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19 June 1985

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

UNUSED EEC LOAN FOR LIAT STILL AVAILABLE TO CARIBBEAN

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 85 p 5

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, Sun; (Cana)

A \$48 million loan from the European Economic Community (EEC) that was earmarked for use by the regional airline, LIAT, to purchase new aircraft, will still be available to the Caribbean although it will not be used for its original purpose, according to the president of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) William Demas.

Major unresolved differences between LIAT and the EEC over the choice of aircraft led to a decision by the CDB to provide funding from its own resources so that the airline could press on with the urgent refurbishing programme.

"My understanding is that to the extent that the bank did not make use of the EEC Funding for LIAT, those funds will still be available for the region," Mr. Demas told the closing session of the annual CDB Board of Governors meeting here last week.

He said he believed that was also the interpretation of the EEC Commission and the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states, both based in Brussels.

Mr. Demas was responding to concern raised at the meeting about a substantial drop in the resources of the CDB's Special Development Fund (SDF) caused by the use of the SDF money to finance the LIAT programme.

St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton had said that if the SDF's resources were not increased, CDB member countries in the Organisa-

tion of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) would suffer because they depended on the facility to finance important technical assistance programmes.

LIAT wanted to purchase British-made Super 748 avros, an updated version of the plane it has been flying for years, but the EEC said a modern French-Italian version would be a better buy.

LIAT has used the \$21 million CDB loan to purchase four new avros, two of which have already been delivered and put into service. The other two are expected around the middle of this year.

CSO: 3298/696

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

TRINIDAD, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WEIGH DIRECT AIR LINK

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 May 85 p 7

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 1, CANA--Trinidad and Tobago is considering establishment of direct air links with Santo Domingo in current efforts to improve ties with the Dominican Republic, it has been officially announced here.

The announcement by the external affairs ministry came at the end of a visit here by a technical team from the Dominican Republic for talks with Trinidadian government officials. The discussions will be followed up in two month's time at the ministerial level.

"It was mutually agreed that consideration should be given to the development of air transportation links between Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic," the announcement said.

"To this end, further consideration should be given to the granting of provisional licences which would allow BWIA (Trinidad's state-owned airline) and CDA (The Dominican Republic's National Carrier) to fly to Santo Domingo and Port-of-Spain respectively, pending the negotiation of an air transport agreement."

The talks focussed on bilateral arrangements in several other areas including increased trade, investment and joint ventures, technical cooperation and sea transport.

The external affairs ministry said it was agreed during the talks that Trinidad and Tobago could provide technical assistance to the D.R. in the the petroleum industry. The D.R. representatives their willingness to share their experiences in crop and animal production with Trinidad and Tobago. [sentence as published]

With regard to increasing bilateral trade, the announcement said both countries had identified a number of production with which they would do business. [as published] This issue will be discussed further during the proposed ministerial meeting.

On investment and joint ventures, the announcement said: "It was agreed consideration should be given to the establishment of joint ventures in the production and processing of crops and livestock."

CSO: 3298/696

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CARIBBEAN FM RADIO STATION OPENS IN MONTSEERRAT

FL191634 Bridgetown CANA in English 1950 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Plymouth, May 17--Montserrat Chief Minister John Osborne yesterday formally inaugurated the most powerful FM radio station in the English-speaking Caribbean.

ZGM-GEM FM stereo 94.4 is a regional service--the first by a Caribbean FM station--pumping some 230,000 watts of power.

This is a notable first for the station and the island, Osborne said. It is something of which all Montserradians can be extremely proud.

Osborne also sees the station serving to further enhance the image of Montserrat in the Eastern Caribbean as the foremost centre of entertainment and information.

Two other radio stations already operate from this 35 square mile island of 12,000 people, and government is reportedly considering application for a fourth.

ZGM is owned by the Caribbean Communications Company, whose chairman is American Richard Weening. He said the opening of the station was for him much more than a personal dream come true. It was, he said, also the dream of several American and Caribbean broadcast, publishing, and business professionals who have generously provided their talent, time, and money to make ZGM a reality.

We start with an understanding that the Caribbean plays a vital role of growing significance in world affairs, Weening said. At the same time, the people of the region, more than ever before, have an important need for independent and unbiased news.

Weening revealed that the station has been named the exclusive Caribbean broadcast outlet for the Associated Press.

We will, he said, aspire to speak with a single voice, the gentle but powerful voice of the Caribbean. ZGM is created to and lives for the highest standards of excellence in broadcast services for the people of the Caribbean, Weening said.

The general manager of the new station is Wilsie White, former head of the government broadcast and information services here.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

RAMPHAL URGES CARIBBEAN INDEPENDENCE FROM WESTERN PRESSURE

Scope for OECS

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

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Excerpts] The Caribbean may have to look to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries to carry the pace of regionalism. Mr. Shridath Ramphal, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, said this in an address on "Options for the Caribbean--the Lure of Real Politik" at the Trinidad Hilton last night.

"Today, it is to the OECS countries that the Caribbean may have to look to carry the pace of regionalism. Certainly, it is their new-found sense of unity and self-assurance that helps to hold the Caribbean together and give it the chance to have options as a region. This contribution has not had the recognition it deserves.

"In the Caribbean of the future, reality may dictate that we cease thinking of 'LDCs' (Less Developed Countries) and 'MDCs.'

Politics of Realism

"The last ten years have shown that there are strengths and weaknesses everywhere in the region. When better times return for the bigger countries, they must not themselves return to a psychology of superior status."

It was in many ways he said, the worst of economic times in the Caribbean. From Jamaica to Guyana, Barbados to Trinidad and Tobago, and throughout the OECS countries and Belize, these were unpropitious times.

Times of special uncertainty and diminished hope for those who at the best of times never had it good. But times of uncertainty and of down-turn for those like Trinidad and Tobago who enjoyed several decades of relative prosperity.

Ending his talk on a challenging note, Mr. Ramphal, contended that a real politik that responded to the needs of the West Indies required policies

both at home and abroad that strengthened, not weakened freedom, independence, self-respect, the right to pursue region interests as the region saw best; policies that returned to the spirit of Chaguaramas.

Criticism of U.S. Role

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 May 85 pp 1, 56

[Article by Andy Johnson]

[Text]

CARIBBEAN governments and peoples would be well advised not to succumb to the pressures of leading western nations such as the United States to fall in line with their current economic and political strategies which could in effect work against regional interests.

This is the urgent, almost desperate message being preached by Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary General, who is crusading against what he sees as the refusal of the western industrial nations to reform the international financial institutions, and their use of super-strength in international affairs.

"The truth of the matter is that the major western countries have moved away from reform. They do not even want to discuss it," Ramphal said yesterday, speaking on the need for the reform of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as agencies and the major institutions catering to the needs of people in the developing world.

"Their formal position is that they feel there is no need for reform," Ramphal said in an interview with the EXPRESS, at the Trinidad Hilton in Port of Spain. He was in Trinidad to deliver a lecture in the series of distinguished lectures organised by the Institute of International Relations at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine.

Ramphal, a former Guyanese foreign minister, said during yesterday's interview that the western industrial nations were attempting to "miniaturise" the international financial institutions, by simultaneously depriving them of resources by which they could be of any good, and insisting on the stringency of conditionality by which they lend to the poorest countries of the world.

Very soon, he said, the World Bank would reach the situation where its annual disbursements would be less than the annual repayments. With respect to the IMF, he said, pressure from the United States was causing the Fund to limit its available funds to developing countries while at the same time insist on the kinds of conditionality which would make it impossible for those countries to survive.

"The result is that there would be social and economic explosions," Ramphal said, declaring that some of this was already

evident in some countries. Using Jamaica as an hypothetical example, Ramphal said that it was distressing for the Fund to suggest that Jamaica take two years instead of six to turn around its economy, while at the same time making less and less of its resources available for that purpose.

"Nobody is against conditionality in principle," he said, "but when you limit the resources there is less of it to be distributed and therefore it has to be recycled over shorter periods." That, he said, was a recipe for disaster in developing countries.

"The Caribbean countries have to be more determined," he said, to deal with that type of pressure from industrialised countries, adding that if they were to succumb to the pressure of the United States to fall in line with its policies this could make it more difficult for the region to act in concerted efforts against these current trends.

"What an absurdity to talk of a country like Dominica being not among the poorest countries of the world," he scoffed, explaining that the World Bank was excluding Dominica from its resources under the International Development Agency, "soft loans window" of the Bank through which the poorest countries of the world get assistance at minimal rates of interest over relatively long periods.

This, he said, would mean that such a country could not borrow at all from the Bank because it would not be able to borrow on the regular terms outside the IDA.

He said that under pressure from the U.S., IDA funds were not being replenished and the level of lending to the world's poorest countries was declining in real terms.

During his address on Monday night at the ballroom of the Trinidad Hilton, Ramphal asked the question, "Why this retreat from internationalism, from the very beginnings of democracy in the world community, from human solidarity?"

He said he thought it was not because the world was not being perceived as being interdependent, but because "the strong within the community" was refusing to accept a duty of care towards fellow citizens, or even to respect their rights as neighbours.

"Recognition of mutual interests is not leading to fulfilment of mutual needs," he said. "In some important respects we are encountering at the global level the feudal mentality that lay at the heart of resistance to the reform movements in Europe in the eighteenth century, or in China earlier this century when Sun Yat Sen overcame feudalism under the slogan *Tien Xia We Gong*: 'What is under Heaven is for all'," he said.

Threat of Unrest

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 May 85 p 20

[Text]

THE "ABSURD" system of conditionality imposed by the International Monetary Fund could lead to political and social upheaval in many international regions and the first may be Latin America.

Mr. Shridath Ramphal, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, in an interview yesterday morning, also spoke about the serious effects policies instituted by international financial agencies were having on countries in the Caribbean.

And in a challenge to Caribbean leaders, he said the only way to combat these pressures was to show some "virility, stand up and fight with one voice, through CARICOM."

Mr. Ramphal, who is based in London and is returning today after giving a lecture at the Trinidad Hilton on Monday night, said the next Commonwealth Heads meeting in Nassau, would of necessity address itself to the financial structures of poorer countries in relation to developing countries.

NOT THAT FORTUNATE

The debt repayment problem was critical to countries in Africa and the Caribbean.

Debt-ridden countries had asked for the writing off of outstanding loans.

This, he said, was agreed to during a United Nations conference in Paris in 1981, where the Less Developed Countries put forward that case. This was not implemented but some countries in Latin America had their debts rescheduled on a multi-year basis, meaning given a longer time to repay.

But similarly afflicted Caribbean countries were not that fortunate. They were left to flounder because their debts were not too big to break the banks, their debts being stretched out.

This, he said meant these countries found themselves forever being in the hands of "money lenders."

Why the reluctance to wipe off the debts?

"It is just a lack of compassion and unwillingness to accept the need for reform in the operation of the system and in particular the reality of the ideology that the market will take care of everything."

Operation of the Bretton Woods institution was having unfavourable effects on regional countries and he emphasised:

"The International Monetary Fund conditionalities are making the chances of economic recovery in countries like Jamaica and Guyana more difficult rather than more likely."

"The smaller countries, particularly those like Dominica, St. Vincent and Saint Lucia, are being faced with what I can only described as abandonment."

Mr. Ramphal, a 57-year old Guyanese lawyer who is the executive head of the 49-member British Commonwealth Secretariat, explained that these smaller states were being taken out of the category of Less Development Countries which would entitle them to soft loans from institutions such as the International Development Association.

This body, formed in 1960, advances capital to the poor developing member countries on more flexible terms and is an arm of the World Bank.

MUST STAND UP

He said: "So you take them out of that special category and tell them yes you can get loans but at the commercial rates, and you know they can never do that for practical purposes."

"You also tell them that you can get some aid from the Caribbean Basin Initiative but the private sector in the CBI does not build roads, construct hospitals and schools."

He stressed the region had to stand up and argue against many of the things the Americans were promoting which had a detrimental effect on the Caribbean. But how could such small countries face up to the might of America?

"First, by being together, and secondly by not just making it too easy for them to get their own way when it is not in the best interest of regional countries," he said.

He added: "I am not in the least suggesting an anti-American attitude but we have to show some virility. The whole history of Caribbean relations with the United States of America demonstrates that we are respected more when we stand up for principle."

"This means we must maximise our strength within CARICOM. That is the only machinery we have to do it. The Caribbean Foreign Ministers statement on the issue of Test cricket players who were banned for playing in South Africa, issued after their meeting in St. Kitts, last week, is a very good example that the Caribbean can take principled positions."

"But this would have been harder to do separately...the West Indies must guard and protect CARICOM."

Explaining that the basic philosophy of the Bretton Woods agreement was really the reform of the world economic system, Mr. Ramphal, in reiterating that developing countries were getting a raw deal, said while the small OECS States were also in the groups of economic downturn theirs were being graduated out of the IDA.

One of the reasons the IMF had advanced for its institution of "conditionalities" was that its funds had to be recycled to spread around.

But he argued that the resources should be increased, giving borrowers longer periods to repay.

The present policy hitting countries like Jamaica which had to repay loans in two years when this could have been done in six years.

Trinidad and Tobago was also facing the sting of international lending policies, being asked to borrow at commercial rates.

He cautioned that the system would lead to social and political upheavals.

CSO: 3298/695

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BARBADOS, TRINIDAD-TOBAGO MOVE CLOSER, EXCHANGE ENVOYS

Dumas to Bridgetown

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 6 May 85 p 1

[Text]

Career public servant Walter Burke is to be Barbados' High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, government sources revealed yesterday.

Mr. Burke, 55, was appointed High Commissioner to Grenada last year but the government had indicated that his term of office would be short and depended on the time Barbados servicemen remained in Grenada on Security duties.

He has been in the public service since 1947 and has worked as a Foreign Service Officer and in the

Caribbean Community Secretariat before being promoted permanent secretary in 1976 — a position he held until his diplomatic posting in St. George's.

The sources said the Barbados Government had no objection to the appointment of Mr. Reginald Dumas as the new Trinidad and Tobago envoy to Bridgetown.

The exchange of High Commissioners, which is expected to take place shortly, reflects an improvement in relations between the two countries.

A dispute over whether Trinidad and Tobago was

given prior notice of the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada in October 1983 led to Barbados demanding the recall of then Port-of-Spain High Commissioner, Dr. Basil Pitt. In turn, Trinidad and Tobago asked Barbados envoy-designate Mr. Raul Harris to stay at home.

Mr. Harris has since been appointed Ambassador to the European Community while Mr. Pitt has been posted to Canada.

The two countries have been having bilateral discussions on economic co-operation leading up to a summit. (CANA)

Impact of Possible Devaluation

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 6 May 85 p 1

[Text]

If Trinidad and Tobago decided to devalue its currency, Barbados' exports to that country could become "even more non-competitive," a source in the local manufacturing industry said yesterday.

In a Cana report filed Saturday, Opposition Parliamentarian in Trinidad and Tobago's

House of Representatives Winston Dookeran was quoted as saying that the government may be forced to devalue its currency next year, due to declining revenues in the key oil sector.

"The Government may have to devalue in order to sustain revenue at a level which can't be sustained by

existing economic activity in the country," Mr. Dookeran is quoted as saying.

The manufacturing sources said yesterday that if Trinidad and Tobago's daily production of oil goes up considerably, the republic could benefit from a devaluation, because its

oil would become cheaper on the world market. In addition, the country's manufactured goods would be cheaper to buy abroad, so Barbadians might import more from Trinidad.

At the same time, our goods would become more expensive in Trinidad, because Trinidad importers would have to use more of their local currency to buy them.

The source pointed out that devaluation can help a country whose import bill is

far less than its export bill. But he said that neither Guyana nor Jamaica had benefited from devaluations of their currencies. "In addition, if you have an industry which imports a lot of raw materials, you would have to pay more for them, and pass on the cost to the consumer." The source said that Barbados would not benefit from a devaluation since we use few indigenous materials in our locally made products.

CSO: 3298/695

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

CDB MEETING--Bridgetown, May 10--The Board of Governors of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) will consider the lending agency's annual report for 1984 and an application from Italy to become a non-borrowing member when it meets here next week, a CDB spokesman said today. The two-day meeting, opening next Wednesday, will be presided over by Barbados new Prime Minister Bernard St John in his capacity as chairman of the Board of Directors, mostly finance ministers from Caribbean-member countries. The spokesman said at least three other regional government leaders, Prime Ministers James Mitchell of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Herbert Blaize of Grenada, and John Compton of St Lucia, are expected to attend. The meeting will be preceded on Monday by a meeting of the CDB Board of Directors. On the agenda for consideration are financing for at least four projects. The procedures committee of the Board of Governors will meet on Tuesday in what essentially will be a preparatory session for the governor's meeting. CDB President William Demas will make a mid-decade appraisal of developments in the bank's 17 regional borrowing member countries in an address to the meeting. The governors will also decide on the allocation of net income to the reserve of the bank and consider the audited statement of accounts for 1984. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1548 GMT 10 May 85 FL]

MEXICAN, ARGENTINE VISA AGREEMENT--In order to make tourism and travel between Mexico and Argentina easier, the governments of these two countries have decided to eliminate visa requirements, the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat has announced. According to the Foreign Secretariat, the agreement, which will go into effect on 1 July, is the result of excellent bilateral relations. The secretariat has also indicated that the agreement on the exemption of consular right payments in connection with passports resulting from an exchange of notes signed by Mexico and Argentina in 1943 will be repealed once the new agreement goes into effect. /Text/ /Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0030 GMT 21 May 85/

CSO: 3248/383

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

OPPOSITION LEADER IN SENATE COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT BUDGET

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 23 Mar 85 p 1

[Text]

Opposition Leader Sen. M. George lashed out at the CMC and other government agencies during his contribution to the 1985 Budget debate in the Senate.

Senator George deplored the fact that the CMC a body which should be attempting to keep the cost of living down, was 'ripping' off the consumers. He said that white sugar was purchased by the CMC for less than \$30.00 per bag but was sold to the retailer at \$95.00 per bag. He said that this commodity could be sold to the consumer for less than 50 cents per pound instead of the \$1.10 per pound which is presently charged. He said that someone was receiving \$1.00 US for every bag of sugar imported from the U.S. by CMC. He also accused some one at PWD of receiving \$3.00 for every drum of bitumen imported by that Department.

He called on government to arrest the situation before it got out of hand, and someone would have to pay for it later. He said that people in high office in Antigua held shares in Antigua Aggregate and so allowed them to do as they like with Barbuda sand. He said that lands would never be sold in Barbuda as long as he is alive, because two weeks after that was allowed many 'high officials' in Antigua would own beach lands in Barbuda.

Senator George extended high praise to the Hon. Minister of Finance for a well put together and comprehensive budget. He said that nothing less could be expected as the Minister was a graduate of London University in Economics.

He ended by calling on government to introduce an anti-corruption bill for all Parliamentarians and other officials in public office.

CSO: 3298/697

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

GOVERNMENT FAILURES WITH STATE-RUN CORPORATIONS ASSAILED

St Johns OUTLET in English 12 Apr 85 pp 7, 10

[Text] In last week's sitting of the Antigua Senate, both government and opposition Senators blasted the Bird regime for its incompetence in managing the state run corporations. Furthermore Senate President, Bradley Carrott, government member, Robin Bascus and Barbuda Senator McChesney George were among those who attacked the corruption in the government departments and the failure of the one party Parliament to audit the accounts of these departments efficiently and on time.

In the Saturday March 23rd issue of the 'Workers Voice' a report of the Senate proceedings states "they (the senators) could not understand how 148 cows were missing from the government herd at Paynters and Olivers, how nearly 200 receipt books were missing from different government departments, how thousands of dollars have been missing from the departments, how all kinds of stocks were missing and no account has been given of them."

It is remarkable that these lines should have been drawn from the Workers Voice, the organ of the ruling Bird regime. Since the auditors report on the Accounts of Antigua (for the year ended 31st December 1981) was released, ACLM at public meetings and in Outlet have repeatedly called upon the Bird regime to effect proper management of public funds. The 1981 auditors report had revealed a record of chaos, disorder and deliberate maladministration of public funds, and an almost total disregard of any and all accounting procedures. In their effort to inform the public and to pressure the administration to address this malstate of affairs ACLM was labelled by the Workers Voice, the State controlled Media and by the Birds as a communist menace seeking to destabilise the country, and the regime threatened to put a stoppage to Outlet.

Since then there has been an unending series of Court cases involving Outlet brought by the Bird regime.

Now, with the release of the auditors report for year 1982, which stated that "the long delays in submission of accounts and as a consequence audit reports thereon, have seriously impaired the usefulness of both the accounts and the audit reports as a basis for Parliamentary review, through the instrument of its recently constituted Public Accounts Committee" The Senate is now following Outlet's lead.

Again the March 23rd issue of the Workers Voice records the Senators condemnation of the very poor and nonexistent control which has been and is being exhibited over the government departments. Moreover, the senators, according to the organ of the ruling party states "called upon the government to implement the recommendations of the Auditor and correct the numerous instances of fraud mentioned."

In the 1982 auditor's Report, the auditor claimed that "in the circumstances, parliament is unable to exercise its fundamental responsibility to assure itself whether the government and the administration had in fact been adequately accountable in the management of the public purse."

The One Party Bird Parliament has failed to respond to Outlet's call for 'accountability in the management of public funds'. It has failed to respond to the charges of corruption levied against it. Will it now respond to the pleas of the Senate and its party newspaper? The Biblical saying "Truth crushed to the ground shall rise again" has returned with a vengeance to haunt their corrupt selves.

Barbuda Senator, McChesney George also called upon the government to introduce an anti-corruption bill. Since 1976 when the Bird regime prosecuted PLM leaders for 'misbehaviour in Public Office' ACLM and Outlet have urged the regime to implement an anti-corruption code. Will they now take heed?

CSO: 3298/697

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ACLM ORGAN OUTLET DEFENDS RECORD AGAINST INJUSTICE

St Johns OUTLET in English 12 Apr 85 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

Five years ago this month OUTLET began again after we were closed down because of the arms to South Africa exposure. We have weathered many a storm since, endured many a setback. Nevertheless we have made many a leap in terms of progress. Above all when other media came and went Outlet has persevered and grown. For that we give thanks to a public conscious of the need for information and knowledge.

After years of publication we were suddenly told by the lawyer who registered Outlet that our Registration and bond could not be found in the Registry of the Court. It has mysteriously disappeared. Disappeared after Government appointed a Commission to investigate Outlet as exponents of official corruption. The Police were sent to close us down immediately. A new round of Court cases against Outlet began again. In and out of Court we went. National and International solidarity saw us through. Outlet, the People's medium, triumphed.

When, the Attorney General refused to accept bonds put up for Outlet by Antigua's leading Funeral Director Noel Barnes, prominent solicitor Sydney Christian and ACIM stalwart Conrod Luke were able to use moral authority and international solidari-

rity to compel the Attorney General to accept our nominees.

Our offices were raided by the Police in an arbitrary assault. Documents were seized by the police. To this day the documents seized by the police, in what has to be described as official theft, have not been returned.

Within days after this police raid Outlet's printery was broken into, equipment including cameras were damaged and stolen. The police said that some of our equipment were dumped by the burglars, official or unofficial, in the sea.

And yet in spite of the police raid in spite of the official intimidation, inspite of the burglary, we advanced our production. We moved from fortnightly appearance to a weekly.

In other words we demonstrated that despite tremendous odds, progress could be made and was made.

When we began our own printing and publishing of Outlet Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird let the world know that Antigua and Barbuda was NOT a reading public.

On April 1, 1985, the same Deputy Prime Minister in open Court grudgingly admitted and acknowledged that Outlet "had a wide circulation". Our worst enemies have had to publicly concede respect for Outlet.

Though Outlet is published by ACLM, its news and views columns, its features have not sought to promote ACLM, but have aimed at being the voice of the people, articulating their problems, priorities and perceptions. We receive more letters in a week than we could publish in a daily newspaper in a month. A public not only reads, but writes!

We are proud that our staff writers have been acclaimed throughout the region and further afield in sports.

politics, Ideas & Trends, and the social commentary of Outlet Essay.

We are prouder that Outlet is widely read, and no one can insult the pride of Antigua again, by proclaiming that we are just passive receivers of electronic messages from Radio and TV. Instead Outlet has helped to create a modern reading public, on a rich variety of subjects and an equally rich variety of views.

On Barbuda we have an exemplary record as we have consistently and frequently published the struggle of the Barbuda people against an unjust Central Government, without advocating secession, but with due respect for the views and special problems of the people of Barbuda.

We are proudest that there is a writing public which thinks and writes its own thoughts in its own style, using both economy and lucidity. A people are becoming conscious of themselves in their own style, through their own perception, in time and place.

No other Newspaper anywhere in the Region has such powerful enemies arrayed against it. Besides two print media, the One Party power that presides over Antigua and Barbuda has deployed all the electronic media against Outlet and ACLM; plus the power of the Police, the Court and the meanest propaganda gutter minds can spew forth.

We have been in and out of Court, so often in fact that it would take a researcher some time to record how many cases have been brought against Outlet and its publisher. Yet no Libel Suit has ever been successfully brought against Outlet. Not even the New York Times can so claim.

Yet in all modesty we have had to do more than the New York Times. We have had to expose the worst cases of corruption by the ruling elite, while at the same time showing that this

corruption is not racial, but rooted in a system. It is systemic not racial, and not representative of the people of this country, who yearn for honesty in public affairs, accountability of rulers and popular participation, rather than government by secrecy and fraud.

We have too, according to a respected cleric in Jamaica, "hailed the government when it passed progressive legislation, reported hostile government officials faithfully when they consented to interviews, and given them space to refute articles in Outlet. "It is" said the cleric, a most commendable record of fairness."

We have done all this in the face of unceasing campaign invoking the communist bogey.

We beg to say that all this has been possible in five brief years; not because of any special abilities that we at Outlet possess. Such special abilities as we have and such successes as we have recorded were entirely due to the unfailing support of an expanding readership and the confidence of our advertisers that whether they agree or disagree, with us, Outlet is highly readable and widely read.

One last word reserved especially for our enemies. To us freedom of the press is not just a Right, it is a Right without which democratic development is impossible. We at Outlet not only fight for it, we personify it by virtue of history of struggle to survive as the only opposition medium in a Right wing One-Party State.

However harassed, however fined and confined, however crushed to the ground, Outlet will rise like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes. for truth must find an outlet. Outlet pursues the truth and nothing but the truth.

Truthful is Outlet, and it will prevail...

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

BRIEFS

CRITICISM OF MINISTERS--Sen. Mildred Bailey, one of the pillars of the A.T.L.U. and the A.L.P. called on her Government, to act to clean up the mess that exists in all Government departments today. She suggested that Civil Servants should be transferred from department to department when they are not functioning properly. She said that the Ministers should be held responsible for the proper running of their departments, but that they were unwilling to listen to advice from anyone. She complimented the Government for the strides which Antigua has made under their stewardship, but expressed her concern over the behaviour of some Ministers. [Text] [St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 23 Mar 85 p 2]

CSO: 3298/697

ARGENTINA

MULTIPARTY GROUP RELEASES COMMUNIQUE ON MEETING

PY281708 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1127 GMT 28 May 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 28 May (TELAM)--The first meeting of the Multiparty Group ended last night with 25 political organizations participating. The group released a document that says "the Argentine political parties have decided to create a multiparty organization out of the conviction that this instrument will be extremely important in defending Argentine democracy."

The communique adds that "we are not afraid either to dissent or to agree. We want to tranquilly follow the path leading to national unity, in order to preserve and strengthen democracy."

The communique also says that "we call on all organizations in the nation, without distinction, to actively defend democracy and to make an intelligent contribution to overcome the most serious crisis we have ever experienced."

The communique states that the new organization "will be the framework from which plans and agreements will emerge, and where the various proposals will be studied and reconciled, without interfering with the work of constitutional bodies."

The meeting to create the Multiparty Group was held at the headquarters of the Justicialist National Council, located at 900 Bernardo de Yrigoyen Street in this capital.

A commission made up of Oraldo Britos (Justicialist), Luis Caceres (Radical), Lisandro Viale (Intransigent), and Francisco Cerro (Christian Democrat) was created to write the statutes to define the mechanisms and of Multiparty Group.

The draft regulation will be studied by the commission at the headquarters of the Intransigent Party on 3 June at 1900.

Prior to the meeting, Senator Oraldo Britos said that while the multiparty organization created during the military regime "was able to institutionalize" the country, the new Multiparty Group will "aim at sustaining democratic institutions," because "democracy should have social justice."

CSO: 3348/699

ARGENTINA

CGT RELEASES DECLARATION, DEMANDS

PY280351 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 85

[Text] The General Labor Confederation [CGT] Executive Board held today a meeting to evaluate the protest measures that were implemented in cities in the interior and that culminated with a mass rally at Plaza de Mayo. During the meeting the CGT drew up a document that will be submitted for consideration to the national plenary summoned for Friday, 31 May, at the headquarters of the Textile Workers Union. At the end of today's meeting one of the CGT's four secretaries general, Saul Ubaldini, read the declaration:

The following are the main points of the document:

[Begin Ubaldini recording] the workers demand:

1. An active economic policy capable of putting the productive apparatus into motion, of doing away with inflation and usury, that will allow all the unemployed and underemployed workers of the country to be reabsorbed by reactivated work sources.
2. A financial reform that will place the peoples' savings at the service of the productive apparatus and not at the service of usury.
3. A salary policy that will not use the already impoverished income of the Argentine workers as a variable to adjust inflation, and that the president fulfill his promise that salaries will be readjusted every 3 months in keeping with the inflation rate.
4. That the National Congress handle the foreign debt problem, in keeping with its constitutional prerogative established in Article No 67, Clause No 6.
5. That conventions for collective bargaining be summoned on definite dates, without salary ceilings arbitrarily set by monetaristic interests.
6. The normalization, free of obstacles imposed by the Labor Ministry, of all labor unions still awaiting such normalization, including the CGT.
7. That all social laws and anti-labor union regulations that were imposed by the military dictatorship be repealed.

8. That all social laws passed by the National Congress and that were vetoed by the national executive branch be implemented.

9. That the unions' social security services, intervened up to now by laws and decrees issued by the dictatorship, be returned to the unions.

10. That the IMF recessionary policy be dropped and replaced by a creative plan that motivates the national productive capacity.

All these points have been analyzed. Tomorrow, once the CGT coordination committee has been established, the program which the CGT executive board will analyze at 1000 on Wednesday, 29 May, will be released.

We reiterate that the plenary meeting scheduled for 31 May will be held at the Textile Workers Union Headquarters at 1000 with the presence of secretaries general and regional delegations that belong to the CGT. [end recording]

CSO: 3348/699

ARGENTINA

COMMUNIQUE ON NAMIBIA POLICY

PY241620 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1441 GMT 24 May 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 May (TELAM)--The Foreign Ministry today released a communique voicing the Argentine Government's concern over the measures recently announced by South Africa in connection with Namibia.

The communique states that the proposal to grant alleged autonomy to Namibia through an agreement with minority parties is a new attempt to stop the Namibian independence process, which Argentina supports, a violation of Namibia's right to self-determination.

Argentina and the nonaligned countries reiterate that the issue is colonial in nature and reject this attempt to shift the conflict to the context of the East-West ideological confrontation, the communique concludes.

CSO: 3348/699

ARGENTINA

NEW ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE DIRECTOR VIEWS POLICY

PY221259 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2253 GMT 21 May 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 21 May (TELAM)--Juan Vicente Sola, the new director of the National Antarctic Institute, has said that the priority policy of his institute will be to improve scientific activities and to prevent untimely actions from turning the continent into a center of international conflicts.

Sola made these statements during his installation ceremony which was presided over by Defense Secretary Horacio Jose Jaunarena in the National Antarctic Institute on Cerrito St in this capital.

Regarding the planning and implementation of Antarctic policy, Sola said that he intends to establish an active and frequent dialogue with all sectors interested in the Antarctic with the purpose of implementing a relevant and prestigious policy that will gain international renown.

He added that he is aware of the fact that we are living through difficult times during which some international sectors ignore Antarctic reality and try to destroy the Antarctic treaty.

Sola remarked that the Argentine policy should be to maintain Antarctic cooperation as well as to prevent untimely actions that could turn the continent into a center of serious international conflicts.

Finally, Sola said that his administration will try to comply with these objectives as much as possible.

CSO: 3348/699

ARGENTINA

PJ CONGRESS CALLED FOR 19, 20 JULY

PY282209 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 May 85 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)--The Justicialist Party National Council yesterday announced a party congress for 19 and 20 July, after party polls in 22 districts throughout the country but before internal Peronist elections in the federal capital and Buenos Aires province.

Meanwhile, Senator and Justicialist Party First Vice Chairman Oraldo Britos said he would meet today with National Metal Workers' Union (UOM) Chief Lorenzo Miguel and Santa Fe Governor Jose Maria Vernet, leaders of the Odeon faction within the party.

The meeting with the Odeon faction will centre on "integration of the party and its organizational structure," Birtos said. He added he would meet with CGT leaders in the next few days to adopt a "mutual plan of support in light of the isolationism workers are being forced into."

Britos also criticized is Herminio Iglesias, a member of the Odeon faction and Buenos Aires province Peronist leader, for organizing this Friday's rally with the Movement for Integration and Development (MID) in Avellandeda.

The senator termed the rally and alliance with the MID "a challenge to the authorities of the Justicialist Party and further evidence of some leaders imposing personalist methods."

Iglesias yesterday said the alliance with the MID "is not only an electoral front but it will also contain plans for the future."

On a separate front Vtalo Luder, the Peronist's last presidential candidate, yesterday warned that the country's economic crisis is the result of "erratic policy" on the part of government, whom he accused of changing its economic policy every three months. Speaking on Radio Mitre, Luder denied the crisis was due to the foreign debt since "it hasn't been paid back, not even the interest."

International Peronist polls were held over the weekend in Misiones and Entre Rios. Forty percent of the 14,000 registered peronists voted in Misiones, where only one list ran. The White List, led by narrowly defeated 1983 gubernatorial candidate Julio Cesar Ahumada, backs the new Justicailist Party national leadership headed by Britos.

CSO: 3300/33

ARGENTINA

COURT RULING FAVORS RIO HONDO PERSONIST GROUP

PY282209 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 May 85 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)--The Justicialist Party National Council headed by First Vice President Oraldo Britos, which emerged from last February's Rio Hondo Congress, was officially recognized yesterday by the National Electoral Court, thus ending a four-month-long dispute with a similar council set up during the Odeon Theatre Congress last December.

The court ruled the "national congress held 2-4 February in Termas de Rio Hondo (Santiago del Estero) was legally and politically valid," and rejected an Odeon Council claim to be in "permanent session" as being an "inapplicable metaphor."

It likewise dismissed a question raised by the Odeon Council for calling a "unity" congress, because "the date for holding it has already passed."

The Rio Hondo Congress met "with legal quorum throughout its preparatory, inaugural and up to its closing session," according to the party's by-laws, the electoral court said.

While not specifically ruling on resolutions adopted at the congress, the court decision, in effect, convalidated the intervention of the Buenos Aires Province party structure.

Moreover, the ruling which favored Britos over the Lorenzo Miguel-Jose Maria Vernet-Herminio Iglesias Odeon strongmen, added that Justicialist President Isabel Peron sent a 4 February message to Peronist leaders elected at Rio Hondo "offering her resignation and wishing them success" in their difficult undertaking before them.

Britos, notified of the decision yesterday, said "this means members can exercise the right to vote and be elected. Once elections have been held in all districts, we'll organize a new congress to carry us to a future Peronist victory."

CSO: 3300/33

ARGENTINA

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS DISAGREE ON POLITICAL ROLE

PY221742 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 May 85 p 11

[
[Text] (MLL-DYN)--Lorenzo Miguel was reelected chairman of the 62 organizations at a union convention attended by five of the country's six major labour factions.

But the influential Committee of 25--after seven hours of talks with Miguel, Senator Oraldo Britos and Santa Fe Governor Jose Maria Vernet--decided to boycott the assembly held to "reorganize" the political arms of the Peronist Unions.

CGT Press Secretary Armando Cavalieri told the HERALD that the boycott by the 25 would not affect the new 62 Organizations. "Eighty percent of the Argentine labour movement is here," said Cavalieri, assistant secretary of retail trade workers' union.

The 25 backed out of the convention after agreement could not be reached on the role the 62 should play in internal Justicialist Party elections later this year and in next November's congressional polls. Traditionally the 62 have named one-third of Peronism's candidates for national elections.

The 25 also rejected Miguel's plan for a five-man executive council. Sources said the 25 demanded a 12-man council with extra seats for itself.

Joining Miguel (metal workers) on the new 62 executive council are: Vice Chairman Delfor Gimenez (textile workers); and Secretaries Guillermo Marconi (private school workers); Rodolfo Soberano (millers); and Placido Barreto (dairy workers).

Gimenez was appointed as the Negotiation and Labour Committee's (CGYT) representative, while Marconi, Soberano and Barreta represent the Independents, the Committee of 20 and the Nonaligned, respectively.

Hoping for reconciliation, the new 62 leadership kept six slots on the 36-man directive council reserved for the 25.

The government, meanwhile, announced it would apply the "current legal norms" against public employees backing the CGT's general strike tomorrow. And at Liniers meat market workers lifted their strike but actively was nil because cattlemen had not yet sent stocks in for sale.

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

SUPREME COURT MEMBER RESIGNS--The national executive branch has accepted the resignation submitted by Genaro Ruben Carrio as a member of the Supreme Court. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2141 GMT 17 Apr 85 PY]

DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL DISMISSED--Buenos Aires, 29 Mar (TELAM) -- The defense minister has fired Brigadier General Ovidio Pablo Ricchieri, retired, president of the executive board of the Financial Aid Institute, for not providing any information on the management of the institute to the Defense Ministry. Brigadier General Ernesto Jose Tachi, retired, is replacing Ricchieri. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2357 GMT 29 March 85 PY]

NEW MARINE INFANTRY CHIEF INSTALLED--Bahia Blanca, 29 Mar (TELAM) -- Captain Rodolfo Tattamanti has been installed as the new Marine Infantry commander, replacing Captain Carlos Bouvet. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0355 GMT 29 Mar 85 PY]

NEW MARITIME RESOURCES UNDER SECRETARY--Luis Enrique Jaimes has been appointed under secretary of maritime resources. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1256 GMT 9 Apr 85 PY]

SOVIET OFFICER ARRIVES FOR SEMINAR--Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (TELAM) -- Soviet Colonel David Dragunskiy today arrived in Argentina to lecture on the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany during World War II on 19 April in the General San Martin Cultural Center. The Soviet officer was invited by the Argentine Society for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1645 GMT 15 Apr 85 PY]

NEW OIL WELL DISCOVERED--Buenos Aires, 29 Mar (TELAM) -- A new oil well has been discovered by Government Oil Deposits in Formosa. The well has a daily production level of 304 cubic meters of crude without water and a pressure of 30 Kg per cubic centimeter at the mouth of the well. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0402 GMT 29 Mar 85 PY]

GAS PIPELINE FOR INDIA--Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (EFE) -- Argentina will provide technological support to India for the construction of a 1,200-km-long gas pipeline. The president of the Argentine State Gas Company has said that

this project represents an investment of \$1 billion. He added that Argentina will help in secondary construction and the training of Indian personnel. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 2303 GMT 31 Mar 85 PY]

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH FRANCE--Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (NA) -- The Argentine and French Governments have signed a scientific and technical cooperation agreement for training teachers, conducting research, exchanging information, and publishing scientific and technical material. The two governments have also signed an agreement involving the Argentine National Commission for Space Research and its French counterpart in the technical training of personnel and space technology. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1131 GMT 9 Mar 85 PY]

SENATE CHAIRMAN ELECTED--(NA) -- Radical Senator Edison Otero was reelected yesterday as provisional chairman of the Senate after Vice-President Victor Martinez cast his deciding vote to break a 23-23 tie with Peronist Senator Humberto Martiarena. Peronist Senator Ramon Araujo was unanimously reelected first vice-president of the Upper House while San Juan Bloquista Senator was unanimously elected second vice-president, replacing independent Senator Ricardo Balestra. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Apr 85 PY]

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP--Buenos Aires, 7 May (TELAM) -- Cardinal Raul Francisco Primatesta was today named president of the Argentina Episcopal Conference to replace Cardinal Juan Carlos Aramburu. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1251 GMT 7 May] The Archbishops of Resistencia and Mendoza, Msgr Juan Jose Triarte and Candido Rubiolo, respectively, were today designated first and second vice-presidents of the Argentine Episcopal Conference. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1345 GMT 7 May 85 PY]

AGREEMENT REACHED WITH SPAIN--Buenos Aires, 30 Apr (EFE) -- The Energy Secretariat today reported that Argentina and Spain have agreed to cooperate in the promotion of technical exchange in the sector of the electrical services rendered by their respective state enterprises. The agreement was signed by Carlos Zabala, president of the Argentine Water and Power Company, and Jose Tora Galvan, director general and technician of the Spanish National Electricity enterprise. The agreement foresees, among other things, the exchange of information and technical documentation and the analysis and research of problems concerning administrative organization. [Excerpt] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1355 GMT 30 Apr 85 PY]

NEW OIL BYPRODUCTS PRICES--Buenos Aires, 31 Apr (TELAM) -- At midnight on 31 April, the prices of oil byproducts per liter will be increased to 234 pesos for super gasoline and super gasohol, to 215 pesos for regular gasoline and regular gasohol, and to 89 pesos for kerosene and gasoil. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2335 GMT 31 Apr 85]

BUS FARES INCREASED--Buenos Aires, 30 Apr (NA) -- A 30-percent bus fare increase will go into effect today in the following way: From 42 to 55 pesos for distances of up to 6 km; from 54 to 70 pesos for distances between 6 and 12 km; and from 65 to 85 pesos for distance beyond 12 km. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2330 GMT 30 Apr 85]

SPECIAL AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT DISSOLVED--Buenos Aires, 14 May (TELAM) -- It has been officially reported that, owing to several factors, especially budgetary matters, the executive branch has ordered that the Secretariat of Special Affairs of the Presidency of the Nation, which was created 3 months ago, be dissolved. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0453 GMT 15 May 85 PY]

OFFICERS TO TESTIFY--An Army officer cannot refuse to appear in court, Defense Secretary Horacio Jaunarena has said. Clarifying rumors that Army officers are concerned about the possibility of being summoned to appear in court as witnesses in the trial of the former military junta members, Jaunarena stated that the officers on active service who are summoned must appear in court to give their testimony in the public and oral proceedings. This question has already been clarified by the chiefs of staff of the three services, that is, officers who are summoned to make statements must respond to the court's summonses, added Jaunarena. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 May 85 PY]

CSO: 3348/699

BARBADOS

1984 CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION RISE BRINGS IMPORTS SAVINGS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 29 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

A 67 per cent rise in domestic crude oil production last year helped Barbados to realise a 9.3 per cent drop in imports and a saving of \$4 million, according to the Government's 1984 Economic Report.

The 108-page document, tabled in Parliament last week by Prime Minister Bernard St. John, showed production reached a record 634.9 thousand barrels, satisfying 51.9 per cent of the island's requirements.

"This high output level outstripped the island's storage capacity and forced the (state-owned) Barbados National Oil Company Limited to export 21 484 barrels to Curacao," the report said.

Total crude oil production in 1983 was 379.6 thousand barrels which met 36.9 per cent of domestic requirements.

Barbados' total oil import bill, covering purchases of crude oil, reformat and liquified petroleum gas, showed a decline of \$1.7 million. It fell \$64.5 million from \$66.2 million in 1983.

Crude oil imports, amounting to 587.8 thousand barrels to satisfy the remaining 49.1 per cent national demand, cost \$35.4 million. The 1983 bill was \$39.4 million.

Imports of reformat, used in the blending of gasoline, totalled 278.0

thousand barrels, up 11.6 per cent on 1983. The bill was \$19.8 million, up from \$18.4 million in 1983.

Imports of liquified petroleum gas amounted to 8 888 tonnes, up from 8 875 in 1983.

The Economic Report, prepared by the Ministry of Finance and Planning, showed an increase in domestic natural gas production which totalled 25.3 million cubic metres compared with 21.3 million in 1983.

Looking at energy consumption, the report said electricity generation remained the single largest domestic consumer of petroleum. It used up 47.8 per cent out of a total of 1.4 million barrels of petroleum fuels consumed last year.

"Fuel oil consumption increased 20 per cent from 577.9 thousand barrels in 1983 to 693.2 thousand barrels in 1984. The commencement of cement production (here) accounts for this upward trend in fuel oil use," it said.

Natural gas consumption totalled 10.3 million cubic metres, 0.9 million more than in the preceding year. Consumption of liquified petroleum gas increased to 8 888 tonnes from 8 451 in 1983. (CANA)

CSO: 3298/690

BARBADOS

DLP'S HAYNES ASSAILS ST JOHN'S PROPOSED BUDGET

FL101410 Bridgetown CANA in English 0006 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Bridgetown, May 8--Barbados' parliamentary opposition tonight said the 2.9 percent real growth in output recorded in Barbados last year should not be taken as a strong indication the economy was recovering.

The 2.9 percent growth, which is being interpreted by government as an important ray of hope, must be looked at with the greatest caution, declared Dr Richie Haynes, shadow minister of finance, in response to Prime Minister Bernard St John's 829.9 million dollar budget presented to parliament last night.

The main sources of that growth came from sugar and tourism. The sugar industry is bankrupt...tourism, despite an increase in the number of persons who came to Barbados last year, is in serious financial trouble and needs substantial and urgent assistance, said the opposition spokesman.

The figure marked a turn-around of the island's economic fortunes after successive declines in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1981 and 1982 and stabilization in 1983.

In his near two hour presentation to parliament, Haynes criticized existing income levels, which he called a major disincentive to production. He said his Democratic Labour Party (DLP) was committed to lowering taxes if it is elected to form the government.

He said the budget, by not increasing allowances and adjusting the tax bands, would bring about an increase in income tax this year because wage increases would put some workers in higher tax brackets.

Haynes criticized the island's national debt level and questioned the figure of 892 million dollars (one Bdos dollar: 50 cents U.S.) given by St John. That figure was up to March 31, 1985.

Haynes, quoting a Central Bank report, said the national debt at December 1984 stood at 950 million dollars -- 365 million dollars representing the external debt and 365 million the domestic debt. But I am saying that not even the 950 million dollars represents the total national debt, he declared. Haynes said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had put the figure at 1,090 million dollars last December.

Our external debt is a serious problem and there is little point producing a little figure excluding the Central Bank debt and the public guaranteed external debt and then telling us that the debt service is 2.9 percent...he said. Many a country in this very region has been led up the garden path by that kind of statistic. That happened to Jamaica for many years in the 60s and the 70s. It happened to Guyana.

The budget, which projected an overall deficit of 204.5 million dollars, allocated 646.6 million dollars to capital expenditure and 183.3 million to capital spending. Revenue was projected at 625.4 million dollars.

Haynes said measures by a DLP administration to bolster the economy would include a reduction in prices and energy costs, increased expenditure on key tourism sector, and a cut in foreign borrowing.

CSO: 3298/698

BARBADOS

DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING UNION, WORKER ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Walcott on Anti-Union Trends

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 7 Apr 85 p 2

[Paid advertisement]

[Text]

We are forced once again to highlight the undemocratic and feudal methods which are being adopted in Barbados by some of the expatriate investors. While they enjoy the facilities which have been provided by Barbados, at the same time they deny the workers the right to organise and bargain collectively. We are stating firmly that we are not in South Africa and that this attitude among some of the American investors in Barbados will create a serious industrial problem in this country. We, in the trade union movement, will not spare any effort in taking steps to vindicate the righteous cause of the workers of this island.

This is 1985, and we are not going to acquiesce with any employer who denies a body of workers the right to organise and to bargain collectively on behalf of their fellow workers when this right is one of the ILO Conventions to which the Government of Barbados subscribes. The workers of Barbados are not for sale. We do not believe therefore that, in encouraging enterprises to come to Barbados, we must ask the workers to surrender

the right of freedom of association and basic principles which they have fought so arduously to achieve over so many years. These principles mean too much to the workers of Barbados.

To make it clear to the public, we should like to quote ILO Convention No 98 which was ratified by the Government of Barbados on May 8, 1967. Article 1 states:

"1. Workers shall enjoy adequate protection against acts of anti-union discrimination in respect of their employment.

"2. Such protection shall apply more particularly in respect of acts calculated to

(a) make the employment of a worker subject to the condition that he shall not join a union or shall relinquish trade union membership;

(b) cause the dismissal of or otherwise prejudice a worker by reason of union membership or because of participation in union activities outside working hours or, with the consent of the employer, within working hours."

This Article states that workers shall have the right

to join trade unions and protection shall be given to them to do so.

We are of the view that the Government of Barbados should make its position clear to all about this position of principle.

Article 2 states:

"1. Workers' and employers' organisations shall enjoy adequate protection against any acts of interference by each other or each other's agents or members in their establishment, functioning or administration.

"2. In particular, acts which are designed to promote the establishment of workers' organisations under the domination of employers or employers' organisations, or to support workers' organisations by financial or other means, with the object of placing such organisations under the control of employers or employers' organisations, shall be deemed to constitute acts of interference within the meaning of this Article."

Article 2 provides the workers with protection from interference from either side and establishes the element of freedom.

Article 3 states:

"Machinery appropriate to national conditions shall be established, where necessary, for the purpose of ensuring respect for the right to organise as defined in the preceding Articles".

Article 4 reads:

"Measures appropriate to national conditions shall be taken, where necessary, to encourage and promote the full development and utilisation of machinery for voluntary negotiation between employers or employers' organisations and workers' organisations, with a view to the regulation of terms and conditions of employment by means of

collective agreements".

Article 4 makes it abundantly clear that the Convention seeks to provide the necessary coverage for workers' organisations to promote the development and utilisation of machinery for voluntary negotiations between employers or employers' organisations and workers' organisations with a view to regularising terms of conditions of employment by means of collective bargaining. This essential element which underpins the purpose of the establishment of the trade unions throughout the world would be meaningless if they could not sit down and bargain on behalf of the workers they represent.

Trade unions spend many long and tiring hours in organising workers and this blatant step by some of these investors who are now residing in Barbados, to blunt this universal concept, will underwrite a situation that we passed over forty years ago. We issue a serious warning to all concerned, without any apology whatsoever, that these actions will bring in their trail serious industrial conflict and dislocation.

We cannot be accused of standing in the way of the employers and preventing them from adopting their methods to promote their own interests, but we shall not sit down and regard the employers as having a right to stand in the way of the workers exercising a right that is so universal that it has been accepted as an international instrument among the majority of the civilised nations of the world.

The Authorities in Barbados have been taking a non-committal attitude on the principles of Labour and have allowed some of the most vicious elements in our

society to articulate positions of Labour policy. The time has come that we must stand up and be counted. We serve notice on all that we are not cooperating in non-trade union policies and practices.

We therefore call on the government in all seriousness to draw to the attention of those who are practising this system that we in the Barbados Workers' Union will not acquiesce with this undemocratic industrial method. We shall resist it with all of the forces at our command.

Teachers Union Elections

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Apr 85 p 2

[Text]

The Barbados Union of Teachers has a new vice-president and a new deputy general secretary.

The new vice-president is Mr. Desmond Browne of Roebuck Secondary School. Mr. Stephen Blanchard of the Bay Composite School is the deputy general secretary.

Former vice-president Undine Whittaker did not seek re-election, and former deputy general secretary Mr. Noel Man-

ning was defeated by Mr. Blanchard.

Five other people were elected to sit on the National Executive Committee of the union. They are: Mr. Hallam Clarke, Mr. Dennis dePeiza, Mr. Ronald Jones, Mr. Harcourt Husbands and Miss Yvette Husbands.

There was a tie for the sixth place on the Executive Committee in the voting, which took place on Wednesday, between

Mr. Raymonte Forde and Mr. Michael Doughlin.

As a result, there must be a subsequent poll taken between these two persons within two weeks' time, in accordance with the union's constitution.

The date set for this election is April 25, and polling will take place at the union's headquarters, "Merryhill," Welches, St. Michael between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

BUT president Mr. Victor Hutchinson was returned unopposed last week.

Attack on Bank Official

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Apr 85 p 1

[Text] Mr. Dennis Clarke, acting general secretary of the NUPW has called for the resignation of the chairman of the Barbados National Bank, Sir Neville Osborne, and the BNB's acting general manager, Mr. Noel Symmonds.

The union spokesman said that the call was issued because "certain managerial staff of the bank had to learn through the press of their proposed demise."

It is understood that the bank is being restructured and some employees may be made redundant.

Walcott on Wage Issues

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 7 May 85 p 1

[Text]

THE SANITATION WORKERS' STRIKE has never been a particular issue, as far as the Barbados Workers' Union is concerned.

In an exclusive interview with the DAILY NATION yesterday, general secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, Mr. Frank Walcott, said: "Whatever the dispute is, the matter of wages has not come up. And I doubt whether overtime, or other considerations are sufficiently important. What is important is that we look at all wage structures in the light of the demand for a particular type of work and the wages that such supply can demand."

Mr. Walcott denied that there was any "difference of opinion" or "cause for discussion" between his union and the National Union of Public Workers, saying: "It has always been a function of the job market to supply workers, and the reciprocal function of the wage structure to pay appropriate wages in accordance with the demand for a particular type of work."

Wages, said Mr. Walcott, are not intrinsic to a job, but are particularly linked with one of the fundamental laws of economics, supply and demand, together with other factors, such as, whether the jobs concerned were sufficiently attractive to persons who would not ordinarily look for a particular type of employment, no matter how it paid.

Mr. Walcott preferred not to comment on whether the matters of overtime wages or a "fixed 40-hour week" were sufficiently significant factors in the current dispute between sanitation workers, their union and the Government.

Walcott on Union Debts

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 7 May 85 p 1

[Text]

MANY CARIBBEAN and Latin American countries are in serious debt and workers must pay particular attention to the problems that confront this part of the world.

This was the word from general secretary of the Barbados Workers Union (BWU), Mr. Frank Walcott, yesterday as he addressed the annual May Day rally at Solidarity House, Harmony Hall, St. Michael.

He said: "We have to repay this debt at very high cost and we do not subscribe to the idea that these costs cannot be repaid unless we make the workers poorer."

He said for that reason it was necessary to conduct a relentless battle against those who wanted to depress the lower incomes of the countries of the world.

Mr. Walcott said unions had been pressing for years for

what had been passing as a reasonable standard. As a result, he said, the unions had been identified as a means of depressing the economy.

He continued: "We hope that more and more of you will grow up and take as much interest in what is going on about you and I hope that those of you who have responsibility will help to create an atmosphere that those who come after us will understand what it means."

Mr. Walcott added: "The Barbados Workers Union is in its 43rd year. Over the years it has sought to lay a solid foundation for the workers of Barbados."

"We are on the upward march for building an institution for our people to enjoy. We look forward to the future with courage and all of us will help to build a better Barbados."

End to Sanitation Strike

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 8 May 85 p 1

[Article by Avonda Scott]

[Text]

Sanitation workers in Barbados have ended their 16-day strike.

The National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), bargaining agent for the 268 Sanitation Service Authority workers who walked off their jobs on April 22 claiming higher wages and better working conditions, met yesterday with Minister of Labour DeLisle Bradshaw.

The parties in the dispute have agreed to an increase in the water allowance for workers from \$3 to \$4 a day and to the introduction of a shredder allowance of \$5 per day to workers employed at the Pulverisation Plant. A hazard allowance of \$5 a day will also be paid to persons in the mechanical division, including welders and apprentices.

These allowances will be retroactive to April 1, 1984.

The union was asking the SSA for a 10 per cent increase in wages for sanitation workers over and above the 15 per cent given to the Civil Service. The SSA had said they could not agree to this unless the NUPW agreed to a variation in the 40-hour week to allow 40 hours to be worked over seven days instead of five as is presently the case.

But the NUPW maintained that what was needed was better routing of trucks.

The NUPW was also asking for an \$8 per day hazard allowance for workers at the Pulverisation Plant, \$7 per day for mechanics working on garbage trucks and a water allowance of \$5 per day for other workers.

Dialogue on the matter not agreed to yesterday is to continue between the union and the Authority.

The Minister complimented the representatives of the Authority and the union on the spirit of compromise with which they approached the negotiations under his chairmanship.

In the meantime, it was reported that more than 100 employees of the SSA reported for work yesterday. An SSA official said those persons reporting for work represented all categories of the service, including drivers, loaders, street washers and drain cleaners.

It was pointed out that the majority of workers returning to work were NUPW members. SSA workers who are members of the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) did not go on strike.

CSO: 3298/689

BARBADOS

COST OF PORT REHABILITATION PUT AT \$17 MILLION

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 5 May 85 p 1

[Text]

THE PROPOSED port rehabilitation programme will cost \$17 million, Mr. Leroy Sisnett, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of External Transport, said yesterday.

The areas to be covered in the programme will include the Customs Examination Hall, pavements for container storage and a thrust towards generating more cruise liner business, making this island a centre for air-sea operations.

Addressing the opening yesterday of the fourth training seminar of the Caribbean Shipping Association, Mr. Sisnett said phases one and two of the three phase programme should be completed during the 1985-1986 tourist season. These phases will cost \$1.5 million.

The customs area is to be completely reorganised internally to accommodate in an orderly manner the movement of passengers through the customs area in relation to tour groups organised by cruise liners.

Mr. Sisnett said that phase three of the planned upgrading of the port will be designed to provide a regional duty-free shipping facility.

He also said that Government's aim was to lower the cost of operations of the Bridgetown Port so as to make it more competitive. He added that it was absolutely necessary that the port rationalisation talks between the Barbados Workers' Union and the Barbados Port Authority "were completed satisfactorily to the benefit of all."

"New Management Techniques in the Shipping Industry" is the theme of the two-day training seminar.

The Parliamentary Secretary noted that computerisation as a tool for management was the most sophisticated piece of professional hardware available and could serve both long-term and short-term objectives.

He pointed to the ease of dissemination of information which the computer allows, adding that there must be trained personnel adept in the terminology "of this twentieth century venture."

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO COLOMBIA--Barbados' first ambassador to Colombia, John Connell, has presented his credentials to President Belisario Betancur in Bogota. Connell, who is also Barbados' ambassador to Brazil and Venezuela, is resident in Caracas. [Excerpts] [FL192328 Bridgetown CANA in English 1926 GMT 17 May 85]

CSO: 3298/698

BOLIVIA

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES HOLD ROUND TABLE TALK

PY291540 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0734 GMT 29 May 85

[Reported by Juan Maria Calvo]

[Text] La Paz, 29 May (EFE) -- During a round table sponsored by the Confederation of Bolivian Private Businessmen the representatives of the main Bolivian political parties agreed that the country's problems can only be solved through joint efforts, and that democracy must be maintained.

The meeting held on 28 May was attended by the presidential candidates of the four main political parties which will participate in the 14 July elections.

At the conclusion of the meeting Fernando Illanes, who is the president of the Confederation of Bolivian Private Businessmen, said that the meeting was an historic event, that for the first time the representatives of the main political parties set around a table to agree on the need to maintain democracy, and that the country's problems will only be solved through joint efforts.

Victor Paz Estenssoro, candidate of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR); Roberto Jordan Pando of the Leftist Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNRI); Hugo Banzer Suarez of the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN); and Jaime Paz Zamora of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), explained their programs for 45 minutes, and then answered questions for another 30 minutes.

The meeting, which lasted nine hours, paralyzed the country as the people followed the dialogue by radio, an event that comes as the electoral campaign goes into the final stretch, 1 and 1/2 months from the elections.

Paz Zamora, 45 years of age, told EFE that this was the first time he personally saw General Banzer, that under his dictatorship the people suffered, and his party was founded.

Illanes pointed out that Bolivia's great challenge is to adopt a joint policy of salvation to prevent the further disintegration of the country. He proposed a plan of national salvation for economic recovery and social peace.

Paz Estenssoro, 77 years of age, said that the enemies of Bolivia are the economic crisis and corruption.

The three-times Bolivian president pointed out that a struggle must be waged against hyperinflation, indicating some measures to fight it.

He said that the most important thing is to enforce the law, and that his party, which includes all social classes, proposes a mixed economy with an administrative, and political decentralization. He added that his idea is to place the Bolivian economy on the dollar standard.

He said that he will drastically fight drug trafficking, the most difficult problem in Bolivia, but without directly punishing coca growers.

Jordan Pando, the candidate who supports the government, began attacking the businessmen, from whom he received some protests, in a speech that he said was not an electoral campaign or for the pleasure of his listeners.

Instead of giving details of his program, Jordan Pando justified the 2 and 1/2 years of the government administration. He said that the most important achievement was the protection of freedom, and democracy in the face of union insurrections, and coup efforts by military men, and congressmen, and that those who carried out coups in the past are now candidates.

General Banzer, 59 years of age, said that it is necessary to have a political pact, and that his slogan is freedom with discipline. However, he recalled the harshness of his administration (1971-78) when in answer to a question said that if the members of the Bolivian Labor Confederation do not advocate dialogue with law and order, they will have to cease being Bolivians.

He said that his main strategy is to promote an agricultural revolution, and that he intends to reduce inflation and corruption.

Regarding the foreign debt he advocates renegotiation. He gave a few figures to try to demonstrate that during his administration the country did not get so much debt. He said: If we can get Bolivia back to the 1978 level (when he was overthrown by a coup) it will be a great success.

The last speaker was Jaime Paz who pointed out that he is not a candidate of the businessmen, but of the workers and intellectuals.

The former vice president said that there is a need for order, and to establish the principle of authority because democracy is order in freedom.

He said that in order to come out of the crisis a profound national agreement guaranteed by the people is needed, and that the economic model must be changed because the one which has been in force for the last 30 years is obsolete.

BOLIVIA

BANZER PRESENTS ADN PLATFORM

PY291550 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1829 GMT 28 May 85

[Speech by Nationalist Democratic Action -- ADN -- Presidential Candidate General Hugo Banzer Suarez at a political forum of the Bolivian Private Businessmen's Confederation -- CNEPB -- at the Sheraton Hotel in La Paz -- live]

[Excerpts] What is the ideological framework of our platform? The ADN doctrine is based on the Christian philosophy. We are humanists, theological centrists. We oppose materialistic concepts.

ADN's economic program centers on an integrated socioeconomic reality. This program is structured in a consistent and interrelated manner.

One of our concrete economic concepts is that we believe in economic activity based on private initiatives within the boundaries of a capital that is at the function of the common good.

What are the characteristics of this economic model? The model that we are currently experiencing, whose political expression is the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR], a model that was adequate at the time it was established, but which has been distorted and abused, has fulfilled its vital cycle.

This model is recognized as being centralistic, bureaucratically-controlled, and excessively statist. It is our understanding that the final result of implementing this model is featured by a general stagnation of the productive forces of the economy, the deformation of the national, regional and sectional economic structures, the hypertrophy of the state with its ensuing structural weakening, the reduction of room for legitimate social and economic freedom, and the resulting growth of a corruption that eats up ethical and social values, something leading to the existence of an illegal economy, the hyperinflation, which has virtually destroyed our productive apparatus and, at the same time, impoverished the workers by seizing the savings that they had managed to accumulate throughout their lives to pass them on to privileged governmental and non-governmental groups, some of them dedicated to the shameless practice of immorality and others to speculation.

To overcome the current situation, our idea for a change is based on the substitution of the current system of centralistic and state-controlled state capitalism for an economy in which the capital functions for the needs of the people and is fully accessible to the popular sectors to make possible democratization within the concept of economic freedom, in which the presence of the state as a regulator and its role of a producing agent is not overlooked but is subjected to the economic conditions set by the market.

What is our strategy to produce that change? It is to gradually change the axis of our economy toward agriculture, and livestock, and agroindustry because these are renewable resources that nourish our people and have a potential for exports.

ADN proposes to change the foundations of the economy through the agricultural and livestock revolution, transforming these stagnated sectors, which, as I have just said, are made up by livestock and agriculture into the center of gravity of the national economy turning this sector, which now is static, into the main source of economic resources and the principal leverage for the Bolivian development.

Therefore, we must increase the room for economic freedom by developing the individual and collective initiative and creativity. We must set free the harnessed economic forces of Bolivians and reward the merits and the honesty of productive toil. We must return to the state the functions assigned to it by the Constitution, detaching it from those activities that misrepresent it, that is, to restore the majesty and the power to the state.

Our strategy discards the practice of a state-controlled economy, a centrally planned economy, as is the case with the socialist economies. The qualifications will be made through technically oriented programs to accommodate our development through an adequate planning of the activities of the public sector within a scope that reconciles national and regional goals.

The political and administrative decentralization will be another significant tool of the transformation that we are seeking and it will allow for a better and more thorough integration of the country.

By decentralizing the functions of the state, we will achieve a greater participation of the citizenry to control the administrative actions of state activities, thus making sure that they are closely linked to the interests of the citizens and to their rights for auditing.

By simplifying decisions, we will reduce the asymmetries existing between the income of officials and the magnitude of the public affairs submitted to them, something leading to corruption.

By supporting ourselves on the impersonal force of the market and by making sure that economic decisions are the result of an impromptu and impersonal consensus of all those who participate in the economy, we will free the system from arbitrariness and mismanagements also leading to corruption.

Point 15 on our platform, as I have formerly stated deals with restructuring the foreign debt. And, since quite often I have been personally blamed for the country's foreign debt, once again I will make clarifications based on official data. Direct renegotiation. Regardless of the actions of international support, our intention will be to renegotiate the debt in a direct manner.

Now, I would like to present a five-point plan.

Based on the general proposals in the economic area to overcome the crisis, we present a broad five-point scheme.

First, to control inflation, fiscal policies, the deficit of the public sector, and the strategy on state-owned enterprises.

Second, policies for economic growth and development.

Third, policy to restructure the foreign debt.

Fourth, policy for investments in the public and private sector; and

Fifth, stabilization and recovery of the national economy.

On this point, I would like to tell you that the ADN considers that its objectives are modest and realistic. Within one term we seek to curb inflation, that is, the hyperinflation, and stabilize the economy of the country.

The change of structures that we are proposing will take place progressively and we have set ourselves this modest objective to curb or dampen inflation and place it at manageable levels because we know that hyperinflation is a serious economic disease, a disease that can be cured, that actually needs surgery, a highly specialized surgery, one that cannot take any anesthesia. Therefore, it is a very painful surgery.

I must state that private business constitutes a social sector of transcendental importance within the current economic model, which is being described as a mixed-economic mode trending toward a hybrid and deformed state capitalism. Under this condition, private business has been unable to develop and strengthen itself.

In fact, ADN considers that private business will play a distinct role in the socioeconomic development through the investments that it makes within an open market economy where the state must prevent distortions by eliminating any trend toward the creation of monopolies.

Being a very distinct sector within the Bolivian society, the private business sector must understand that it is not the only sector. There is another sector which is of great importance. I am talking about the labor sector. Without the latter, the country could not develop either.

CSO: 3348/700

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

OAS AMBASSADOR RESIGNS--La Paz, 15 May (AFP) -- The Bolivian Foreign Ministry has confirmed the resignation of Fernando Salazar Paredes as the Bolivian ambassador to the OAS. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1309 GMT 15 May 85 PY]

INTERIOR MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARIES--Jaime Zambrano and Oscar Chiarella : have been sworn in as Interior Ministry under secretary and immigrations under secretary, respectively. [Summary] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 May 85 p 3 PY]

GUANAY POLICE GARRISON INTERVENED--According to what Edmundo Bonilla, president of the Guanay Civic Committee has told Cadena Panamericana Guanay civic institutions have intervened with the local police garrison in view of certain abuses that have been committed by the local police. Bonilla added that on 27 May Police Guard Waldo Bustamante seriously injured civilian Humberto Parra. He noted that the policeman was drunk and that this is not the first time that abuses of this sort have taken place in Guanay. [Begin Bonilla recording] Therefore in keeping with a decision made by a town meeting, we have decided to intervene with local police. [End recording] [Begin recording] [Reporter] Is it true that there was a clash between military and police forces? [Bonilla] No, on the contrary, [words indistinct], the civic committee [words indistinct] have helped to safeguard the security of these guards. This was done jointly with the Bolivian Navy. This was done to avoid any type of clashes. [End recording] Bonilla added that there is an investigation under way and that a full report will be submitted to Bolivian police authorities within a couple of days. [Excerpts] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 May 85]

CSO: 3348/700

BRAZIL

GENERAL'S REMARKS CAUSES CONTROVERSY IN ARMY

PY272210 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 May 85 p 4

[Article by Tania Monteiro]

[Text] Armed Forces officers should only make comments on issues pertaining to the technical or administrative matters of their respective sectors, and avoid talking about politics. This is what Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves recommended to the members of the High Command during a meeting held last Wednesday. He was clearly alluding to a statement made by General Octavio Aguiar de Medeiros, the former National Intelligence Service [SNI] chief and present military commander of Amazonia, who in response to a question about how the government is handling negotiations between workers on strike and employers, noted that "a stick is no saint, but it sure works miracles."

General Medeiros statement had a great impact in military circles since it is not in keeping with the position that the other members of the High Command and the Army minister have been adopting in this regard since last week when the Army minister praised the negotiations that Labor Minister Almir Pazzianotto has been promoting to achieve a solution to the strikes. After suspending his return to Manaus, General Medeiros yesterday was sought by the Army Ministry office to discuss the impact that his statement has caused and how it will affect the institution.

Coincidentally, yesterday's issue of the "Army Bulletin" carried on the left hand side of its first page an excerpt of a speech that General Leonidas Pires Goncalves delivered over 2 months ago when he assumed his duties as Army minister in which he highlighted the Army's new objectives. The article notes that at that time, Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves said that "the nation is experiencing historic, unique times, in all aspects of its life, since we are living in a time of change at all levels of national life."

He added: "The political period we are going through, and its presumable evolution in keeping with certain traditional ideas which, despite some side-tracking, are characterized by the prevalence of a liberal dynamic that seeks to achieve an open and pluralist society, will give way to these changes."

During the meeting the Army minister expressed his concern over the strikes that are being held throughout the country, particularly in view of the effects that these are having on the national economy. General Sebastiao Jose Ramos de Castro, commander of the II Army, who at the beginning of the week submitted a report to SNI Chief General Ivan de Souza Mendez on the strikes in Sao Paulo, made some comments and a general evaluation about the different strikes movements.

CSO: 3342/180

BRAZIL

GALLUP FINDS 51 PERCENT APPROVAL OF SARNEY

PY231550 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 May 85 p 1

[Excerpt] The first poll taken by the Gallup Public Opinion Institute, since he assumed office has found that 51 percent of the country's urban population approves of the performance of President Jose Sarney. Of the 2,826 people polled in 185 urban areas in 22 states, 40 percent said that Jose Sarney performed "well" as president of the nation during his first month in office, and 11 percent considered that he did "very well." Only 1 percent believed that he performed "very poorly," 2 percent that he has done "poorly," and 25 percent that he has done "fairly." The third largest group of 21 percent did not know how to evaluate President Sarney. These percentages have been confirmed by the Gallup Institute through the popularity index, which turned out a national average of plus 3.25 on a scale ranging from minus 5 to plus 5. The rating confirmed the largest approval rate of 57 percent (plus 3.5 on the popularity index) in the Northeast. [passage omitted]

CSO: 3342/178

BRAZIL

SETUBAL SAID TO HAVE MADE GOOD IMPRESSION IN ARGENTINA

PY231645 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 May 85 p 16

[Article by unidentified correspondent in Buenos Aires]

[Text] Despite some disagreements in their approaches, the governments of Argentina and Brazil are completely attuned and agree on the major matters of principle in international policy, ranging from their reservations on the economic blockade of Nicaragua to the foreign debt problem.

All this became evident during the 48 hours of talks Brazilian Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal held in Buenos Aires, where he met with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. Nevertheless, in practical terms, Setubal's first visit to a foreign country as foreign minister fell short of becoming a fiasco only because he, personally, managed to impose his personality--that of a man used to handling objective and concrete problems--thus preventing the debt of the diplomacy of the "New Republic" from taking a rethorical line without contact with the real situation.

Poorly planned by Itamaraty's beaucratic echelons, Setubal's visit was practically limited to personally meeting with his Argentine counterpart. At a time when the two countries have difficult problems to overcome in foreign affairs and the trade exchange is dropping every year to ridiculous levels, what was achieved in Buenos Aires sounds like very little. However, the image that has stayed behind in Buenos Aires is one of an assured, lucid, and open-minded foreign minister capable of undertaking a concrete foreign policy, one that shows concern for Brazilian producers.

CSO: 3342/178

BRAZIL

PCB MEETS FIRST PREREQUISITE FOR RECOGNITION

PY232105 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 May 85 p 5

[Excerpts] The Brazilian Communist Party [PCB], whose application for registration was published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE last week, has installed temporary regional commissions in 22 states and the Federal District, thus taking another step toward legalization. This was announced in Sao Paulo on 21 May by the party's secretary general, Giocondo Dias, 71. According to Dias, the party has not been able to form a temporary commission only in Mato Grosso.

Dias asserted that "the Communists are taking steps to fully comply with the prerequisites of the Superior Electoral Court." He added that the 232 individuals who make up the party's temporary regional commissions represent "all professions and social classes." Dias calculated that Communist militants number "from 8,000 to 10,000" throughout the country, but observed that there are "ten of thousands of sympathizers." According to the secretary general, the PCB has "some 10 congressmen" in the national Congress, "some 20 deputies" in state assemblies, "more than 100 councilmen" in municipal assemblies, and "7 or 8 mayors," most of them under the name of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB].

The PCB expects to be registered in time to run with its own candidates in the elections for mayors in the state capitals. Dias said that for the time being the only party member who has decided to run in the upcoming November elections is federal Deputy Roberto Freire. He is a member of the National Temporary Commission and will view for the nomination to run in the Recife (Pernambuco) elections. In the other capitals, according to Dias, the PCB has not made a decision on whether to run with its own candidates or to support "progressive candidates" from other parties. [passage omitted]

The PCB (which is known in Brazil as Partidao) delegates before the Superior Electoral Court will be: Deputy Roberto (PMDB of Pernambuco); Carlos Alberto Muller Torres (president of the PMDB regional directorate in Brasilia); Cristiano Cordeiro (last surviving founder of the PCB in March 1922); Paulo Arruca Vilar (radioman from Goiania); and Acedo

Coutinho and Oswaldo Pacheco (former federal deputies in the 1946 Constituent Assembly).

Altogether, the Temporary Regional Commissions (which are registered with the Regional Electoral Courts through a note filed with them) are made up of 224 affiliates of the PCB.

CSO: 3342/178

BRAZIL

O ESTADO VIEWS CASTRO'S REACTION TO RADIO MARTI

PY242010 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 May 85 p 3

[Article: "Radio Marti, Castro, and Our Diplomacy", from the "Notes and Information" page]

[Text] On the occasion of the 83d anniversary of the independence of Cuba, Ronald Reagan dedicated Radio Marti, which will beam 14 hours of programs daily to Castro's island from Florida. These programs will carry the truth to that nation by reporting on the internal and external actions of the Caudillo regime that dominates it. As is known, Cuba lives in an atmosphere of deception fomented by false and obscurantist totalitarian propaganda.

The information the Cuban newspapers and radios withhold from the people will finally reach them, and it will not only refer to the feats Havana performs at the request of the Soviet Union in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Angola, Ethiopia, Yemen, and elsewhere, but also to the advantages of political, economic, social, and labor freedoms, including the conditions of housing and food supply, prevailing in the democratic world. It will be difficult for Radio Marti to compete with the powerful totalitarian propaganda to counterbalance its effects. Its operation will, nevertheless, allow the islanders to compare the "truth" of the regime with the objective information provided and, consequently, to discover the lies and tricks of the regime governing them.

The Cubans will henceforth learn about the sophisticated and rigorous discrimination against blacks in their country, which according to Armando Valladares is in some respects more humiliating than the discrimination practised in South Africa. They will furthermore learn about the price, which even Fidel Castro finds excessive, they must pay for their dependency on the Soviet Union, which guarantees their "liberation." Fidel Castro analyzed this price with rare sincerity and unconcealed resentment during a 24-hour-long interview with journalist Tad Szulc.

The Cuban dictator's reaction to the installation of Radio Marti was quite violent, not only because it bears the name of the liberator and libertarian national hero of Cuba, but because it was dedicated on the anniversary of the Cuba's independence, which he considered a "cynical provocation" of his regime. But a wrathful Castro betrayed himself by declaring that the installation of Radio Marti can only be interpreted as a response to the Cuban campaign "to mobilize the Latin American public in favor of a new economic order and the cancellation of the large foreign debt of the Latin American countries." Thus the caudillo did nothing but admit that his radios broadcasting to Latin America have long been carrying propaganda against the United States and the Central and South American regimes, which he has been trying to destabilize, threatening peace in the region, as he has done in Nicaragua before and now in El Salvador.

Castro, the undaunted defender of sovereignty and self-determination, thinks that the United States cannot be allowed what he is allowed to do. The Romans used to say that "Quod licet Jovi no licet bovi" (which can be translated as what is good for the goose is not good for the gander). Castro took exaggerated and abusive reprisals against the United States, measures detrimental to the Cubans in the first place. He suspended the agreement on immigration of Cubans into the United States and all the trips by Cubans to the United States and vice versa, restricted communication between the two countries (this embargo does not violate international law) and cooperation on matters related to drug trafficking and extradition of highjackers, and decided to expand broadcasts against the United States and to jam transmissions of Radio Marti and 200 other U.S. radio stations. So, in addition to the embargo against the United States, Castro has unleashed a cold war on the airwaves.

These things are taking place at a time when Brazil is judging that the time has come to resume diplomatic relations with Cuba, relations suspended in 1964 by resolution of the ninth consultive meeting of the OAS. Itamaraty has made the fortunate discovery that Cuban foreign policy has shown appreciation of the New Republic's democracy. We find it hard to believe that Castro and the New Republic, particularly Itamaraty, have identical or even similar concepts of democracy. Through secret diplomacy, the House of Rio Branco [Itamaraty] has tried to create a fait accompli, the preparation of which it denied in public and nonpublic statements. However, we have been precisely informed of all the other efforts (including the trip of journalists promoted by our Foreign Ministry) leading to that end, efforts being freely discussed in foreign diplomatic circles. It can not be said that this diplomatic initiative is part of the legacy of Tancredo Neves because he gave guarantees against it. We agree with the statement made by Langhorne Motley that the resumption of relations with Cuba is Brazil's exclusive problem (and right). And no one can deny that the (lame duck) assistant secretary of Inter-American affairs of the U.S. State Department is right when he notes that the resumption of relations with Cuba can bring less benefits than problems. But it is certainly a good way to please the leftists.

BRAZIL

OPINIONS DIFFER ON AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM

PY012337 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 1, 2, 3, June 85 pp 1, 4

[Special to the DAILY POST by Herbert Zschech]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro -- President Sarney, certainly irked by mounting criticism from various political sectors charging slow government action and delay of decisions, has surprised the nation with the announcement of a National Plan for Agrarian Reform, to be implemented from August onward.

Justifying the surprise move which could profoundly affect an estimated 35 million persons, or more than seven million families in the Brazilian interior, the government claims that it only wishes to give practical existence to the Land Statute promulgated back in 1964, which never acquired real significance.

There are several reasons for it, the principal reason being that land reform is, or can become, an explosive social issue of unforeseeable consequences. The Agrarian Reform Plan aims at distributing to poor peasants and migrant rural workers lands to be obtained through parcelling of large properties where little or nothing is produced because they were bought mainly by rich capitalists for speculative purposes, awaiting valorization through the progress of industries encroaching on the countryside, and as a hedge against inflation.

Also included into the plan are large tracts of lands owned by the government on titles often reaching back to colonial times, which are mostly unused.

Leaving enormous stretches of land unused for production at a time when millions of city dwellers are almost starving and entire populations mainly in the Northeast are chronically undernourished, doubtless looks outrageous. The question is, however, if giving a small extension of land to mostly uncultured, often extremely ignorant, people who have neither means nor skill for acquiring equipment and using it, will be really the best way of tackling the problem.

A similar experiment, though on a smaller scale, was made under the administration of President Medici. After construction of the Trans-Amazonic Highway -- a daring project which has not fulfilled the expectations, the highway now having become partly impracticable again -- drought stricken Northeasterners were settled along it in the hope that they would change the primeval jungle into fertile lands. The real result was deforestation without subsequent production of food on an appreciable scale, and the settlers still holding out now are seldom better off than they were in their Northeastern calamity stricken regions.

CONFLICTS

Land ownership problems in recent years have been a frequent source of sometimes bloody conflicts between private militias maintained by big landowners, and intruding peasants or squatters. This was still another reason for the decision now announced by the Sarney government. But many people fear that the new plan may stimulate invasions of large properties instead of preventing them. Peasants, led by leftist troublemakers and in some instances by the leftist Catholic clergy of the Liberation Theology faction, may be induced to seize land without waiting for an orderly distribution.

The head of the Brazilian Rural Society, Flavio Teles de Menezes, said one day after the announcement of the government plan that it may jeopardize the entire productive structure of Brazil. He said the announced plan was based on questionable statistics and was "entirely out of touch with Brazilian reality."

According to the head of the Federation of Agriculture in Minas Gerais, Antonio Ernesto de Salvo, the agrarian reform envisaged by the government "has ideological connotations," calling for a mere distribution of land without respecting constitutional and property rights. He said it was based on the Marxist-Leninist theory of class struggle.

And according to the president of the Agricultural Federation in Rio Grande do Sul, Ary Marimon, the plan is "precipitous, contradictory and is starting at the wrong end, while it should start with institution of an agrarian policy giving stability to those who already produce."

On the other hand, the leftist head of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Dom Ivo Lorscheiter, called the plan not radical enough. In his opinion, all large properties should be distributed among the peasants, including those which are productive -- exactly what was done by the Bolshevik regime in the first decade of its existence, when millions of people died from starvation due to lack of food provoked by the expropriation of land owners.

RESOURCES

A major problem will be how to raise the resources for the planned reform. The cost for settling each family is officially estimated at Cr\$ 160,500,000 of which 70 percent will be for payment of the expropriated lands and the rest for payment in cash of the improvements existing on expropriated lands. These resources are vaguely supposed to come from the Finsocial and Proterra programs which, however, have been chosen by the government already for financing other special programs and their so-called social priorities, including food subsidies.

Many critics of the plan -- who can be expected to become more vocal in the next few days after recovering from the surprise -- doubt greatly that the land distribution would lead to an increase of food supply to the consumer markets. They feel that an agricultural policy establishing a tax system to stimulate productive use of large properties could be much more efficacious besides causing an increase of tax revenue instead of public expenses.

Practical experience in recent decades has shown beyond any doubt that many small farmers, owners of land lots comparable to those now to be distributed, often cannot feed their own families, even less sell food to the urban consumers. This precisely is one reason for the continued rural exodus, growth of city slums, and growth also of large land properties kept for speculative ends or eventual use in a distant future.

As an editorial in the newspaper FOLHA DE SAO PAULO -- not at all noted for reactionary or conservative tendencies -- said: The announced project seems to have been conceived for not being put into practice.

CSO: 3300/34

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

PT LEADER SHIFTS TO PMDB--The novel of PT--Workers Party--Deputy Ailton Soares has had a happy ending. He unfolded his wings and flew toward a more promising future: the PMDB--Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party--of the New Republic. Deputy Ailton Soares' membership in the PT has been officially discontinued. On 3 June he will become a PMDB member, joining the party's progressive sector. However, in Congress he will work closely with the PT. Soares himself submitted a request to cancel his membership in the party to PT President Luiz Inacio da Silva on 21 May. This was done in an atmosphere of great cordiality. The PT will now report this decision to the authorities. Luiz Inacio da Silva said that the withdrawal of a lawmaker is always regrettable, although he is satisfied that the current political process does not compel lawmakers to remain as members of one party merely to comply with a law. [passage omitted] [Text] [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 May 85]

SARNEY VETOES ON SULBRASILEIRO BILL--President Jose Sarney has made public in Recife, capital of Pernambuco, his decision to veto 13 points in the bill Congress approved for revamping the Sulbrasileiro and Habitasul banks. The main points to be vetoed are: The inclusion of three mortgage companies belonging to those banks in the revamping plan, job stability for the bank employees, and the taking over by the state of the Meridional Bank which will replace the two liquidated banks. [passage omitted] [Text] [Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 May 85 p 1]

AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM--The Sixth National Congress of Rural Workers opened in Brasilia today. President Jose Sarney is scheduled to announce the national agrarian reform program. At the opening session, President Sarney noted that the agrarian reform program is not against property but that it is a means to make it more accessible to everyone. According to the Planalto Palace, the national agrarian reform program will benefit 1.5 million families per year and it will encompass 130 million hectares. [Text] [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 27 May 85]

PLANE SALE TO VENEZUELA--The Venezuelan Central Bank has approved the purchase of 30 Brazilian Tucano aircraft, which will be used by the Venezuelan Air Force for training purposes. The overall cost of this operation is \$52.5 million. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 May 85 p 2 PY]

SARNEY ON AGRARIAN REFORM--President Jose Sarney today stated that the agrarian reform program seeks to end violence in the fields, restore peace in the rural sector, and increase the production of foodstuffs. On receiving the members of the Brazilian-U.S. Businessmen's Council, Sarney explained the government's decision to begin an agrarian reform program. [Begin Sarney recording] We are not beginning a war or opening a wound. On the contrary, we are working for the establishment of peaceful coexistence. This reform, therefore, seeks peace, not quarrels. As in all democratic societies, this reform also seeks that talks be held not in an impassioned manner but in an entirely reasonable manner. [End recording] President Sarney also stated that the government will promote social justice. [Begin Sarney recording] I want to inform you of my unshakeable decision to implement social justice within a climate of full economic freedom, guaranteeing to all Brazilians the right to aspire to and amass riches, and to live right to standards of living compatible with human dignity. [End recording] [Excerpt] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 May 85]

CSO: 3342/180

CHILE

PLANS TO BUILD U.S. AIR BASE IN NATION CRITICIZED

PA222221 Havana International Service in Spanish 1635 GMT 21 May 85

[Text] The Chilean regime recently announced its willingness to allow the United States to build an Air Force base on the island of Pascua, which is under Chilean jurisdiction.

According to spokesmen of the Pinochet government, the runway on this facility will serve for emergency landings of U.S. space shuttles.

General Ramon Vega, director of operations of the Chilean Armed Forces, said that his country was planning to expand the existing airstrip in that Pacific territory, but this would have required an \$18 million investment. This expense will now be assumed by the U.S. Government.

These reports are not surprising in view of the very good relations between the United States and the Chilean regime. However, the absolute political ineptitude of the Chilean authorities is incredible. They put themselves at the service of U.S. plans to militarize outer space, while the country must live under the most cruel political repression and an acute economic crisis.

The Chilean regime, condemned more than 10 times at the UN General Assembly for its systematic violation of human rights, has now become the first Latin American country to lend its cooperation to the development of U.S. warmongering plans in space, plans which are repudiated by the progressive international community. In other words, to its voluminous record of antipopular actions, the Pinochet regime has now added its decision to enable the United States to build its first air base for space ships outside U.S. territory. This is another measure that infringes upon the sovereignty of the Chilean people and confirms the reactionary character of the fascist authorities in that South American country.

Furthermore, the Chilean regime's decision shows that there are no significant contradictions between Washington and Santiago, as some White House officials have tried to pretend in order to maintain a prudent distance, before the eyes of the international public, from such a bloodstained and internationally repudiated government.

Some observers believe that the confirmation of good U.S.-Chilean relations resulted in the removal from his post of Langhorne Motley, former assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, who during his visit to Chile at the beginning of this year said that relations between the two governments were excellent.

Events in recent years raise no doubts about Motley's words. In effect, Washington has no reason whatsoever to be angry with the Pinochet regime, as in reality it has only obeyed the orders it has received from the U.S. Embassy in Santiago and from the powerful interests of the Yankee multinationals in that South American country.

For the United States, the fact that the Chilean Armed Forces and police have tortured and killed thousands of Chilean patriots during the past 11 years is no discredit. On the contrary, according to the White House's criteria, these actions by Pinochet and his clique of treacherous generals are worthy of praise.

Perhaps it was for this reason that Washington decided that it was time to show Pinochet how much it appreciated him. Washington could think of no better way to show its gratitude than to offer Chile the opportunity of becoming the first Latin American country to have a military air base in which U.S. space shuttles can land, as part of President Ronald Reagan's warmongering plans to militarize space.

For Pinochet, it will undoubtedly be a matter of pride to see his name associated with such repudiated projects that threaten international peace and security.

However, although Pinochet might win points with this new bow to the United States, the Chilean people have won a new and powerful element to nourish their just struggle against the fascist Chilean regime.

CSO: 3348/704

CHILE

CARABINEROS ARREST SEVERAL 'SUBVERSIVES' IN IQUIQUE

PY282058 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 May 85

[Excerpts] Officials from Iquique have reported the arrest of two subversives. We have a report from that city:

During a press conference given today at 1100, the regional intendent, General Gaston Fresca Arancibia, and the chief of Carabineros, Guillermo (Orsales), reported two subversive actions which resulted in one Carabineros being seriously wounded. The report also discloses the arrest of Oscar Eugenio Lagos Rojas, 22 years of age, a terrorist who is a member of the Communist Party. He was arrested on 21 May after an intensive police investigation.

The terrorist was caught placing bombs and explosives in an area where students were going to gather for a ceremony on 21 May. Had the bombs exploded they would have caused the death of many children. Fortunately the bombs were discovered on 21 May before the children entered the area.

Lagos Rojas lives on 1501 (Razuris) Street in Iquique. The police found in his house an arsenal with 47 projectiles, 150 tire bursters, 3 meters of chain, 2 rolls of electrical wire, and 26 manuals for assembling explosives.

The police also reported the arrest of Oscar Manuel (Peralillo), 22 years of age, with no police record, who in a suicidal operation tried to take away a submachine gun from Carabinero Demetrio Martin Leon who was on duty in the regional itendency. The Carabinero was seriously wounded in the head from the beating he received during the confrontation with his attacker, who used the policeman's service revolver against him with poor accuracy due to his nervousness. This situation caught the attention of other officers, who surrounded the area and arrested him. Two accomplices, Pablo (Gonzalves) and Michael (Abarca) Mendoza, were also arrested.

CSO: 3348/704

CHILE

BRIEFS

REPORT APPROVED--The annual report submitted by the national council of the National Journalist Association has been approved. The association decided to continue its struggle in defense of freedom of expression currently restricted by the state of siege.

Ignacio Gonzalez Camus, president of the national council reported that yesterday the assembly approved with applause the activities of the council during the last 12 months. The approval came after a long exposition by the national council.

Ignacio Gonzalez Camus indicated that the assembly approved the national council's annual report, especially on matters related to the defense of freedom of expression currently restricted by the state of siege. Gonzalez added that the journalist association will continue its struggle for the defense of this right. [Excerpts] [PY240325 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 May 85]

CSO: 3348/704

COLOMBIA

OIL PRODUCTION, RESERVES MAKE 1984 'EXCEPTIONAL'

PA282038 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 May 85 p 2-C

[Excerpts] Rodolfo Segovia Salas, former president of the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, ECOPETROL, stated in the company's annual report that this was an exceptional year in Colombia's oil history.

According to the report, new oil reserves discovered during the year totaled 543 million barrels, which was only surpassed by the De Mares concession in 1921 with reserves of 800 million barrels.

The magnitude of the 1984 discoveries has increased our oil reserves to more than 1.1 billion barrels, which is close to the historic maximum achieved at the end of the 40's when the middle Magdalena deposits were still in full production.

The most significant fact in the exploration for oil in 1984 was the 67 percent success rate achieved by ECOPETROL, since four of the six exploratory wells drilled produced oil in Guayuriba, Rancho Hermoso, and Entre Rios, on the Eastern Plains, and Temblon in Putumayo. In addition, two other wells initiated in 1984, Suria (Meta) and Gala (Santander), also turned out to be producers raising the exploration success rate to an unheard of 75 percent.

Domestic oil production reached 167,084 barrels per day in 1984, an increase of 9.9 percent over 1983, the largest increase since the country managed to stop the decrease in oil production in 1980. This production growth rate in the producing fields, especially by ECOPETROL with 150 development wells drilled in 1984, represented 61.6 percent of the domestic activity. Incorporated companies produced the other 38 percent with 42 wells being drilled by concessionaries operating in the country.

Although domestic production still fell short of the country's needs in 1984, the shortage decreased 27 percent from 1983 to 1984.

ECOPETROL'S financial position was consolidated in 1984, with a profit of 2,868.1 million pesos, 3.5 times the profit of 1983, the year in which losses turned to profits for the first time.

COSTA RICA

NEWSPAPER ENDORSES CIVIL GUARD TRAINING BY U.S. INSTRUCTORS

PA170427 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 May 85 p 10

[Editorial: "Pressures Toward Defenselessness"]

[Text] Ever since the creation of a police school at El Murcielago Farm to train and prepare our Civil Guard members was announced, campaign has been waged against the efforts being made to technically train our police corps in response to the current activities being carried out by the underworld, terrorists, and drug traffickers. The campaign has been stepped up since it was reported that approximately 20 U.S. instructors would come to the country to give our civil guards the knowledge needed to adequately safeguard the citizenry's security.

We must be prepared to withstand that campaign, which will claim that the Pentagon's forces have occupied our territory, point out that the CIA has intervened in our internal affairs, and accuse the government of supporting President Reagan's warmongering attitude. We must not give in to these voices, which have already been raised, because the country needs an efficient and well-prepared police force well aware of its duty to maintain social balance and law abidance that is characteristic of our nation.

We would be the first to oppose any attempt to militarize the country under the guise of a Civil Guard. We all know that this is not the case. It is a matter of training our police corps so that it may efficiently counter events for which we have little experience and which have started to occur with increasing frequency. These events include the National Bank robbery in Filadelfia; the attempts that a group of drug traffickers--led by Caro Quintero--made to install themselves in the country; and the brutal murder of a distinguished citizen in Limon, to mention only some of the most recent occurrences.

National authorities are currently looking into a news report published by a U.S. newspaper a few days ago. The report said that Costa Rican extremists are receiving guerrilla training in Nicaragua. Even though this report is not new in our country, because it has been repeatedly reported for some time, it represents a danger, and the country must prepare itself adequately to counter this danger.

We must support the efforts of the Public Security Ministry to create El Murcielago Police School and to bring in instructors who are capable of teaching our authorities the best methods with which to counter certain dangers that are threatening the area from several sides. The efforts being exerted so that the country remains defenseless must be rejected, without forgetting that these efforts are part of a general tactic seeking to keep our national authorities completely unprepared while those who will eventually attack us are being trained and prepared abroad.

Those who are waiting for the opportunity to shout extremist slogans--most of the time without knowing what they mean--must be careful this time and, before doing anything, think about the possible consequences of keeping our country in a permanent state of defenselessness, given the current situation.

CSO: 3248/386

JPRS-LAM-85-054
19 June 1985

COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

COFFEE EXPORT FIGURES--According to an official source, Costa Rica's coffee exports during the 1984-85 period amounted to \$193 million. This figure represents a \$78 million increase over last year's sales. As of 30 April, 2,025,000 46-kg bags of coffee have been sold abroad, while on the same date last year sales amounted to only 1,225,000 bags. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 9 May 85 PA]

CSO: 3248/386

CUBA

U.S. EXTENSION OF EASTER ISLAND RUNWAY SEEN AS MILITARY EXPANSIONISM

FL1282000 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 28 May 85

[Station commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The traditional tranquility of Chile's Easter Island, in the center of the Pacific Ocean, will be noticeably disturbed by Augusto Pinochet's approval of construction of a runway for U.S. space shuttles. Easter Island, 3,500 km from the South American continent has an area of 160 sq km and a population of 2,200. According to estimates, its great archeological patrimony would be irreparably damaged if the runway were lengthened.

With Pinochet's approval of U.S. plans to extend the runway to 3,300 meters, Easter Island's importance increases from the strategic viewpoint because of its mid-Pacific location and its proximity to southern South American and to the British installations in the Falklands.

Under the pretext of creating better facilities for the space shuttle, dozens of technicians and advisers will go to the island and will, in fact, assure a U.S. advance in the Pacific Ocean.

It is necessary to recall that those National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) experts could also have something to do with White House plans known as Star Wars, NASA, which has already launched space shuttles with clearly militaristic purposes of espionage, is a certain source of cooperation with the Pentagon in the arms race being carried out by President Ronald Reagan.

The almost certain turning over of Easter Island to the Yankees' aggressive appetites once again confirms Augusto Pinochet's policy of submission to the United States and casts an even darker shadow over the future of the southern cone of Latin America, which is already seriously affected by British plans in the Falkland Islands.

CSO: 3248/388

CUBA

BRIEFS

YUGOSLAV TRADE UNION DELEGATION VISITS--A delegation of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia arrived in our country today in response to an invitation by the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Union [CTC]. The trade union group is headed by Dusan Bogdanov, the confederation president, and is composed by (Vovimir Rabar), member of the presidency, and (Eslavol Hug Lukovik), international department official. Roberto Veiga, CTC secretary general and secretariat member, and (Milos Zvota), Yugoslav ambassador in our country, greeted them at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 May 85 FL]

USSR ANTI-ALCOHOL MEASURES REPORTED--A summary of documents to eliminate alcohol abuse was the principle news today in the Soviet press. The set of documents comprises a resolution by the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee containing political directives and general announcements on the problem of alcoholism. Also included is a directive from the Council of Ministers with specific instructions for the governments of the federated and autonomous republics and territories as well as for the ministries, and a decree from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR with the measures and sanctions to be adopted. TRUD, the organ of the Central Council of Unions, published on its first page the individual directives that the Soviet Union will adopt to control alcohol abuse. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 17 May 85 FL]

FMC TO PROTEST CUBATUR ADS--Mexico City, 18 May (NOTIMEX)--The Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) will lodge a protest against that country's tourism institute for the advertisements being used by the travel agency Cubatur, which feature Cuban women as a sexual attraction to tout tourism. That announcement was made by Yolanda Ferrer, an FMC leader, during a meeting on women and crisis, being held here. She added that there are much better ways to promote Cuba's image than by using sexual images. She reiterated that women have not been used as consumer goods since the triumph of the revolution and the Cubatur advertisement showing girls in scanty clothing is degrading to Cuban women. She also explained that the FMC, founded 25 years ago, accounts as members 85 percent of Cuban women between the ages of 14 and 60, or 2,764,960 comrades. She said the FMC's work is extensive. It is involved in the fields of health, sex education, and education in Cuba. Finally, she pointed out that the women's organization is in contact with other institutions and with universities so that women's problems can be systematically studied. [Text] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2025 GMT 18 May 85 FL]

FAR RECEIVES PROFITABILITY AWARD--Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], has awarded the first place trophy in the special 1984 emulation for the profitability of enterprises to the FAR and the National Civilian Workers Union because 97.1 percent of the military industry enterprises were profitable. "Free and Profitable Enterprise" banners and "Best in the Special Emulation for Enterprise Profitability" trophies were awarded yesterday at the CTC to trade unions, ministries, enterprises, provincial committees, and unions of enterprises that were outstanding in last year's special emulation. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 21 May 85 FL]

FIRST LIQUID SUGAR PLANT--Cuba's first liquid sugar manufacturing plant has been inaugurated at the Arquimides Colina Sugar Mill in Bayamo, Granma Province. Using Japanese technology acquired at an approximate cost of 1 billion pesos, 50 metric tons of liquid sugar will be produced every 24 hours for use in the Abigail Gonzalez diet products factory, located in Bayamo. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 May 85 FL]

SOVIET SHIPS TRANSITTING AZORES--The daily "Acoriano Oriental" reported that Soviet soldiers proceeding from a port in the north of the Soviet Union called two times this year at the port of Ponta Delgada, going to and coming from Cuba. The paper adds that on the first call at Ponta Delgada, last 16 April, the Soviet ship "Dmitry Shostakovich" was carrying 314 passengers, but only 59 had their passport number on the documents turned in to the Portuguese authorities. Two hundred fifty-five of the passengers were between 18 and 21 years of age. Eighteen days later, on the night of 3-4 May, the "Dmitry Shostakovich" again called at the Ponta Delgada port, now going in the other direction, from Cuba to the north of the Soviet Union. On this trip it carried 352 passengers, but only 63 had their passport number on the documents turned in to the Portuguese authorities. Two hundred eighty-nine of the passengers were also between 19 and 21 years old. On both calls all the Russian ship's passengers were forbidden to disembark in Ponta Delgada, and some children visible on the deck of the ship were not found in the official passengers list. The passengers between 18 and 21 years old never appeared on board the "Dmitry Shostakovich" while the ship was docked at Ponta Delgada port. [Text] [Lisbon O DIA in Portuguese 20 May 85 p 11]

CSO: 3242/2

EL SALVADOR

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER CRITICIZES GUERRILLAS

PA162317 San Salvador ORIENTACION in Spanish 12 May 85 p 3

[Editorial]

[Text] Ten mayors of towns in Morazan, La Union, and San Miguel departments have been kidnapped by FMLN terrorists in these past few days.

Another mayor, who was kidnapped on 3 May, has not yet been found. The kidnapped mayors were victors in the recent elections, and they represent the majority parties. Most of them are members of the Christian Democratic Party.

Logically, these incidents are keeping the people uncertain and worried and are a very clear sign of the means that the guerrillas have always used to reach their goals.

They are based on the premise that they are absolutely right, and thus every means is valid to achieve their ends. This is an experience we are almost used to but which has turned against them, decreasing the people's support and strengthening our belief that Marxism, whether Slavic, Latin, European, Asian, or Latin American [as published], is all the same. It is an ideology and as such is independent from the race, culture, and idiosyncracies of the people. Marxism is the way it is. It is utopia bordering on madness to believe there can be a Christian Marxism.

In regard to this, the Nicaraguan experience proves our point because of the way things are happening, with abuses against the church, freedom of expression, political pluralism, and human rights. At no time one can see Christian action by the priests who are committed to high posts within the Sandinist government. Their task is that of any layman at the unconditional service of a party, and, judging by the path already traveled, there is no hope that Nicaragua can build a society with social justice, liberty, and respect for people.

As for El Salvador, the FMLN will be the armed branch of the revolution, dogmatic and racial, which would truly decide and define the course of history. Therefore, those priests involved with the guerrillas will not be able to do anything, now or ever, by officiating masses in mountains and villages of Morazan and La Union Departments and forming rank and file church

communities. These priests and those who have tried to sway sympathies for the Salvadoran revolution in Europe by establishing contact with political, humanitarian, cultural, and church organizations have served only as propaganda instruments, without any influence on the methods, decisions, and spirit of the guerrillas.

This whole situation, much to our grief, makes us feel very distrustful about the desire of the extreme left for peace. The kidnapping of the mayors and the murder of one of them for participating in a democratic process give an alarming hint as to the guerrillas' intentions.

CSO: 3248/372

GRENADA

BACKGROUNDS OF FOUR FOUNDING MEMBERS OF GDLP REPORTED

St Georges THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER in English 6 Apr 85 pp 13-15

[Text] The four foundation members of the Grenada Democratic Labour Party (GDLP), which was launched on March 6th have given thumb-nail sketches of themselves and their backgrounds.

Mr. Marcel Peters, 53, GDLP Political Leader, worked with the Grenada Ministry of Agriculture from 1953 to 1984. In June 1984, he decided on a political career, resigned, and joined the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of Sir Eric Gairy to contest the General Elections held on December 3rd 1984.

Mr. Peters was the only successful GULP candidate (the New National Party of Herbert Blaize captured 14 of the 15 seats in the House of Representatives) and joined Sir Eric in condemning the Elections as rigged. He said then he would not take his seat in the House of Representatives but subsequently changed his position, broke with Sir Eric and was sworn in as a Member of the House.

At a Press Conference on March 6th, he disassociated himself from any charge that the Elections were rigged.

Mr. Albert Forsythe, 57, was a policeman in 1950 when Sir Eric returned from Aruba and started his Trade Union and political activity.

"Because I informed Gairy of what was taking place", he said, "I was asked to resign".

Mr. Forsythe said he was, at that time, attached to the Criminal Investigation Department. He was covering Sir Eric's public meetings and, at a meeting in St. George's Market Square, heard Sir Eric "very forcibly" use the words, "We will choke the employers to death".

In conversation with one of Sir Eric's supporters, Mr. Forsythe had said Sir Eric would be charged for this and subsequently, Sir Eric had spoken to him and said the words he had actually used were, "For their conscience, they will choke to death".

"I stupidly went and changed my statement I had already made", he said, "and my superiors said that by making a second statement, Sir Eric could not be incriminated and I was given the option of resigning or being fired. I resigned".

Mr. Forsythe said he knew Sir Eric in the 1950s but did not become a member of his organisation until 1960 when he won a by-election as "an independent candidate with Gairy's support".

Since then, he has been a member of his Party until he resigned recently. Until a few months before the New Jewel Revolution in 1979, he held Junior Minister appointments in successive Gairy Governments but was Minister of Communications and Works for a few months before the Gairy Government was overthrown by NJM.

Mr. Forsythe said he had been Vice President of Sir Eric's Mental and Manual Workers Trade Union.

Mr. Oliver Raeburn, 58, retired as a teacher in 1971 and, on a petition by members of the constituency of St. Patricks East, was selected by Sir Eric to contest and win in the Elections of 1972. He won again in 1976 but lost in 1984 when he was changed to contest the constituency of St. Patrick's West.

Mr. Raeburn has served in the Gairy administrations as Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Community Development, Minister of Education and Minister of Finance.

Mr. Franklyn Philbert, 52, was a Civil Servant in the Ministry of Labour and, under the Peoples Revolutionary Government, was acting Labour Commissioner.

In the 1950s, he served in the Grenada Police Force for 6 1/2 years before migrating to the United Kingdom where he worked and studied Politics and Economics at Ruskin College, Oxford.

He returned to Grenada in 1966 and joined the Civil Service as Community Development Officer but was dismissed twice after Sir Eric came to power in 1967. On both occasions he won appeals against his dismissal but was transferred to the Labour Department where he served for 16 years.

CSO: 3298/701

GRENADA

INTERIM AIRPORT BOARD APPOINTED

St Georges THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER in English 6 Apr 85 pp 22-23

[Text] An "Interim Board" has been appointed to advise Government on a range of matters connected with the Point Saline International Airport.

This was disclosed on March 7th in an interview with Dr. Keith Mitchell, Minister of Communications, and he said the 9 member Board is headed by prominent Grenadian businessman, Mr. Rawle Charles.

"Some of their Terms of Reference are to look at the management structure of the airport", he said, "also to draw up plans for employing and training personnel, and examine the projection of flights into the country".

Government has received and is looking at applications from several airlines to provide service into Grenada, he said, but he was unable to give details of this until Cabinet has made decisions.

Dr. Mitchell said Trinidad & Tobago's airline, BWIA, is already providing a service into Point Saline, but the visa restrictions imposed on Grenadians by the Government of Trinidad & Tobago are creating difficulties.

The service is between Grenada and Miami, the Minister said, but Grenadians must board the aircraft on its southbound trip, passing through Trinidad's Piarco airport before going on to Miami from that point.

"Even if a person is only intransit at Piarco", Dr. Mitchell said, "they must get a visa and this makes it difficult for Grenadians to use the service".

Covering another area of his Ministry, Dr. Mitchell said plans are being examined for installation of a digital telephone system.

"We are looking at several plans, including a joint venture relationship", he said, "and we have had encouraging discussions with two organisations".

This matter has to go before Cabinet, he said, and he thinks that, due to the critical nature of the telephone problem, Government will decide, within a matter of a few months, what is to be done.

CSO: 3298/701

GUATEMALA

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL ON NEWSMEN

PA161927 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 May 85

[Text] Today, Guatemala's National Constituent Assembly almost unanimously passed a bill making it mandatory that newsmen, as well as professionals who graduated from the country's universities, join the journalists association [colegiatura obligatoria].

This blow to the Guatemalan news media was dealt on printers day. It was also reported that with the approval of Article 89, the National Constituent Assembly left almost 80 percent of all newsmen without jobs, unless they enroll in journalism school at the universities.

Deputies Herbert Del Montes and Walterio Diaz Lozano of the Union of the National Democratic Center were the ones who strongly defended the requirement that journalists bring their credentials up to date. (?Rolando) Arturo Marroquin, president of the Guatemalan Chamber of Journalism, stated tonight that he was saddened and concerned over the measure adopted by the National Constituent Assembly, which virtually leaves many newsmen without jobs.

When the new Constitution takes effect, only those who have a degree in the science of communications from one of the country's universities can work in that profession.

CSO: 3248/373

JAMAICA

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES PUSHES SEAGA FOR EARLY ELECTIONS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 May 85 p 31

[Text] Kingston, Friday (CANA)--The Jamaica Council of Churches (JCC) Thursday called on the Edward Seaga Government to hold a general election.

The message was contained in one of seven resolutions passed at the JCC's 44th annual general meeting.

The council said the election should be held to enable Jamaicans to exercise their franchise and to return the country to a two-party parliamentary democracy.

The last election in December 1983 produced a one-party party Parliament because it was boycotted by the main opposition People's National Party (PNP).

The PNP complained that the voters list was outdated and promised reforms had not been carried out. These are all now in place and the party has been campaigning for an early poll.

The JCC's resolution noted that on December 6 last year it had appealed to the government to call elections as soon as the new electoral system was in place in the interest of democracy, adding that now the new system was in place it was repeating that call.

Prime Minister Seaga has indicated that his Jamaica Labour Party Government intends to complete its five year term.

CSO: 3298/702

JAMAICA

SUGAR PRICES RAISED IN EFFORT TO MEET INDUSTRY DEBT

FL140134 Bridgetown CANA in English 1722 GMT 13 May 85

[Text] Kingston, May 13--The Jamaica Government today pushed up the retail price of locally-produced unrefined brown sugar by 38 per cent, while the wholesale cost of the imported refined white sugar rose 27 per cent, in an effort to raise money to wipe out state debts in the industry.

The Sugar Industry Authority (SIA), which implements government policies in the industry, announced that brown sugar across-the-counter would go from J98 cents to J1.35 dollars per pound. Refined or white sugar, whose retail price is decontrolled, moved to J3,684.86 dollars (one J dollar: 18 U.S. cents) a tonne to manufacturers of sugar-based products, and to J4,095.86 dollars a tonne to the commercial trade. The SIA is the sole importer of sugar here.

The authority said the increases were to help in liquidating the massive financial obligations which overhang the public entities in the industry. The SIA also announced that the government intended at an early date to appoint a commission of enquiry to look into certain aspects of the sugar industry. It said that the revenues from the price rise would not in the first year be available for payment to the general industry in the form of higher prices for sugar to producers but would service industry obligations. Public sugar entities here are said to carry over J200 million dollars in debts.

Cane growers and mills have been prodding the government for higher prices for the sugar which is marketed by the SIA. They argue that the 6.2 per cent increase to J1,305 dollars per long ton of sugar announced at the start of the present crop was inadequate to meet the ravages of rising costs. Further, they say, the devaluation of the local currency brings in more Jamaican dollar earnings from sugar exports, which should reach producers since devaluation exacerbated their cost problems.

The SIA, in a bid to assuage the producers, said in its statement that based on present indications and current exchange rates, it might be possible at the end of the marketing programme to pay an additional J95 dollars per long ton of sugar. Farmers get two-thirds of the declared price paid by the SIA for sugar, but the earnings of an individual farmer depend on the sucrose

content of his cane and the efficiency of the factory at which it is milled. The less cane per ton of sugar, the higher the potential earning.

It was not clear what the proposed enquiry would determine. Some officials here believe the Edward Seaga government would like to shut down the loss-making industry. Seaga last month took the controversial decision to take 20,000 acres of land out of sugar to plant in winter vegetables--a move that has angered the cane farmers association, which is fearful that it will be followed soon by the closure of another sugar factory.

The Seaga government has, since it came to power, closed three state-owned sugar mills and laid off in the region of 10,000 sugar workers in a bid to streamline the industry and turn around falling production. Recently, Tate and Lyle, the former major controller of the local industry, was given a management contract to run the three largest factories here, and two smaller ones were handed to local operators.

Projections are that Jamaica will this year meet its target of 210,000 long tons of sugar--the first time it will have passed the 200,000 ton mark since 1980. But this is still way behind the 330,000 tons the government projected for 1985 when it came to power four years ago, and industry analysts here say that Seaga appears willing to put his faith in winter vegetables and high-tech agriculture, egged on by low prices for sugar.

The prime minister has said that Jamaica would seek to produce 225,000 tons of sugar, enough for local consumption and its European Community quota.

CSO: 3298/702

MEXICO

REGION CHRISTIAN GROUPS REJECT U.S. POLICY ON NICARAGUA

PA262250 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 18 May 85 p 5

/Article by Teresa Gil/

/Text/ Over 50 Mexican and South American Christian organizations published a joint statement yesterday, in which they disapprove of the Reagan policy against Nicaragua and point out that the decision adopted by his government, has a "deeply antievangelic, inhuman, unjust, and immoral nature." They appealed to all Christians of Latin America and the Caribbean to repudiate the blockade, and announced simultaneous campaigns of solidarity throughout the world.

At the same time, these groups, whose full name is Christians United with Mexico and which are headed by the former bishop of Cuernavaca, Sergio Mendez Arceo, released the letter sent by the retired prelate to the bishops of the United States, asking their peers to try to stop the aggressive blockade and their government's foreseeable actions.

Mendez Arceo mentions the serious responsibility due the Christian people of the United States as a result of the historic weight of political, economic, and cultural power their country has over Latin America. He voices his confidence that the U.S. episcopate will try to stop "the new crucial aggression" against the life of the Nicaraguan people and their government.

The prelate refers to the fact that every "most cruel" attempt to divide the people and the Sandinists has failed. The indescribable torture of slowly bleeding them to death, of psychological insecurity, and hardships, will not subdue a people hardened by secular aggression.

The statement of the organizations, which include groups of various religious denominations of the continent, Christian movements, and ecumenical groups, as well as church communities, points out that Reagan's position is illegal, as it violates the basic inalienable rights of the people.

CSO: 3248/385

MEXICO

FORMER GUERRERO GOVERNOR SEES POTENTIAL GUERRILLA THREAT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 May 85 States Section p 1

[Text] Huitzuco, Guerrero, 6 May--After stating that there are groups of people in the country dissatisfied with the poor administration of justice, the former governor of Guerrero, Ruben Figueroa Figueroa, claimed: "There are considerable vestiges of the guerrillas in the state and, regardless of who is bothered by it, this movement is still in force, and its members are planning strikes that will leave the wisest ones shocked."

Rough, with his peculiar manner of expressing himself, the controversial former governor declared in an exclusive interview with EXCELSIOR: "The traces of the guerrillas still prevail in the Guerrero sierras, coasts and mountains; they are patiently gauging the steps of the governments; their patience has no limit prompted by haste; everything is calculated for making small strikes little by little. Later, there will be the larger ones, with a scope that will be terrifying."

Figueroa Figueroa said: "Today, we Mexicans need to raise our voices, forceful and courageous voices, denouncing the abuses of which most of these people are victims. The present government of Miguel de la Madrid has declared and has given its support for the expression of the concerns, not with acts of violence or division based on rumors which harms the successful progress of the federal and state system.

"I think like an ordinary citizen, like a man withdrawn from politics, but I think. I am not silent, I speak because I believe that I have right on my side, that I am given the right to express myself. Or is it perhaps a crime, am I committing some violation of the law? If so, let them punish me. We are living in an atmosphere of law, of legal regulations; that is how we live in Mexico."

Ruben Figueroa Figueroa, who attended the closing of the third phase of campaigning of the candidate for federal deputy, Jorge Montufar Araujo, remarked: "They may think that I am doddering, that I am crazy, but these gray hairs and my very own experience will not be taken from me by a son of God or of the devil. And if they don't recognize it, it's their problem. I have always said that there are vestiges of the guerrillas; but they don't believe me. We must let time prove it, little by little."

"Are these stories, dreams or fabrications? Time will tell. Just as the drug traffic is at its greatest height, so the movement of the guerrillas will rise up again, with people dissatisfied with the poor administration of justice that is being exercised all the time; and one need not speak any further."

Annoyed, speaking loudly and violently, the former governor criticized Blas Vergara Aguilar, close friend of Genaro Vazquez Rojas and present local deputy representing Guerrero, as well as state leader of the League of Agrarian Communities and Peasant Unions, because "he preaches far and wide that the peasants are despicably deceived by a bank, corrupt leaders and high-ranking federal, state and municipal officials, but he is afraid to say that it is BANRURAL [Rural Credit Bank] that is involved, and he accuses by pointing the finger, without indicating the real direction." He added: "At the present time, it is necessary to stand up and be very brave, stating, with facts, the banking institution which is engaged in fraud, deceiving President Miguel de la Madrid. But that business of accusing with great dignity but hiding one's hand is not for men. When one makes a decision, he must take it to its final consequences." He added: "Today, we Mexicans must raise our voices with courage."

Finally, in connection with the candidates nominated by the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], he remarked that his party unquestionably runs its best members, for whom he predicted a definite victory in the elections of 7 July; and, with regard to the opposition, he said that it would continue its battle, because that is its obligation, but that, once again, it would be "deprived of its objectives."

2909

CSO: 3248/362

MEXICO

CHIHUAHUA: SITUATION JUDGED UNFAVORABLE TO VIOLENT CHANGE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 6 May 85 pp 4-A, 27-A, 28-A, 29-A

[From "Political Fronts" column by Humberto Aranda]

[Text] 'No' to Change Through Arms: PRT

In Chihuahua, Ruben Aguilar Jimenez, candidate for deputy representing the PRT-CDP [Revolutionary Workers Party-Popular Defense Committee] coalition, claimed that the conditions do not exist in Mexico for a change in structures through the use of arms, and that "the battle must be waged by means of votes."

A candidate for the seventh district of Chihuahua, the leftist told correspondent Alejandro Irigoyen that there is in that state a situation favoring the coalition that he represents, because, "PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] is completely split and no one believes in it, while PAN [National Action Party] has been completely unmasked insofar as representing reactionary and pro-imperialist interests is concerned."

In his opinion, the PRT-CDP coalition is the spearhead for establishing truly popular and democratic organizations on the different levels of government in Chihuahua.

2909

CSO: 3248/362

MEXICO

CONASUPO MAKES CONCESSIONS TO WOMEN AFTER CONFRONTATION

Police, Office Worker Attacks

Mexico City EL DIA (METROPOLI supplement) in Spanish 30 Apr 85 p 3

[Excerpt] In the context of the economic crisis being experienced by the country the effects of which, as luck would have it (realists would claim) are being suffered most by those who have the least, the organized women from 25 of the so-called "colonias populares" [low-income urban communities] in the Federal District requested of the National Company for Basic Commodities [CONASUPO] that it uphold the low-cost supplies so much in vogue recently, and the real subsidy for such basic products as tortillas.

The demonstration on the public thoroughfare, the expedient of the majorities for making themselves heard, was refused, despite the fact that the negotiation was taking place peacefully, and the repression of over 700 women, carrying children in their arms, was allowed to occur in the middle of the downtown area, with a great deployment of power: police against women and defenseless children.

The Incidents

At exactly 1000 hours yesterday, a contingent of women and children, consisting mainly of mothers residing in 25 Federal District "colonias" [communities], including Martin Carrera, Pensil, San Miguel Teotongo, Primera Victoria, Emiliano Zapata, Jaipa, Palmitas, Francisco Villa, Palo Alto, Felipe Angeles, Cananga, Cuernito and Ajusco, showed up in front of the CONASUPO building located on Juarez Avenue to demand the real subsidy for tortillas and meat, the actual installation of low-cost dairies and the turnover of provisions sponsored by the special program implemented by a presidential order.

According to the representatives from the women's regional group of the Popular Urban Movement National Coordinating Board (CONAMUP), these demands stem from the government's statements about the subsidy for meat and tortillas to make them really reach the families with meager financial resources, who obviously need it, and from CONASUPO's commitment to grant women and children provisions and gifts, through its "special programs," on special dates, such as Christmas, Epiphany, Children's Day and May Day.

The series of anomalies occurring when the LICONSA [CONASUPO Processed Milk, Inc] dairies failed to be set up in the locations with the greatest demand, the high cost of meat and tortillas, even in CONASUPO's own shops, and the refusal to supply the provisions prompted the women to ask for information and a solution to their petitions from officials of the decentralized companies.

After the negotiating commission had waited over 3 hours for these officials, achieving only a partial talk with the secretary from the private secretariat, Manuel Vazquez, while on the 11th floor of the building they were attacked by one of the internal police. Just then, the coordinator of special programs, Gerardo Salazar, arrived, but engaged only in a dialogue on the question of provisions; and, after intense haggling, 6,700 were promised, despite the fact that over 9,500 had been requested.

While the commission was negotiating inside the building, clerks and secretaries on the premises attacked the "colonos" [colonia residents] located inside both verbally, with hot water and using all kinds of objects. The situation culminated in broken glass on the main door, the splinters from which injured the demonstrators outside.

The attack by the employees was still going on when three patrol cars and over 30 motorcycles from the Cuauhtemoc agency's police sector arrived to break up the demonstration, charging with the vehicles at the women carrying children. Fear caused the women to withdraw toward the sidewalks, where they continued to receive threats from the police forces.

Hot water continued to fall from several stories of the CONASUPO building. The many children from those low-income urban communities who had been hoping to celebrate the day with presidential gifts were crying and running about in fear. The mothers were trying to protect them, while tears of powerless rage flowed from many eyes, and weak protest slogans emerged from throats, in a futile attempt to check the attacks.

The Promises

Despite the assault that they had experienced, the female CONAMUP representatives had time to receive, in writing and signed by Gerardo Salazar Rojas and the executive member of the CONASUPO Promotion Commission Trust, Miguel Angel Mares, a promise that, next Thursday, 2 May, at 1000 hours, a commission of 50 representatives would be received to negotiate jointly with representatives from LICONSA and DICOMESA [expansion unknown] on problems involving milk supplies, community shops, meat and fish supplies, subsidies for tortillas, Mother's Day gifts and procedures for hearing them 3 times a year.

Government Commitments Spelled Out

Mexico City EL DIA (METROPOLI supplement) in Spanish 3 May 85 p 2.

[Text] Fulfillment of the program to set up 100 dairies in the Federal District and the creation of centers for the distribution of tortillas subsidized in larger amounts were two of the commitments assumed by officials from the

National Company for Basic Commodities (CONASUPO) during the meeting held with the women's regional group from the Popular Urban Movement's National Coordinating Board (CONAMUP), which demanded a really low-cost supply of basic products within the reach of the least privileged classes.

Gustavo Orpinel, representative of DICOMESA, also remarked that there would soon be a retraining of the personnel running the community shops (CPAC) [expansion unknown], to eliminate the anomalies which are currently impeding the operating of these centers that on many occasions have shortages of the products that they provide.

The representative from the Federal District General Coordinating Board for Supply and Distribution (COABASTO), Jesus Vazquez Villasenor, for his part, gave assurance that, on 15 May, the small marketplace system would start operating in each of the LICONSA dairies, as a result of the agreement signed with CONASUPO aimed at taking the basic products to the residents of the communities termed excluded.

He added that the mechanisms would soon be established for making it possible for trucks from Supplies Industry, Inc (IDA) to visit those same communities twice a week in order to supply their residents with low-cost cuts in half a kilogram packages that would not cost more than 500 pesos.

The coordinator of the CONASUPO special programs, Gerardo Salazar, told the women from CONAMUP that they would be given 6,700 provisions out of the 9,500 which they had requested; informing them that the latter would contain a liter of oil, a kilogram of sugar, a kilogram of beans, soap, coffee and powdered milk. He remarked: "We cannot include the foods that you are requesting, because the budget is not sufficient for so much."

While the dialogue was going on in the offices with the representatives, a group of those women was waiting outside the CONASUPO building for the results of the talks.

In discussing the current status of the low-cost dairies, the women from CONAMUP remarked that they are faced essentially with the problem of inadequate supplies, neglect on the part of the employees, a rise in prices and a reduction in cards for distribution.

Guillermo Garcia Avina, representative of LICONSA, agreed that a sizable number of low-cost dairies are not operating at full capacity, because the products are still very meager; but that they are expected to increase within a short time, and it is possible that the equipment with greater capacity will replace the present equipment, although he stressed that this equipment is very expensive because most of it has to be imported.

It was also stated that one of the great obstacles to the establishment of dairies is the irregularity of the land ownership existing in nearly all the low-income urban communities; and that an effort would be made to find a way of establishing them, even before the proposal is certified.

Another serious problem is the rent that must be paid for the premises which are leased.

When the women demanded a considerable increase in the amount of tortillas sold with a subsidy, "because what is being distributed now is insufficient to meet the demand among families of slight means, who buy between 5 and 7 kilograms per day," the DICOMESA representative gave them assurance that a study is being made of the possibilities of setting up tortilla distribution centers, apart from the community shops; but he noted that, in some communities, the sale of record cards is already being tested, so that the communities may purchase tortillas at a lower cost at the private tortilla stores.

2909

CSO: 3248/378

MEXICO

STATE OF MEXICO, D.F. INTEGRATION VISIBLE IN INITIATIVES

Intermunicipal Police Force

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 5 May 85 pp 1, 27

[Text] Yesterday, the Office of the Prosecutor of Justice of the Federal District notified this newspaper that, this month, an announcement would be made of the creation of an "intermunicipal police" force to operate in this capital and in the metropolitan area of the State of Mexico for the purpose of more effectively preventing the perpetration of crimes and providing better guarantees and protection for the residents of both entities.

The office explained that the new agency (which will be comprised of crime prevention police from both territories) is part of the National Public Safety Program enacted by the federal government.

In this way, the members of the [Federal District] General Secretariat for Safety and Roadways (SGPV) and the Directorate of Public Safety and Traffic of the State of Mexico will work in a more coordinated fashion in their battle against crime, and will continue to operate under the command of Ramon Mota Sanchez and Jesus Antonio Buentello Medina.

In addition, the prosecutors of justice, Victoria Adato widow of Ibarra and Humberto Lira Mora, have concluded agreements aimed at strengthening the capital and State of Mexico judicial police, in order to coordinate the prosecution of those guilty of criminal acts, who often escape from Mexico City to the neighboring state, or vice versa.

The office claimed that the presence of this "intermunicipal police" force will not mean that the autonomy or sovereignty of either of the two territories will be violated, inasmuch as their functions will be regulated, just as a similar agency is operating in Jalisco.

It noted that there are also plans to increase the number of policemen (to be trained in both police academies), to increase their working equipment (primarily patrol cars and motorcycles) and to provide them with greater social benefits and more decent salaries.

The Office of the Prosecutor of Justice in the capital expressed the view that this decision is a suitable response to the current needs of the population in

both entities from the standpoint of public safety, and that it is also based on the necessity for the two crime prevention police agencies to unify their forces in their battle against the underworld.

In this regard, the Mexico City Lawyers Association (AACM) and the Federal District Bar Association (CADF) came out in favor of the creation of the new agency, because "all measures executed by the government to benefit the population will always be welcome."

Roberto Pola Rodriguez and Pedro Solis Camara, chairmen of those organizations, nevertheless remarked that it will be necessary for the authorities to properly regulate the functions of the "intermunicipal police," so that there will be no duplication of effort nor friction between the various agencies, "for, otherwise, the measure would be counterproductive."

Rail Network

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 9 May 85 Metropoli supplement pp 1, 9

[Text] Naucalpan, Mexico, 8 May--Governor Alfredo del Mazo has considered the need for introducing a suburban rail system that will reach the metropolitan-area municipalities of Valle Cuautitlan-Tezcoco and the Toluca-Lerma, Naucalpan-Huehuetoca, and Ecatepec-San Martin de las Piramides areas with three terminals for multiple types of transportation in the areas of the Military Broadcasting School (Naucalpan), El Rosario (Tlalnepantla) and the intersection of Lopez Portillo Road and Gustavo Baz (Tultitlan) Road, in order to back the programs for metropolitan area migration and bridge decongestion.

This information was given to "Metropoli" by engineer Armando Baez Pedrajo, executive member of the State of Mexico Transport Commission (COTREM), who added that the foregoing represents the formation of a suburban rail system to be comprised of the following lines:

North-southwest: Toluca, Lerma, Naucalpan, Tlalnepantla, Tultitlan, Cuautitlan and Huehuetoca; north-southeast: Chalco, Atizapan, Nezahualcoyotl, Martin Carrera Metro, Ecatepec and San Martin de las Piramides; west-east: interconnection of these two major routes by two transverse lines using the right-of-way of Rio de los Remedios and Jose Lopez Portillo Road.

The COTREM executive member remarked that the technology used would consist of simple rolling stock with diesel-electric propulsion multiple units, with a possibility of making formations with locomotive-driven trains, having a line on the double track, on the flat, with non-grade crossings at a major intersection and with stations every 5 kilometers.

Engineer Baez Pedrajo explained that the number of kilometers considered in the overall calculation of investments represents a total length of 124 kilometers and involves the following lines:

Naucalpan to Huehuetoca, 36 kilometers; Chalco to the station for transfer to the Ecatepec line, 27; Martin Carrera Metro to San Martin de las Piramides,

35; and the transverse lines along the transmetropolitan section, 15, and along Río de los Remedios, 11.

The official reported that three route options have been analyzed, which are considered the most appropriate for the type of service that it is intended to offer, consisting of one suburban train with a few stations between terminals, which are: Avenue R-1, Gran Canal del Desague and Central Avenue.

He added that the two most suitable options would be Avenue R-1, on the one hand, and Gran Canal, on the other; with a difference in length of 1 kilometer between them and an almost identical transverse section.

He noted that, although Gran Canal offers greater accessibility to the Martín Carrera Metro, on the other hand, Avenue R-1 offers less interference with projects that have been promoted, and a lesser number of interferences, as well as being a state right of way, whereas the other two are federal.

Armando Baez reported that, for this project, it is thought that 20 kilometers of civil construction could be executed in 24 months, following the procurement of the pertinent topographical and preliminary planning studies to site precisely the line and the material strata, while the detail design is made during the first 6 months of those 2 years.

The official remarked that it is precisely in the metropolitan-area municipalities of Valle Cuautitlan-Tezcoco that there is one of the greatest problems of congestion and population growth, which has been exacerbated by the increasing flow of migrants coming from the various sections of the country and from the state itself.

He said that the major problems that have been generated for transportation in this area have made it necessary to decide on an overall strategy that will make it possible to address the increasing requirements for meeting the demand and at the same time support a sound policy for rearranging the territory.

He stressed that, according to Governor Del Mazo, this entails reorganizing and modernizing the traditional mass transit services, developing the Metro, introducing mass transport into the areas where there is a heavy concentration of demand, creating the essential roadways and optimizing the capacity of the present primary system.

For this reason, he claimed, priority importance is attached to the study of mass transport systems that will accommodate a densely urbanized, compact zone consisting of the Federal District and the 17 metropolitan area municipalities, prominent among which are: Naucalpan, Ecatepec, Tlalnepantla and Nezahualcoyotl, where the urban development is for the most part concentrated along the main interurban communications routes (Cuautitlan-north, Ecatepec-northeast, Chimalhuacan-Los Reyes-southeast and Naucalpan-Toluca southwest corridors).

He added that the current status of interchanges reveals that the main corridors of the peripheral rim located in the State of Mexico are: Cuautitlan-

Naucalpan-DF northern corridor; Coacalco-Ecatepec-DF northeast corridor; and Los Reyes-Nezahualcoyotl-DF eastern corridor.

Engineer Baez Pedrajo observed that the increased mobility of individuals augurs a critical situation over the short term (1988), both quantitatively and qualitatively. This points quite directly toward the need for creating major connections of large capacity by the year 1988. Of the connections planned, the following are a priority, whether because of the development strategy or because of the growing demand: the Toluca-Naucalpan-DF western, the Cuautitlan-Naucalpan-DF northern, the Ecatepec-DF northeastern and the Los Reyes-Nezahualcoyotl-DF main highways.

The director of COTREM did not disclose the investment nor the population to benefit from the integration of the suburban train system.

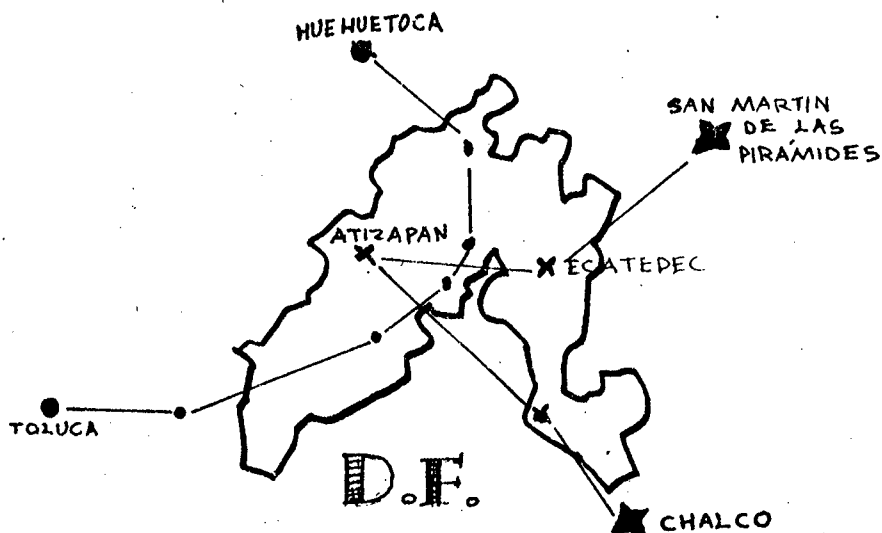


Photo Caption:

This is the sketch of the 124 kilometer length of the suburban train system that will connect the municipalities of the State of Mexico which adjoin the capital.

2909

CSO: 3248/377

NICARAGUA

WHEELOCK PRESENTS GOVERNMENT POLICIES TO COTTON GROWERS

PA122028 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 May 85

[Text] Yesterday private cotton producers met with Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, Nicaragua's agricultural development and agrarian reform minister, with whom they discussed policies for the 1985-1986 agricultural cycle.

The price of a quintal of cotton was fixed at 5,200 cordobas. The producers will be paid 46,000 cordobas for each cultivated manzana of land. Producers are expected to make a 30-percent profit.

Commander Wheelock informed the cotton producers of the measures that the revolutionary government will take to face the economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. Government.

The participants at the meeting also discussed the supply of items necessary for production. Wheelock guaranteed that approximately 90 percent of these items will be supplied. The same is true for mechanical services.

The meeting was attended by big, medium, and small producers, cooperatives, and agrochemical enterprises.

No technical or supply problems can be foreseen for the present cotton harvest, even its financial and economic situation, although there will be some tension. Commander Wheelock made this statement after his meeting with cotton producers.

[Begin Wheelock recording] We are going to enter this 1985-1986 harvest with a clear economic and financial situation. The technical and material supply situation will also be clear, although not free of tension. In order to resolve this tension, we have agreed with private producers on the following matters: First, we will honor all foreign exchange certificates so that the producers may purchase all the transportation equipment, vehicles, and spare parts they need. Second, we are establishing a direct link between producers and the technical and material supply office so that any needed spare parts or equipment may be purchased directly, with the corresponding foreign exchange, rapidly and timely. Transport problems in the country will be solved in a similar fashion. All customs paperwork will be expedited so that we can resolve on time any situation that may emerge. [end recording]

The minister said that the authorities will study a proposal by the producers that those who are more efficient and productive be given foreign exchange.

[Begin Wheelock recording] We told them that we are going to study a proposal by the producers that payment with foreign exchange be linked to efficiency. In establishing the producers' price we take into consideration the following: We are going to establish a production of 35 quintals per manzana. This is, let's say, 12 quintals of "Oro" cotton represents an estimate of the costs. [sentence as heard] Taking into consideration the cost and price situation in the country right now, 9 May, we have established, preliminarily, that a quintal of "Oro" cotton would have a price of 5,200 cordobas, taking into account a production of 35 quintals per month and an approximate cost of 46,000 cordobas per manzana.

[Wheelock continues] From this point of view we feel that it is more important to establish a base cost for 35 quintals per manzana, and a profit greater than that offered by the national financing system to any [words indistinct] on a fixed term. We are establishing a 30-percent profit for cotton producers who produce 35 quintals per manzana. Any cotton producer who produces (?12 quintals) per manzana pays for his financing and gets a 30-percent profit. There are cotton producers who produce 40, 48, even 60 quintals per manzana. Therefore, we are making cotton production profitable, promoting exports, and solving our supply problems. In addition, we will study mechanisms whereby those who produce 35 quintals or more per manzana will be paid partly in foreign currency for increasing production. Those who produce 36 quintals per manzana, for example, might receive a small percentage of foreign currency per quintal, and those who produce 40 quintals per manzana with more than 14, 15, 16 quintals of topgrade cotton will progressively earn more foreign currency until, in theory, they reach the level of productivity where they are paid for their entire crop in foreign currency. [end recording]

Commander Wheelock said that there is a small group of politicians who want to boycott production, but this will not be allowed because it is a criminal action.

[Begin Wheelock recording] We have perceived that there is a small group of politicians who erroneously feel that at this time when there should be unity, at this dangerous and sensitive moment, they must join efforts to destabilize the government, and that our political problems should be presented within the framework of the production issue. To us this is a criminal action. We cannot allow a boycott of production. This is why the small and medium producers, the cooperatives and the patriotic producers are meeting today with the state institution to establish that all who have a negative attitude toward these efforts--which we should all be carrying out--and who try to include the country's production problems in their political problems, will face very severe measures implemented by the government.

We have authorized the regional directorates so that along with the private producers willing to work with persons renting lands, cooperatives, or with farmers, they can proceed to organize their production immediately [words indistinct]. [end recording]

CSO: 3248/375

NICARAGUA

TIRADO MEETS LABOR LEADERS, DISCUSSES EMBARGO

PA172313 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 May 85 p 5

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado announced that the payment of salaries in goods will be suspended effective in June. He also recommended the encouragement and full promotion of the Innovators Movement, which represents a reply to the Yankee economic blockade, and a massive action among workers.

The Sandinist leader explained that the suspension of the payment in goods is aimed at hitting the speculators and the black market.

To offset this, the workers will conduct studies on the real family needs, in order to regulate the delivery of goods in certain enterprises.

Tirado spoke yesterday before several hundred CST [Sandinist Central Organization of Workers], ATC [Farm Workers Association], Heroes and Martyrs CONAPRO [Heroes and Martyrs Confederation of Nicaraguan Professional Associations], FETSALUD [Federation of Health Workers] union leaders from various parts of the country, who met with him at the CST.

As examples of the disorders resulting from the payment of salaries in goods, he mentioned that Sandak, Rolter and Cecalza delivered 30 million cordobas worth of shoes to their workers in 1984.

He noted that this form of payment increased from 10 to 20 million cordobas at the Coca Cola company, and that Panatex distributed 500,000 yards of fabric.

He added that it is not the government's intention to affect the workers, but that the matter must be analyzed conscientiously, and that it is also an ideological challenge.

Tirado told the workers that the payment in goods should be properly explained. He added that among other factors it is also necessary to raise the levels of productivity, which dropped 8 percent in 1984.

He noted that in 1983, 72 percent of a working day was profitable, but this dropped to 67 percent in 1984.

He added: According to the records, the percentage of unexcused absences from work was 39 percent, which climbed to 50 percent in 1984.

The Innovators

Commander Tirado said that the Innovators Movement is like the BATANTE [not further identified] in facing the Yankee economic and trade blockade, because the innovators carry out heroic feats, such as manufacturing spare parts for machinery.

Tirado added that the Innovators Movement is like the reserve and militia group's armored battalions for confrontal U.S. attacks.

He said that one of the fundamental tasks of the working class is to encourage and develop the Innovators Movement in depth, at all levels.

He added that the conservation of financial and human resources is also a key factor in dealing with the blockade, moving ahead, and building a new society without exploiters or exploited.

He said that the administration and workers must commit themselves to economizing on raw materials, electricity, fuel, and diesel. He recalled that the Sandinists believe in organized work, which should be the norm at the labor unions and enterprises.

He called for the promotion of unity among all workers, and with all the other sectors that want this unity to continue with the struggle and the revolution.

Tirado stressed that the workers must struggle against bureaucratism, which delays actions or solutions for the workers' problems.

However, he also asked for understanding toward administrative measures, as in the case of the coffee farms. Not many workers are necessary at the beginning of the harvest, additional manpower must be hired for cutting, and at the end only the administrators remain, performing various functions.

Regarding the Yankee economic blockade, Tirado said that it equally affects all sectors of society.

Tirado said that Nicaragua is prepared to face any attack, and that it will overcome any situation with creativity and combativeness.

CSO: 3248/374

NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

SPANISH DONATION--Eliseo Guardado, head of a Spanish technical mission that is visiting Nicaragua, symbolically delivered 10 boxes of spare parts for agricultural machinery to Nicaraguan official Gerardo Lopez. This donation is worth \$35,000 and the spare parts are for U.S.-made machinery. [Summary]
[Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 May 85 PA]

CSO: 3248/374

PERU

APRA LEADER ON BUDGET DEFICIT

PY272300 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 May 85 p 4--a

[Interview with American Revolutionary Popular Action, APRA, vice presidential candidate Luis Alva Castro by an unidentified report; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Dr Linares Bazan, president of the Congress Budget Committee, has said that the 1985 budget, which totals 25 trillion soles, has been overrun by 3 trillion soles.

Have you estimated how much the budget could be overrun by 31 December this year?

[Answer] Yes, we are carefully studying all government incomes and expenditures between January and April this year. We are very concerned over how the government is spending more than what it planned.

For example, regarding salaries, the increases granted up to this moment represent a 3-trillion-sole increase over what was planned for this year. The petitions for supplementary funds for investment projects surpass the half trillion soles that was planned. The service on the foreign debt foreseen in the national budget has already increased 3.5 trillion soles simply because of the higher dollar exchange rate (the average exchange rate estimated for this year was calculated at 6,995 soles per dollar, but today the exchange rate stands at 11,422 soles per dollar).

We believe that because of this the national budget increased 6 trillion soles between January and July this year over what was initially estimated.

[Question] Senators Garrido Malo and Malpica both say that the budget deficit amounts to 10 percent of the GNP. Do you think this estimate is correct? How high could the deficit go by 31 December 1985?

[Answer] When we gave our opinion to Congress on the budget plan for 1985 submitted by the Executive Branch we clearly pointed out that the budget was not appropriately financed and that there would be an approximately 10-trillion-sole deficit. Although we do not have complete information on the budgets of state companies, we believe that the public sector deficit might finally reach 10 or 12 percent of the GNP.

[Question] The Armed Forces requested a (budget) increase of 1.114 trillion soles for 1985. Was this petition approved?

[Answer] A petition for supplementary funds of 1.115 trillion for Armed and Police Forces salary readjustments was presented to the Congress Budget Committee about 2 weeks ago. Our representatives in the Congress Budget Committee requested a detailed justification of this petition because the amount of money requested is far more than what was reserved for this purpose, which is 850 billion soles. We believe that there was a gross budget miscalculation since supplementary funds greater than originally planned were requested.

This is why we are concerned over the fact that nearly all the salary readjustment reserves have been used up now, only 4 months after the year started, which does not leave any elbowroom for the next administration.

[Question] What inflation rate do you expect for 1985? Deputy Calmell del Solar, member of the Congress Budget Committee, has reported that the national budget was calculated considering an annual inflation rate of 83 percent. However, he admitted that the annual inflation rate is running at 130 percent. What percentage does the National Government Plan Commission [Comision Nacional de Plan de Gobierno -- CONAPLAN] calculate?

[Answer] The public sector budget for 1985 was calculated based on an inflation rate from December to December of 81.1 percent. Considering the way prices are increasing this year, we expect inflation to surpass 250 percent annually. The policy of price deregulation for basic services and products applied by the Popular Action government over these months has unleashed this wild inflation rate.

[Question] The law only allows contracting up to \$1 billion in foreign debt. Have we reached that ceiling? Will \$350 million be sufficient for guarantees on foreign purchases and \$200 million for defense?

[Answer] We have been in the situation of a unilateral moratorium since September 1984, and thus it is very unlikely that more foreign resources can be obtained. Our effort over the coming years will have to depend fundamentally on internal savings made after economic recovery is achieved. At any rate, we consider that \$350 million is sufficient for guarantees because the current idle capacity in productive sectors makes the importation of equipment and machinery unnecessary.

[Question] The executive branch is authorized to issue 700 billion soles worth of Treasury Bonds to meet cash-flow needs that may arise. What's the status of that authorization?

[Answer] The issuance of bonds contemplated in the Public Sector Budget Financing Law is insufficient to cover the budgetary deficit, and even more so when the issuance of bonds demands important disbursements for payment of interests which exert more pressure on the already high expenditures of the central government.

[Question] Is it true that the central government has already contracted debts for 1.202 trillion soles with the central bank (Article 20 of Law 24030)?

[Answer] That method of financing the deficit of the public sector has been systematically used during the past 5 years, with its obvious inflationary effects.

[Question] In 1985 the executive branch has been authorized to legislate for the payment of the foreign debt (refinancing, restructuring, reprogramming) up to 7.254 trillion soles for a period of no less than 10 years. What is your comment on this?

[Answer] The 1985 budget provides a total of 6.988 trillion soles for servicing the foreign debt, of which 461 billion soles are for interest payments and 6.527 trillion soles for the payment of principals. If one takes into consideration the amounts that should have been paid in 1985 (excluding 1984 defaulted payments and their respective penalties), and the foreign exchange variation over the first months of this year, the real service on the foreign debt would require 14.851 trillion soles. The total deficit, therefore, amounts to nearly 7.9 trillion soles, which the budget cannot pay.

CSO: 3348/702

19 June 1985

ST. LUCIA

BRIEFS

EEC MISSION--Bridgetown, May 17--The Barbados-based European Economic Community (EEC) mission for Eastern Caribbean says it has just completed preparatory talks with the St Lucia Government on an aid programme for the island under the new Lome Treaty linking Europe with developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and Pacific. The mission team, headed by EEC commission delegate here, Joannes Ter Haar, held discussions with Prime Minister John Compton and other ministers and senior officials on St Lucia's development priorities and objectives which may be funded under the Lome-3 programme, an official statement here said. The two sides also exchanged views on the experiences gained during the Lome-1 and 2 Conventions. Such possible orientation was discussed and considered against the background of the recently signed Lome-3 Convention, in particular where this relates to the aim of concentrating future EEC funding on relatively few sectors of strategic importance to St Lucia, the EEC office said. The pre-programming mission represents the preparatory stage of the actual programming mission which will visit St Lucia at a later stage to discuss, and reach agreement on, the actual indicative programme under Lome-3, the office added. [Text] [FL171808 Bridgetown CANA in English 1543 GMT 17 May 85]

CSO: 3298/704

URUGUAY

DAILY COMMENTS ON AIRPORT IN FALKLANDS

PY250040 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 19 May 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Caputo Is Right"]

[Text] We have always supported the Argentine claims to the Malvinas Islands.

We have always maintained that the unquestionable rights of our neighbors over the islands should have been claimed in a peaceful and negotiated manner. Therefore, unlike many others, we rejected the irrational adventure carried out by General Galtieri's military dictatorship.

Considering this background, we cannot but object to the recently dedicated landing strip in the Malvinas Islands. Although the landing strip was constructed for peaceful and civilian purposes, it was constructed under British Defense Ministry sponsorship, and it was honored by the presence of Prince Andrew, a South Atlantic "veteran."

As Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has said: "This is not a matter of intransigence, but it is a matter of hostility." If Argentina used to be ruled by a long-lasting military dictatorship, it is now ruled by men chose by popular will. Therefore, Mrs Thatcher surely cannot bring up such a duality as freedom vs despotism it is simply a matter of establishing a presence on the island, and this has surpassed all juridical terms since it is based on overwhelming force. It does not matter whether Argentina is democratic or not, but it is comparatively weaker, therefore she is being treated more harshly than other countries that are respected for their power.

It is painful to accept this, but we must do so. Mainly, this proves that there is not a real will to negotiate, and when London is reminded of it, it talks about anything else except about what is really necessary to negotiate.

There are 420 million pounds there (airport cost) just that prove this....

CSO: 3348/700

URUGUAY

TRADE UNIONS CALL DAY OF MOBILIZATIONS

PY292320 Paris AFP in Spanish 1327 GMT 29 May 85

[Text] Montevideo, 29 May (AFP) -- The Inter-Union Workers Plenum (PIT-CNT), the largest trade union organization in Uruguay, has decided to hold a national day of debate and dialogue on the country's economic situation and a number of mobilizations to demand salary improvements.

The PIT has called upon the political parties and the intersectorial organization which brings them under one umbrella with the social forces to hold on Friday 19 [as received] a meeting in which the PIT will raise, among other things, the possibility to suspend, for the time being, the payment of the interest on the foreign debt.

PIT leaders have told AFP that the funds saved could be utilized to stimulate production and to raise the income of the workers, retirees, medium-size businessmen, and small agricultural and industrial producers.

The proposal, according to the PIT spokesmen, seeks that the burden of the crisis being endured by Uruguay is not shouldered by the low-income sectors but by the international bankers, the excessive, luxurious consumers with great capital, and the wealthy account holders.

The PIT-CNT also talked about raising salaries without boosting inflation and to freeze prices on the basic items which make up the family basket.

The PIT-CNT proposed that subsidies be granted to those enterprises that cannot withstand the requested freeze and stated that the democracy cannot be strengthened at the expense of the workers. The PIT-CNT stated that salary increases have no bearing on the inflation rate and attributed its upsurge to excessive profits and the burdensome interest.

Lastly, the PIT-CNT lashed out against the salary policy of the government which set ceilings of the increases to be granted over the coming weeks by the so-called salary councils, which are made up of union and business representatives from every area of economic activity.

The PIT-CNT proposals will be accompanied by a mobilization plan beginning Thursday with a partial stoppage by the bank employees who will gather in front of the Congress building and ask it to implement measures leading to restructuring the banking sector.

On Friday, the call to hold the national day of debate and dialogue, a march by the teachers trade unions on 18 de Julio Avenue, Montevideo's main avenue, and an exhibit on missing persons in South America will be held.

Next Thursday, a 2-hour general stoppage per work shift for salaries, work, the dismissed, solidarity, and missing persons will be held.

Finally, on 19 June the national day of debate and dialogue will be held.

CSO: 3348/706

URUGUAY

EL DIA VIEWS RELATIONS WITH PARAGUAY

PY212135 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 13 May 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Relations With Paraguay"]

[Excerpt] It has been stated, although just as rumors, that certain circles and political personalities will reportedly start a sort of movement to freeze, to the greatest degree possible, our relations with Paraguay.

Should this report be confirmed then a serious mistake is about to be made or attempted.

Nobody can find in us the slightest degree of sympathy or even indifference as to the dictatorship of Stroessner. Nobody can place in doubt or under suspicion our solidarity with the Guaraní democratic forces, which are pitted against Latin America's senior dictatorship.

On that line of thinking, we will always demand, although that is not necessary, that our government maintain an unmistakable attitude concerning, for example, the human rights issue.

To take additional steps, however, is purely and simply to have a childish concept of international relations. These relations, in the wholistic and pragmatic approach stated by President Sanguinetti and put into practice by Foreign Minister Iglesias, must be stripped of ideological inclinations.

Otherwise, to ignore the inevitable and, in this case, the necessary state-to-state relationship be to fall into the absurd position of questioning all the relationships that the republic has with nondemocratic nations which, unfortunately, are an overwhelming majority in the world.

CSO: 3348/700

END