rationalisation, it was time for the National Sugar Company to make an offer in respect of a new contract as the last agreement expired on December 31, 1982.

Both unions are also requesting additional compensation for the production workers, whose contract was recently settled for the 1983 and 1984 sugar crops, as a consequence of the devaluation.

TROUBLED CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY APPEALS TO GOVERNMENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Dec 83 p 13

[Text]

COMPLAINTS by numerous building contractors over the conditions under which they operate may reach the Minister of Construction before the end of this month, as the Masterbuilders are aiming to bring up the matter at their monthly meeting with the Minister which is to take place this week.

At the same time, over fifteen builders have telephoned the *Gleaner* stating that they are faced with bankruptcy since they cannot collect for work they perform.

One builder said that the financial institutions are charging 21% interest on sums in excess of an overdraft and a penalty of \$7.50 on each cheque drawn after the overdraft is reached. This has caused him to be paying over \$200,000 extra in interest and other bank charges.

Another builder said that some architects have joined the ranks of those housing developers who are "squeezing" builders. He instanced a case where a project was held up because of the tardiness by the owners in providing certain building materials; but when the builders applied to the architects for extension of time, pointing

out that particular reason, the architects refused to grant the extension, leaving the builders open to pay liquidated damages.

"We are not prepared to accept contracts drawn up on the old J.C.C. forms any more. They are outdated. They do not protect the builders. And it is high time that the Joint Consultative Committee prepare a new draft to protect builders".

These were the comments of one builder when asked if the contract does not offer him protection. He said that there are so many things that are working against the builders that he is prepared at any moment to go into voluntary liquidation rather than to continue under the present conditions.

Builders say that the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar has also hit them. They say that many of them had imported materials and there is no way that they can recover the additional cost from their clients.

One builder complained that at the start of his project he had not received the final drawings from the architects. When the job was underway a number of changes had to be done at the instruction of the architect; but when the builder claimed for these extras the architect refused to give the nec-

essary certificates, without which he could not approach the clients for payment.

Some architects are said to give verbal instructions for changes but will not substantiate these in writing.

The builders are in "revolt" because they say that there is no recourse to lawsuits.

"It is useless going to an attorney. The fact is that we have a small number of them to choose from, for it is not many of them who do understand and study construction laws and contracts," one builder said, adding that there is only frustration when they attempt to go to the courts.

Many builders declare that the Government is their chief problem.

"We cannot collect from them, and we dare not sue them to recover our money", the builders say.

"We need a new set of laws, but we need the Lien Law most. We need new contract forms and new conditions of labour.

"What we need is a contract that makes it compulsory for a client to pay whatever is due to us into our banks from time to time. We also need guarantees that at the end of a project we will be paid for the work we do".

NEW AVENUES OF COOPERATION WITH SOUTH KOREA EXPLORED

Joint Industry Ventures

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Dec 83 p 28

[Text]

Prospects for further economic co-operation between Jamaica and South Korea in joint ventures in industry were examined yesterday in discussions between the Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Neville Gallimore, and the Special Envoy of the South Korean President, Dr. Young Ho Lee.

Information about the talks, which took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was given by Dr. Gallimore as he formally welcomed Dr. Lee, who is also Minister of Sports in the Republic of Korea, at a luncheon which he hosted yesterday at the Terra Nova Hotel.

Dr. Gallimore said that during the discussions, "we examined the possibility for economic co-operation, we examined the possibility for technical co-operation and the possibility for establishing joint ventures."

Pointing to the fact that only this week it was announced that Jamaica had qualified for preferential treatment under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, the Minister said that while Jamaica had an open quota under the CBI and

was a stable society which enjoyed closeness of proximity to the United States market and had 50 percent of the population in the English-speaking Caribbean Community, South Korea was limited by a quota and was situated very far away from some of the major markets of the world.

"We see the possibility for mutual co-operation to our mutual benefit", said Dr. Gallimore, who added that, keen businessmen as the Koreans are, he did not think they would miss the opportunity to do business with Jamaicans.

The Minister said that the Jamaican Government wished to diversify its external trade and economic relations, so as to enhance the opportunities to secure additional foreign investment and technical assistance which are critical to Jamaica's economic recovery.

ery programme.

Of the forthcoming visit of a team of some 40 South Koreans in January next year to help with the training of Jamaicans in the operation of garment knitting machines, Dr. Galimore said he was looking forward to the visit. "We are confident that Jamaica will benefit immensely from the tremendous expertise which has been developed by your country in this area."

He hoped that Dr. Lee's visit would augur well for the future.

In reply to Dr. Galimore's welcome, the visiting Korean Presidential Envoy said that while they, the Koreans knew that "this world is not all that it should be", there was one thing in which they had hope -- that was the increasing desire for co-operation between Jamaica and South Korea. During his visit he would be looking into how both countries could engage in co-operation which was mutually beneficial.

He was fully aware of the CBI, and Korea's Ambassador, Dr. Sang Jin Choi, would keep his Government informed about the Initiative, said Dr. Lee.

His President had commanded him to say how grateful he was for the very kind messages of comfort, condolence and encouragement extended by Jamaica during the recent moment of national grief and sorrow, which his country went through with the shooting down of the Korean airliner, resulting in the killing of 270 persons; and the killing six weeks later in Rangoon of some members of a visiting Korean Presidential party. Fortunately, the lives of President Chun and his wife were spared. He described this last act as one of "criminal terrorist ac-

tion committed on the soil of an independent sovereign state", and blamed North Korea.

He said that while this was an act of war, South Korea did not retaliate, "for had we done so, we would have fallen into the trap that they were setting for us. And this would have been against our policy of maintaining peace."

Dr. Lee said that President Chun had mandated him to elicit the support of Jamaicans and other Caribbean peoples, and in doing this, he wished to point out that terrorist activity such as South Korea had suffered, was not confined to that country alone: recent events in Grenada had shown that that island had signed an agreement with North Korea, under which it was to be given \$12 million of arms and military equipment. "So we are dealing with a common enemy here."

Before coming to Jamaica, Dr. Lee had visited Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. He told the guests that the Costa Rican Government had recently decided to break diplomatic ties with North Korea.

Commenting on recent developments in the region, Dr. Lee said he supported the Contadora Group.

He mentioned the decision of the International Olympic Committee to hold the 1988 World Olympics in South Korea, and said it was with great pride that Korea regarded that decision. "And we are determined to make it the greatest Olympics in the history of the games." He hoped that Jamaica would send a strong team to Los Angeles next year, but he hoped it would despatch an even stronger one to Korea in 1988.

Cultural Ties

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Dec 83 p 18

[Text]

The Minister of State for Culture, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, said on Friday last that Jamaica would welcome exhibitions, visits from folkloric groups in South Korea, and any other form of cultural exchange which could create and enhance global understanding.

Mr. Bartlett said that over the last few years attempts had been made to develop cultural ties between the two countries, and he expressed the hope that these efforts would be further strengthened arising from the visit to the island of Special South Korean Presidential Envoy, Dr. Young Ho-Lee.

Mr. Bartlett said he was happy that Dr. Ho-Lee had decided to visit Jamaica. The presence in the island of the South Korean Envoy accentuated the growing warm and friendly relationship "between the governments and people of South Korea and Jamaica.

Responding to Mr. Bar-

tle's welcome, Mr. Ho-Lee said he was grateful and happy to visit Jamaica, adding that he would like to see increased exchanges in the field of culture between his country and Jamaica. He gave Mr. Bartlett the assurance that when he returned to South Korea he would take up the matter of developing greater cultural ties between the two countries, with the South Korean Minister of Cultural Affairs.

The discussions between Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Ho-Lee also dealt with the issue of international terrorism.

Mr. Ho-Lee said he had held discussions with Jamaican Government officials, which had been interesting and encouraging.

Referring specifically to the differences between North and South Korea, Mr. Ho-Lee said he had talked on the matter with the Minister of National Security, Hon. Winston Spaulding, and the Minister was very understanding of the problem.

CSO: 3298/312

COLUMNIST DISCUSSES SUGAR, WATER ISSUES, ECONOMICS OF GANJA

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Dec 83 p 8

[Article by Morris Cargill]

[Text]

I don't know exactly who started the mischievous rumour that the sugar estates were to close down permanently. It was certainly not this newspaper. But the rumour created considerable anxiety amongst the general public. On the morning the rumour took hold I was stopped on the street by eight complete strangers, mostly of the working class, asking for my opinion.

I had no opinion, for I didn't believe the rumour, and said so. Yet there was something in it, though by no means to the damaging extent rumour had it.

Like everything else in Jamaica the sugar factories were run-down over the Manley years. They now need considerable sums, millions in fact, for repairs and spare parts. It is the same sort of thing as happened to the Jamaica Public Service Company and other public utilities. We have got to face the unpleasant fact that there is simply not the money available to do all that is necessary. Some money, about half what is needed, has been found to do a fairly respectable patch-up job upon the sugar factories so that crop can more-or-less continue. And that is about it, for now.

But a patch-up job is about all that can be done for the sugar industry anyway. It is a doomed industry in Jamaica. World production is about eight million tons a year in excess of demand. The big sugar users, bottled soft drinks, for example, are going over more and more to synthetic sweeteners and sugar from corn, and such markets as remain for sugar are now dominated by the high-efficiency beet sugar producers. In Jamaica, all the sugar we produce for export is produced at a loss. Theoretically, we should have packed up sugar production long ago. But we need the foreign exchange for one thing. And for another we need the employment that sugar production gives.

Clearly, though, we shall have to phase out sugar production sooner or later. While it is labour intensive, largely because we haven't gone over to more modern and efficient methods such as the mechanised reaping of cane, it is, under current conditions, a vast waste of large acres of our best flat lands.

The question is, what can we put in its place? One obvious answer is to put our cane lands under sorghum and a tropical breed of soya and go in for large scale production of beef. The world, and especially the 'tropical' world, has an over-production of carbohydrates, and a shortage of protein.

But that is easier said than done. The dislocation would be intense, and in the early stages of conversion there would be loss of employment and the need for very large sums of capital for development. I think that this Government is hoping that if Agro 21 becomes a real success, better and more profitable crops will gradually take over, allowing sugar to wither away.

This is a long-term business, and in the meantime sugar will totter along, giving everyone a pain in the neck and Jamaica a pain in the pocket. The worst thing that ever happened were those ridiculous co-operatives. Even if they had been perfectly managed all they would have done would have been to have locked the farmers into an obsolescent and doomed industry.

Water is another big problem, though this one we cannot fool about with. The Minister, Mr. Pearnel Charles, tells us that the National Water Commission has a deficit of \$44 million. That is clear enough. What is not so clear is how this came about. The Minister seems to suggest that this is because the reduced supply of water has cut into revenues, and that spending on emergency measures has been another factor.

But the loss of revenue, over a year and a half, has been only \$6.8 million, and emergency spending only just over \$6 million. This leaves about \$31 million of the deficit unaccounted for. We would still have been in major trouble even if there had been no emergency spending and no fall in revenue.

One big trouble is that the NWC has never come clean in public about its incapacity to collect water rates from large areas in Kingston. In these poorer areas, there are enormous defaults in the payment of water rates. Indeed the more prosperous small areas of Kingston and St. Andrew as a whole, have been carrying the burden. The poorer areas have the NWC by the throat. Unlike the cases of electricity or telephone, you cannot cut off water to these huge poorer areas, because the country could not face the filth of non-functioning water closets and the consequent threat of epidemics. The non-payment of water rates in these areas is not entirely a matter of poverty. Much of it is the usual all-pervading anancyism. I haven't the faintest idea what can be done about this one. Even if you could cut off the water, people would soon be chopping the mains. Our current anarchy is hard to beat.

In view of all these immense deficits, and our incapacity to find the money to put anything right, I was astonished to read that \$90 million worth of ganja, intended for export, had been burnt in a gigantic bonfire at Port Royal. To make matters worse, the

police announced that this was 'only a fraction' of the ganja that had been captured and remained in store, unburnt. Another official estimated that the ganja that had fed the bonfire represented the production of 5,000 acres.

The police are only doing their job, but I question the wisdom of the policy which forces them to do it. It is all very well to kowtow to U.S. policy, but the value of captured ganja for export exceeds in value any direct aid given us by the USA.

Charity should begin at home. We ought to tell our American cousins that much as we would like to help them with their ganja problem, we cannot do it at the expense of our feeble economy. The U.S. can afford to chuck the stuff away. We can't. Frankly, I think we are out of our cotton-picking minds.

CSO: 3298/312

BROAD REACTION AS THREE POLICEMEN ARE KILLED IN GANJA RAID

Report on Westmoreland Incident

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] THREE POLICEMEN were shot and chopped to death in a ganja raid at Bath Mountain, Westmoreland, by men in ambush armed with high-powered weapons, early yesterday morning.

The Police Information Centre identified the dead policemen as Acting Corporal Humphrey McCalla and District Constables Eugene Senior and Gavin Hudson.

A fourth member of the raiding party, A/Cpl. R. D. Lee, managed to escape unhurt in the ensuing exchange of gunfire.

All of them were attached to the Frome Police Station.

A man who later turned up at the Savanna-la-mar Hospital for treatment for gunshot wounds was detained for questioning in connection with the incident, the PIC said.

According to the PIC, in the early hours of yesterday morning police from the Frome station went to raid a ganja field at Bath Mountain. Gunmen apparently guarding the field opened fire on them and three members of the police party were shot and then chopped to death by their attackers.

Acting Corporal Lee, who escaped the fusillade from the high-powered guns, went for assistance and the bodies of his dead colleagues were found at daybreak. The three service revolvers of the slain policemen were found beside their bodies.

By daybreak, strong detachments of police from stations in Hanover, Westmoreland and St. James had cordoned off and were searching the area, assisted by the Jamaica Defence Force with a helicopter.

Police Commissioner Joe Williams went to the scene by Army helicopter. Prime Minister Edward Seaga and the Minister of National Security and Justice, Hon. Winston Spaulding, reportedly went also, but this was not officially confirmed by the Gleaner

Manley Statement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Mr. Michael Manley of the Peoples National Party issued the following statement on the incident: "I am outraged at the brutal and callous murder of the three police officers and the wounding of one of their colleagues in Westmoreland this morning. This incident is another blot of shame on the name of our country.

"The greed for money is one of the concerns to our society today, and we need to examine what are the causes for the urge for wealth regardless of the dishonest way it is gained.

"I am sure the Commissioner of Police and the other officers and members of the Constabulary Force will make every effort to find those responsible, and that in due course true justice will prevail.

"I grieve with the families of those killed and pray that the officers who were wounded will recover full health as quickly as possible."

Seaga Warning

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 11 Dec 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] PRIME MINISTER EDWARD SEAGA said yesterday that in the incident in Blau Wearie, St. Elizabeth, on Friday, in which three policemen were killed, action will be taken to ensure that no such brutality will take place in Jamaica again.

"Brutality has reached a new height and the action which is to be taken must ensure that no one will ever attempt to carry out such brutality without knowing of the fearful consequences," the Prime Minister said in the statement.

A companion statement issued by the Minister of National Security, the Hon. Winston Spaulding, said that the police had launched an intensive campaign into the murders and already 26 persons have been detained.

Mr. Seaga's statement gave an account of the slaying of the three policemen-- Corporal Humphrey McCalla, District Constable Eugene Senior and District Constable Gavin Hudson.

A report from the Gleaner's correspondent in Savanna-la-Mar yesterday said that six persons had been arrested in connection with the killing, but they were not identified.

The Statement

Following is the text of the Prime Minister's statement:

"I held consultations early this morning with the Minister of National Security, Hon. Winston Spaulding, and the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joe Williams, on the brutal slaying of three policemen at Blau Wearie District, near Bath Mountain, Westmoreland.

"According to police reports, a party consisting of four policemen went to Blau Wearie to execute a warrant on a man who was wanted in a case of unlawful wounding.

"In the course of carrying out their duty, the police party uncovered a large storage of 60 barrels of cured ganja ready for delivery to a narcotic dealer.

"One of the policemen was sent back to the station to obtain a vehicle to remove the ganja to the police station at Frome.

Mob Attack

"While the other three policemen were awaiting the vehicle, they were attacked by a mob of about 50 persons and had to retreat into the teacher's cottage. The mob then smashed the teacher's cottage and made an attempt to push it over the hillside with the policemen inside.

"Two policemen inside the cottage--Corporal Humphrey McCalla and District Constable Eugene Senior--were killed and their bodies mutilated.

"The other member of the police party, District Constable Gavin Hudson, jumped through a window, but was caught, chopped and his body mutilated. Cured ganja was rubbed into the wounds of the slain policemen.

"In this case, brutality has reached a new height and the action which is to be taken must ensure that no one will ever attempt to carry out such brutality without knowing of the fearful consequences.

The police will deal with this matter fearlessly and effectively so as to leave no doubt whatsoever in any quarters that wrong-doers who seek to protect illegal operations will recognise that the law cannot be ignored, nor officers of the law be exposed to acts of brutal mob violence.

"The same is true for acts of violence by mobs which in the past attempted to play the role of judge and jury in beating to death person or persons who are alleged to offend the other group.

"A disciplined society requires that the police must be able to perform their duties in a manner which ensures that the police do not commit atrocities against helpless citizens, nor must atrocities be committed against them. Private citizens must not take matters into their own hands in carrying out mob brutality against fellow citizens who are alleged to be engaged in illegal operations.

'Turning Point'

"We must follow a disciplined course with each citizen playing his or her part in ensuring that law and order is maintained.

"No effort will be spared in bringing this forcefully to acceptance and recognition by all parties.

"The Blau Wearie incident is an event of the type which frequently occurred in the 1970s and must have no place in the 80s.

"We must make it a turning point so as to ensure that the country continues to uphold standards of civility and not be aroused to feverish pitch by anger for whatever reasons.

"I extend my sincere condolence and that of the Government to the bereaved family of the slain policemen.

"I propose to have an investigation carried out in regards to the damage done to the teacher's cottage to determine what remedy can be applied there."

Spaulding Reaction

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 11 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] The Hon. Winston Spaulding, Minister of National Security, said yesterday that the brutal slaying of the three policemen at Blau Wearie, near Bath Mountain, Westmoreland, on Friday underscored the need for all law-abiding citizens to condemn all forms of mob violence and co-operate with the police in bringing wrongdoers to justice.

In response to the killing, Mr. Spaulding, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joe Williams, and Mr. Donald Rainford, Permanent Secretary in the Minister of National Security, along with top-level investigators from the CIB Headquarters and Area 1, met on the scene of the crime.

The Minister described the killing of the three policemen as an outrage and said it will not deter the police in carrying out their lawful duties in suppressing crime and protecting the life and property of citizens.

Mr. Spaulding said that this was another case of criminal activity by drug dealers which the police have been endeavouring to suppress. The anti-narcotic drive over the past months will be re-inforced to counter any resistance to the security force.

The police have launched an intensive investigation into the Blau Wearie murder and already 26 persons have been detained.

Manhunt, Arrests

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Dec 83 pp 1, 20

[Text] AS THE POLICE pressed their investigation into the killing of three policemen at Bleauwearie district, in Westmoreland, last Friday, some 40 persons have been taken into custody and some six reported arrested.

No official report has been released on the police action, other than the statements issued on Saturday by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, and the Minister of National Security, the Hon. Winston Spaulding; but it is known that a massive manhunt is on for the killers.

Several persons in the area, many of them described as ganja farmers, have been taken in the police dragnet, with the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joe Williams, himself directing operations from his headquarters in Kingston.

Here are two reports from Gleaner correspondents in the area:

SAVANNA-LA--MAR, Wd., Dec. 10 (From our Correspondent): Six men have been arrested and charged by the police here in connection with the slaying of three police men in Westmoreland yesterday.

In addition, an undisclosed number of men and women have been detained for questioning. The names of the men arrested could not be ascertained.

Since the killing took place, a major manhunt was launched by the local police in an effort to track down the killers.

SAVANNA-LA-MAR, Wd., Dec. 11 (From our Special Correspondent): The massive manhunt for ganja farmers who are responsible for the death on Friday, of three policemen at Bleauwearie continues today.

Since Friday, some 40 persons including schoolboys and girls have been held for questioning.

Strong reinforcements of police drawn from the parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover and St. James have already rounded up ten men whom they suspect took part in the murder of the policemen, but the police have delayed charging them. There are others who were still at large to be taken in custody and to be charged jointly with those already held.

The three policemen--Corporal Humphry McCalla, District Constables Eugene Senior and Gibbon Hudson, of the Frome Police Station, were chopped and stoned to death by a gang of ganja farmers at Bleauwearie last Friday.

Reports are that four policemen from the Frome Police Station went to Bleauwearie to arrest a man for unlawful wounding, and that on reaching the place they found a hut with 50 barrels of cured ganja ready for shipping.

The three constables were left to guard the ganja as well as the man whom they had arrested for wounding, while the other policeman drove the police car to Savanna-La-Mar to get help for the removal of the ganja.

During this period, the reports said, some ganja farmers who were in hiding rushed out with sticks, cutlass and stones which forced the police to run from the scene after scaring shots which they fired at the gang proved useless.

So the three constables ended up at a house about half mile from the ganja scene where they were marooned by the gang estimated to be over 40 people.

On reaching the house, the reports said, Corporal McCalla broke through a window, and managed to pull in District Constable Gibbon Hudson, while District Constable Eugene Senior, who was a citizen of the district, returned to the gate to appeal to the gang for peace.

D/C Senior was hit with stones in the head which brought him to the ground where he was chopped and stoned to death.

After that, the house in which Corporal McCalla and District Constable Hudson were hiding came under heavy attack by the gang with stones, sticks and machetes, after it was suggested by members of the gang that the shots in the police guns were finished.

D/C Hudson jumped from the back door of the house and fell into a gully and broke his neck. The gang fell on him and chopped him to pieces. After this they broke into the house where they fell on Corporal McCalla and chopped and stoned him to death in the house.

A woman, who was the sole occupant of the house, managed to escape through a side door without being hurt.

GLENER Comment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Dec 83 p 1

[Page One Editorial]

[text] The brutal and dastardly slaying of three policemen in Bath Mountain, Westmoreland on Friday, December 9, is a grim reminder that there are those in the society who arrogantly believe that Jamaica is only a hunting ground to satisfy their greed, and who thus hold the country and its laws in contempt.

From the reports, the policemen were sent on a raid of a ganja field, and as they waited for reinforcements, they were shot and then mercilessly mutilated. This wanton act of murder is a challenge to the country and its Government. It was deliberate, and premeditated, and shocking in its implications.

We call on all those citizens who have information about the growing and export of ganja, and all those who have information which might help the police to crack this monstrous ring of criminals, however highly placed, to come forward and give it to the police. For the criminals must be brought to justice.

Those three policemen, whose death we mourn, were our representatives. In killing them, the criminals have challenged us all. Let us meet it with unity and firm resolve. This is not time for intellectual sophistry over whether ganja is harmful or not--for its existence as a profitable illegal trade, has made it a threat to our security and survival as a civilised State.

Ganja and Politics

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Dec 83 p 8

[Carl Stone column]

[Text]

The savage and gruesome murder of three policemen in the course of carrying out law enforcement duties in a Westmoreland ganja field marks a new stage in the relationship between the ganja mafia and the society.

As an illegal trade earning what some have estimated to be in the region of one billion dollars, the ganja business has survived because dealers and growers have been able to bribe their way around law enforcement agents, and because powerful people in high places in this country have had a hand in the business. Politicians have mounted campaigns against the trade only to find that it has never been possible to get more than token harrassment of the dealers and growers.

The politics of ganja has deepened as the U.S. has come to take a more serious view of the entire flow of drug traffic into that country; and as Colombia, Jamaica and other well established drug centres have been targeted for anti-narcotics programmes.

Pressure has been brought to bear on our own government to take more serious action against the trade. While the political directorate has resolved to take action necessary to reduce the level of ganja production, the implementation of those policies have always fallen short because the ganja mafia has been much too powerful and resourceful in limiting the assault on this multi-million dollar business.

The Government has in effect reaped the worst of both worlds. Seaga's JLP has been harshly criticised by ganja interests as yielding to U.S. pressures to carry out a major anti-ganja campaign, while in fact the trade continues to thrive as the implementation of eradication measures has been largely token in nature.

Pro-PNP flavour

Indeed, in some local areas, the ganja issue has taken on a strong pro-PNP flavour as growers and dealers adopt the posture that since Manley is no friend

of Reagan and the U.S., he is likely to be safer for the business than Seaga who has been pressured by the U.S. to come out against the trade. These persons have therefore been advocating the need for a change of government to secure more firmly the interests of the ganja mafia.

On the other hand, the PNP party leadership have made it clear at more than one press conference that much as they understand how dependent many interests in the society are on the trade, its illegal character and the wider implications of the drug traffic networks compel the PNP to take a law enforcement view of the trade. Manley's stated position on ganja is therefore no different from Seaga's. Seaga himself expressed a similar understanding of the local ties of dependency on the ganja trade before coming to power, and he has been heavily criticised for so doing in the U.S. press.

The drug traffic has taken on new dimensions with the increased inflow of hard drugs into Jamaica and the impact in terms of greater teenager use and efforts to establish a growing street trade in tourist areas. As a result, both the JLP and the PNP agreed to co-operate in creating a bi-partisan National Advisory Committee to look into the matter.

Powerful

Big money such as is earned by the ganja business is power that can be used to challenge and neutralise those who oppose the interest. In countries like Bolivia and Colombia, the powerful drug interests have established what almost amounts to a drug "state within the state," as the local mafia controls vast areas, powerful people and interests and local as well as national officials. Much of the local opposition and fears about the trade here relates less to fears about ganja use and more to the possibility that the ganja mafia might become as powerful here as in those countries.

Perhaps the strongest case against the trade has been the link made between ganja traffic and guns and gunmen. It is a vicious circle. Heavy weapons are brought in to protect the ganja fields from theft.

Gunmen are used to provide both self-defence as well as enforcement over growers and small dealers. Increasingly, as the raids against ganja fields have been stepped up under U.S. pressure, these guns have been used to intimidate law enforcement officers. The big guns have barked to scare off raiding parties, but never before have the ganja interests been so bold as to kill policemen. Some of these guns are undoubtedly used to rob banks and payrolls.

Arrogance

The murder of the policemen in Westmoreland is a clear sign of the growing arrogance of those in the business who now feel that they can do open battle with the police. By taking the fight to the police they are likely to provoke a response that could for the first time get full support from law enforcement agents for policies designed to clean up and wipe out the trade.

Many a policeman who might have aspired to be

bought by the ganja mafia must now be seeing themselves more as potential targets of ganja gunmen who have grown too powerful.

The ganja mafia has overplayed its hand, and must be dealt with severely. The killing of law officers by drug dealers is more than just murder. They are challenging the authority of the State. They are in effect declaring war on officials of an elected government, and by so doing are provoking anarchy and lawlessness in the country. They must be taught a lesson. If the mafia chooses to declare war against the state, then the state has no choice but to declare war against them.

Economic reality has induced some of us (including myself) to be tolerant of the ganja trade. That factor plus its ability to bribe law enforcement agents and the power and influence of some of the "Mr Bigs" have allowed the trade to thrive in spite of the on going anti-ganja policies of the government. But the ganja mafia has now clearly got out of control, and it must be cut down to size.

As long as ganja makes money, it will not be possible to wipe it out completely, as the money will be enough inducement for some people to take the risk.

But the volume of the trade can be substantially reduced by more effective police action. The killing of these policemen might well lead precisely to that outcome.

Tales of Police Harassment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Dec 83 p 13

[Excerpts] Residents of Bleauwearie and surrounding districts in south central Westmoreland have alleged that they have been beaten and "terrorized", some detained and their furniture and homes damaged by uniformed and plainclothes policemen since the killing on Friday last week of three policemen in a house in Bleauwearie square.

The residents complaints to the **Gleaner** came against the background of a call by Member of Parliament for the area, Mr. Astil Sangster, on Commissioner Joe Williams, for investigations being carried out into the slaying of the three policemen to be "conducted within the framework of proper police procedures."

Mr. Sangster who said he condemned the "mob violence" which led to the killing of the three policemen, in a release said that he had visited the area and received reports which "indicated that some policemen were using methods which did not accord with police procedures, and were terrorising innocent citizens in the area."

However, Police Superintendent for

the area, Mr. W. Buchanan said that he had no knowledge of any brutality or terrorism carried out against the citizens of the area by the police and said he had not been informed about a house being burnt down, by the police. The Superintendent said between 25 and 27 persons had been detained and six persons arrested. He said there were no "indiscriminate detentions" and investigations were being pursued out of the Savanna-la-mar station by a police team including officers from Kingston. He also denied that there were any person from the area still being detained in connection with the incident.

LIFE IN THE SMALL TOWN has departed from normal with most residents refusing to come onto the streets, shops closed and bars in that and nearby districts closing before dark. There is a noticeable absence of young men in the district and many have fled to nearby hills or have left the area altogether. Other residents of the area including women say they are leaving to escape beatings or further beatings.

The main grocery shop at Bleauwerie has been closed since Friday and its operator said to have gone to Kingston. Children have stopped playing in the streets and young women say that their children are refusing to go on errands in the village. Since Monday, there has been greatly reduced attendance at the Bleauwerie school about 100 yards away from where the incident occurred.

At least six persons showed the Gleaner's reporters cuts, bruises and weals which they say were inflicted on them by beatings in the village and in the Police Stations in Frome and Savanna-la-mar. Residents and friends of some of those who have been arrested say that they fear taking clothes and food for them.

The reports from the citizens, some of whom alleged that they saw the last stages of the events in which the policemen died say the policemen were stoned and chopped to death by a group of young men, but between 100 and 200 persons from the village saw the last moments of the events. The Savanna-la-mar Police say one of the policemen killed, received gunshot wounds to his body.

Reports of what happened before the policemen took refuge in the house are not very clear, but the most consistent accounts state that either four policemen, accompanied by an informant, went to the area in a Colt van between 2:00 a.m and 3:00 a.m. Friday. One of the policemen later departed with the informant, to the Police Station at Frome. A young man from the area was also sent on a motor bike to the Police

station to find out if the men in the area were policemen sent on a raid. While the policemen in the hills waited for vehicles to transport the ganja they had discovered, young men of the area were reportedly alerted and went to the area in which the waiting policemen were standing guard. The men reportedly threw lighted bottle torches and stones at the policemen who began running toward the main road and town centre which is on lower ground than the fields. The men confronted the policemen near to the road and the police reportedly began firing but no one fell. **THE ARMED MEN** with knives and machetes, and citizens who had heard gunfire began shouting "ganja thief. Thief" and started circling the police who backed away and held onto one man from the area who they pulled with them to the verandah of the house.

The man who said he had been pulled with the police to the verandah of the teachers' cottage said he tried to halt the advancing villagers, mainly men, and told them that someone had gone to check if the men were in fact police. He was knocked unconscious by two stones thrown by men in the group. When he got up the policemen were already dead. One man from the group had been shot in his mouth. The man who had been knocked unconscious said he crept away when he heard the men say that they should finish him off.

The teacher's cottage has several broken windows, over turned furniture, shattered glass and stones on the ground. The occupant has been moved elsewhere by the police.

BRIEFS

PILOTS' WAGE OFFER--The Gleaner has been reliably informed that the Jamaica Airline Pilots Association has rejected a wage offer from the Minister of Labour and the Public Service, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, made at a meeting on Tuesday night. According to the source, a five-point wage offer was made to the executive of J.A.L.P.A. for the period June 1, 1982 to May 31, 1984, subject to ratification by the membership at a later meeting on Tuesday night. However, the source told the Gleaner that the pilots did not ratify two points of the five-point formula. The executive of the Association is to meet again with the Minister to tell him of the outcome of their meeting. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Dec 83 p 13]

AIR JAMAICA PACT--Agreement was reached yesterday between Air Jamaica and its ground staff on new wage increases to cover the period from October 1, 1981, to December 31, next year. Details of the agreement are: --an increase of \$14 a week from October 1, 1981, to September 30, 1982; --an additional \$15 a week from October 1, 1982, to September 30, 1983; --a further increase of 9 per cent (subject to a minimum of \$24 a week) from October 1, 1983, to December 31, 1984. The agreement was reached at a meeting lasting from 11:30 a.m. until 7.45 p.m. yesterday, under the chairmanship of the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, Minister of Labour and the Public Service. The company was represented by Messrs. Noel Rennie and Peter Samuel. The employees were represented by their union, the BITU, for whom Mr. Ruddy Spencer, senior negotiating officer, appeared along with several delegates. Associated with the Minister were Messrs. M. D. March and Tony Irons, of the two Ministries. A work-to-rule was enforced by some of Air Jamaica's employees earlier this week while settlement of the age claim was being negotiated. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Dec 83 p 1]

FLOUR SITUATION--The situation in the baking industry should improve shortly as baking flour is now being delivered to bakeries. Last week baking flour was in short supply and nearly 40 bakeries across the island were closed over the week-end. The shortage was due to the lack of wheat at the Jamaica Flour Mills but the situation improved with the arrival last Friday of 7,500 tonnes of wheat from Canada, thereby facilitating production at the mills. Yesterday the Flour Mills started distributing some 6,000 bags of flour and today another 6,000 bags are expected to be distributed. The distribution pattern is expected to return to normal with the regular outflow of 4,500 bags per day. A spokesman at the Mills explained that the company ran out of wheat for about

one week as there was a delay in the shipment from Canada. This shipment arrived on Friday and production started soon after clearance. He said that they did not envisage any difficulties for the Christmas period as the supply of wheat would enable production for about five and one half weeks. Within this period another shipment is expected. A spokesman for the baking industry confirmed that baking flour was being delivered and said that the shortage should be over by today. Bakeries in the Corporate Area should have received supplies yesterday with the rural ones expected to get today. Counter flour which was reported to be in short supply was also being delivered. This commodity is being distributed by the Jamaica Commodity Trading Corporation. A JCTC spokesman said that the company was distributing counter flour and as far as it was concerned there was no shortage of the product. The company said it would issue a release on the matter. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Dec 83 pp 1, 10]

KINGSTON WATER SCHEME--Work has begun on the Castleton /Wag Water River Water Supply Scheme, one of two new systems planned to increase the Corporate Area's water supply. Construction of the \$15.8 million scheme is being carried out at Castleton in St. Mary, by the National Water Commission, JIS reported. Originally estimated to cost \$9.4 million in 1979, the system's present revised estimated cost includes improvements to the Constant Spring Filtration Plant at Long Lane, the treatment capacity of which will increase by about 5.5 million gallons daily to 20.5 million gallons daily. This new water system will provide an additional six million gallons of water daily for the Corporate Area's current storage facilities. It is estimated that in severe drought conditions, not less than three million gallons will be provided daily by the scheme. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Dec 83 p 1]

BATA SHUTDOWN--BATA SHOE COMPANY (Jamaica) Limited is phasing out its operations in Jamaica, starting December 15, after being here for 50 years. Its 32 operation points islandwide will be closing down and 255 workers will be given redundancy payments totalling over \$2-million. This decision has been taken in face of continuing financial losses over the years by the company, which has its head office in Toronto, Canada. Close down of production operations begin December 15, redundancy payment to factory/warehouse/stockroom staff will be on December 22 and 23; closure of the first eleven stores will be on December 24; and redundancy payment the staff at eleven stores/offices will be on December 30. [Excerpts] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Dec 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/314

BUSINESS LEADER SEES POSSIBLE THREAT TO SOCIAL PEACE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Nov 83 pp 31-A, 38-A

[Article by Jaime Contreras]

[Text] "We are Mexican citizens and fathers before we are businessmen. Therefore, we must prudently and vigorously defend all of our rights and prevent them from being trampled on in any way....Now then, what happened in Sinaloa must be looked into thoroughly, and if the will of the people was thwarted, then this must be protested not only at the state level but throughout the country."

This remark was made to EXCELSIOR by Nicolas Madahuar, the vice president of the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce [CONCANACO]. He also cautioned that if "the path that we Mexicans have charted for ourselves through the ballot box" is not respected, social peace could well be imperiled. "And who would want what is happening today in Central and South American to happen in Mexico? We must strive for national unity, which will be achieved only through the strength and determination of the majority."

Interviewed in the lounge of the Pink Zone hotel in which he usually stays when in Mexico City (he is a native of Merida, Yucatan), Madahuar, who has also been president of the Yucatan Chamber of Commerce, rejected the idea of some business leaders that they must get down to work but not concern themselves with political matters. He acknowledges, however, that "we businessmen did, in part, negotiate our political passivity, but it was out of short-sightedness, a short-sightedness that we must banish today."

He said that businessmen, be they industrialists or merchants, have every right to take part in politics, especially if we take into account the trend in this administration, "which is turning out to be more leftist than the leftists."

He then precluded any possible misinterpretations: "Out of conviction and under our bylaws, we cannot and must not take part in politics as business leaders, inasmuch as our representatives owe us respect, and our philosophy is often at odds with theirs. People from every

party can participate in the groups, and it would not be legitimate for us to take advantage of them for purposes other than the defense of freedom and, in my case, of private business."

He reminded the administration that "if memory does not fail me, we Mexicans did not vote for socialist ideas in the federal elections," but it seems that the government is moving in that direction "because it is fatally employing the number one weapon against private enterprise: price controls."

Speaking almost without a southeastern accent, Madahuar, who is of Lebanese descent, then referred to several street posters "accusing Manuel J. Clouthier (the former chairman of the Business Coordinating Council) and Emilio Goicoechea, the president of CONCANACO, as being 'traitors to Mexico' because they gave 'financial aid to PAN,'" which the business leader publicly denied. Madahuar remarked:

"What an accusation! It's as if all Mexicans should think alike, and if we stray from that approach, we are committing a crime. Nonsense. Furthermore, I think that we are going to take some steps in the Business Coordinating Council to defend them, to defend ourselves and to defend our membership as a whole. We will do so soon, I think."

An emotional man, he often does not allow his train of thought to be interrupted. He admitted that companies are the most vulnerable part of the private sector: "Because they can take one away from you in two minutes and they can close it down on you in half a minute. But that is not the case with rights. They have demanded the efforts of many Mexicans and we must defend them strenuously. If someone tried to prevent our children from getting the education that we wanted for them, we would not allow what we want so badly, a better future for the younger generations, to be jeopardized."

Madahuar stressed that price controls have to be gradually abolished, "because keeping them will discourage production and investment and lead to shortages and unemployment."

He reaffirmed one of the classical arguments of private enterprise, that if the prices of commodities or any other items are decontrolled, "although consumer prices will initially rise sharply, in the medium and especially the long run production will expand, enabling costs to be cut and prices to balance out. The forces of the marketplace, not we, have the final say."

The business leader from Yucatan also commented briefly on what is happening with wage demands. "First things first. We have to maintain job opportunities however we can, and everything else--wages, fringe benefits, etc--has to be put off. It would do no good to boost salaries sharply if I go bankrupt the next day, and the losers are the workers, who would lose their source of income along with me."

"We are not systematically opposed to the government. When it does something positive that benefits everyone, not just us, we applaud it. But if it makes mistakes, and it has, there is no reason for us to remain passive. Not all of us are perfect either, though. Just as there are good and bad public officials, there are good and bad businessmen. We must all strive to be better and overcome difficulties."

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CSO: 3248/286

EX-GUERRILLA WARNS OF POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Nov 83 pp 4-A, 28-A, 29-A, 30-A

[From "Political Fronts" Column, by Humberto Aranda]

[Text] A Former Guerrilla Speaks

A member of Lucio Cabanas's guerrilla band and a participant in several kidnappings, Humberto Noriega Cantu, who was later granted amnesty under Jose Lopez-Portillo and is now a leader of the Socialist Workers Party (PST) in Guerrero, asserts that if the votes in the upcoming municipal and congressional elections are not respected there, "conditions will be ripe for a renewed upsurge of violence."

In an interview with Enrique Diaz Clavel he explained that "the people are tired of the PRI-government regime, which is keeping the state of Guerrero backward in every respect, as we can see from the fact that it has the highest illiteracy rate and is the most isolated state."

Elections will be held in Guerrero on 4 December. The PST has submitted lists of candidates in 35 municipalities and 14 local districts. According to the former guerrilla, his party is sure of winning in San Marcos, Copala, Tecpan, Tecuanapa and Tierra Colorada.

Noriega Cantu, a candidate for local deputy from the 13th district, whose seat is Acapulco, predicted that a high percentage of the voters would stay away from the polls at the upcoming elections.

He noted that in the previous elections in Guerrero (which has a population of 2.25 million), 650,000 of the 965,000 registered voters did not cast ballots, and in Acapulco, which has 1,040,000 inhabitants and 300,000 registered voters, only 50,000 people went to the polls.

"If PRI candidate Alfonso Argudin Alcaraz wins in Acapulco, I hope that doesn't do what Governor Raul Caballero Aburto did, because when he tried to crack down on the people's protests, they rioted and removed him from office," Noriega remarked.

PAN LEADER PRESENTS DOLLAR FLIGHT FIGURES FOR MARCH-JULY 1983

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Nov 83 pp 1-A, 26-A, 27-A, 29-A

[From "Political Fronts" Column, by Guillermo C. Zetina]

[Text] Dollar Flight Continues: Conchello

Citing a Federal Reserve Board report, National Action Party leader Jose Angel Conchello charged in Tijuana that "more than \$2 billion left the country and was deposited in U.S. banks from March to July of this year, and in light of this there is, of course, no power on earth that can straighten out the country's economy."

The National Action Party adviser made this comment upon his arrival in Tijuana on his way to the University of Santa Barbara, where he will deliver a lecture on the topic "The Trend Towards Conflict in Mexico's Economic Situation."

Conchello said that "the capital flight is due to the government's control of the economy" and that "it is government officials themselves who have taken charge of bleeding Mexico's economy, inasmuch as they have private enterprise handcuffed."

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CSO: 3248/287

POOR QUALITY CONTROL SAID HURTING INDUSTRIALISTS

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 3 Dec 83 p 8-A

[Article by special correspondent Desiderio Morales]

[Text] Ciudad Juarez, 1 Dec--"There is no quality control in Mexico," says Jayme Salazar Salazar, the director of the National Chamber of Commerce of Ciudad Juarez, deploring the fact that Mexican industrialists cannot take advantage of the boom along the border.

The drastic devaluations of the peso have suddenly stood shopping habits on their head in this zone. The residents of El Paso, Texas now shop in Ciudad Juarez, where their dollar goes farther, while the residents of Ciudad Juarez would rather shop in their city's commercial district, where their peso buys more, than in El Paso.

"We estimate that sales in El Paso's business district are just 10 percent of what they were a year ago," says Jayme Salazar.

He says that the time has come for Mexican businessmen to turn their eyes towards the border. He complained, however, about the quality of Mexican goods.

"We have been appealing to Mexico's industrialists to invest along the border," he said.

"They are unfamiliar with the market, however. It is true that this takes time and it is true that they have to go through an adjustment process. But their products are lacking in quality."

Salazar spoke of the boom in Ciudad Juarez and added that illegal emigration to the United States has doubled.

No Recession in the Zone

The new infusion of demand has given particular vitality to Ciudad Juarez's economy. "We have no recession," says Jayme.

"According to estimates by the Banco de Mexico, economic activity in Ciudad Juarez was up 28 percent in real terms from January to September of this year."

"This contrasts with the prevailing situation in the country, as economic activity will be off up to five percent," he said.

He went on to say that "we have generated an additional 28,000 jobs this year, according to Social Security figures. There were 76,000 jobs registered with Social Security at the beginning of the year. Now we have around 104,000."

"The number of pages of help-wanted ads in local papers has increased considerably."

Salazar notes that even though the Ciudad Juarez zone is booming, the local working population and, in particular, workers from the interior have more incentive to cross the border illegally.

"The number of illegal crossings has risen from 1,500 last year to 3,000 this year," he says.

Two major factors are the Mexican recession, which curbs job opportunities, and wage gaps, which widened with the devaluations of the peso.

A Mexican worker making the minimum wage in the United States earns \$134 a week. With currency-exchange offices along the border offering 160 pesos to the dollar, this is equivalent to 21,400 pesos.

A worker making the minimum wage in Ciudad Juarez earns 3,661 pesos. The difference is almost fivefold.

Inasmuch as peso prices in the United States are higher than peso prices in Mexico, the difference is far from being fivefold, however.

Jayme Salazar predicts that the dollar will be worth 164 pesos by year-end. "Since it rose from 150 to 158.8 pesos in the month and a half that the decontrolled peso rate began slipping, it should gain a similar amount in another 1½ months and hit 167 pesos."

The government expects the peso to close the year at 162.10, in line with its 13-centavo a day downward float.

Currency-exchange offices in Ciudad Juarez do not agree, however.

"The dollar could close the year at 180 pesos," said an employee at an exchange office along the border.

The problem facing banks along the border is that since their market is "less" free than that of the currency-exchange offices, they offer a lower rate and take in practically no dollars.

SECTION 31 OIL WORKERS' UNION OFFICIAL SHOT TO DEATH

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Nov 83 pp 1-A, 14-A

[Article by Rafael Medina Cruz]

[Text] Rogelio Perez Castillo, the education and social welfare secretary of Section 31 of the STPRM [Trade Union of Petroleum Workers of the Mexican Republic], headquartered in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, was riddled with bullets yesterday in this city at the door to his house at 525 Francisco I. Madero Street by two individuals riding in a white Caribe station wagon.

According to information furnished over the telephone by Commander Norberto Portilla and Inspector Ruben Garcia of the local police, Perez Castillo was returning home after driving his wife to the offices of Pemex, where she works.

"He was apparently opening the garage door when he was shot by the two men, who got out of a white Caribe. They fired seven shots at him (from a super-38 and a 45 pistol), only three of which hit the STPRM education and social welfare secretary."

Ruben Garcia and Norberto Portilla reported that the incident occurred at 0715 hours in front of Perez Castillo's home.

Perez Castillo's body has three bullet wounds, one in the left cheek, another in the left calf and the third in the left shoulder.

The STPRM education and social welfare secretary was 36 years old and was a native of Tampico, Tamaulipas.

Perez Castillo, who was appointed a Section 31 official on the direct recommendation of Hector Garcia Hernandez ("El Trampas"), had prepared a case against the current secretary general of the section, Jose Vasconcelos Morales, on charges of embezzlement to the detriment of Pemex workers.

The charge that the deceased was going to file against the union leader extended to his son, Carlos Vasconcelos Guevara, who runs a construction firm that received union funds.

Interviewed at the Southern Penitentiary about Rogelio Perez Castillo's death, Hector Garcia Hernandez ("El Trampas") said that Perez Castillo had visited him 2 weeks ago and told him that he was going to file the formal charges against the head of Section 31 with the Federal Public Ministry.

El Trampas, who said that "Rogelio was one of our people," asserted that the individuals behind his murder are Jose Vasconcelos Morales, his son Carlos Vasconcelos Guevara, Senator Salvador Barragan Camacho and Joaquin Hernandez Galicia; the latter two had previously threatened to kill the Section 31 education and social welfare secretary for keeping in contact and showing solidarity with Garcia Hernandez, who is now on trial for fraud.

"If Nothing Is Done, There Will Be War..."

El Trampas warned that if the judicial authorities do nothing to clear up the murder and do not take criminal action against Barragan Camacho, Hernandez Galicia, Vasconcelos Morales and Vasconcelos Guevara, "an open war will be declared on STPRM gunmen."

"We have people too who can keep us from being shot like animals," he said.

Garcia Hernandez said that Pemex workers from the southeast "who came to visit me just yesterday told me that the Vasconcelos had threatened to kill Rogelio Perez Castillo 2 days ago."

He said that in addition to Rogelio Perez, other leaders who had spoken out against the dishonest practices of top STPRM leaders had received death threats, and he held Barragan and "La Quina" directly responsible for anything that might happen to his family members and supporters.

Speaking from the Southern Penitentiary, Garcia Hernandez also requested the intervention of federal authorities because he claimed that state and local judicial officials are staunch backers of the Section 31 leader.

He said that Police Inspector Ruben Garcia has direct dealings with Vasconcelos Morales and even takes bribes to cover up the abuses that Vasconcelos' gunmen commit against other union leaders.

The Fraud Charges

According to Hector Garcia, who asserted that Rogelio Perez Castillo had evidence against Vasconcelos Morales, the charge was fraud totaling more than 500 million pesos, which were siphoned from Section 31 funds to set up the construction firm JOCSE, S.A., which is run by Vasconcelos Jr.

Garcia Hernandez went on to say that Perez Castillo was going to submit other documents showing that Vasconcelos Morales was guilty of other counts of fraud, sales of positions, promotions, etc.

In Hector Garcia's view, "this is not going to be the only death that the STPRM leaders order, inasmuch as for several weeks now threats have been voiced against people who sympathize with me and who are standing firm in their struggle to speak out against fraud, murder, embezzlement and shady dealing by the secretaries general of the 29 sections in the country."

El Trampas asserted that the oil workers in the southeast were the ones who have shown the most opposition to Barragan Camacho's and La Quina's dishonest dealings and that the two therefore decided to undertake these gangland activities.

Jose Vasconcelos Morales has headed Section 31 for 30 years and has never submitted an accounting report of the workers' monies.

The National Petroleum Movement, through its vice president, Carlos Ibarra Perez, also held STPRM leaders Salvador Barragan Camacho and Joaquin Hernandez Galicia responsible for the death of Rogelio Perez Castillo.

He disclosed that the secretary of the National Petroleum Movement, Faustino Gutierrez Davila, who works in Section 35 in Azcapotzalco, also received a death threat yesterday morning.

Carlos Ibarra Perez also said that all of the leaders of the National Petroleum Movement have received death threats and he has therefore asked the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic to take action and halt these gangland activities.

"This is the wave of violence," Ibarra Perez said, "that we had warned would be unleashed against those who oppose Barragan Camacho and La Quina."

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CSO: 3248/288

MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST DISSIDENT PETROLEUM WORKERS

Work Contracts Canceled

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Nov 83 p 27-A

[Text] Pemex officials whom Hector Garcia Hernandez ("El Trampas") has accused of accepting gifts from Joaquin Hernandez Galicia ("La Quina"), have ordered the work contracts of MNPLC [Lazaro Cardenas National Petroleum Movement] leaders canceled.

This was announced yesterday by Maximo Hernandez Ayala, the president of the MNPLC, who added that the measures were taken against the dissident union leaders in retaliation for their denunciations of corrupt officials.

He told this paper that the instructions to cancel the contracts came from Pedro Cabrera Vazquez, the personnel manager, who according to El Trampas's confession received 15 million pesos from La Quina; from Roberto Morales, an assistant administrative technical director of Pemex whom Garcia Hernandez had personally given 25 million pesos, and Hernandez Balboa, who received 10 million pesos from Hernandez Galicia.

Hernandez Ayala explained that efforts are now under way to fire him and other dissident leaders who made public El Trampas's accusations against the officials.

The president of the MNPLC reported that the measure against him began to be applied yesterday, as Pemex officials refused to grant him the vacation time and leaves of absence to which he was entitled.

Arturo Rodriguez Mayen is also affected by the measure. He will be running for secretary general of Section 34 of the Oil Union; Hernandez Ayala will be a candidate in Section 35.

Hernandez Ayala explained that although fixed and, therefore, illegal elections have already been held in both sections, "we assert that under our bylaws the elections must be held in December, and under these circumstances the decision is up to the Labor Secretariat."

Lastly, Hernandez Ayala stated that the demand by the democratic oil workers that the sectional elections be held in December "will probably prompt the bossdom run by Joaquin Hernandez Galicia to order the closed-shop provision applied to us."

Protesters Abused, Threatened

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 27 Nov 83 p 5-A, 7-A

[Text] Arturo Rodriguez Mayen, Antonio Lechuga Escartin and Guillermo Atalo de Castro, who are candidates for various posts in the Lazaro Cardenas Independent Petroleum Movement, were kidnapped, robbed, insulted and threatened with death yesterday by six gunmen "sent by Jesus Andrade Ibarra, the head of surveillance at the 18 de Marzo Refinery in Azcapotzalco."

The victims disclosed yesterday that they were suddenly seized last Friday afternoon at the refinery gate as they were passing out leaflets denouncing oil union leaders Joaquin Hernandez Galicia and Salvador Barragan Camacho for cracking down on the members of the Lazaro Cardenas Movement.

Rodriguez Mayen, a candidate for secretary general of the Lazaro Cardenas Movement; Lechuga Escartin, who is running for foreign secretary, and Atalo de Castro, who is seeking the statistics secretary post, related that they were forcibly taken to the office of Jesus Andrade Ibarra, where they were insulted, threatened with death if they continued their dissident activities, robbed of money and valuable objects and each forced to sign some 30 blank pages.

They also said that Marco Antonio Perez, the acting labor secretary at the 18 de Marzo Refinery, was also involved in the threats and the thievery. Perez is another hard-core follower of La Quina and Senator Barragan Camacho.

They were released 4 hours later after being warned that they would have a "car accident" if they continued to publicize the shady dealings of their leaders.

In its leaflets the Lazaro Cardenas Movement reaffirms its intention to combat undemocratic practices and corruption in the STPRM and in Pemex, as well as men such as La Quina, Barragan Camacho and their administrative allies, "who have been intensifying their repression since the criminal charges against the oil union leaders and high-level officials of the enterprise."

They claim that Assistant Director Roberto Morales, Personnel Manager Pedro Cabrera and Construction Works General Coordinator Jaime Hernandez Balboa were given "25 and 10 million pesos bribes by La Quina so that he could control them."

They add that "the most outrageous part" of everything going on at the 18 de Marzo Refinery" is that Jesus Andrade, a tool of the new personnel manager, whom the Lazaro Cardenas Movement accuses of taking bribes from La Quina, is now high-handedly trying to lay off or fire the movement's leaders by relying on his natural allies."

8743

CSO: 3248/288

OIL WORKERS' UNION OFFICIALS SEEN AS ABOVE LAW

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 29 Nov 83 p 26-A

[Article by Alfredo Jimenez and Victor Payan]

[Text] "Oil workers' leaders Joaquin Hernandez Galicia and Senator Salvador Barragan will unfortunately never be put on trial even though there is evidence of their involvement in fraud totaling more than 1.5 trillion pesos, because for some time now their clout has exceeded the country's economic and political power," Hebraicaz Vazquez Gutierrez and leaders of the National Petroleum Movement (MNP) said yesterday in one of the corridors of the building housing the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

Vazquez Gutierrez and a dozen MNP leaders were interviewed as they appeared in the Attorney General's offices to confirm their charge that La Quina and Barragan Camacho were involved in fraud totaling 1.5 trillion pesos in the 1979-1983 period alone.

Hebraicaz also charged that the country's economic crisis is due not only to the extremely poor management under the previous administration but also and to a great extent to the abuses committed by the former director of Pemex, Jorge Diaz Serrano, Hernandez Galicia and Senator Barragan Camacho.

The MNP leader also charged that La Quina and Barragan Camacho are dangerously sabotaging President Miguel de la Madrid's energy development program.

[Question] How is this sabotage being carried out?

[Answer] In a thousand ways. For example, we are going to present evidence that the former Pemex director allowed La Quina and Senator Barragan Camacho or gave them a concession to sell thousands of barrels of residual oil called 'slob' on the 'black market.'

He went on to say that the authorities should conduct in-depth investigations into both Pemex and the Trade Union of Petroleum Workers of the Mexican Republic (STPRM).

He recalled the 1976 case of the weapons that were smuggled in on board the "Gustavo A. Madero," a case in which Barragan and La Quina were implicated.

He also said that the administration of Mexico's oil ought to be made known to the people, inasmuch as Lazaro Cardenas expropriated the industry for the benefit of all Mexicans, not just for a single group.

After reaffirming his charge of fraud, Vazquez Gutierrez stated that Joaquin Hernandez Galicia runs and controls the STPRM by passing himself off as the coordinator of social and revolutionary works, a position that does not appear in the union's bylaws.

He then dug into his briefcase and handed reporters a document, saying: "It will seem like a fairy tale to you, but remember that truth is stranger than fiction."

The document is an analysis by the National Petroleum Movement of the STPRM's contractual earnings during Barragan Camacho's term as the union's secretary general.

1. 11.4 billion pesos in regular union dues deducted from the wages of union workers.

2. 15 billion pesos in Pemex contributions to trade union social benefit projects (2 percent of the Pemex total).

3. Loans from the Banco Nacional de Obras y Servicios Publicos totaling 780 million pesos for the construction of houses that "were never built; instead, the money was deposited in fixed-time accounts that earned the trade union profits of 4,504,095,000 pesos from 1980 to 1982.

4. An estimated 700 billion pesos in profit was made from residual oil sales from 1980 to the present.

8743

CSO: 3248/288

BRIEFS

'SYSTEM' SEEN PROMOTING VIOLENCE--Culiacan, Sinaloa, 12 Nov--The already crumbling system is pushing people to violence by denying opposition parties their legitimate election victories, the leader of the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] and its former presidential candidate, Arnoldo Martinez Verdugo, said today. Speaking at a press conference a few hours before the votes from last Sunday's local elections began to be counted, the chairman of the State Steering Committee of the PRI, Carlos Loaiza, charged that PAN [National Action Party] state authorities "were claiming, out of frustration and despair, that they won mayoralty elections that they in fact did not, because the people of Sinaloa did not vote for the Far Right." The municipal leader of PAN, Benjamin Camarena, described the ruling party as a neofascist political organization and called on it "to acknowledge its defeats in four mayoral elections." Martinez Verdugo arrived this morning in Culiacan to attend an afternoon meeting organized by PAN, PSUM, PDM [Mexican Democratic Party] and PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party]. In an interview he said that the crisis besetting the country "is politicizing the people," who no longer accept PRI's rosy forecasts and are demanding with mounting annoyance that their votes be respected. It is a serious thing when the system is bent on continuing its traditional flawed practices at election time. "I thought that they no longer made off with ballot boxes," stated the PSUM leader, referring to the charges by political parties about last Sunday's elections. For many years now the city has been the scene of shootouts between criminals, but this afternoon the atmosphere here was one of tense calm, after military and Judicial Police personnel began patrolling it in light trucks as the hour for the the opposition's meeting "in defense of the vote" drew near. [Article by Armando Sepulveda Ibarra] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Nov 83 pp 4-A, 33-A] 8743

JALISCO TEXTILE INDUSTRY PROBLEMS--Guadalajara, Jalisco, 28 Nov--The Jalisco textile industry is working at 50 percent capacity, due to raw materials shortages and the drop in sales, said the president of the state textile industry chamber, Eduardo Zermeno Oropeza. He added that fabrics continue to be smuggled from the United States into Mexico through airports, and the authorities have so far been unable to stop it. He explained that cotton is one of the raw materials in shortest supply, and this has idled a large part of the industry. Textile industrialists also need timely, low-interest loans to maintain their work forces. [Article by Eduardo Chimely] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 29 Nov 83 p 36-A] 8743

TRANSPORTATION-RELATED PROBLEMS CITED--Eight cities in the country with populations of more than half a million suffer from severe transportation problems, especially Mexico City and its metropolitan area, where demand exceeds 20 million passenger trips a day, Miguel Angel Nava Uriza, the director of Analysis and Investment of the Secretariat of Communications and Transport, asserted yesterday. The director, who is taking part in the Seminar on Traffic Engineering, said that in light of its urban transit problems, especially the increasing use of private cars, the country must have development plans that aim, among other things, at reducing the time and cost of transportation for residents of urban areas. Nava Uriza, an engineer, said that a study on the urban transport problem found that families in big cities spend 15 percent of their income on transportation, that many residents spend 30 percent of the work day commuting to and from their jobs and that urban transport accounts for 40 percent of the end use of energy. He added that 4 percent of the vehicles transport 77 percent of the population, while 96 percent of the vehicles, mainly privately owned cars, handle just 23 percent of the passenger trips. The director of Analysis and Investment noted that private cars account for 16 percent of trips in Guadalajara, 23 percent in Monterrey and close to 20 percent in 22 other cities around the country. The problem, he indicated, consisted of excess demand on the country's road infrastructure, as a result of an overreliance on private cars, a problem that is worsened by the constant increase in the number of cars. Given this outlook, the director said, development programs are being put together to reduce congestion and mitigate its adverse effects on energy consumption and the environment. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Nov 83 p 27-A] 8743

CSO: 3248/287

ANDEN LEADER DEFENDS SANDINIST REVOLUTION

Lisbon DIARIO DE LISBOA in Portuguese 5 Dec 83 p 11

[Article by Manuela Alves: "Milena Nunez Says That Revolutionary Life Satisfies Her"]

[Text] "We are now waiting," she said, looking at me with her grey and green eyes in an interior garden at the Gulbenkian [Foundation]. "To our requests for a dialogue, the United States replies: 'Yes, gentlemen, let us have a dialogue' but, in the meantime, they surround our coastline with warships. When I return to Nicaragua within a few days, I will resume my old post on the executive committee of ANDEN (National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers) or I might leave with the militia battalion of which I am a member." "Were all Nicaraguan teachers mobilized?" we asked. "From pre-school to university--everybody," she replied.

Outwardly, Milena Nunez has nothing in common with those legendary female guerrilla fighters who accompanied Che Guevara or Fidel Castro, the first in Latin America whose image was spread all over the world.

Neither her lilac skirt and blouse, nor the light makeup, nor her "composure" identify her as female revolutionary and fighter. But her conviction, her confidence and determination in her country's victory in the struggle for liberty and progress--these convey to us the dimension of her commitment to the Sandinist revolution.

It is true that she was many kilometers away from the Atlantic of her small Nicaragua (in terms of size), surrounded by the enemy on all sides.

It is true that she found herself among teachers in the pleasant surroundings of the facilities of the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon where, representing the teacher organizations ANDEN and FOMCA [expansion unknown], she participated in the International Meeting of Teachers on the New International Economic Order and in the meeting of the FISE (International Federation of Teaching Trade Unions) which followed.

Wearing a lilac outfit and amid the very recent memories of her homeland, she talked to us in front of a garden about what her life in Nicaragua was like.

"Just exactly what I am going to do when I return to my country within a few days will depend on the circumstances I find there," she said. "When I went abroad, the last report I received stated that the threat of imminent aggression by imperialism still existed. My country is currently suffering a naval blockade by 19 United States warships involved in the Ahuas Tara II Maneuvers. In addition to that, 18,000 soldiers, including 5,000 United States Marines, are participating in these operations. There is also a troop concentration along the northern border of Honduras and there are counter-revolutionaries along that border and in the south, adjoining Costa Rica.

"All of them are trained, armed, and guided by the CIA."

\$1,040 Million in Damages

"The counterrevolutionaries basically get support from the Honduran army. With this support they carry out acts of sabotage and serious crimes against Nicaragua's shaky economy. At this time we can figure \$1,040 million in economic damages. These crimes are taking on the form of arson in production centers, such as cooperatives, destruction of schools and child development centers, destruction of farm machinery and civil engineering construction machinery. The counterrevolutionaries are infiltrating Nicaragua and, through Honduras, they also attack the civilian population, generally peasants who go to work in the field; then they escape again into Honduras where they are protected by the army."

But there are other forms of attack, for example, the bombing of the "Augusto Cesar Sandino" International Airport in Managua, and the attack against the port of Corinto, the country's most important port, by a fast motorboat. In this port, the attackers set fire to a warehouse containing 8 million liters of diesel, which meant that the port and 30,000 persons were facing the risk of an explosion.

"Over the past 3 months," Milena Nunez continues, "we have recorded 38 ambushes against the Nicaraguan Armed Forces, 38 attacks against border posts, 218 armed clashes, 55 attacks on the population, and 170 kidnappings. The counter-revolutionaries take the kidnap victims (drawn from the civilian and generally rural population) to Honduras where they kill them; at other times they kill them even in Nicaragua and leave the bodies by the roadside. We have also had 39 acts of sabotage, 241 violations of air space and 50 naval violations; between 1981 and 1983, 717 Nicaraguans died in this struggle, including civilians and Armed Forces personnel; 49 were teachers. But the Nicaraguan forces are also replying kind," Milena emphasized.

"During the bombing raid on the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, one of the attacking aircraft was destroyed by the Nicaraguan Air Force and between 1981 and today we killed 1,636 counterrevolutionaries."

"We Are Not a Threat to Latin America"

The intervention of the United States in Grenada was a warning to Nicaragua whose people intensified its organization for the country's defense and reconstruction.

"The entire people is currently organizing itself in the form of people's militias," says Milena. "We have production battalions (for coffee, for example; we have to harvest the coffee which is a main export product for Nicaragua). In the city, the people built shelters; they are organizing themselves in fire-fighting brigades, first-aid teams, and revolutionary defense groups. The recent case of Grenada was a warning for us and therefore we are preparing to face the future and to defeat any attempts against our process of liberation."

The revolutionary government and organizations are working hard to make sure that there will be no intervention because this would signify war in Central America and that would be a threat to world peace. "We support the efforts of the Contadora Peace Group and the Nicaraguan revolutionary government has presented a peace proposal on an international scale, asking for the signing of a bilateral agreement in Latin America so that none of its countries would be used as a military base or so that there would be no maneuvers along its coastlines or so that it would not in any way be a springboard of activities threatening peace in Latin America. It also proposed the signing of an accord with the United States so that the latter country would guarantee us non-intervention. The United States says that we are a threat to peace in Latin America but with this proposal we are demonstrating that we want peace. And we also want to avoid more bloodshed and destruction of our people."

The FOMCA and ANDEN representative talked about the organization of teachers in defense and production battalions.

"Our academic year ends in December and begins again in February. Some of our teachers have already signed up for the militia units during their vacation. Those who, for any reason whatsoever, cannot collaborate in production or defense will work with the population, teaching courses, for example, first aid. We are also doing indoctrination and civil defense work and we participate in seminars, etc."

Milena Nunez already joined the militia forces in March, April, and May.

"At that time we suffered an ambush. There were about 30 of us in a military convoy, in a mountain region in Nicaragua. We were accompanied by young workers and peasants. Suddenly, a group of counterrevolutionaries attacked us heavily with mortars. We responded and pursued them. We had two wounded and they had two dead. Situations like these are very common in Nicaragua."

We Defend a Just Cause

"Do you contemplate such future actions with fear?"

"No. I was afraid the first time. I was going off into the unknown. Now that I have experience, fear disappears. After all, they have no spirit and they are cowards. We do have spirit, we defend a just cause and that means that we have no fear. When we see dead comrades, we feel courage to continue to fight against the murders and destruction."

"You frequently speak in the name of Nicaragua, of the people, as if all people were with the Sandinist revolution in a body and rejected the counterrevolution. Is that true?"

"The majority of the people is with the revolution; there are right-wing parties which oppose the revolutionary process; there is a revolutionary newspaper--LA PRENSA--which makes the counterrevolution, providing misinformation. On that side you also find the sectors of the bourgeoisie, some businessmen, some manufacturers, and private enterprise. But in the area of private enterprise there are also progressive elements who are with the revolution. And then we have the Council of State where all parties and religious organizations are represented."

"Ministers" of God Become Ministers of Men

"Did religion change much in your country?"

"It did. Our people are mostly Catholic although there are other religions. Politically speaking, there are small groups of faithful who are against the revolutionary process but the Christian sector supports our revolutionary process. We have priests in the revolutionary government; the minister of culture and the minister of foreign affairs, Fr Miguel d'Escoto. Another priest, Fr Fernando Cardinal, headed the first literacy training drive."

The topic of literacy training is always dear to the Nicaraguan revolutionaries. It was one of the first tasks of the revolution which involved more than 100,000 literacy instructors coming from various sectors of the population, such as teachers, workers, self-employed professional people, etc. As a result of the literacy training campaign, the illiteracy rate in Nicaragua dropped from 50.3 percent to 12 percent at this time. Adult education then follows up on the literacy training program.

"Overall, 418,720 persons became literate. Consequently, we are managing to involve vast segments of our population in the country's political life. We are trying to make sure that all segments will have access to health and education because that is the only way they can effectively contribute to the country's development. For the time being, we have a severe shortage of trained personnel. We also have a considerable shortage of teachers with the proper training."

I Am Well Served by the Sandinist Revolution

This 35-year-old woman's commitment to the Sandinist revolution is no accident. Two of her seven brothers, Carlos and Rene Nunez, hold outstanding positions in the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. Carlos is one of the nine commanders of the revolution and Rene is secretary of the National Front of the Sandinist Revolution.

"My father was a carpenter and was already an opponent of the regime. There were eight of us; I was 14 when my father died. We suffered poverty and injustice. We, the oldest siblings worked by day and studied at night. Only the youngest were able to study during the day. We were born in a city with oppositionist traditions, that is, Leon, Nicaragua's second-largest city and the first to be liberated by the revolution. It is a university town which was well organized in the history of the struggle."

Persecutions, imprisonment, and torture marked the lives of the eight children of the carpenter from Leon.

"I was a government-employed teacher and they fired me. I had to teach in private schools. Others among my brothers and sisters, who were also teachers, had to change their jobs because they were not allowed to teach. Carlos and Rene, especially Rene, however, were arrested and tortured. But instead of making us afraid, they only gave us an incentive and almost all of us today are directly involved in the revolutionary process."

At the age of 35, Milena is the only unmarried member of the family. Is her current life incompatible with the idea of marriage?

"The revolution as a matter of fact does not leave me any free time to think about that. But there is nothing to prevent me from getting married; that could happen any time. But I do not feel that there is any vacuum in my life. I have many cousins whom I helped raise. When my brothers were underground, it was up to us to raise them," she commented with a smile and made a gesture as if she were embracing a whole crowd of cousins.

"Is your family with the revolution?"

"All the way."

5058

CSO: 3242/1

DEFENSE, HARVEST PRINCIPAL TASKS OF SANDINIST YOUTH

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 25 Nov 83 p 3

[Interview with Carlos Carrion, National Coordinator of Sandinist Youth, by Rene Camacho Albert in Santiago, Cuba; date not specified]

[Text] At the Anti-Imperialist Youth Meeting of Cubans and Nicaraguans being held here in Santiago, something outstanding and really encouraging is the identity of objectives by our youth when facing the common enemy; Yankee imperialism. This is one of the things that makes this meeting worthwhile, for it shows what we have accomplished by way of development, our experiences in the struggle, and also what we are learning from our brave, intelligent Nicaraguan brothers.

Carlos Carrion, national coordinator of 19 July Sandinist Youth and member of the Sandinist National Assembly, gives us the measure of what we are saying in his own words: "Here is Moncada and in good measure the assault on this military fortress turned out to be an encouragement and a lesson for all Latin American revolutionaries and especially for the Nicaraguans. We have always thought that this heroic action performed by a group of brave young people, headed by Fidel, became an example for all consequent revolutionaries, and very much in agreement with the fighting spirit of our people."

Carrion is referring to the talk he delivered at Post 3 of old Moncada at the opening of the meeting, when he stressed how happy they were and how much it meant for all of them to be in the birthplace of the Cuban Revolution. From that moment we recall his speaking of how angry it made his people to hear of the sneaky, criminal invasion of Grenada and the lessons learned not only from the exemplary attitude of the Cuban construction workers, but also from the errors of the Grenadan revolutionaries: "We are cool-headed enough to understand," Carrion said, "that the important thing is unity and not becoming isolated from the people."

On the role of youth, and their responsibility in the defense of the country, on these presumptions, he says: "It is up to the youth of our country to play a major role in this struggle that has lasted for several years. Their responsibility to defend their country under attack will

be the same whether the attack comes by way of Honduras or Yankee imperialism opts for an open, impudent invasion."

"The Sandinist Youth is working to prepare the Sandinist Militias for combat. This task will be achieved within the next month, ahead of schedule. We have also worked on upgrading the battalions of the military reserve and on military service, and on civil defense preparations in the cities and urban areas."

But Nicaragua, like Cuba, is a nation fighting for its economic growth and development, and not precisely in terms of survival. This is why Carrion tells us that "the youth of our country also throws itself into the coffee and cotton harvests to guarantee harvesting these products which are export crops for our economy."

"Due to the manpower shortage caused by the military mobilizations we have had to make, 80 battalions composed of over 23,000 young people have been organized to participate in the harvests. A case in point is the coffee harvest, since the crop grows in areas under attack by the Somozist mercenaries, which indicates the dual responsibility of these youth: to guarantee the harvest and fight the mercenary gangs."

During the course of the Anti-Imperialist Meeting it is a pleasure to hear conversations between young Nicaraguans and the Cubans at the job centers, school and other educational institutions, and in military units--including the Border Brigade that watches and guards the territory usurped by the Yankees in Guantanamo Bay--with our highland peasants along the second Front or in El Uvero, in the Sierra Madre. And it bears repeating: there is an identity of objectives, freedom and full independence.

Carrion defines it: "Our experience and of course the Cuban Revolution teach us that the worst thing that can be done with youth, even worse than death itself, is to deprive it of the opportunity to build itself a better future."

"In Cuba and in Nicaragua the young people are working for that future, unmindful of today's difficulties or of the attacks of Yankee imperialism. In our two countries, both of which have experienced profound social revolutions, youth is an active subject which also makes history."

12448

CSO: 3248/273

NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS MEETING ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Dec 83 p 6

[Text] The 100 Nongovernmental Organizations (ONG) represented at the first international meeting which ended on Saturday resolved to continue backing the development programs in Nicaragua and to make efforts to increase the cooperation and solidarity in that direction.

According to the final document approved by over 130 delegates from 23 European and American countries, the cooperation agencies strongly condemned "the economic, political and military aggression, as well as the campaign of disinformation concerning the Sandinist popular revolution being conducted abroad." The complete text of the important document is as follows:

We, the members of the 100 Nongovernmental Organizations, represented at this first international meeting entitled "Solidarity: Affection of Peoples," have come from 23 nations of the world, representing different sectors of our society, the supreme aspiration of which is based on contributing to the development of fraternal peoples in all areas of human life.

Meeting in the city of Managua, at a crucial time for the future of Nicaragua in particular, and of Latin America in general; invited by the Nicaraguan ONG, which have offered us the opportunity to study and have direct contact with the Nicaraguan people, during 5 days of intense work, we have directed our efforts toward arranging and probing into a coordinated work plan that will give priority to the main requirements for development of the peoples on the Latin American continent.

As a result of this analysis, based on the different experiences that we have been having to date, we in the ONG attach priority to the following points:

1. To evaluate the efficacy of the mechanisms for backing socioeconomic projects.
2. To study the methods for mutual cooperation and coordination that will raise the levels of efficacy and, on the basis of that, to devise new plans of action.

We in the agencies represented here are of the opinion that the reality of extreme poverty in which the majority sectors of the Latin American peoples

are living is a provoked phenomenon, the origin of which dates back to factors associated with international structural organization and internal systems in each country.

We have analyzed these causes and we cite the following, among others:

The enormous burden of the Latin American foreign debt, and the monetary speculation of the United States.

Heavy spending devoted to militarization, not for defense purposes, but rather for purposes of aggression.

Marked inequality in the ownership of rural and urban land.

The constant high rate of unemployment and inflation.

The massive oppression of the sectors working for a more just, more fraternal and more humane world.

Faced with this tragic reality, we start from the premise that the peoples affected by this situation must be the authors of their own transformation, hence identifying their own needs and selecting the mechanisms for resolving them that are in keeping with their own historical reality.

Our experience in Latin America has taught us that the models of development that have existed thus far do not address the concrete needs of the peoples in the area.

So we find that these imposed models of development do not benefit the interests of the Latin American peoples, but rather the economic and political interests of the industrialized countries, particularly those of the United States. This type of model has failed again, for the fundamental reason that they are models excluding the people's participation, and the people must be the principal actors in their own economic, social and political transformation.

We do admit that there are new examples of development, and viable alternatives that address the interests of the majority sectors.

We maintain that Nicaragua, despite the limitations caused by the economic and military blockade, constitutes an alternate model for economic and social development and popular participation to benefit the majorities, and that it has started to solve the fundamental problems of underdevelopment.

We claim this with the authority that our experience in this country has given us, throughout many years, in some instances going back to times preceding the Sandinist popular revolution of 1979. We also state this with the legitimacy given us by our direct participation in projects for authentic development that have benefited the population, especially in the areas of literacy, adult education, complete health programs, rural development and agrarian reform.

We also stress the development achieved in the organization and participation of women in the various tasks demanded by the process of economic, social and political reconstruction.

We state it with the objectivity and recognition deserved by a people who have taught us what democracy, magnanimity, political pluralism and an authentic participation by the organized people mean.

For the foregoing reasons, we strongly condemn the economic, political and military aggression, as well as the campaign of disinformation concerning the Sandinist popular revolution being conducted abroad. This aggression has resulted in the curtailment of progress in social projects, many of which have been financed by the ONG present at this conference.

Moreover, in other instances this aggression has prevented the beginning of new projects in priority areas. In view of this situation, we do not have the slightest doubt that one of the goals of the destabilizing action against Nicaragua is to hurt its capacity for executing authentic programs to benefit the majorities.

More specifically, it is an attempt to deprive Nicaragua of its capacity to execute an original project for economic, social and political development that would also represent an alternative for Latin America.

We now express our strong determination to oppose this campaign of destabilization and military intervention. We are of the opinion that this action is being taken in obvious violation of the principles and rules of international law. To invade Nicaragua or any other Central American country, especially El Salvador, would therefore mean directly attacking and invading the international community represented here in each one of the projects that our agencies support, since they are based on the principles whereby we have come into existence.

We condemn the invasion of Grenada and we proclaim the right of the peoples of the world to construct their own history; and we also assert that this cannot be used as a precedent for invading Nicaragua. We state quite clearly and before the incidents occur, that we are witnesses to the fact that in Nicaragua there is no threat against the foreign residents, nor against fraternal neighboring peoples; that there is no anarchy or political chaos, or disorder of any kind, except for that caused from abroad; and that its domestic calm and stability are obvious.

We record the fact that the Nicaraguan people support on a mass scale the national reconstruction program and the government's efforts to improve the living conditions of the majority, and thus create the conditions for building a more just society.

We hail Nicaragua's position backing with 21 concrete points the efforts that the Contadora Group has been promoting to guarantee peace in Central America.

We hail the recent decrees of the Nicaraguan Government guaranteeing the holding of elections and granting amnesty.

We deem it necessary for the ONG, together with the democratic forces in their own countries and the nonaligned nations, to make an effort to back the initiatives for peace, arms reduction and the allocation of more resources for economic and social development programs that will guarantee peace and development on the continent, and hence in the world.

In the context of what has been explained previously, we agree on the following resolutions:

1. To continue backing the development programs in Nicaragua and to make an effort to increase the cooperation in that direction. Experience prompts us to bring up the need to propose the formation of ONG consortiums to give an impetus to the development of complete programs. These programs would be applied to certain areas or territories, with the participation of popular organizations and other governmental and non-governmental executing entities. This proposal is intended to eliminate the sectorization of isolated projects which scatter resources, and to ensure programs with results that can be evaluated both qualitatively and quantitatively.

2. In view of the emergency situation that the region, especially in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, is undergoing, we must also make an effort to respond promptly to the appeals from those nations to meet the urgent requirements resulting from the genocide in Guatemala and El Salvador, and the unjust aggression against Nicaragua.

3. Considering the completeness required for the support to the Central American region and Nicaragua, it is important to reinforce the effort associated with information and mobilization, aimed at keeping the public alert and disseminating the truth about the reality, the progress and the accomplishments from the effort that the Nicaraguan people have been expending since 1979.

As a contribution to this, we the participants in this meeting pledge to publicize our attendance at it, and its results; as well as to honestly bear witness to what we have seen and observed in Nicaragua.

We propose that each one of us, in turn, hold press conferences in his country and submit a report to the offices of cooperation of his government, the churches and the other ONG which, for reasons dissociated from their good will, have not been present.

4. We also resolve to try to influence the policy on cooperation of the governments, so that the direct bilateral aid, or that given through the ONG, may be increased on Nicaragua's behalf. Furthermore, we want the governments to take action through their representatives to reactivate the aid to Nicaragua from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, and to have recourse to the multilateral agencies, such as the European Economic Community, requesting that Nicaragua not be discriminated against in the distribution of funds for humanitarian assistance and cooperation for development.

Inasmuch as it is necessary to establish minimal mechanisms for coordination among all the participants in the emergency assistance, we resolve:

- a. To recognize the National Emergency Committee of Nicaragua as the instrument that will lend unity and consistency to the emergency programs, because the Nicaraguan ONG participate in it, with this assistance being channeled through them; and, at the same time, to recognize the coordinating commission of the Nicaraguan Nongovernmental Organizations.
 - b. To promote the establishment, in each country, as counterparts for the assistance, emergency committees comprised of the ONG and other agencies for support to Nicaragua, which will afford a basis for relations, exchange and coordination.
 - c. To establish, as a bridge between these levels, a committee consisting of delegates representing ONG, and cooperants residing in Central America or Mexico. This committee will discharge functions associated with the circulation of information, advice and consulting.
6. To reinforce the foregoing proposals, it is essential to respond to the Nicaraguans' appeal for peace.

In this spirit, we propose to back and support the initiative formulated by the National Trade Union Coordinating Board of Nicaragua, to hold in this country an international event of world trade union movements in favor of peace.

2909

CSO: 3248/280

PAPER LAUDS COEXISTENCE OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN USSR

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 15 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] During the 66 years of development of the Soviet socialist society, one of the principles that Lenin devised which has been well consolidated is that of the unity among the different nationalities comprising the USSR; while there are still European countries which have strong traces of xenophobia based on colonial and neocolonial criteria associated with the subjection of the so-called Third World.

In 1919 Lenin, commenting on the state structure of the multinational Soviet country, remarked: "We are internationalists to the end, aspiring to the voluntary unity of workers and peasants of all nations." The Soviet leader added: "We want a voluntary union of nations, a union that will exclude any coercion of one nation by another, a union based on the most complete trust, clear recognition of fraternal unity and absolutely voluntary consent."

The Soviet working class was the mainstay of the cohesion among the different nationalities, based on the people's confidence that it won by the struggle for the liberation of peoples from social and national oppression and by transforming the society in a revolutionary manner.

The very nature of the soviets, organs representing the workers which succeeded in agglutinating around them the peasantry, the soldiers and the sailors, afforded full expression of the population's national features, lending substance to various types of state structures in the various components of the Soviet social body.

When the Soviet power was strongly entrenched, it was necessary to resolve the issue of finding the methods, and the correlation of the rights of the organs of the country and of each republic, that could guarantee the unity of the peoples to the maximum extent.

The creation of the single federated state, unanimously approved at the First Congress of Soviets of the country on 30 December 1922, made possible the entry of new federated republics, multiplying the efforts of the Soviet peoples to build a new society and to defend the revolutionary conquests. The victory of the Great Fatherland War (1941-45) put to the test, successfully, the Leninist policy on nationalities.

A reflection of the community that exists in the political life of the USSR is the state mass organs, invested with extensive powers: the soviets of the popular deputies, comprised of representatives of over 100 nations and ethnic groups in the country. In addition, delegates of 61 nationalities were elected to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; and, in the 1980 elections for the local soviets in the Ukraine, for example, representatives of 64 were selected. We can add to the list Azerbaydzhan, where delegates of 39 nationalities were elected, and Georgia, with 36, among others.

The bills for the most important laws of the USSR are sent to the federal republics for analysis before being submitted to the Soviet state organs for consideration. Subsequently, each republic makes the amendments and additions that it deems pertinent.

The coexistence among the Soviet nationalities has assumed a special dimension as the signs of racial intolerance have occurred to the point of xenophobia in various West European countries, something that we have already mentioned earlier.

Furthermore, the unity among the Soviet peoples and republics has had its gains in the economic area, since the distribution of productive forces in the country has made it possible to overcome the backwardness of the excluded sectors of the society. Contributing to this economic prosperity was the formation of large territorial production complexes and the solution of critical problems, such as the assimilation of the energy, fuel and mineral resources in Siberia, the far eastern and northern areas and the BAM railroad area.

During recent years, the RSFSR's non-black land area, consisting of 29 republics and autonomous regions, has been the object of accelerated development; while over 2,000 enterprises, 63 scientific institutes and organizations for planning and design in various republics took part in the construction of the automobile production center in Naberezhniye Chelny (Tartar). And the examples of cooperation among nationalities could be continued.

Finally, this development of the Leninist policy on nationalities led to the equality of all the nations and ethnic groups, which has made it possible, in 60 years, for the USSR's national income to multiply and the Soviet share of world industrial production to increase from 1 percent in 1922 to 20 percent at present.

2909

CSO: 3248/280

ARMED FORCES PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR NEW ADMINISTRATION

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 1-13

[Article by Jose Hurtado]

[Text] The Armed Forces have confirmed their definite support for the strengthening and defense of the democratic system, its legitimate institutions and the new government which will guide the destiny of the nation during the next 5 years.

The minister of defense, Maj Gen Humberto Alcalde Alvarez (Army), served as the spokesman for the enthusiasm and feelings of the armed branches in the interview granted to this journalist in his office at the Tiuna Military Fort in El Valle.

In his statements he expressed his views, and those of the military establishment, about the exemplary electoral process which has just been completed by the Venezuelan people, the role the FAN [National Armed Forces] have played in guaranteeing the safety of our readers and the defense of their rights, while at the same time thanking the people for all of the cooperation given the Armed Forces in the execution and happy conclusion of the Fifth Republic Plan, the celebration of which is scheduled for today.

The Electoral Process and the Republic Plan

The minister believes that the Venezuelan people have given an extraordinary demonstration of civic feeling, and that the event we witnessed on Sunday can serve as an example to the world, and in particular to the Latin American countries, in many of which a democratic system such as we are fortunate enough to enjoy in our country has not as yet been established on a permanent basis.

Concerning the preliminary assessment made to date about the election process and the implementation of the Republic Plan, in its operational phase specifically, the defense minister said:

"The Republic Plan was fully executed, as provided in the operation orders issued by the Defense Ministry. The attitude of our officers and troops in the implementation of the plan was truly meritorious, and won the praise of leading individuals in our national political life. On the night of the 4th, the president of the republic asked me to extend to all of the participants

in this plan very warm congratulations on the part of the president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces."

He also said that he had received the congratulations of political leaders, public personalities in various of the country's institutions, and warm messages of affection from the people in general, who have felt great satisfaction with the impartial and efficient action of the Armed Forces, which has made it possible to hold the elections in an atmosphere of absolute calm and with the voters' assurance of seeing and being confident that the Armed Forces are overseeing, checking on and supervising all of the activities in connection with this process.

[Question] Are you satisfied that the Armed Forces have kept their promise to guarantee the citizens of Venezuela calm during the process and respect for the electoral results?

[Answer] I believe that the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces have fully kept their promise to the country, in that on election day, we ensured absolute peace and calm and that we would respect the results of this popular poll.

Tonight the third stage of the Fifth Republic Plan, involving the collection of excess equipment, will be practically completed.

In some parts of the country, the withdrawal of the military troops which mounted guard at the electoral colleges or carried out one function or another within the broad military operation is under way. Today we will finish in the balance of the country.

Absolute Calm

In another part of the interview, Minister Alcalde Alvarez said that the people have no reason for worry or fear because of the withdrawal of the troops from the electoral centers and boards, "because there is absolute calm throughout the country, and there are no longer in existence those reasons which led us to maintain personnel at the polling places as a preventive measure, in order to maintain public security and to take custody of the surplus equipment, which is currently being withdrawn for transfer to sites established in advance."

[Question] And what is the situation on the frontiers?

[Answer] There is no problem of any kind there. Facilities were provided for Venezuelan citizens who wanted to enter or leave the country, and there were restrictions only on foreigners, with the exception of certain newsmen and representatives of the media, who asked for authorization to cover this event.

Possible Military Vote

To a question about the possibility that the time might or might not come in the country when the active military personnel could also vote and elect government leaders, the defense minister said:

"I believe that the conditions do not as yet exist for participation by the members of the Armed Forces with votes in an election process. It is possible that in a few years more this can be allowed, but for now I believe that involving the Armed Forces in an electoral campaign, which would occur in the barracks as soon as we gave the vote to representatives of this institution, would be harmful. Later on, when we have greater political maturity, it is possible that the participation of our Armed Forces through the exercise of the right to vote may be deemed desirable."

Exporting Democracy

There was discussion during the interview of the example of democracy in the fullest sense of the word provided by Venezuela, and even exported to other nations in America and elsewhere in the world. By way of example, mention was made of the recent visit paid to the country by Gen Manuel Noriega, accompanied by political leaders from Panama, for the purpose of gathering information about how we planned and carried out our electoral process.

"In fact, General Noriega asked me if we would provide him with information about the implementation of the Republic Plan in Venezuela. We gave him all the information we could and invited him, along with his companions, to visit the installations of the Operational Planning Group, which had the responsibility for the drafting and execution of this plan. Thus we have provided aid in this connection, in connection with the fact that elections are soon to be held in that country, and I believe that the intention is for the defense forces of Panama to participate in a process similar to the Republic Plan.

Minister Alcalde Alvarez added that without a doubt, the Venezuelan democratic process has had its repercussions on the continent in these almost 26 years, and especially on the neighboring countries."

"The actions of our Armed Forces are viewed with great interest by representatives of the political parties and the members of the Armed Forces in these countries, who have seen in this participation in all democratic life by our Armed Forces an interesting model worthy of study, and with possible effects on the democratic political life of those countries.

[Question] What is your opinion concerning the announcement that Nicaragua is ready to proceed with elections, Mr Minister?

[Answer] We have been observing a series of steps taken by the government of Nicaragua in an effort to decrease tensions in the area and thus to facilitate the Contadora efforts in the search for a peaceful, negotiated solution in the area. Thus we view the new aspect presented by the situation in Central America with great sympathy and interest, and it makes us optimistic that the Contadora efforts have been successful in seeking such a solution through peaceful means.

We returned to the subject of Venezuela, and the question as to whether the Armed Forces are satisfied with the role it fell to them to play in this

process. Minister Alcalde Alvarez said that "we believe that we fulfilled this mission of such importance to the democratic life of the country, and we are proud of having contributed to strengthening the democratic system through the holding of elections which I sincerely believe serve as an example for many countries in the world and especially on this continent."

[Question] Mr Minister, what is your opinion about your much-discussed reappointment to your post?

[Answer] This will be a decision for the next president, Dr Jaime Lusinchi, to make.

Thanks to the People and the Media

Almost at the conclusion of the interview, Minister Humberto Alcalde Alvarez wanted to express the most heartfelt gratitude of the Armed Forces "to all of the Venezuelans who in such broad fashion cooperated with the personnel of the Armed Forces, which greatly facilitated our task of maintaining public order and supervision, in support of the Supreme Electoral Council, in these election proceedings.

"The mass media," he added, "supported us in publicizing the steps to be taken for the implementation of the Republic Plan. We also want to thank them for this cooperation provided to our institution, which also facilitated our task and enabled us to provide the public with all of the necessary information in connection with the execution of the plan."

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CSO; 3348/148

ELN CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR RANCHER'S EXECUTION

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 14 Dec 83 p 4-28

[Article by Armando Hernandez]

[Text] San Cristobal, 13 December--The Domingo Lain Sanz Guerrilla Front of the group which calls itself the National Liberation Army (ELN) of Colombia has claimed credit for the execution of Venezuelan rancher Rafael Geronimo Ramirez Rodriguez, 53, who was kidnapped by that subversive group last 3 March at the Bolivar Ranch in Cutufi, and it blamed his family for its "irresponsibility" and "lack of interest" in bringing about his release.

Rancher Ramirez Rodriguez was found murdered by a bullet on the edge of the highway linking the cities of Cucuta and Pamplona in Colombia. A bullet had entered the right ear and emerged through the right parietal bone. The kidnapers had demanded a ransom of 10 million bolivares.

The guerrilla group claimed credit for the assassination in a message which reached local police sources.

The message in question was addressed "to the people of Colombia and Venezuela" and said that the "ELN, and its Domingo Lain Sanz Front, were responsible for the execution of Mr Rafael Geronimo Ramirez Rodriguez, who was seized by our organization on 3 March 1983 at the Bolivar Ranch in the region of Cutufi."

It went on to say that his family showed irresponsibility and lack of interest and seriousness in obtaining the release of the kidnapped man. Their economic concerns were more important to the family of Ramirez Rodriguez and Ramirez Escalante than the freedom and the life of Mr Ramirez. The ELN exhausted every possibility of negotiation and waiting period, but the response to its demands were in all cases negative.

The statement indicated that the guerrilla group "has taken up the revolutionary struggle" and that "we will carry through to the final consequences, because our principles are dedicated to justice and the interests of 30 million exploited Colombians and the 14 million poor Venezuelans."

The kidnapers left some scattered mimeographed flyers beside the body of the murdered rancher, claiming credit for the robbery of the National Guard post in Cutufi, which occurred in September of this year and in which one guard

was killed and others wounded. The guerrillas noted that during the robbery, the following weapons were taken from the National Guard post: 20 7.72 FALs in perfect condition and 100 cartridges, a light artillery machine gun of the 7.62 AFCM type, an Uzi submachine gun with three cartridges, a pistol, a 20 mm shotgun, three radio transmitters, 12,000 7.62 bullets, 2,000 9 mm bullets and three M-32 antitank rockets.

The body of rancher Ramirez Rodriguez was buried in the local cemetery today. The local authorities expressed revulsion at the deed and urged harsh measures to prevent similar occurrences.

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