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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2751

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ANTICIPATED RENTAL OF MEXICAN GENERATOR FALLS THROUGH

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 4 Sep 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] BELIZE CITY'S HOPES for a quick solution to the electricity worries were dashed this weekend, when plans for hiring a 4 megawatt generator owned by the Mexican state-owned power company collapsed.

The generator is available in Chetumal, less than a hundred miles away, but Belize Electricity Board officials did a double take when they learned what the rental fee would be.

"We figured that it would cost the Board something close to a million dollars a month after calculating all the direct and indirect costs," a high official of the Board told the REPORTER.

The Belize Electricity Board takes in a little more than a million dollars a month from all its operations throughout the country.

"There is simply no way we can afford to pay anything close to that, even for emergency power" he said.

The door to the Mexican approach has not been closed, and Mexico has invited a counter proposal. But even with the best will in the world, the two sides are so far apart that a satisfactory arrangement appears improbable.

The Mexican surprise leaves the Belize Electricity Board in deep trouble. With two of its large Ladyville generators down and the third one, the Mirelees Blackstone in need of an urgent overhaul, the Board is on the brink of a precipice. If the Mirelees should fail during this critical time, Belize City, already on a quarter cut, will have electricity for less than half of its needs. If any of the smaller units in Belize City should conk out, it would inevitably mean further, unacceptable cuts. The Board has been frantically looking around for alternatives which won't cost so much, and a spokesman this week-end told the REPORTER the Board may be able to get some U.S. Army surplus field generators at a bargain price, or it may be able to rent from a U.S. company a turn-key unit which could be hooked up and put to work quickly.

But nothing is definite yet, and the Board is still exploring.

Meanwhile work on setting up the new 18 cylinder Ruston generator at the Magazine Road plant is proceeding, but the pace has been disappointingly slow. It is almost certain that the optimistic January/February 1984 timetable will not be met.

Meanwhile the Mirelee Blackstone generator at Ladyville continues to perform under intolerable mechanical conditions. So far it is holding out with super-mechanical strength.

CSO: 3298/939

CARIBBEAN UNION OF TEACHERS MEETS, HEARS ATTACK ON U.S.

Opening Address by Baptiste

Castries THE VOICE in English 24 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

PRESIDENT of the Caribbean Union of Teachers, Alfred Jn Baptiste has said that there could be no change in the region's education system unless politicians were taught that proper education policies are not planned from political platforms.

He was speaking at the opening of the biennial conference of the C.U.T. on the issue of "Education and Caribbean Development" which is the theme of the week-long meeting.

He declared: "Many politicians who plan our educational policy have no interest in education but are only concerned with vote-catching and using their manifestoes as the main instrument for developing educational policy!"

Jn Baptiste added it was therefore clear that the regional union must move towards "taking a very firm grip on our educational policy."

He added: "Our organisation must take care that it is not branded the Caribbean Union of Talkers, since this seems to be the main objective of regional bodies. We cannot remain interested in teachers' integration only, but must have as our ultimate aim the total integration of the entire region.

The C.U.T. President who will be seeking a second term in elections tomorrow said that the Caribbean was in a unique position in that while most countries had their

educational systems to suit their particular environment "we in the Caribbean were given a wholesome system — a gift of our colonial past."

He called for the development of "new ideas and avenues, utilising what we need (from the present system) and discarding the irrelevant and burdensome aspects," adding: "the C.U.T. must strive to produce change in our educational system, otherwise an integration or association of teachers is almost meaningless. We will have to destroy to rebuild, the land must be cleared for planting."

Jn Baptiste predicted too that the 14-member C.U.T. might find itself "ordained by circumstances to save the region from disintegration through revamping our education system."

He added: "We as Caribbean Teachers must leave the classroom for a while and enter the nitty gritty of Caribbean life and especially Caribbean politics. There can be no change in the Caribbean education system unless the politicians are taught that proper educational policies are not planned from political platforms."

Jn Baptiste, who is also general secretary of the St. Lucia Teachers Union called on his colleagues to be true to themselves and to their cause. "If we are serious it (changing the system) can be achieved, if not, we will be

guilty of leaving our children to suffer for another 400 years at the hands of the education system that is basically killing them with its capitalist ideology and parrot orientation."

Remarks on U.S.-Caused Tension

Castries THE VOICE in English 24 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

THE President of the Caribbean Union of Teachers, Alfred Jn Baptiste has said here that the present United States administration, and it alone was to be blamed for the present international tension.

Jn. Baptiste was speaking here to more than 100 delegates from 14 territories in the region gathered here for the biennial conference of the Caribbean Union of Teachers. (C.U.T.).

He declared: "I do not wish to offend the delicate ears of the friends of Mr. Reagan, nor do I have anything against the people of the United States. Let me say however that the responsibility for the increase in international tension, in my view, rests fully with the present U.S. administration."

Jn. Baptiste added: "It is my view that no attempt to try to make other countries share in this responsibility deserve even the most elementary analysis."

FACTS

He said the facts were "quite obvious" to prove that the perils of war emerged from "the irrational attempt of the U.S. to impose its policy on other countries and recent pronouncements by Mister Reagan confirm this."

He accused Reagan of attempting to stop the progress of all revolutionary, national liberation, or simply progressive processes by applying "the false and ridiculous criterion that they are produced by alleged Soviet interference or expansionism."

Jn. Baptiste spoke also about the build up of arms around the world — one of the topics for discussion at the five-day conference, and said that teachers could no longer remain silent "in this deadly game" when 250 million children, including 11 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, were denied the right to education while one fiftieth of the world's current expenditure on arms would enable every one of those children to attend school.

He declared: "The reality of the world today is that millions of human beings are suffering from poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy and under development, under employment and unemployment. It is therefore essential to put an end to this senseless wastage on armaments."

CSO: 3298/940

DOMINICA SEEKS ASSISTANCE FROM ST LUCIA WITH CARTON PLANT

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 13 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

ROSEAU, DOMINICA, AUG. 12: — Dominica said today it has been discussing with a St Lucia-based box producing company, which made a nearly three million dollar (1 EC dollar = 37 cents US) profit in the last financial year, the possibility of setting up a folding plant here.

Agriculture Minister Hesketh Alexander told the 10th annual general meeting of the company, Winera, (a joint windward islands-Venezuela project which produces cartons for the banana industry) that Dominica had put forward three matters for consideration by the company.

SPIRIT

"It must be an open secret by now that Dominica and Winera have for quite some time now, been in consultation, in the spirit of the heads of agreement, on the question of a market operational and financial feasibility analysis of installing a folding facility here in Dominica", he said.

He said a group of consultants has also produced a summary report for Winera on a feasibility study of the market potential for corrugated cartons.

Mr Alexander said it was hoped that the company would have written confirmation of the projects from the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) by Friday.

Winera General Manager, Dennis Labassiere, said the 12-year-old company made a profit of 2.7 million dollars this year compared with 2.1 million dollars last year.

Mr Alexander said Dominica was also soliciting the co-operation of the St Lucia Government in granting a waiver on the two percent foreign exchange currency levy for Winera in respect of its dealings with other Windward Islands.

REVENUE

Company officials say the levy is applicable to all companies operating in St Lucia, but Mr Alexander said that while he could not tell a sovereign independent state how to determine its means of raising revenue, he hoped that the matter would be looked on favourably.

"I hasten to add that I am appreciative of the fact that such considerations may have already been urged from other quarters and in other forms and fora", he said.

The company announced that in June this year, it reduced the price of its cartons, by 10 East Caribbean cents from 2.56 dollars.

Said Mr Alexander: "... Dominica will expect at the very least, continued reduction in the price of boxes so that the squeeze on our hard pressed farmers can be reduced."

GRENADA ASKS DOMINICA TO HOLD GAIRY IF HE ATTEMPTS TO VISIT

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 27 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

ERIC MATTHEW GAIRY, exiled Prime Minister of Grenada, should not attempt to visit Dominica.

Government has intimated that it is not inviting Mr. Gairy to visit these shores and would expect that he does not attempt to come.

Government's current position on a possible Gairy visit has come as a result of a telex from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Grenada to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dominica requesting Gairy be apprehended should he show up here.

The telex states in part:

It has come to the attention of the People's Revolutionary Government that Eric Matthew Gairy, a fugitive from justice in Grenada who has since March 1979 resided in the United States of America arrived in Barbados on August 15th, 1983. It appears that he intends to travel throughout the area to see what was going on in his absence.

Eric Gairy has been charged with an offence of aiding and abetting a crime of murder

contrary to Section 48(1) of the Criminal code, Cap. 76 of the 1958 Revised Laws of Grenada and a warrant was issued for his arrest on 31st July, 1979. All efforts to secure his extradition from the United States have provided fruitless and accordingly the warrant for his arrest remains unexecuted in respect of the charge which is therefore still pending.

On the basis of reciprocity and in the interest of reciprocal co-operation the Government of Grenada requests that in the event that Gairy should enter any territory which is subject to the sovereignty or control of the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica the Law enforcement authorities in the Commonwealth of Dominica should immediately apprehend him and promptly notify the Government of Grenada so that the appropriate proceedings may be initiated under the Fugitive Offenders Act to have him transferred to Grenada to stand trial for the offence with which he has been charged.

CSO: 3298/940

JOURNALIST NOTES COMMUNIST PLANS FOR TAKEOVER IN CARIBBEAN

Castries THE VOICE in English 24 Aug 83 p.5

[Article by Trevor "Burnt Boots" Smith]

[Text]

HAVING spent three weeks visiting some of the leading socialist/communist countries in the world, and mixing freely with advocates of these ideologies, one frightening fact has been brought home to me in no uncertain manner.

And that is: "Revolution is an exportable commodity" despite what "Comrade" Maurice Bishop has been saying.

It is just a matter of time before we see countries in the Caribbean (Dominica, St Lucia, St Vincent, Tobago and Barbados in that order) coming under the pressure being exerted to bring these countries under Cuba's influence and eventually becoming satellites of the U.S.S.R.

Readers may be wondering if I have gone mad or am seeing ghosts where none exist but I can assure them, that nothing could be further from the truth and what I am predicting is just a matter of TIME.

I was amazed to learn for instance just how many young men from the countries I have listed above (except for Tobago) have received military training in Libya, courtesy of that country's leader Col. Muammar Gaddafi.

By some twist of fate, most of these Libyan-trained men were sent to that country under previous Governments, only to discover on their return home that the promises made to them no longer held.

As a result they are loose in their countries, unemployed in most cases and looking forward eagerly to putting into practice what they have learnt.

It is a most explosive situation for the Governments, particularly in St Lucia and Dominica and from what I learnt from first hand information, is that the respective Prime Ministers cannot be sleeping very well at nights.

"Socialism thrives where there is poverty or ignorance"

one well-informed socialist lectured to me with great authority and "in the Caribbean, we have a ready made situation for revolutions and a change in ideologies", he emphasised.

As far as I was able to learn, Gaddafi has not been able to make any impression at all in Trinidad but there are certain minority forces in Tobago who have been courting Libya's offer for training of men, via other "friendly" countries in the Caribbean.

Fidel Castro's Cuba has been playing its part admirably in bringing about a Socialist Caribbean, as far as the USSR is concerned, by offering hundreds of educational scholarships to students from the Caribbean.

These scholarships accepted by Caribbean students are heavily laden with socialist ideology which the Cubans expect will be spread when the students return to their countries.

Those who spoke openly with me, made it clear that it was a well orchestrated plan worked out in such a way that within the next 10 years there would hardly be a country in the Caribbean which was not a social state, linked through Cuba to the USSR.

"Obviously the Americans are fully aware of what is going on but they are helpless to stop the march of socialism in your region", boasted another well-informed source to me during my stay in the socialist/communist countries.

From all appearances Trinidad because of its economic strength appears to be a very hard nut to crack but that certainly does not mean that we have been given up as a lost cause.

I was reminded on several occasions that it does not take mass demonstrations or nationwide strikes to bring about a revolution, but merely a handful of dedicated souls who could oust any Government overnight with proper planning as has happened in nearby Suriname and Grenada.

And there are definitely "recruits" in our country who are ready, willing and able to cooperate in whatever way possible with the plans to create a "socialist Caribbean".

Speaking for myself, I have implicit faith in the Government of my country, to ensure that the so-called march of socialism and communism is stopped in its tracks from taking over our beautiful country.

But today I warn our National Security Minister John Donaldson and those elected to protect us to beware of complacency for these socialists know exactly what they are doing and will not be satisfied until Trinidad and Tobago also becomes a satellite of the U.S.S.R.

It is a frightening thought, but it could well happen unless we are on our total guard against this hovering danger.

BRIEFS

VENEZUELAN LOAN TO HONDURAS--The National Congress yesterday approved two loans, one for 36.4 million lempiras and another for over 33 million, for the installation of electric cables and circuits of the El Cajon project. Both loans were agreed upon with the Government of Venezuela, with the money coming from the Venezuelan Investments Fund accumulated from the oil account. [Excerpt]
[Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 30 Aug 83 p 14] 9925

CSO: 3248/1273

OIL COMPANY ANNOUNCES WORKER CUTS; UNION OBJECTS

Government Statement

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 13 Aug 83 p 1

[Government Statement on WIOC Refinery]

[Text]

The Cabinet wish to inform the general public that the Government has received notification from the Management of the West Indies Oil Company regarding an impending reduction of manpower to bring the staffing of the refinery into line with the staffing requirements of a trading terminal pending the eventual implementation of measures already announced to upgrade the refinery and increase its operational efficiency.

WIOC's management has informed the Government that the refinery has sustained financial loss of over EC\$44 million during the financial year ending 31st December 1982 and has continued to sustain an average monthly loss of EC\$2,700.00 over the six month period ended June 1983:

The Government has been informed that the Company is continuing with due diligence to pursue a planned upgrading of the Refinery which is estimated to cost some US\$300 million but that in view of severity of the current loss position, it can no longer retain a staff structure that

has been established to meet the needs of an operating refinery when processing activities are not taking place and only the terminaling aspects of the refinery are being carried out. WIOC management has informed the Government that until the planned upgrading occurs, unless there is a significant favourable shift in the economics of current world oil situation, only the terminaling aspects will be carried on and the refinery processing activities will not be resumed.

In this respect the Management of WIOC has informed the Government that the Company's decision to reduce manpower at this time has been precipitated by the recent decision of the Governments of Venezuela and Mexico to revise and make less favourable to recipient countries the scheme for discounted crude oil under the San Jose Accord upon which WIOC's crude oil procurement strategy has been based. Another contributing factor in this regard has been the announcement emanating from Trinidad after the recent Con-

ference of Caricom Heads of Government that refining capacity within the Commonwealth Caribbean should be rationalised and the general indication of support given to Trinidad certain territories whom WIOC had looked upon as potential markets for its refined products.

The Government has been further informed by WIOC's Management that while it sincerely regrets taking this step it could not avoid doing so if the Company were to maintain any semblance of financial health essential to the carrying out of the Company's upgrading plans. The Government has also been informed that in order to support the present refinery staff complement which exceeds 200 persons, WIOC has been incurring substantial bank debts while being unable, for economic reasons, to undertake the refinery processing activities to generate income that would liquidate such debts. The Government has been informed that there is clearly no immediate prospects of the refinery embarking on such processing activities given present

world prices for crude oil and given current market constraints because of the prohibitive financial loss that would result from

doing so. That being the case, Management has explained that it must act in the manner notified with respect to staff retrenchment in order to reduce the heavy financial loss that is being experienced by the Company.

The matter is being given the most serious attention of the Cabinet but it is decided that the public should know that the Government has been told by WIOC management that unless native plan can be found will immediately reverse or ends the serious loss position in which WIOC finds itself, there can be no deferment or postponement of the decision to reduce immediately the existing refinery manpower to a level deemed by Management to be economically necessary for the operation of a trading terminal to meet the petroleum product needs of Antigua and Barbuda and to fulfill WIOC's supply commitment to Dominica.

Distressing as this revelation must be to the employees of WIOC and the people of Antigua and Barbuda, it is unfortunately a matter over which the Government has no control, given what we are informed as being the serious loss situation currently confronting WIOC.

Union Attack on Company

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 13 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

The Antigua Trades and Labour Union is once again calling on the Antigua Labour Party Government to make sure that Rappaport and Company are not allowed to operate the Refinery as a Terminal.

Since the Government has not heeded the Union's

advice to nationalize the Refinery, because of reasons known to themselves, then now that it has been reduced to a Terminal let 'Bags' Thomas and company operate it again, as they did very successfully at one time. Let Rappaport and Vickery play politics elsewhere.

Union-Company Meeting

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 17 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

Officers of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union along with Shop Stewards from the West Indies Oil Company employees and the Supervisory Staff Association held a meeting with Mr. Palmer the new managing Director of the West Indies Oil Company concerning the proposed lay-off of some 140 workers at the Refinery on Monday 15, August.

The Union demanded that all benefits be calculated on the new wage rates which are due to become effective as from 1st Sep-

tember, 1983. The union argued that the 'notice period' would certainly put all employees into this category.

All employees in the bargaining unit are entitled to one month pay for every year worked. It was also argued that the supervisors who have been in negotiations with the company in order to have a signed contract since January, 1983, benefits be calculated at a longer period and that the proposed increment be taken into consideration.

The company stated that the laying off would be done in stages with the largest number going in the first stage. The Managing Director also promised to supply the Union with a list of names of those who would be laid off.

The management held a meeting with all the employees the same afternoon. Mr. Palmer could not commit himself and so all the Union's demands were submitted in writing for consideration of West Indies Oil Company Directors.

Compensation for Workers

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 24 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

Employees of the WIOC who have been laid off have all been compensated. Since the announcement by the company that because of financial reasons they found it necessary to lay off over 100 workers from the refinery the A.T.L.U. have been in constant contact with management to ensure that all retrenched employees were adequately compensated according to the industrial agreement between the company and the A.T.L.U.

These meetings were conducted in a very pleasant and cordial atmosphere with the new managing director of the company. This is very unlike the strained and sometimes hostile attitude adopted at these meetings with the former managing director. As a result of these

meetings, all employees were granted one month's pay in lieu of notice, and one month's wages for each year worked, calculated on next month's wages when main one being the Union's claim on behalf of the employees that they are entitled to all benefits which they would have accrued, employees were due to receive an 11.5% increment.

Negotiations are continuing in order to resolve a few minor matters. The had they worked the notice period. The Union supports its claim with C9(4) of the Antigua Labour Code.

It is expected that all outstanding matters would be settled very soon. Meanwhile all displaced employees received their cheques on Friday morning 18th August.

CSO: 3298/941

LABOR ORGAN RIDICULES ACLM, CHARGES CORRUPTION

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 17 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

A. C. L. M. FAILURE AND CORRUPTION

The A.C.L.M. has been preaching up and down this country that they should be given a chance to run the affairs of the country. They used to boast of their Co-operative Farm up at Collins Estate, but we have not heard anything about it for the last two years or so. What is the reason? It is simply that the lesser educated members (the proletariat) were smart enough to observe that the intellectuals were ripping them off and while they were toiling in the sun the chairman was purchasing a new house.

Unable to take anymore they decided to practise what was taught to them. Cast off the oppressor (exploiter) and take over the spoils. They simply took over the farm, as no account could be given for their money. The capitalist then left well alone and silently moved away. They then decided to establish another farm in the west end of the island.

They chose an area down by Cooks Estate, where they fenced an area for growing crops and rearing cattle. They even installed a wind-mill which was given much publicity as the

first one of its kind in the island, which was able to generate electricity. This now stands as a White Elephant.

The vegetable section is no more, and the cattle have been reduced to less than half of what it was because money was needed to pay for the inefficiency and corruption of those in charge. It is understood that a few thousand dollars were missing. Even some cows belonging to the Undertaker have vanished into thin air.

The South Street Bakery which was operated by the A.C.L.M. and was supposed to be a model for everyone to see, has been a failure and is now being run by a capitalist, who is doing quite all right. Can't Hector and Co operate anything?

We understand that someone had to take the blame for the failure of these ventures; after all it could not be allowed to appear that the big boys were all failures, so the king was chosen as the scape goat. He was accused of pocketing thousands of dollars and so dismissed from the Poliburo (Central Committee) and relieved of all transportation.

This is the same fella

who they encouraged to give up his teaching post to take part in the abortive teachers strike and then allowed him to be humiliated in the last general elections. He has now been reduced to a walking member of the Proletaria: of the A.C.L.M. All this taking place while the boss's wife drives around in a luxurious Laurel and the mistress vacations in New York.

Since the failure of the farm and bakery members are becoming very suspicious of the Boss and his wife. They have been so busy watching the 'Bread that the second Lieutenant has lost his wife. It is rumoured for 'lack of attention'. It is difficult to have to watch over your corrupt colleagues and still do your home work properly. Brother Jeff found out that too late, and had to run.

George Walter is now having different thoughts about the alliance. He told a friend that he failed in his attempt to run Government and Hector and Co. have failed with their farms and bakery, so two failures can't fool the people, so he is going to try it alone. Only fools rush in!

BRIEFS

BACK PAY FOR PWD WORKERS--The long overdue back pay for Non-Established Government employees is now being paid. The payment should have commenced on 13th August but because the documents had to be returned to the P.W.D. in order to correct certain errors, the first payment was delayed until Friday 19th August. The P.W.D. employees are the first set of workers to be paid. The 9 weeks back pay for the P.W.D. totals about \$150,000.00. It is expected that all Non-Established employees would receive their payment within the next 4 to 6 weeks. The back pay is due from since September 1981 when the A.T.L.U. negotiated an agreement on behalf of the Non-Established Government employees with a committee appointed by Cabinet to represent the Government. The workers had to stage a strike on the eve of Independence celebrations in order to get the increment as negotiated. Nine weeks back pay was due. The Union made several attempts to get the Government to sign the Agreement and pay the back pay, but this was only accomplished when in July the workers decided to hold a meeting with the Acting Prime Minister concerning the matter. Within a few days of the meeting the Agreement was signed and a date set when the back-pay would be paid. The A.T.L.U. wishes to express its thanks to the Acting Prime Minister at the time and also the Minister of Finance for their assistance in enabling the workers to receive this money. [Text] [St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 20 Aug 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/941

LAWYERS FEDERATION OPPOSES PROMULGATION OF AMNESTY LAW

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] Rosario--The Argentine Federation of Bar Associations, which held its tenth national conference here (Rosario), has opposed promulgation of an amnesty law by the present government and demanded that the military authorities "refrain from producing new events that invite repudiation by the people."

In a statement broadcast at the end of the meeting, which began last Wednesday and ended yesterday, the organization warns that, if the law in question is promulgated, it will recommend to "the bar associations that they take the most appropriate measures to bring about annulment of its objectives."

"In the same contingency," declares the third point in the statement, "it will be recommended to the bar associations that they take measures manifesting their repudiation of promulgation of the so-called amnesty law."

After calling it a "destabilizing factor," the bar associations caution against the unforeseeable consequences of the amnesty law, which, in the future, will constitute "one more element of national disunity and confusion," they argued.

In adjourning the Tenth National Conference of Lawyers, which met at the Bernardino Rivadavia Cultural Center in this city, the federation's board of directors issued a statement of opposition in all respects to the officially announced "pacification" standards.

The Statement

In essence, the organization indicates that, "in the amnesty law, benefits are presumably included for those who have exercised government power, and this lacks all ethical and moral underpinning, an indispensable requirement for a juridical standard."

The lawyers consider that "this kind of self-amnesty undermines juridical security as an essential element in the normative order and diminishes the dissuasive effect of the penal law, putting at risk the principle of the thing judged."

After pointing out that a law of this kind "can only be issued by the same body that is empowered to legislate on what is legally punishable," the statement

declares that the National Constitution "gives the National Congress power to grant general amnesties."

Given the political importance of the decision on issuance of an amnesty law, the lawyers say that "a full discussion by the people's representatives becomes necessary."

They also say that to such a discussion ought to be added "the joint and balanced intervention of the powers responsible for approving, promulgating and, finally, applying the law."

Abuse of Power

The concluding statement by the conferees indicates finally that "Argentine lawyers cannot be indifferent to the abuse of power entailed in such measures, especially since they deviate from the objectives envisaged by the framers of the Constitution in establishing amnesty."

The tenth conference opened in the presence of Jaime Lucas Lerner, minister of justice, which caused a group of lawyers in attendance to withdraw from the room, because they considered that the official "could not be present in a place where the rule of law was going to be discussed."

Once the minister had finished speaking, the lawyers returned to hear the other speakers,

Msgr Bonamin Believes It Would Make Things Easier

Msgr Victorio Bonamin has said here (Salta) that promulgation of an amnesty law "could make things much easier" for the future constitutional government and affirmed that the authorities "ought to study what the Pope is saying" about the Beagle straits because "Argentina should assure its sovereignty."

The former army chief of chaplains, who is visiting Salta as a special guest of the local church authorities, affirmed that "the Argentine people say a lot of things about the amnesty law without being familiar with it."

"I admit," he added, "that neither am I familiar with it, so that my opinions on it can only be of a general nature, but everything that involves forgetting and reconciliation ought to be welcome."

He added that, "as a Catholic and clergyman, I believe that we ought to perform a very generous act of reconciliation in order to put the constitutional government in a position where it will not encounter internal divisions, passions and rancor."

The Malvinas War

With regard to the Malvinas war, he said that, while he was carrying out his duties, together with the other chaplains, "even though our troops had not yet entered combat, I admired the spirit that they showed."

He added that Argentina "had to do what it did some time, since England refused to listen to reason," for which reason "our government's final response was war."

Referring to the subject of the Beagle straits, Bonamin said that "we have never been told what the Pope proposed" as a solution to the border dispute.

In spite of having been army chief of chaplains," he said, "I do not know what the Holy Father has suggested, so I cannot say whether we should accept or reject the proposal."

Finally, he declared, "We have to assure our sovereignty and our future, and it would therefore be well to study what the Pope is saying."

12336
CSO: 3348/668

CAFIERO'S FORMER FOLLOWERS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING NEW FRONT

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 7 Sep 83 p 10

[Article by Martin Carrasco Quintana]

[Text] La Plata--If it is true that the complainants who challenged the congress of last 25 August admit that they suffered a heavy blow by the decision contrary to their pretensions that Judge De La Serna issued yesterday, they also insist that, if the question were to be raised before the National Electoral Chamber, the verdict could well be different.

Nevertheless, political observers note that, given the speed with which the internal Peronist situation has been resolved, possible future juridical remedies have limited effectiveness as an element of pressure to oblige the victorious sector to "negotiate" future political offices with the losers.

A New Front?

At the same time, several members of the congress who rebelled against the conclave from which Iglesias' candidacy emerged, admitted in confidential statements to LA NACION that they are again contemplating the possibility of forming, with some political structure lacking sympathizers, a new front that would be in total conflict with the rest of the more-or-less orthodox Peronists but not schismatic.

In support of such speculation, they maintain that they cannot count on the endorsement of Cafiero himself, whose move to the sidelines--though not announced--is seen by many observers as a public declaration of intent.

It seems, it is said, that Cafiero himself did not want to pursue his bid for the provincial governorship, since this would mean an alliance that the Peronists would not forgive him: an "arrangement" with Intransigence and Mobilization, something that, in the present Peronist scheme of things, is regarded as contaminating.

The Weight of His Responsibility

According to some observers, Cafiero felt the weight of his responsibility two days ago, when he found himself "surrounded" by leaders and sympathizers of the "revolutionary tendency." This and the pressure brought to bear by the Peronist

movement's labor sector may have caused him to exercise caution in pursuing a struggle with an uncertain outcome and possibly even a Pyrrhic victory as the result.

For their part, those empowered by the victorious sector to conduct negotiations with the losers do not count on making overly generous concessions, especially since the slogan of the moment is "settle differences and avoid a break at any cost."

12336

CSO: 3348/668

PI REITERATES INDEPENDENT POSITION IN ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 9 Sep 83 p 6

[Text] The hypothetical behavior of certain groups in the Electoral College continues to give rise to conjectures that certainly will increase as the date for national elections approaches.

The unequivocal position that the Intransigent Party (PI) has always maintained, that its electors will vote for its own presidential ticket, not only has not changed but has become even more firm recently.

At least this is what may be deduced from statements by some of its highest ranking leaders, including Oscar Alende himself and men closely identified with him such as Mariano Lorences and Hector Portero.

Forceful Judgments

In an interview with LA NACION yesterday, Alende positively denied that his party's electors are inclined to support any ticket other than the one composed of Alende himself and Lisandro Viale.

But the PI chief went further in the matter and affirmed that his party is opposed to "resurrection of the Peronism-anti-Peronism antinomy" but is also against "resurrection of those responsible for the disaster of 1975, when the national unity program was not fulfilled and, as a result, the doors were opened to establishment of the military as rulers of the country's destinies."

In addition, so that no doubts might remain as to the meaning of this last remark, Alende criticized "those who make us appear to be pro-Peronists, since they also put us in a position inconsistent with our historical roots."

Equidistance?

Interviewing the PI's principal leaders enabled us to ascertain--even beyond Alende's statements--that, not unexpectedly, integration of the upper ranks of the Justicialist Party (PJ) may have resulted in the PI's being as far removed from the PJ as from the UCR (Radical Civic Union).

"If the PI emerges from the October elections as a minority far below the others in votes received, our position would probably change so as not to be

in conflict with the people's intentions, but it remains to be seen whether this really happens," a member of the PI executive committee said by way of defining what can be envisaged at the present time.

The fact is that the PI, which calculates that, after 31 October, "we will not be too far behind those who call themselves by far the leading minorities," hopes, with the support of a part of the Argentine Socialist Confederation, to see its calculations become fact, in which case it will try to impose its idea of bringing about the formation of a large national front.

12336

CSO: 3348/668

BRIEFS

LABOR LEADERS SEEK CHURCH'S HELP--In a new attempt to speed up unification of the labor movement, in order to facilitate resolution of the socio-economic problems affecting workers, Saul Ubaldini and Alberto Triaca, heads of the CGT-RA (General Confederation of Labor-Argentine Republic) and CGT-Azopardo, respectively, met with Msgr Rodolfo Bufano, a member of the Pastoral Social Team, it has been learned in labor union circles. It is reported that the meeting confirmed the view that unification of the labor movement should be brought about by formation of a committee representing all sectors, which would undertake to restore the historic CGT. It has also been learned that a meeting subsequently took place between the leaders of the two labor confederations and Valentin Suarez, normalizing delegate of the labor confederation, in which agreement was reached on the necessity of achieving unification as soon as possible. In the meeting between Bufano, Triaca and Ubaldini, according to labor spokesmen, the socio-economic situation was viewed with concern and it was agreed that inter-sector agreements needed to be strengthened. The subject of labor unification had been raised weeks before at a meeting in which Lorenzo Miguel and CGT-Azopardo leaders Triaca, Luis Guerrero, Armando Cavalieri and Delfor Gimenez participated. Furthermore, the CGT's normalizing delegate declared that this body's patrimonial report "is ready for (the leaders of the two labor confederations) whenever they want to see it." He also announced that there will be new conversations with the chiefs of the two CGT's on distribution of property. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 9 Sep 83 p 6] 12336

LUDER ON POLITICAL EXILES--If the Peronists win the forthcoming elections, "all Argentines living abroad, provided they have not been involved in subversive acts, will be allowed to return whenever they want to." This is what Italo Luder, a contender for the Peronist nomination for his country's presidency, says in a statement published in the Spanish magazine "Actual." Although Luder makes no reference in the interview to the problem of people who have disappeared, he maintains that Argentina "is living through the worst crisis in its history" and attributes this situation to "seven years of military autocracy." He notes also that the military government made an error of judgment in the Malvinas war episode and that his country is suffering from moral fatigue "after 7 years of government without parliamentary control, without information to the public and with censorship that prevented the country from learning what was happening." The Peronist leader denies that it is his party's intention to repudiate the external debt if it comes to power. However, he called for an investigation into the composition of this debt: "It is suspected that a part of the private debt is fraudulent and has been partially paid off. Furthermore, the present government is silent on the composition of the debt," he said. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Sep 83 p 3] 12336

PAPER RAPS U.S. FOR IMPOSING REFUGEES, PARAQUAT ON BELIZE

Belize City THE BEACON in English 3 Sep 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

COME ON UNCLE SAM

THE cat is out of the bag: this government was taken for a ride. But it went along as a willing partner with the U.S.A.

Under pressure from Uncle Sam it agreed to accept Haitian immigrants, some 2500 of them, apparently without any questions asked! The question arises: why did not the U.S.A accept them? They have the facilities, the space and the money to settle the Haitians comfortably. Belize does not have these facilities. If Haitians are not good enough for Uncle Sam why are they good enough for Belize? The question supplies the answer.

Then, recently, the U.S. pressured this government to spray its marijuana fields with deadly paraquat. Yet, a U.S. agency recently admitted that American fields were not being sprayed. They will now begin to do so. The reason given is that the U.S. cannot in GOOD FAITH continue to pressure others to spray, without spraying its own fields. So, all along, they were taking the mote out of the brother's eyes when they had a whole bean in theirs.

All this government had to do was to tell the Americans to spray their fields first then spray ours. Our government unbelievably, apparently believed this was too much to ask. No further comment is necessary. The inequity is too obvious.

THE HAITIANS

THE U.S.A. would dump the Haitians on us. The Be-

lize Government accepted them with no questions asked. For government, the receipt of 20 millions is enough. There was no thought about the serious implications that this immigration would entail.

There is the health problem. Haitians are said to have a high incidence of dreaded AIDS and malaria. Then there is the sociological problem: who says they will fit in well with Belizeans in the South, coming as they do, from an alien culture? What infrastructure is available to adequately settle them? Are they known to be good producers? And is not production the name of the game? Politically there will be problems too. 2500 souls can create a serious political imbalance in a nation of 140,000.

Most disgustingly, however, the Belizean people have not been consulted. Are they in agreement with the scheme? Does it not matter what their wishes and rights are? The people have a right to be consulted, and to decide. This kind of dictatorship will have to stop.

CSO: 3298/931

TOLDEO PROGRESSIVE PARTY CONVENTION HELD; ACTIONS REPORTED

Review of Proceedings

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 4 Sep 83 unnumbered insert

[Material within slant lines underlined in original]

[Text] T.P.P. Convention

The CHAIRMAN for the Convention was Mr WILLIAM USHER, Councillor of the Executive Ctee. The P.G. Civic Center was packed to capacity, and members of the PUP & UDP were also on the verandahs of the building as observers.

President JOHN SANCHEZ gave the Welcome address to the delegates who came from San Pedro Columbia, Mafredi, San Antonio Barranco and from Punta Gorda Town. Sanchez quoted from the TPP MANIFESTO, declaring that we should "The Great Reality" and inviting the people to support the TPP. "We should strenghten communications and foster trade between BELIZE and CENTRAL AMERICA," said Sanchez. "..And the Progressive Party is the first Party indeed which with foresight, moves in the logical direction for the prompt development of this stagnant region".

"WE DO NOT NEED AMMUNITION"

Welfare Officer, Mrs ANA de AVILA gave a dynamic address, declaring that we do not need ammunition to fight poverty, or to bring PEACE for Belize. She quoted parts of the Bible, where Moses led his people into the promised without bullets. Mrs Avila said we should be more friendly with Guatemala, because, as one friend told her:- Many people go across to Guatemala to eat - because food is cheaper over there.

Mrs Avila called on the people to keep up their support for the TPP, and to always bear in mind that we should look after ourselves. "Toledo first and always Toledo " she said. (APPLAUSE).

Other speakers at the Convention were Mr CECIL CASIMIRO, Mr JOHN GRINAGE, and Mr ALEJANDRO VERNON, the Secretary who gave a brief report on the Party's activities.

"T.P.P. ON THE MOVE"

The TPP is on the move said VERNON. He explained that the TPP had contested three elections (two municipals and one general). The TPP had gained percentage wise in the last Town Board Elections, by increasing its votes from 5% to 12% of votes cast.

Vernon stated that the USA recognized three political parties in Belize: the PUP, the UDP and the TPP. He pointed out that the TPP's proposals for the Constitutional Conference in London in 1981 were also taken into account; and in fact, the TPP's submission appeared as No.1 item dealt with, out of more than 200 submissions - as indicated in the booklet 'Reports of the Belize Constitutional Conference' held at Marlborough House. Alejandro also reported that it was the TPP PETITION of 1981 for the linking of the Toledo-Peten Highway which influenced the Anglo-Guat negotiations to place article:5 in the HEADS OF AGREEMENT. "All of this shows that the TPP has been working, and is working " said Vernon (APPLAUSE).

"A UNIQUE PARTY"

GUEST SPEAKER, Mr Ernesto Vernon told the conventioners that the TPP was a unique party because it wanted the best for Toledo, even though it was fighting against many odds. He said we needed a better relationships with Guatemala.

/TPP RESOLUTION/ - the main Resolution, calling on Belize & Guatemala to negotiate a settlement of the DISPUTE was presented by Secretary A. Vernon with logic. It was moved by Mr VERULO GARCIA and seconded by Mr ERMINIO NOLAREZ that the Resolution be approved. There were no dissenting votes, and was thus carried unanimously.

/RESOLUTION vs. HAITIANS RE-SETTLEMENT/ - the delegate from San Pedro Columbia Mr CIRILO CALIZ moved a motion calling on the Convention to "REJECT THE RE-SETTLEMENT OF 2,500 HAITIANS IN THE MOHO RIVER AREA OF THE TOLDEO DISTRICT" because their language, culture and customs differed radically with those of the Maya-Ketchi who are natives inhabiting the said region.

The move was seconded by Mr PHILIP JACOB of Mafredi who told the audience that "WE DO NOT WANT HAITIANS IN TOLDEO. We live in Toldeo, and Toledo belongs to us "

A. Vernon said the assistance to be given Haitians was at present denied to our own natives, the Garinagu and Mayans. They would also be given large tracts of land, money-grants and agricultural services which Belize would be burdened to upkeep even after the refugee-funds were exhausted. Alejandro said we are not in-humane, but taking into account all aspects of the project, Belize, especially Toledo was not in any position to accomodate the Haitians, for this is a poor country.

Put to the vote, the Resolution was unanimously carried.

Call for Talks With Guatemala

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 4 Sep 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

PUNTA GORDA-Aug 28th AT a grand CONVENTION of the Toledo Progressive Party which was attended by some 200 delegates from the rural and from the Town, a Resolution which was unanimously approved, calls on the Government of Belize and the Government of Guatemala to "sincerely explore the possibility of a settlement of the territorial DISPUTE, by negotiation." (See a copy of the RESOLUTION in this Toledo Star).

Reasons for the Resolution as expounded by the TPP show that it is the general consensus in the country that it is preferable to settle the Dispute with Guatemala, than to go on searching for a permanent defence-arrangement, which is also costing Belize millions of dollars.

for the recruitment of more members for the Belize Defence Force, and for the upkeep of machines & equipment used by the military set up that is run by the nationals.

The TPP said that a defence-arrangement will not consolidate Belize's Independence, because instead of promoting Peace & Prosperity between Belize and Guatemala, it will harden the positions, and perpetuate a barrier the two countries and their peoples.

A settlement of the DISPUTE would allow Belize to use most of its "defence money" for education, housing, roads, agriculture and medicine, which is what our people really need. In addition, Guatemala would cease being an enemy and we would trade and communicate, bringing about an upturn in our economy and a better standard of living, especially in the southern districts.

"Our over-riding concern is to live in peace with Guatemala" said one of the executives, "and a defence guarantee cannot supply that."

Mrs ANA de AVILA, TPP Officer said that we do not need bullets, nor ammunition to live in peace and bring about harmony and economic development for Belize. We do not need ammunition, she emphasized.

The CIVIC CENTER was jam-packed, and the TPP RESOLUTION was passed without a dissenting vote. The election of TPP Officers rendered a total of 493 POPULAR VOTES cast for seven persons to occupy the Executive, which gave the following votes to each one of the nine persons who were duly nominated and contested:-

ALEJANDRO VERNON	82	} <u>Elected</u>
ANA de AVILA	74	
CECIL CASIMIRO	63	
JOHN SANCHEZ	59	
MAURICIO ROCHES	58	
JOSEPHINE ARANA	43	
JOHN GRINAGE	43	}
WILLIAM USHER	39	
ERMINIO NORALEZ	32	
	<u>493</u>	

CSO: 3298/942

VIEWS DIFFER ON MERITS OF 10 VS 21 SEPTEMBER FOR FETE

Report on Two Approaches

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 4 Sep 83 p 5

[Anonymous column "Machete"]

[Text]

THE GOVERNMENT of Belize and the principal OPPOSITION Party of Belize (UDP) are going separate ways once more, for the upteenth time when celebrating the 10th Day of September, which should commemorate the 'Battle' of St. George's Caye.

Accusations are hurled from one camp against the other camp, charging that this one does not want to cooperate, and that the Hon Prime Minister does not want to honour the Queen of the Bay.

In years gone by, the PUP had its own parade, and the Opposition had their own parade - on the same day. Today, two years after Independence, the PUP have their own day. The 21st of September, when Belize attained its Independence from Britain, and it is unlikely that Mr Price will want to make much of the 10th, when he fought so hard for the 21st.

Attack on Price

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 4 Sep 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

IF the insistence of the Prime Minister of Belize to choose his own arrival time for the Tenth of September memorial ceremonies springs from his desire to make a good appearance before a large crowd under favourable circumstances, that would be an understandable wish.

After all, it has been a long time since Mr. Price addressed any Belizean group larger than a few hundred. He has been reduced in recent times to graduation classes and funerals, both of which he studiously cultivates. And it would have been nice, not only for his public image, but also for his self confidence, to make a good showing before a throng of six to eight thousand.

It might even have been possible for him to station a few dozen faithful here and there amongst the throng to send up a cheer or two when he made his appearance on the morning of the Tenth.

Which politician alive doesn't like being cheered, or at the very least, being well received by a large group of citizen-voters? It would have fitted in nicely too with the government's radio campaign which urges all Belizeans to work together for the good of Belize.

What went wrong?

Those in the Prime Minister's camp make the claim that there was a protocol problem. The Prime Minister did not think that he as Head of Government should arrive at the same time with the Governor General, who will be arriving as Head of State. The National Anthem would have been played for the arrival of the Governor General, and protocol requires that since she represents the Queen, that this would have been immediately followed by the British Anthem, God Save the Queen.

Had there been more time, perhaps the wrinkles could have been ironed out.

If there was goodwill on both sides, we feel that an accomodation could have been reached. But here we come to the nub of the problem, That substantial body of good will which had built up from unified celebrations last year had been dissipated and had grown extremely thin.

The Committee of Forty, which joined with the Independence Committee to form the Citizens' September Celebrations Committee, listed three reasons for this. In the first place the government had promised a year ago to recognize the Tenth of September as St. George's Caye Day, having the same legal validity as Carib Settlement Day and Pan American Day. This was a reasonable request to make, and the government did not object. It merely dragged its feet for twelve months. That, said the Committee of 40, was bad faith.

Secondly the Committee of Forty interpreted the Prime Minister's reluctance to arrive at Tenth ceremonies at the same time as the Governor General as a pretext. His real reason, it declared, was his unwillingness to acknowledge the Queen of the Bay. The excuse about protocol does sound a bit thin, and anybody who knows the Prime Minister will know that he is not to be daunted by protocol. So there must be another reason. The Queen of the Bay issue may or may not be the real excuse but whatever it is, it was strong enough to keep the Prime Minister away.

The third reason why there was not enough good will to carry through the unity plans was government's failure to carry through an agreed unity effort in the district towns. Government defenders explain this by saying there are not enough interested persons in the districts. But the Committee of Forty, which regularly organizes these celebrations, say this is an over simplification to cover up a lack of enthusiasm for the unity programme.

Whatever the reasons, we find on balance that the government has shown no deed to advance the unity which it so earnestly advocates with words.

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 4 Sep 83 p A

[Text]

Despite every effort made to cooperate with the Committee of Forty to hold united celebrations and despite an appeal by the Chairman of the Citizen's September Celebrations Committee, Mr. Elton Jones, for greater flexibility and dialogue at this eleventh hour, the Committee of Forty has refused to work for united celebrations and has insisted on carrying on separately.

On August 30th. the Chairman, Mr. Elton Jones was informed that the Prime Minister, George Price in a spirit of unity and in an effort to bring about a united celebration, was prepared to be present for the entire ceremony of September the 10th. This deci-

sion was communicated to the Committee of Forty on August 30th. On August 31st. this committee informed the Chairman that they were still not prepared and unable to agree to united celebrations. In view of the fact that we were able to hold successful united celebrations last year, the Chairman would like to express his deep disappointment in the decision now taken for it is the Belizean community that will suffer and the efforts of many lost.

Attached is the letter from the Prime Minister addressed to the Chairman of the Committee of the Independence Celebrations indicating his position.

Signed: Elton Jones

Price Letter

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 4 Sep 83 p A

[Text]

30th August, 1983

Mr. Ralph Fonseca
Chairman
Independence
Celebrations Committee
Belize City

Dear Mr. Fonseca,

I refer to a letter of 25 August 1983 from Mr. Edward Flowers of the Committee of Forty addressed to Mr. Elton Jones, Chairman of the

Citizens September Celebrations Committee, copy of which was received in Belmopan today.

In accordance with an undertaking given, Government has decided in the gazette that the Tenth September to be officially known as St. George's Caye Day.

Secondly, when I was invited to attend the ceremony of September Tenth at the Memorial Park, I agreed to attend in accordance with the programme of last year. I have not expressed any reason other than to cooperate with the programme.

On the third point, Government has encouraged Citizens nation wide to unite, and my understanding is that some progress is being made.

In a spirit of unity and in an effort to bring about a united celebration, I am prepared to be present for the entire ceremony of September Tenth and to reply to the address.

Let us work together for the good of Belize.

Sincerely,

(GEORGE PRICE)
Prime Minister

CSO: 3298/943

MINISTER WINS LIBEL SUIT, BUT 'DISHONESTY' IS EXPOSED

Belize City THE BEACON in English 3 Sep 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, WED., AUG. 31: Today Chief Justice George C.R. Moe, Q.C. awarded Communications Minister Louis M. Sylvestre \$6,500.00 in damages against Mr. Evan X Hyde, publisher of the AMANDALA Newspaper, and so brought to an end Belize's most sensational libel suit.

But the Chief Justice imputed that the award would have been higher but was reduced because of the evidence of bad character brought by the defence against Sylvestre

Specifically, the C.J. said "I have before me evidence that at the time of the libel, the Plaintiff (Sylvestre) had a general reputation of being lacking in integrity and honesty both generally and as a Minister of Government ... There was no effort to rebut the evidence of general low reputation of dishonesty and lack of integrity."

This indictment coming from the Supreme Court, should stand as a serious warning not only to the Price Administration, but to the general public who

will be called upon to vote for Mr. Sylvestre once more when general elections are held in 1984.

The Chief Justice's ten-page judgment particularly accepted the evidence of Mr. Stewart Krohn, a journalist and Sir Alexander Hunter, a former Government Minister and former Speaker of the House of Representatives, who were among five witnesses giving evidence of Sylvestre's bad character.

It was Sir Alexander who blew the whistle on Sylvestre during a dramatic stay on the witness stand as he told how Sylvestre accepted a kick-back from a construction firm awarded the contract to build a road in his constituency. That caused his dismissal from the Cabinet and his ministerial post.

So Sylvestre had his day in Court - a pyrrhic Six Thousand Dollars' worth ... plus costs. But he stands indicted by the highest Court in the land as a dishonest man and lacking in integrity as a Government Minister!

BRIEFS

PRICE VISIT TO TOLEDO--The Hon Prime Minister made a surprise visit to Punta Gorda on Thursday, waving to the people, quite unconcerned with the trials & tribulations facing the people of Toledo. Apparently Mr Price came down to put some pep into the Independence Day Celebrations Ctee of Punta Gorda. HON FLORENCIO MARIN was also in the district. It is said that the Minister is bringing a new harvester for the Agriculture Department in Toledo. [Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 4 Sep 83 p 6]

TPP MANIFESTO ON LABOR--LABOUR--Without labour there is no Country and no Government. While the worker makes his contribution to his family and to the national wealth, Government should protect the worker by encouraging fair labour practices; and by being vigilant in recommending a just pay by the employer to the worker. In this respect, the TPP proposes that every worker is entitled to prompt specialized medical attention, and to prompt retirement-pay benefits. The TPP also firmly recommends to Government and to Labour Unions for the immediate legislation and for unions' obligation in agitating for the Belizean permanent employee a DOUBLE PAY-CHEQUE every year end in the month of December, as is the custom in most countries. Labourers and employees are entitled to this bonus after toiling for the Government and for the Private sector year in, year out, so that they can enjoy the fruits of their efforts and find some relief at Christmas-time. [Punta Gorda TOLDEO STAR in English 4 Sep 83 p 4]

CSO: 3298/943

SWAN SCORES ANTI-SEMITISM CHARGE IN U.S. JEWISH PAPER

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 9 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Text]

Premier the Hon. John Swan lashed back last night at claims of anti-Semitism in Bermuda. In a strongly-worded statement the Premier branded the anti-Jewish accusations as "unfounded, offensive and an insult" to Bermudians.

The Premier expressed "dismay" at the allegations which were made in a recent front-page story in the *Philadelphia Jewish Times* about psychiatrist Dr. Neville Marks and his battle against his work permit refusal.

Mr. Swan's statement came as two Jewish Bermuda residents hit back at the Marks' claims of anti-Semitic prejudice in letters to the Editor, see Page 4.

The Premier said: "The people of this country have a tradition of warmth, friendliness and hospitality. Accordingly, allegations such as these are offensive to every Bermudian."

It was untrue to suggest that Dr. Marks was being deported or that he was the first Jewish resident to apply for status, said Mr. Swan.

"In fact, as the Minister of Home Affairs has stated clearly, Dr. Marks has not been ordered to be deported.

"In view of pending litigation in respect of this matter it would be inappropriate to comment further.

"However, I wish to make it clear that there are a number of Bermudians and

residents who in fact are of the Jewish faith.

"I find it disturbing that the author of the article, Mr. Lear, did not bother to check with either myself, the Minister of Home Affairs, or the Attorney General, who himself is Jewish, about the allegations of anti-Semitism."

Mr. Swan said he was "unaware of any member of my Cabinet" stating that he did not want Jewish people living in Bermuda.

"If there is any truth to this allegation I want to make it perfectly clear that I and my Government completely disassociate ourselves from such a view.

"In conclusion, I view these allegations to be unfounded, offensive and an insult to the many thousands of Bermudians who work so hard to make all our visitors and foreign residents, regardless of race, colour or creed, welcome to our Island."

The *Jewish Times* story headlined Paradise Lost on Bermuda, Or is it Anti-Semitism, was written by freelance reporter Mr. Len Lear.

Mr. Lear said he made numerous attempts to get Bermuda officials, including the Home Affairs Minister and the Attorney General, to respond to the anti-Jewish accusations. But he was given no reply.

Mrs. Marks was quoted in the story as saying she and her husband wanted American Jews to know what was happening in Bermuda. She claimed Jews were banned from many clubs, that the Mid Ocean Tennis Club refused to even acknowledge her membership application, and that Coral Beach Club had no Jewish members.

But in letters to the Editor, Mr. Robert Landau and Mr. J. J. Elkin, both Jewish residents, said that they had not encountered anti-Semitic feelings in Bermuda.

Mr. Landau, of Tuckers Town, took issue with Mrs. Marks' remarks.

"I have never encountered any particular anti-Semitic feeling or prejudice on this Island, and furthermore, I have knowledge that there are other Jewish members both of the Mid Ocean Club and the Coral Beach Club," said Mr. Landau, who added that he had been a member of various clubs, including the Mid Ocean.

He suggested that if the Marks' had been refused membership of clubs it was probably for reasons other than the fact they were Jewish. He hoped the Marks family's future successes in Bermuda or elsewhere would be based on merit and "not obtained through false innuendos and half-truths in a community which I have always found to show the utmost respect for all minorities".

Mr. Jacob Elkin, of Smith's Parish, said he had been associated with Bermuda for 13 years in the capacity of employee, home owner, Mid Ocean Club member and a former leader of the Jewish community. It was obvious that prejudiced individuals existed in all communities, but it was another matter to suggest a society was prejudiced.

"We ourselves have not encountered anti-Semitism in Bermuda. On the contrary, one of the reasons we choose to be here is that we find so many people of genuine goodwill and friendliness," he said.

"Whether or not Dr. and Mrs. Marks should or should not be in Bermuda, or members of certain clubs, I suspect has to do with characteristics and actions that have nothing to do with the religion of the Marks."

CSO: 3298/944

TOURISM DEPARTMENT SEEKING FUNDS, FACING REORGANIZATION

Need for More Money

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 8 Aug 83 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt]

Tourism chiefs are seeking extra funds to launch a new publicity campaign in the United States media.

The Hon. C.V. (Jim) Woolridge, Minister of Tourism, said the Department planned the advertising drive to maintain the momentum of this summer's improved tourism figures.

"We are eight percent ahead of last year and hopefully by September we will be up by 10 percent," said Mr. Woolridge.

"I am looking for supplementary funds to boost our business so that we can keep the momentum up until the fall."

Personnel Changes

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

Government yesterday confirmed that the Department of Tourism is in need of new leadership and a major reorganisation. The admission comes a day after The Royal Gazette reported that the Department was facing a major shake-up. The Hon. J. David Gibbons, Minister of Finance, said in a statement issued yesterday that the reorganisation was among the changes proposed by the American consultancy firm hired to review the Department.

"The Department needs new leadership and a major reorganisation to meet the competitive challenges of the 1980's and beyond," said

Mr. Gibbons, quoting from the report.

The Royal Gazette learned yesterday that Cabi-

net Secretary Mr. W. James Williams, who retires in October, is likely to act as a consultant on tourism. His career before he became Cabinet Secretary was spent building Bermuda's tourism and he is generally regarded as having had enormous success at leading the old Trade Development Board.

Director of Tourism Mr. Colin Selley confirmed last night that he was set to retire next month — in advance of his original plans to retire in 1984. Other top management staff in the Department could not be contacted last night.

"Subject to final arrangements, that is certainly what I intend to do," said Mr. Selley last night, adding that if he retired before his 56th birthday in September he would be entitled to additional pension benefits.

Mr. Gibbons said Mr. Selley would likely be retained as a consultant dur-

ing the reorganisation period. An interim Director of Tourism would be appointed for between three and five years.

The Hon. C.V. (Jim) Woolridge, Minister of Tourism, stressed last night that Mr. Selley's impending departure was not as a result of the shake-up.

He praised Mr. Selley for 35 years of public service. He refused to comment further.

Mr. Gibbons in his statement said The Royal Gazette story reporting that top Tourism chiefs would be axed in the planned shake-up was "unfortunate".

"There is no such term as firing, mass or otherwise, in the Public Service without first going through the process for dismissal, transfer or retirement outlined in general orders," said Mr. Gibbons.

PLP Criticism

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 13 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party yesterday slammed Government for failing to ensure that a Bermudian was qualified to take over from outgoing Director of Tourism Mr. Colin Selley.

In a statement issued late yesterday, the PLP Shadow Minister of Tourism Mr. Stanley Morton said it was a "stinging indictment" on Government efforts to train Bermudians that none was qualified to take over from Mr. Selley when he retires next month.

Mr. Morton also slammed Government's "mishandling" of the Holland America Cruises' application to bring into Hamilton its newest cruise ship, the Noordam, next year.

Premier the Hon. John Swan has already ordered an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Holland America's decision to withdraw its application for the Noordam and instead take it to the US West Coast.

The PLP statement was issued in the wake of Government confirmation that the Department of Tourism was in for a shake-up. Top officials in the Department

are expected to be transferred and retired in a complete reorganisation.

Government also confirmed that there was no qualified staff member in the Department to take over from retiring Mr. Selley.

And in a statement by the Hon. David Gibbons, Minister of Finance, it was revealed that an interim Director, probably from overseas, is likely to be appointed for between three and five years.

Mr. Morton said that he stressed the need for restructuring of the Department of Tourism as early as March.

And he added: "The mishandling of Holland America's cruise ship application is a symptom of Government's lack of adequate direction in tourism policy areas."

He accused Government of dragging its heels in considering the application to bring the Noordam into Bermuda. The application was first filed two years ago but the cruise ship line was not given an answer until earlier this year.

By that time the company had already committed itself to the US West Coast

and withdrew the application.

Mr. Morton also described as "curious" that it was Mr. Gibbons who commented on the Tourism Department shake-up and not Mr. C.V. (Jim) Woolridge, Minister of Tourism.

Mr. Woolridge could not be contacted last night.

Further PLP Criticism

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 Aug 83 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt]

Shadow Minister of Tourism Mr. Stanley Morton yesterday slammed Government for wasting the taxpayer's money by commissioning two studies on the Department of Tourism.

He also criticised Government for suggestions that it will hire retiring Director of Tourism Mr. Colin Selley and retiring Cabinet Secretary Mr. W. James Williams as consultants to the Department during its reorganisation.

"Government owes all of Bermuda an explanation as to why the Management Services report is considered 'unacceptable', and Government went overseas to foreign experts to get another opinion more to its liking," said Mr. Morton.

Government was shortsighted, he said, for failing to groom a successor to Mr. Selley, who announced that he would take early retirement four years ago, "surely enough time to prepare a Bermudian successor".

"Now the taxpayer of Bermuda is in the ridiculous position of not only paying the sizeable salary of a new Director of Tourism, but substantial fees to Mr. Selley and Mr. Williams as 'consultants' because of Government's shortsightedness," said Mr. Morton.

"This is hardly good management or efficient use of public monies."

The row over the leaked confidential report recommending a shake-up within the Department of Tourism has continued to grow since it broke out less than a week ago.

CSO: 3298/944

GOVERNMENT SURVEY SAYS EARNINGS, SPENDING ARE UP

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 5 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

Bermuda residents are earning and spending more than ever, an official Government survey has revealed.

Results of the 1982 household expenditure survey found that the standard of living in the Island has increased substantially since the last similar study was carried out in 1975.

The average household income rose 154 percent — well ahead of the 76 percent inflation recorded over the seven-year period.

Average weekly income for all households was put at \$672 a week and the average income per working person was \$307 a week.

The report concedes that there was considerable disparity around the averages and eight percent of all households sampled had incomes under \$200 a week while five percent raked in more than \$1,500 weekly.

Spending also jumped skywards by more than 150 percent. Average spending rose to \$585 in last year's study compared with \$215 in the previous survey.

The figure is slightly distorted because spending on contributions, gifts and life insurance is included in the 1982 report but not in the 1975 results.

Relatively less money is being laid out now on food consumed at home. But

more is being spent on eating out, housing, household goods and services, transport and foreign travel.

Of the average \$585 expenditure, \$48 went towards gifts, contributions and life insurance.

Of the remaining \$537, more than half was forked out on three major items: food both at home and out (17 percent); housing (23 percent); household goods and services (15 percent).

Transport accounted for nine percent and foreign travel around seven percent.

Households headed by white males recorded the highest average income, followed by black male heads of households.

Both white and black female heads of households reported average incomes well below their male counterparts.

The survey was on a sample of 443 households which completed diaries of their spending over one and two week periods last year.

It represents a survey of one in every 43 households.

Results will ultimately be used to update the retail price index to reflect more accurately the types of goods and services now being purchased.

They will also be used to provide the basis for analysis of social and economic conditions in Bermuda.

APPOINTMENT OF AIDE TO SWAN RAISES PLP OBJECTIONS

Selection of Nadarajah

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Aug 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

Mr. Raj Nadarajah is to get the \$45,000 a year job of personal aide to the Premier, the Hon. John Swan.

Official confirmation of the widely-expected decision will be made today. The appointment was supported at yesterday's meeting of the United Bermuda Party Caucus.

Mr. Swan told the MPs, Senators and party officers who comprise the Caucus that he had drawn up a shortlist of two after interviewing the 15 to 20 applicants. One was Sri Lankan Mr. Nadarajah — a consultant who works for real estate firm John W. Swan Ltd — while the other was a Bermudian who had been overseas for several years.

The Premier said his choice was Mr. Nadarajah. And all of the Caucus members who spoke on the matter gave their support. Several said they would prefer to see somebody in the post who was familiar with Bermuda's political affairs of the last few years.

Three members left the meeting before the discussion ended, although it is not thought they were indicating opposition to the appointment.

Mr. Nadarajah, 30, is the son of former Senior Magistrate K. C. Nadarajah. He has a degree in political science from Georgetown University, Washington DC, where he also taught the subject for a short spell.

He has been working full-time in Bermuda as a business consultant since 1979. He is generally regarded in political circles as having master-

mind Mr. Swan's successful bid for the Premiership in January 1982.

He hit the headlines a year ago when it was revealed he had applied for Status, but that his application had not been advertised in the normal way. That led to a political storm which subsided only after Mr. Nadarajah withdrew his application.

His new job will involve speech writing, providing political advice and scheduling the Premier's engagements.

The appointment is likely to spark off another round of complaints from the Opposition Progressive Labour Party that it is being treated unfairly in the matter of political aides.

The legislation that allows the Premier to have an aide paid by Government also entitles the Opposition Leader to the same consideration. But while Mr. Swan gets a \$865-a-week political specialist, Mrs. Lois Browne Evans is allowed only a \$310-a-week secretary.

"I don't think we have heard the end of Lois on this one," said one UBP Caucus member after yesterday's meeting.

"She is going to want somebody capable of doing for her what Raj will be doing for the Premier."

Blast From PLP

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 22 Aug 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Frederick Wade, yesterday blasted the selection of Mr. Raj Nadarajah as personal aide to Premier the Hon. John Swan and described the entire selection process as a "sham."

Mr. Nadarajah's appointment, he said, "is a clear example of the Swan Government's total rejection of its own policy of Bermudianisation."

He repeated the Progressive Labour Party's weekend challenge to the Premier to reveal the names of the other applicants for the post.

A Bermudian, he said, would have more knowledge of the desires of Bermudians and be more sympathetic to those desires.

He criticised the "unnatural" speed at which Mr. Nadarajah's work permit was granted.

"The special treatment afforded Mr. Nadarajah is reminiscent of the manner in which his application for Bermudian status was treated," he said.

"We cannot help but believe," said Mr. Wade, "that that the whole process of advertising for and interviewing applicants for the post was nothing but a sham

and that Mr. Swan had already made up his mind sometime ago."

Mr. Swan said last night that Mr. Wade was "naive" to suggest that he should reveal the names of the applicants.

"Those people applied for the post in confidence — some of them never informed their present employers that they were applying for the post."

"It would be unethical for me to release their names," he said, adding that if the unsuccessful applicants wanted to make themselves known to the public, it was up to them to do so.

"I shall not break that confidence."

The other applicants, Mr. Swan said, simply did not have the qualifications for the job.

"I have had some experience with Mr. Nadarajah, weighing his ability and understanding of Bermuda after living here for 12 years, and I decided that he filled the prerequisites of the post.

"I could have done what seems to be the popular thing and appointed a Bermudian, but I wanted to do what is best for the Country, whatever the consequences."

CSO: 3298/945

PAPER NOTES IMPORTANCE OF, CRITICIZES NATIONAL TRUST

Editorial on 'Damaged Credibility'

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 18 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

There appears to be a very disturbing trend for those who cared to give up caring about Bermuda's environment.

We find it very difficult to believe that some of the atrocities of the past 18 months would even have been considered when the environmentalists were in "full flight". Where have the caring people gone?

Perhaps they were defeated by a lack of success.

Perhaps they gave up because they felt they were "crying in the concrete jungle".

Perhaps a government which cares very little for the environment and a great deal for the quick dollar, finally wore them down.

Perhaps a seriously damaged National Trust left them without leadership.

Perhaps they watched those who should care, but did not care, go on making money out of desecration and decided to join in.

Perhaps they are distracted by other problems.

Whatever the reason, it is clear that Bermuda has suffered because the protestors are no longer so determined, so vocal or so vehement. Only a few short years ago they were a force to be reckoned with every time anyone wanted to tamper with Beautiful Bermuda.

As we see it, many of these people had taken heart from the initial successes of the Bermuda National Trust and were stirred to contribute their efforts to protect and preserve Bermuda for our grandchildren. The work the Trust undertook was the single most important task

in Bermuda. On its success hinged any possible hope of decent living in the future.

To succeed, the Trust had to be absolutely straight, independent and non-political. Somewhere along the way, the National Trust, having done wonderful work, blundered into politics, damaged its credibility and can no longer spearhead conservation in the face of a government onslaught. It still has vital work to do, but it will be a long time before the National Trust can again lead the way.

No successor has emerged although SOS, which would never have been necessary had the Trust not left a void, has tried. We can only hope that those who still care can find a leader and begin to act, because time is very short.

What would the ideal protesting environmentalist have worked to prevent this last few years?

The tragic Belco-Berkeley swap which desecrated one of the few remaining wooded areas in Pembroke.

The Cable and Wireless dish which has changed the topography of the central parishes to no particular purpose. The dish, in our view, was unnecessarily large for Bermuda's communications needs and important only to Cable and Wireless which desecrated our space to its own international purpose. We saw how seriously Cable and Wireless took our problems when a senior executive took to the Rotary Club provided air waves this week to make jokes about this desecration.

The concrete jungle of Church Street between Burnaby and Parliament Streets. Just stand on the Burnaby Street corner and look at the row of concrete panels and silvered glass designed by callous architects and erected by careless developers. The Anglican Cathedral is left as a curiosity in a canyon of mediocrity designed to fill the developers' pockets and damn the future.

The Bank of Bermuda building on Bermudiana Road. In an era when banks in other countries have been careful to establish a reputation for protecting the country by care and dignity and support for conservation, the Bank of Bermuda has set a new low for the standard of Bermudian architecture. That's strange isn't it? Its new Bermudiana Road "moonscape" building is just another in the bank's list of ugly buildings.

The proposed development of the great green space of Abbot's Cliffs. Clearly the cliffs, falling as they do in the crowded, high crime area of Crawl, should be preserved as open space either by the National Trust or by Government.

The list is long and these are only areas of concern which seem to have gone by without fuss or a great deal of attention. They are also areas where we feel sure the perpetrators have breathed a sigh of relief at getting off so lightly. And they have gotten off lightly.

It is time to care again because there has been a surge of sub divisions, condos, ugly Hamilton buildings, bulldozing, and general desecration, virtually unchecked. Make no mistake, time is very short. We are all but a concrete jungle and the spirit to resist seems to be severely weakened.

National Trust's Defense

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Aug 83 pp 1, 7

[Excerpts]

The Bermuda National Trust yesterday criticised the new Government Development Plan and called for a National Park System which would purchase and protect land which "is critically necessary for the future of Bermuda."

The Trust was responding to a *Royal Gazette* editorial yesterday which suggested that people who cared about Bermuda's environment had given up because "a seriously damaged National Trust had left them without leadership."

The editorial said: "Somewhere along the way, the National Trust, having done wonderful work, blundered into politics, damaged its credibility and can no longer spearhead conservation in the face of a Government onslaught."

The Trust defended its position yesterday in a reply which we print in full.

It says: "We commend you on your provocative editorial crying out for the preservation of the land and all things Bermudian. We would like to respond to it.

We share many of your views, and we look forward to more editorials in the same vein.

The Trust hasn't done enough, we're told.

We supported the Anti-Brewery Coalition, the Roads Ad Hoc Group, the Paget Group — all sorts of groups interested in the environment, both conservative and radical, and most meet at our Headquarters. We have been the largest purchasers of open spaces for preservation as park land.

Sometimes, sadly, while in the process of protecting open land, we have had to operate as though Government were the enemy. We have talked about the changes going on in the environment and, for years, have tried to get Government to come up with a plan that would prevent the kind of desecration that we are seeing now.

During all of this we have preserved and enlarged a membership which is generally conservative and non-political. But it still isn't

enough. Over-expansion continues. And, as far as we know, the new Development Plan does not even contain clear and inviolable protection for our parks, nor provide for the acquisition of new ones!

Even though the Trust has done more than our Charter specifies, it still is not enough! But we cannot, ourselves, take bulldozers to some of the developments! We have acted responsibly within the constraints under which we operate. And all of this has been done by a tiny and meagrely-paid staff, plus numerous volunteers with various fields of expertise.

All this points to the need for a National Park system.

This should be an objective policy espoused by Government, as opposed to the present subjective planning process. It is generally re-

cognised that Bermuda is becoming a city without a landscape. A planned park system that identifies, purchases and protects land is critically necessary for the future of Bermuda. Funds for acquisitions should be considered a cost item for growth management.

It is clear that the Trust is continuing to do all it can within the limits of its resources; but its capabilities would be greatly enhanced if Government was to see fit to assist us.

We see environmentalism as striving for long-term responsible courses of action with prior knowledge of the consequences, through which we ultimately find our way to a policy of growth management. We can do this. Remember, Bermuda's environment has powered the economy, and, in fact, created our Bermudian character."

CSO: 3298/945

PLP UNVEILS SURVEY OF ISLAND'S HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party yesterday unveiled its housing survey designed to determine the nature of the Island's housing needs.

The Opposition launched the survey because of what it described as the continuing housing crisis. The housing shortage, it claimed, was due to Government shortsightedness, insufficiently controlled immigration, and the need to preserve open spaces.

"The continuing housing crisis, and the growing negative impact on the quality of family life in Bermuda has prompted the PLP to launch its own review and survey of Bermuda's housing needs," said Shadow Minister of Housing, Mr. Walter Brangman, at a Press conference held at PLP Headquarters on Court Street.

The survey will be carried out for one week beginning on September 6. Those with housing problems are asked to telephone two numbers between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. daily during the survey.

PLP chairman Mr. Alex Scott conceded that the nature of the survey would result in information on the type of housing needs rather than the extent of the current crisis.

"This will not give us the size of those who are in need," said Mr. Scott. "It

will reveal the nature of that need."

Chairman of the PLP research and platform committee, Mr. Julian Hall, said that there was little doubt the housing crisis was severe. "We want some hard data relating to the circumstances of the problems, which we feel are more severe than indicated," he said.

The four-page questionnaire being used in the survey asks questions to determine the nature of callers' housing needs and problems. It also asks personal questions seeking not only age, social and economic circumstances, but also religious affiliation and race.

Mr. Scott assured would-be callers that all information gathered would remain confidential. Callers would not be required to give their names.

Mr. Brangman said the purpose of the survey was to, in the short term, pressure Government into acting to solve the problem, and, in the long term, to set the groundwork for a national housing policy. He added that the results would be released to the public after the PLP central committee had studied the findings.

"We can do no more until we obtain additional information, and it should be recognised that an individual

by himself is unlikely to move the wheels of Government or the agencies and institutions involved without assistance from the PLP, and a successfully conducted survey," said Mr. Brangman.

"Once we obtain the information there is no limit to the pressure we in the Opposition can place on Government and the subsequent good we can do for those in need of solutions for their housing problems."

Those with housing problems will be able to call the PLP Housing Survey at 2-1660 and 2-2264.

CSO: 3298/945

BRIEFS

SEA ZONE PROHIBITION--Government yesterday reiterated its call for a prohibited zone to be established 12 miles north of the north shore Bermuda reef line. The call was made by the Hon. William McPhee, Minister of Transport, just days after the Spanish supertanker Castillo de Bellver broke in two 50 miles off the South African coast. The call for a prohibited zone for ships was first made in the report of the joint Liberian-Bermudian marine tribunal investigating the cause of the grounding of the Liberian-registered tanker Tifoso north of Bermuda in January. The report was officially released this week. "I have directed the Director of Marine and Ports to send copies of the Tifoso report to the various authorities," said Mr. McPhee yesterday. "We can only urge them to deal with the request and try to get the limit established." The Tifoso report recommended that renewed attempts be made to encourage the US Defence Mapping Agency and the UK Hydrographic Office to establish a prohibited zone covering an area 12 miles off the Island's reef line. "A suitable warning should be entered in all charts which show the Bermuda Islands in order to call attention to this prohibited zone," said the report. [Excerpt] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 10 Aug 83 p 21]

LIMIT ON AUTO PURCHASES--Government intends to control the number of cars in Bermuda by limiting their registration to those who have a demonstrated need. According to the recently-published 1982 Report of the Transport Control Department: "Specific recommendations will be made, to limit motor vehicles to persons with a demonstrated need, using the simplest, fairest and most consistent screening methods which can be devised." The Hon. William McPhee, Transport Minister, said yesterday that recommendations on how the need for a car will be determined are currently being drafted in a White Paper on traffic, which will be presented to the House of Assembly in the fall. The TCD Report said that by the end of 1982 there were 40,228 licenced vehicles on the Island, 15,118 of them private cars. Last year the number of private cars had increased by 696, which is higher than the average over the last five years, but lower than the 1981 peak increase of 803 cars. The White Paper follows a Green Paper on traffic which was presented to the House in June 1982. The Green Paper discussed a "relatively objective" points system for measuring a person's need for a car. Under such a system a person applying to register a private car would receive one point for each decade he or she had lived, and a point for each member of the household. "A total of five points would be required before a new application to register a private car could be processed," the Green Paper said. [Excerpts] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 4 Aug 83 pp 1, 3]

LAND TAX INCREASES--Shocked Devonshire residents are planning a land tax protest following the arrival of bills which show tax increases of up to 170 percent. The residents, from the Garthowen and Melville estates have received bills which are up to 170 percent higher than they were for the same period last year. On average, the increases are 73 percent for the two estates. [Excerpt] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Aug 83 pp 1, 2]

DEFEAT FOR DEVELOPERS--Plans by developers Mr. Dickie Bird and Mr. John Butterfield to build a 20-unit condominium on farm land at the western end of Ord Road, have been overturned by Planning Minister the Hon. Haskins Davis on appeal. The decision is a victory for the 50-strong group of area residents who banded together in December 1981 to fight the development at Roseville, Warwick. Also opposed to the condominium was the Bermuda National Trust. The plan was approved by the Development Applications Board in July 1982 and the residents immediately announced their intention to appeal to the Minister. Mr. Davis informed the group of his decision on Friday. In a Press release, Mr. Kenneth Monkman, spokesman for the objectors that the group was pleased with the decision. Besides the loss of arable land, the objectors had argued that the proposed development would create increased traffic and noise pollution and a possible increase in crime. [Excerpt] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 22 Aug 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/946

GUERREIRO COMMENTS ON ARMS TO IRAN; U.S.-BRAZIL TASK FORCE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Sep 83 p 5

[Text] Brazil is not selling and will not sell arms to Iran as long as the war situation with Iraq continues. But it will continue to supply arms to Baghdad "to fulfill the contracts signed before the beginning of the war." That information was revealed yesterday during a press conference granted by Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro.

The foreign minister described the relations with Iran as correct: "That occurred even in the most disputable periods at a time when they even incited us to say things. We hope they can overcome that war situation together with Iraq. Teheran has just appointed an ambassador to Brasilia and we are going to do the same there. There are no restraints in terms of trade. There is only a restraint in the matter of arms."

Commenting on his visit to Iraq, for which he left yesterday, the minister admitted that the difficulties encountered by Baghdad in paying firms that are building projects on Iraqi territory will be one of the topics of the talks. But he cautioned: "It is necessary not to understand the visit as being dependent solely on that."

The foreign minister explained: "That is one of the pending topics. I have been scheduled to come to Iraq for a long time. I received the first invitation in 1979 during the visit of the Iraqi vice president. The relationship with Iraq has been quite significant. When that country nationalized its oil reserves, the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation (PETROBRAS) was one of the few purchasers. The Brazilian firms that tried to get contracts in oil-producing countries were not very successful with the exception of Algeria and Iraq. That created a natural rapprochement. Trade expanded. My visit should be interpreted in a constructive, positive manner. It is not being made in detriment of third countries."

United States

Guerreiro does not expect "dramatic results" from the Brazil-U.S. task forces created last November during the visit of President Ronald Reagan to Brasilia. According to the minister, the matters that are the subject of discussion will be "carried on after the conclusion of the work of the

task forces. It is some aspects of those topics that will conclude with the end of the task forces, which are five in number: economic-financial, nuclear, military cooperation, science and technology, and a special task force.

The foreign minister hopes U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will come to Brasilia for the conclusion of the proceedings: "What I told him in March when I was in Washington was that if his agenda should permit it, we would be very pleased if he would come. We are not in the habit of creating any difficulty for foreign officials." In his opinion, the task forces aimed at "greater clarification of positions."

Guerreiro does not believe the nuclear topic will be discussed in the quick stop he is going to make in Amsterdam, where he will meet with the Dutch foreign minister.

Debt

The foreign minister believes that in the negotiations of the "Paris Club" the Foreign Ministry can give effective collaboration to Ministers Delfim Netto and Ernane Galveas. "The diplomatic service is always at the disposal of the government for any type of consultation in the negotiations." It so happens that in negotiations about the foreign debt, the participation of the Foreign Ministry is not "original or primary." According to him, there is international practice in that regard. He cited four examples: the finance ministers who are negotiating the foreign debt of Mexico, Venezuela and Nigeria. In the case of Argentina, it is the minister of the economy.

Plane

Guerreiro rejects the accusation made by representatives of the foreign diplomatic corps accredited in Brasilia that the Foreign Ministry had acted hastily in condemning the Soviet decision to shoot down a South Korean passenger plane even before it had much clarification. The explanation: "The fact by itself implies the destruction of a plane with more than 200 persons aboard. We had no hesitation in saying that the matter was serious. But we are not judging other responsibilities which continue to be examined. And we did not act through incitement."

The foreign minister could not confirm if the episode will influence the possible Brazilian decision to permit planes of Aeroflot--the Soviet company--to stop in Recife on its Buenos Aires-Dakar route. Guerreiro believes that the case of the South Korean plane demonstrated the distrust that prevails on the world scene. He believes it is essential to reduce tensions.

8711

CSO: 3342/185

EXPORT DECLINE RESULTS IN \$1 BILLION FOREIGN TRADE LOSS IN 1983

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Sep 83 p 24

[Text] Rio--The decline of Brazilian exports to Latin American, oil-producing and even developed countries, such as Germany and Italy, will cause a reduction of at least \$1 billion in foreign trade revenues in 1983, estimated by the government at \$23 billion.

That statement was made in Rio yesterday by the coordinator of current affairs of the Center for Foreign Trade Studies Foundation (FUNCEX), Hugo Barros de Castro Faria, adding that the country's foreign sales this year will be between \$21.5 and \$22 billion.

Huga Faria revealed that, with reference to the developing countries, the sharpest declines occurred among the countries of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). He said that in the first 5 months of this year, sales to that economic bloc totaled \$811.4 million compared to \$1.07 billion for the same period last year. The most significant decline occurred with Mexico, Venezuela, Chile and Paraguay, ranging from 26.91 percent to 51.44 percent.

Referring to the reduction of Brazilian exports from January to May of this year compared to the same period last year, he cited Algeria, the foreign trade of which yielded \$43.5 million less; Nigeria, \$19.6 million less; and Iraq, \$9.2 million less.

With reference to the developed countries, Hugo Faria said that from January to May of this year, compared with the same period last year, Brazilian exports to West Germany underwent a reduction of \$44.7 million, and with Italy, a reduction of \$27.3 million.

Surplus

In the opinion of Hugo Faria, despite that reduction of exports, Brazil may achieve a surplus of \$6.5 billion this year as a result of the sharp reduction of imports. Originally envisaged at \$17 billion, imports will be between \$15.2 billion and \$15.5 billion. According to Hugo Faria, according to that new forecast, imports this year will be reduced up to \$1.8 billion compared to the original estimate.

The FUNCEX coordinator of current affairs observed also that in order to achieve the foreign purchases target in 1983, it is sufficient to count the reduction of oil, the imports of which will drop from \$9.6 billion in 1982 to \$7.6 billion this year.

According to Hugo Faria, in the first 6 months of this year compared to the same period last year, the imports of steel products underwent a reduction in the order of 71 percent.

8711

CSO: 3342/185

IRAQ ASSURES PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT; GUERREIRO COMMENT

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Sep 83 p 5

[Report by special correspondent Chico Dias]

[Text] Baghdad--During the meeting he held yesterday with the president of Iraq, Saddam Husayn, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro heard the promise that Brazil will be one of the three countries that will continue to receive preferential treatment from that country, the economic situation of which should improve considerably as soon as Iraqi oil begins to be pumped again by a new system through Turkey, which will increase its daily production from 600,000 to 1.1 million barrels a day.

That statement eased the concern of the representatives of the Brazilian firms in Iraq, who saw their prospects of growth increase, especially after Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro signed a protocol with representatives of that country establishing the creation of a mixed task force charged with finding solutions for the economic problems that today affect the Brazilian companies that are operating in Iraq. Despite the fact that their contractual limits are being paid on time, they are facing price slippages generated by the country's state of war, which has changed transportation charges and the cost of materials.

Yesterday, during which, in addition to President Husayn, he saw Foreign Trade Minister Yasin Ramadan and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro granted a press conference to the Iraqi press where one of the topics raised was the sale of arms by Brazil to Iraq (our main buyer today), the possibilities of an increase, and relations with Iran, a country that is the enemy of the former.

Guerreiro began by explaining the foreign policy that has been carried out by Brazil which is aimed at maintaining a balanced trade, economic and diplomatic relationship with all countries, which also occurred with Iran.

"In that case, diplomatic relations tend to become normalized after the Teheran government appointed its ambassador," explained the foreign minister. "We will shortly appoint ours also. But there remained an impediment, already absorbed, which was the sale of arms by Brazil to Iraq."

Continuing his reply to Iraqi reporters, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro left it very clear this sale and supply continued their normal course because they were old contracts signed before the beginning of the war with Iran. Later, speaking to Brazilian reporters in the residence of Ambassador Alacir Werner, the foreign minister commented: "I sought to leave it very clear not only to the reporters but also to Iraqi officials that the case of the sale of arms does not imply any favoritism. But we are not going to sell arms to one side and the other. We do not believe in sharp dealing and we do not carry out that type of policy; nor do we believe that the other people are stupid."

With regard to the visit, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro said that it is not a matter of marking a presence or showing preferences, pointing out textually that it is not a visit "against anybody."

"It is a visit that should have already occurred a long time ago," he explained, "but an opportunity had not arisen. Today, Iraq is going through a difficult period because of the war. We, too, for other reasons. And it is precisely for that reason that the visit is justified. It has greater significance because it is not at an easy time. It is not a visit against anybody."

In reality, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro's visit to Iraq is being made in response to an appeal by Brazilian firms--especially the Mendes Junior and Esusa--that are carrying out large service contracts there but which, because of the country's war economy, have gradually seen their contracts slip out of phase in view of the high transportation costs and prices. Since the appeal had been made, asking the Brazilian Government to take the initiative of a negotiation at the government level, the foreign minister determined that it was an opportune moment to increase the level of the Brazilian relationship with one of the main partners in the Middle East and one of the strongest customers in the whole world.

With regard to the criticism that there is a preference for the Third World policy line to the detriment of the more developed countries, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro continued: "I have received that criticism of giving preference to the Third World and not giving the same to the First World. That is not true. The important thing is to know how to find opportunities."

Concluding the results of the 2 days of talks held in Baghdad, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro said that everything that needed to be said and heard was, and that he always found great receptivity for dialogue on the part of the Iraqis, pointing out that it became much smoother and more productive thanks to the initiative of the Baghdad government, which created a task force charged with organizing the visit.

"After all the talks, we ascertained that the difficulties lie in identifying solutions and what is more important for the companies and the Iraqi Government. But they promised that within 15 days they are going to present us with a range of suggestions, which will be evaluated by a Brazilian

commission headed by Ambassador Paulo de Tarso Flecha de Lima so that, when the meeting of the Brazilian-Iraqi joint commission is held in Brasilia this year, everything should already be favorably forwarded to the two governments.

On the last day of his visit to Iraq yesterday, in addition to the audience with President Saddam Husayn, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro saw Vice President Taha Maruf, the ministers of foreign trade, foreign affairs and oil; talked to members of the Brazilian colony in Baghdad at the home of the ambassador; and gave a dinner in honor of Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, repaying the one that was given in his honor on his arrival. This morning, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro and his retinue begin their return trip to Brazil.

8711

CSO: 3342/185

AGRICULTURE MINISTER CITES CENTER-SOUTH SUMMER CROP GOALS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Sep 83 p 35

[Text] Brasilia--Agriculture Minister Amaury Stabile yesterday presented to the agriculture secretaries of the states of Sao Paulo, Parna, Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul and Rio de Janeiro the agricultural production targets for the summer crop in the Center-South, planting of which begins next month. According to the surveys of the Production Financing Company (CFP), there will be an increase in the planted acreage of cotton, rice, corn and soybean, while beans will remain at the same level. Total production is estimated at 56 million tons of grains, the same figure the government worked with before the loss of 5.5 million tons this year.

According to CFP figures, cotton production in the Center-South will be 661,800 tons, with an increase of 133,000 hectares. Rice production is estimated at 10.7 million tons, with an increase of 1.6 million hectares. The forecast for beans is a production of 2.7 million tons without an increase of acreage. For corn, the expected production is 21.8 million tons with increased area of 458,000 hectares. According to Stabile, soybean will have an area of 402,000 hectares for a production of 15.3 million tons. Besides the states represented at the meeting, Maranhao, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso and Rondonio are included in the Center-South planting calendar.

Minister Stabile revealed also that it will be necessary to import 700,000 tons of corn, which will cost Brazil a little more than \$100 million, that is, the country will spend more on the purchase of that product abroad than [it earned] on the export of a similar amount to the Soviet Union. "At the time we decided to sell that product," said the minister, "the planted fields were developing normally and circumstances justified the transaction because the carry-over stock was good. In addition, we opened a market for national corn in Asia." He considered the import of 700,000 tons a small fraction despite the country's cash difficulties because Brazil produced 20 million tons of the product.

At yesterday's meeting, it was also decided that the Ministry of Agriculture is going to work with the vice presidency of operations of the Bank of Brazil (through the CFP and the Coordinator of Economic Affairs) to ensure the

expeditious release of farm credits. At the present time, the Bank of Brazil is responsible for 75 percent of the National Farm Cost Credit.

After a survey of planting intentions, the CFP forecast for the state of Sao Paulo alone is for a small increase in the various crops or the same level.

8711

CSO: 3342/185

FIGUEIREDO TO KEEP NETTO IN OFFICE THROUGH END OF PRESIDENTIAL TERM

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] Brasilia--"Minister Delfim Netto will remain in the Planning Secretariat until the end of the government term of office, and he will only leave when I do, at the end of my term," President Figueiredo told Mario Juruna, PDT [Democratic Labor Party] deputy from Rio de Janeiro, yesterday during a meeting at the Planalto Palace. Juruna said that the president added that he was not the first parliamentarian to ask that the planning minister be dismissed. The PDT deputy appealed directly to Figueiredo for dismissal of the minister, stating that Delfim Netto "is making the country and the people poorer," and is failing to resolve the problems of his ministry, "especially those pertaining to foreign debt."

The parliamentarian said that President Figueiredo emphasized that Delfim Netto is not to blame for the Brazilian foreign debt, a problem which has been accumulating throughout several governments. He mentioned those of Gens Castello Branco, Costa e Silva, Medici and Geisel, to whom Juruna referred as "those ministers." "Delfim Netto will only leave the government when I do," Figueiredo stated once again, the PDT deputy reiterated after the meeting, recalling that the president stressed that Brazil cannot, by means of a unilateral decision, cease to pay its international debts, because in reprisal, the oil-producing countries would cease to supply the country with their product.

Mario Juruna told newsmen that Figueiredo told him that this government is not responsible for the poverty of the people, in view of his insistence on discussing the hunger situation which is to be found in a number of states, including Ceara. Juruna talked with the president for 20 minutes, but he did not emerge convinced that his demands would receive consideration. He stressed that he is already accustomed to "talks with the white man, which do not produce much result."

Juruna asked Figueiredo to take steps against the exploitation of the Indians' land and mines, termed himself the most independent deputy in the country, and on his departure from the Planalto Palace, stressed that he does not have much confidence in the comments the president made about Minister Delfim Netto. "I have great mistrust of the white man. This Delfim Netto is also responsible for the foreign debt. He will leave the government with his pocket full of dollars," the deputy, who is a tribal chief, commented.

The spokesman for the Planalto Palace, Carlos Atila, said he had no knowledge of the content of General Figueiredo's talk with the tribal chieftain, Mario Jurunda, but he recalled that the president's thesis states precisely that the problem of the foreign debt does not pertain to any government in particular. It is a natural fact and a historical reality for any government, and the indebtedness may even increase, Atila noted, recalling that Brazil has obtained foreign loans since it gained independence.

5157

CSO: 3342/186

BRAZIL INCREASING FARM PLANTING AREAS THIS YEAR

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Sep 83 p 34

[Text] For the first time in the past 3 years, the farmers in Parana will increase the areas planted to soybeans, as a result of the rise in international prices from an average of \$224 in July to \$350 per ton by the end of last week. This is the result of the major collapse of this year's crops in the United States, the largest producer and world exporter.

In Rio Grande do Sul, the manager of the Federation of Brazilian Wheat and Soybean Cooperatives (FECOTRIGO) pool, Valter Schirmer Duarte, stressed that "this is the year of the Brazilian producer." Planting will not be greater than planned is only because there is neither space available nor sufficient seed, Aldayr Heberle, regional director of the Brazilian Exporters Association (AEB), said.

An increase will also be impossible in Mato Grosso do Sul because of a shortage of seed for the planting season, which will begin within a few weeks, in the opinion of Nedyr Borges, director of the Cotrijui.

Enthusiasm, But No Seed, in Parana

Londrina--The certain development of prices for the soy complex (beans, meal and oil) as a result of the shortage of 20 million tons in the American harvest should produce an increase of 5.1 percent in the area of this oleaginous crop under cultivation in Parana, which accounts for 30 percent of our domestic production.

This estimate was made by Parana Secretary of Agriculture Claus Germer. He believes that after three consecutive harvests with a reduction in the area under cultivation in soybeans in Parana, the crop will now for the first time see a process of expansion.

According to Germer, the first surveys made by the secretariat's Department of Rural Economy (DERAL) show that the area in soybeans under cultivation in this state will increase from 2,045,000,000 hectares to 2,150,000,000 hectares during this season, with planting beginning in October.

With this increase, Parana should, on the basis of average productivity of 2,200 kilograms per hectare, obtain production totaling 5.7 million tons of soybeans, representing 1.4 million tons more than the production total for the last harvest.

Cooperative leaders in the western part of Parana, a region which accounts for 40 percent of the production, say that the expansion of the area under cultivation in the state will fail to reach 10 percent only because "the available certified and improved seed is inadequate to meet the demand from the farmers."

The secretary of agriculture agrees with the cooperative leaders, indicating that, taking the cooperatives and producers already in possession of the seeds and beans for planting--about 1.2 million sacks--into account, it has been established that to expand the area under cultivation by 5.1 percent, it will be necessary to purchase between 80 and 120,000 sacks of seed or improved beans from other states.

In some regions of the state, however, the initial estimates show that the expansion of the area for the cultivation of soybeans will come to 17 percent, according to the calculations of economist Modestto Felix Daga, rural credit director for the Cascavel Farm Cooperative (COOPAVEL).

"In our area of activity, more than 170,000 hectares will be planted to soybeans, and it will fall short of 230,000 hectares only because there is not sufficient seed to meet the needs of our association members. Even so, the increase in the soybean area will come to almost 17 percent in our region."

Lack of Space in Rio Grande de Sul

Porto Alegre--Brazilian Exporters Association Regional Director Alday Heberle predicts a 5-7 percent expansion, as compared to the last harvest, in the area planted to soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul. This increase will not be even greater solely because there is not enough space available.

Valter Schirmer Duarte, manager of the FECOTRIGO pool, believes that the price of soybeans on the international market, which is \$350 per ton at present, will reach \$400 by the end of the year.

"This is the year of the Brazilian producer," Schirmer Duarte commented, "even if there were no plans for increasing the planted area, which came to about 3.4 million hectares for the last harvest."

The technical director of the Passo Fundo Wheat Growers Cooperative (which is 291 kilometers from the capital of Rio Grande do Sul), Airtons Goroski, has expressed regret that the majority of the soybean producers cannot take advantage of the current prices because they have only 5 percent of the production from the last harvest--about 250,000 tons--available for sale.

The current price is a motivation for planting for the next harvest, which will not be large due to lack of seed. Even the producers who have tried to prepare their own seed will be at a disadvantage, because the rains delayed this phase of fieldwork. "I believe that the planted area will be able to compensate for the loss," Goroski said.

"Another hindrance," he added, "is the price of seed. A sack of seed costs from 20,000 to 25,000 cruzeiros on the market. The cooperative sells it at 13,560 cruzeiros, but it has practically nothing left."

Frustration in Mato Grosso do Sul

Campo Grande-The producers in Mato Grosso do Sul are frustrated. They were unable to profit from the collapse of the American soybean harvest this year because all of their production was sold prior to the current rise in world prices.

Unlike the other states, a number of cooperatives in Mato Grosso, Cotrijui included, are expecting a reduction in the area planted due in particular to the shortage of seed.

The farmers in the state, like the regional director of the Cotrijui, Nedyr Borges, prefer to talk of the past, when the American superharvest was 13 percent above the preceding one, with a 20 percent drop in prices.

"Despite the low prices," Nedyr Borges said, "the Brazilian producer in 1982 still had to bear the costs of fieldwork development, on top of inflation, resulting from the removal of farm credit subsidies, the greater role of credit with market interest and an excessive increase in the price of supplies."

5157

CSO: 3342/186

POLL SHOWS CHAVES' POPULARITY ALMOST EQUALS FIGUEIREDO'S

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Sep 83 p 5

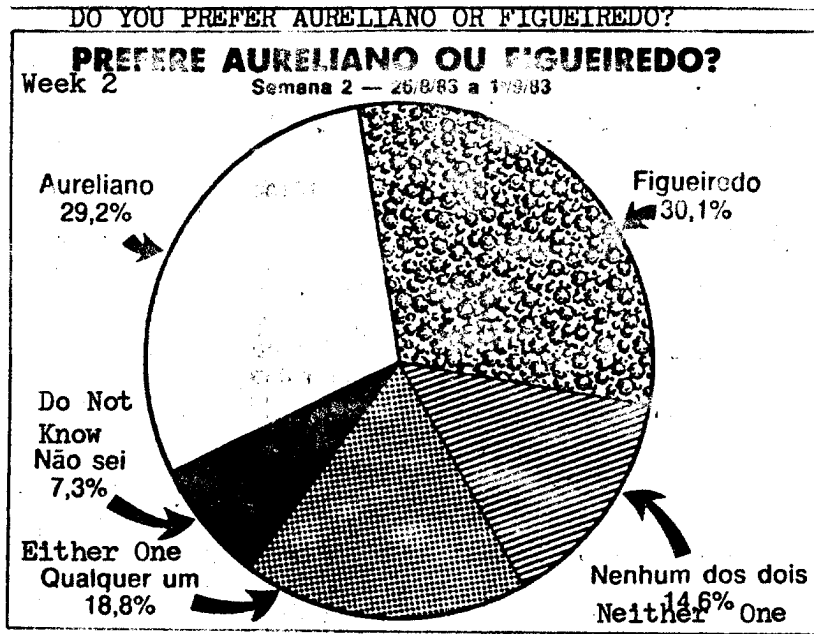
[Excerpt] In 43 days of government, Vice President Aureliano Chaves practically equaled President Joao Figueiredo in popularity. No less than 29.2 percent of the population of Sao Paulo would prefer to have Aureliano Chaves continue in the presidency while 30.1 percent favored the return of Joao Figueiredo to power.

These figures are part of a poll conducted between 28 August and 1 September in Sao Paulo by the Marketing Surveys and Research Ltd (LPM) ordered by Governor Franco Montoro's advisory office to measure the reactions of the population to the state administration. The question was included in view of the transfer of office from Aureliano to Figueiredo effected on 26 August.

In the same poll, 14.6 percent of the population responded that they preferred "neither one" to occupy the presidency of Brazil; 18.8 percent opted for "either one"; and 7.3 percent did not know or preferred not to express themselves in that regard.

According to the poll, "the preference for Aureliano Chaves tends to be greater among the people with a higher educational level, among men (more than among women), among factory workers and the liberal professions, among Montoro sympathizers, and among the sympathizers of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB), the Democratic Workers Party (PDT) and the Brazilian Labor Party (PTB) (more than among the sympathizers of the Social Democratic Party (PDS) and the Workers Party (PT))."

In the PDS, 71.4 percent preferred the return of Joao Figueiredo compared to 10.7 percent favorable to the continuation of Aureliano Chaves. In the PMDB, the situation is the reverse: 40.7 percent were in favor of Aureliano Chaves, and 22 percent were for the return of Joao Figueiredo. In the PDT, the figures are similar: 40 percent compared to 20 for Aureliano. In the PTB, the percentage in favor of Aureliano Chaves was 45.5 percent compared to 18.2 percent given Figueiredo. And in the PT, the preference for the continuation of Aureliano is also greater than the wish for the return of Figueiredo, however with a lower percentage: 25 percent compared to 21.9 percent. The majority of the PT voters (34.4 percent) prefer "neither one" for the presidency.



8711
CSO: 3342/185

POLL SHOWS DISSATISFACTION WITH SAO PAULO GOVERNMENT

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] Seventeen out of every 100 residents in the Greater Sao Paulo region are satisfied with the Franco Montoro government, and 28 are dissatisfied. Almost half of the population is "satisfied to some extent" with the new state administration, and 10 percent do not know or do not want to state their opinion on the government.

These figures are a part of a survey ordered by the direct advisory office of the governor of the state, made weekly by Surveys and Marketing Research, Ltd (LPM). The purpose is to analyze the development, reactions and variations in public opinion with regard to the government and Franco Montoro himself.

LPM has also established a scale, which it calls the LPM Acceptance Index, for the measurement of the level of government acceptance or rejection by the people. In the first 2 weeks in which the survey was taken--the last week in August and the first in September--Franco Montoro came within the neutral range, but was sympathetically regarded. Between the highest index of +3, representing "totally in favor," and -3, representing "totally opposed," the ranking given Franco Montoro was 0.86 at the beginning of September and 0.73 at the end of August.

The survey also showed that while 20 percent of the residents of Greater Sao Paulo "totally" support the government, and 15.7 percent "support it, but not totally," the governor did not have a clearly defined image for 27.4 percent of the population, which was neither for nor against him and had neither sympathy nor antipathy toward the government. A total of 11.4 percent were against the government, half "totally" opposed and half "partially" so.

Unemployment Ranks First

For almost half of the population of Greater Sao Paulo (43 percent), unemployment is the greatest problem encountered today. Inflation and the cost of living ranked second, with 33 percent, and concern with crime, the increase in crime and public safety ranked third, with 9 percent of the residents. Also mentioned were "lack of money" (2.9 percent), "hunger" (2.2 percent), "transportation" (2 percent), "pollution" (1.2 percent), and "floods" (1.1 percent).

It is the problem of the federal government to resolve unemployment, in the view of 67 percent of those interviewed. But 42 percent of them believe the responsibility falls to the state government, while 13 percent ascribe this duty to the prefecture. These indices exceed a total of 100 percent because some individuals gave more than one answer. Unemployment "has no solution" according to 3 percent of the responses given.

The LPM study in the first week of September covered 299 persons, divided by sex, social class, age group, residence locale and educational level.

Among the 67 percent who placed the responsibility for resolving the unemployment problem on the federal government, 52.5 percent said that "it is not doing anything." A total of 9.2 percent said "it is doing well" while 20 percent believe "it is not doing the right thing." Among the 42 percent who expect a solution to the unemployment problem from the state government, 52.2 percent said that "it is not doing anything," 15.5 percent said "it is doing the right thing" and 7.2 percent said "it is doing the wrong thing."

With regard to the high cost of living item, 67 percent of the residents again assigned the responsibility to the federal government, while the indices for the state and the prefecture were lower--32 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

PMDB Ranks First

If state government elections were held today, the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] would win again, but with a less sizeable vote. A total of 39.5 percent would support that party. The PT [Workers Party], which ran fourth last November in the vote count, has won more voter support. Today, 11 percent would choose its candidate to govern Sao Paulo. The PDS [Social Democratic Party] came third, with 9 percent, the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] fourth, with 3.7 percent, and the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] last, with 1.7 percent. A quarter of the population--24.7 percent--does not know for whom it would vote, while 7.1 percent would cast a blank vote and 3.4 percent would cancel their ballots.

The majority of those sympathizing with the PMDB fell within social categories C and D, with 38.1 percent and 34.7 percent, respectively, of those opting for that party. This is the category with a preference for the PT as well. It obtained 43.8 percent of its votes from category C and 37.5 percent from category D. The PMDB had the greatest advantage in category A, where 27.1 percent of its votes were to be found, as compared to the 18.8 percent given to the PT.

Majority for Moratorium

Practically one out of three residents of Greater Sao Paulo believe that the unilateral moratorium proposed by the PMDB is the best solution to the present Brazilian crisis. Of those interviewed, 28.4 percent favored this solution, while 11.1 percent believe there should be a "negotiated moratorium," which means that 39.5 percent of the population support some moratorium plan. An almost equal number, 37.5 percent, said they did not know.

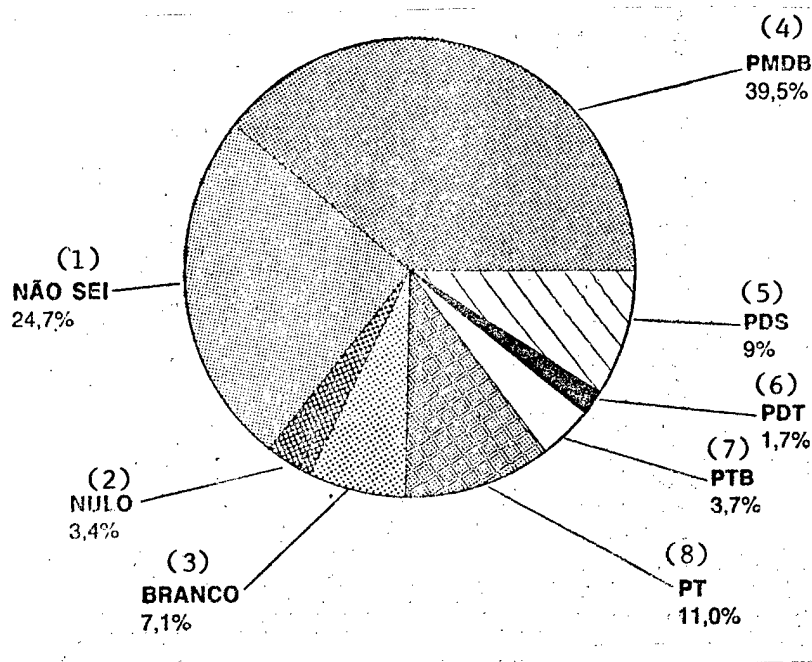
A minority of 23 percent favored a series of partial negotiations as proposed by Minister Delfim Netto.

During the week the survey was taken, some notable events occurred, including the criticism of the "Sao Paulo is greater than the crisis" campaign, the Second Conclave, and the statement by Ulysses Guimaraes announcing the PMDB program.

This statement by Ulysses Guimaraes reached 33.2 percent of the population, who said they learned about the PMDB program, while 66.8 percent said they did not know what the national president of the PMDB had said. The majority of those who were aware--68 percent--were in the category with higher education.

Party for Which Interviewee Would Vote for State Government

(Week Two--26/8/83 to 1/9/83)



Key:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Don't know | 5. Social Democratic Party |
| 2. Null vote | 6. Democratic Labor Party |
| 3. Blank vote | 7. Brazilian Labor Party |
| 4. Brazilian Democratic Movement Party | 8. Workers Party |

5157

CSO: 3342/186

ANGOLA NEWS AGENCY OFFICE TO OPEN IN RIO IN OCTOBER

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Sep 83 p 5

[Text] Brasilia--Brazil has been included in the counteroffensive which the Angolan Government of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) is launching to cope with the growing advance of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in the military, diplomatic and information areas. ANGOP, the official Angolan news agency, is going to open an office in Rio de Janeiro by the end of October. It will have two journalists for the mission, one of them being stationed in Brasilia.

The inclusion of Brazil among the countries chosen for the Angolan initiative takes some factors into account: the facilities of the common language, the importance of this country in Latin America and in the Third World, and the new priority reserved for its African policy. Since the beginning of the Geisel government in 1974, Africa was selected as priority number two of Brazilian foreign policy, after Latin America. In the African policy, the former Portuguese colonies occupy a privileged place, and Angola is the most important of them.

The Angolan Government believes that the rival guerrillas of the UNITA, led by Jonas Savimbi, which has all of the support of South Africa, has been winning the information war in five countries: mainly Portugal, France, Great Britain, Senegal and Gabon. Speaking to an Angolan correspondent in Lisbon recently, Prime Minister Mario Soares said, certainly to calm the MPLA, that Portugal does not intend to become a base of operations for movements opposed to the constituted regimes in African countries. The Angolan Government has accused Portugal of favoring the activities of the UNITA, by commission or omission.

Strategy

The attempt to win the information battle is part of the counteroffensive of the MPLA government against the three main action fronts of the UNITA: military, diplomatic and information. The followers of Jonas Savimbi maintain a permanent or sporadic presence in 14 of the 17 provinces of Angola and have received inestimable support from South Africa. On the political front, Savimbi has crossed the world to publicize his struggle and to present it as a struggle in behalf of the West. He describes the

MPLA government as a Soviet pawn. The information front projects the military advance and diplomatic activity.

The government of Jose Eduardo dos Santos reached the conclusion that the time had come to check the advance or at least reduce the impact of its effects. The establishment of ANGOP offices in countries that the UNITA is using well is an important item of that strategy.

8711

CSO: 3342/185

EXPULSIONS RESULT FROM DISSENSION IN SAO PAULO PCB

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] The National Communist Leaders Collective (CNDC), the central organ of the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) expelled 11 of the 28 members of the state collective in Sao Paulo in an action which brought the greatest internal crisis in the PCB since the dismissal of Luiz Carlos Prestes as secretary general of the party into the open. The dissidence in Sao Paulo has been evident since 1981, and it culminated in the drafting of a document dated 31 August in which representatives of the state collective voiced criticism of the campaign pursued by the national collective for the legalization of the PCB, in particular.

The reaction of the central organ was revealed in another document, dated the 5th, in which the national leaders said the action of the dissidents showed "opportunism and liquidationism," and they also discredited the undertakings of the group. The position of the national collective and the removal of members of the state leadership will be reported by the newspaper A VOZ DE UNIDADE, the PCB organ.

In a statement entitled "The Moment of Truth Has Come," the Sao Paulo State Collective of Communist Leaders said it is "concerned about undertakings lacking good sense," among which it mentioned the campaign for legality proposed by the national collective. Stating that this was only a matter of "a mechanical and opportunistic opposition of legality and legitimacy," the dissident document said that what is involved is "a settlement of internal accounts" whereby the national collective "is seeking to assert itself in a misleading struggle for legality which deprives us of credibility and does not even guarantee achievement of the desired goal."

The document termed the undertaking of the national leaders "summit actions unrelated to the real struggle of the political parties and the masses." Finally, the document urged the renewal of the leading cadres and appealed to the communists of Sao Paulo to rally around the program of action set forth by the president of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, in the recent speech he made to the Chamber.

In its response, the national collective rebutted the criticisms, "in view of the divisive action which has been pursued in Sao Paulo." The document rejected the charge that the CNDC lacks legitimacy, and stressed that the dissident undertaking "openly breaks" with the "historically established methods

of articulation." It stressed further that the proposal that the PMDB program be adopted represents renunciation of "the battle for an independent communist political organization."

Referring to the Sao Paulo statement, the document entitled "It Is Always the Moment of Truth" said that its authors confused legality and legitimacy, stating that "it is no accident that at no point does that text specifically demand juridical legality for the PCB. And this is the central issue in any effective transition consistent with democracy." The national collective concluded with a comparison of the dissidents to the forces "uninterested in the united presence of the working masses on the political scene, much less that of the communists."

5157

CSO: 3342/186

FINANCE MINISTER: SALARY INCREASES NOT TO EXCEED 18 PERCENT IN 1984

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Sep 83 pp 1-A, 6-B

[Article by Jose Ramon Nunez]

[Text] Bucaramanga, 8 Sep--The Colombian Government warned today that in 1984 increases of no more than 14 percent will be allowed for wages and prices and totally discarded the possibility of a "forced" general raise in wages and a drop in bank interest rates.

That percentage will guide the various economic targets and if any sector, through omission or misinformation, should try to violate that ceiling, this will be considered as an "offense," the minister of finance, Edgar Gutierrez Castro, said.

Gutierrez Castro renewed his appeal to businessmen, bankers, and workers to reduce their price, wage, and interest levels gradually, and held that this year's ceiling is 14 percent, after noting that "this will be the benchmark to which the economy overall will have to conform.

"By the end of 1983 and the first half of 1984, rates compatible with the stabilization policy will have to range between 14 and 18 percent," the minister said when he opened the regular meeting of the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI). "Anything above this level is dangerous and will have to be avoided in light of the best public interest. For the year following that period, the ceiling will have to be lower if we desire to successfully follow the path of a true stabilization policy."

He noted emphatically, addressing businessmen and workers, that it is not unwarranted price and wage hikes which in the last analysis guarantee their profit and wage levels since in case of such escalation everything finally turns out to be false and illusory.

"Runaway inflation through cavalier, disproportionate collective agreements and simultaneous price hikes in firms is the surest path to the bankruptcy of economies," Gutierrez Castro observed.

He then noted: "If by accident, omission, misinformation, or oversight some collective agreements were already signed calling for rates above this

ceiling--14 percent--this could not be taken as a precedent for repeating such action."

He reiterated that the government will not allow the inflationary cycle to continue concealing and disguising the worst causes of social imbalance and misery.

He expressed the feeling that the 14 percent ceiling for the next 12 months is perfectly feasible, "but this imposes across-the-board responsibilities that it would be appropriate to review in terms of prices, wages, and bank interest rates."

Subsequently he explained that to set a price, a wage adjustment, or an interest rate is not the same when prices are escalating at 30 percent--as was the case until 1981--as when they are rising at 16 or 18 percent.

The new ceiling will have to be followed strictly since this year inflation will be slightly above 18 percent, Gutierrez Castro added.

He was also forthright when he held that those who favor a general wage hike, a drop in tax revenues, freedom to import, and a half in the high interest rates by decree as formulas to achieve the reactivation of demand and employment, to develop the productive sectors, reduce shortages, and in general to reactivate the domestic economy are totally in error.

"And I believe that I am not mistaken if I tell you that there are obvious signs of recovery in the major productive sectors," Gutierrez Castro noted when he mentioned that under the existing economic strategy results are being achieved which others are trying to accomplish by "forcing" things.

The large majority of metal-mechanical production firms affected by the halt in exports to neighboring countries have shown corresponding increased sales in the country's local markets, Gutierrez noted, to demonstrate that domestic demand has also been recovering.

The finance minister made the following favorable survey in the wake of the application of the government's economic measures:

An important part of the success has been price stabilization, which is due to this year's increase in food production. This originates in large measure, in turn, in the vigorous increase--close to 40 percent--in operations of the Agricultural Fund.

The rate of increase in construction, according to building licenses for square meters of construction, has been about 11 percent.

In recent months and following an accentuated recession, retail sales indicators of the large department stores have started to show a clear tendency toward an upswing.

Significant Recession

Gutierrez Castro asserted that the problem of the recession obviously still applies and that unemployment is the result of deep-seated structural causes and a weak international situation which debilitated the world market for an extended period.

However, the minister stressed that the present economic policy "must be directed to resolving those internal structural problems, on one hand, and to readying our productive mechanisms to promptly restore profits from international economic reactivation when it occurs."

Respite

Gutierrez Castro told the 250 delegates attending the 39th Congress of the ANDI that he had not come to Bucaramanga to talk but rather to listen, and his speech consisted more than anything else in a survey of the first year of the new economic management in the midst of the present crisis.

He repeated that last year was the most difficult in recent history and that the present year started with a weakened economy. He admitted that 1983 began to move along the most murky and psychologically most disturbing path because of the drop in Colombia's international reserves.

The administration of President Belisario Betancur began its endeavors in the midst of the most dangerous crisis of the financial system in all its aspects: A banking crisis, a crisis in nearly all financial organs, a crisis among savers. It was obvious at the start of the government's fiscal year that public finance was becoming the most formidable element of imbalance in the national economy, with strong negative repercussions on financial, monetary, and real economic stability. Such was the survey of the first few months of the administration outlined by Minister Edgar Gutierrez Castro.

But then, after observing that President Betancur took over a country that was disjointed in its structures, Gutierrez noted that it was launched on the path of recovery and that the production of foodstuffs, tobacco, beverages, textiles, iron and steel, and of metal and mechanical products has seen a notable upsurge.

There are also signs of recovery in the construction and construction materials sectors.

Rejection of Short-Lived Measures

In every way, the finance minister rejected the adoption of short-lived measures that would open the monetary flood gate or put the burden of reactivation on an inflationary upsurge. "We Colombians neither desire them nor need them," he added.

As evidence that it has been possible to solve serious problems without resorting to external measures, the minister of finance said that, for example, every day progress is being made in meeting the problem of the over-evaluation of the exchange rate which the neighboring countries whose currencies have deteriorated have decreed vis-a-vis Colombia.

In the same way, "we are improving our terms of trade daily as inflation recedes and costs drop and as we give our exchange rate flexibility without jolts."

Continued Growth

Similarly, the finance minister argued that the desired conditions for achieving in Colombia once again a firm base of continuous growth are being provided effectively.

Other evidence of the above, according to the minister, is the fact that 21 of the largest banks of the world with the exception of French banks have joined a financial group to underwrite the first private loan in which the country has been involved after 8 months of being shunned by the banks.

Dollars To Arrive in September

In the final portion of his speech consisting of 31 sections the minister of finance announced that on 20 September he would be going to London to sign the first loan agreement secured by a Latin American country from a private bank since the major financial crisis that burst in this part of the world.

As is known, the 21 banks individually contributed \$15 million each to the "syndicate" that will loan Colombia \$225 million in foreign exchange.

Subscriptions to the loan agreement will be effected a day before the meeting in Washington, D.C., of the conference of governors of the International Monetary Fund and of the World Bank. According to Gutierrez Castro, that loan will have obvious repercussions benefiting Colombia.

Reactivating Reforms

Finally, the minister of finance recalled that the government has managed to restore order once more to Colombia's fiscal, internal financial, and external financial policies; to organize an anti-inflationary and price stabilization front; to adjust the terms of trade and correct the imbalance in the balance of payments account; to rationalize imports; to protect basic industrial production sectors; to reactivate the agricultural sectors; and to reactivate the most important productive sectors.

However, Gutierrez recognized that there is still a lot to do, with the advantage that it has already been possible to shape the bulk of the country's economic policy "in which there are no dogmas.

"It has not been possible to move faster because of the severity and complexity of the recession. But we have had every intention in the world of carefully interpreting what seems to emerge from a major consensus of opinion," the minister concluded at the ANDI conference.

2662

CSO: 3348/662

NEW NAVY COMMANDER TAKES OFFICE, DEFINES MISSION

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Sep 83 p 16-A

[Text] The new commander of the Colombian Navy, Adm Tito Garcia Motta, underscored yesterday the importance which this service represents for defending the country's sovereignty and said that "we are moving from the era of the cannon to that of the missile."

After assuming his command, the senior officer referred to the new equipment to be made available to the new Pacific naval base which, additionally, will have the support of the marines and the corvettes which Colombia will receive in the next 2 months from Germany, where they are now being readied.

Adm Garcia Motta was sworn in before the minister of defense, Gen Fernando Landazabal Reyes, and noted that the principal mission of the navy is to watch over the safety and sovereignty of Colombia's Atlantic and Pacific waters.

"The navy is carrying out a very important task. We are involved in executing this mission and others such as that of overseeing the Neptune Plan involving the construction and acquisition of four corvettes from the German Government to increase our naval capabilities," he added.

The new navy commander stressed the importance for the Colombian Navy of the move from the era of the cannon to that of the missile, acquiring modern naval units such as coast guard cutters and corvettes which will enjoy integral air defense.

However, Adm Garcia Motta complained that his country does not possess enough naval units to guard and exercise surveillance over the seas, even though he warned that "the navy's mission is to strengthen its capabilities in every way in the future."

Regarding the naval station at San Andres y Providencia, which is a key facility for checking potential foreign aggression, he gave assurances that that is one of the present objectives considering that the navy is greatly concerned with maintaining an effective base enabling Colombia to execute adequate defense at any moment.

He disclosed that in future a marine battalion will be stationed there and that surveillance will be stepped up thanks to the naval air arm which will use helicopters and the four corvettes that will soon reach Colombia from Germany.

2662

CSO: 3348/662

COOPERATIVE FARMS COMPRISE OVER 50 PERCENT OF LAND

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 28 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

● A TOTAL of 769 660 hectares of farmland — that is, 50.3 percent of the land once worked in the form of small, isolated, low-yielding plots — are now organized into cooperative farms. Thus, the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), the Communist Party of Cuba, the state, the Young Communist League and the mass organizations have taken a major step forward in the process of building socialism.

In May 1977, when the 5th ANAP Congress was held, very few people in Cuba imagined that during the following seven years, 75 000 peasants would come to accept cooperative farming as the ideal method for doing away with the backward forms of agriculture, almost primitive living conditions and traditional individualistic habits that had prevailed in the island's countryside for over 100 years.

Cuba's total farmland covers 1.5 million hectares. To the 769 660 hectares now organized into cooperative farms we must add 86 794 hectares that the state has turned over to a large number of cooperative farms, chiefly in the mountain areas, in order to bring them closer to one another.

The total amount of land owned by the 1470 cooperative farms in Cuba, excluding City of Havana province, comes to more than 856 000 hectares which is increasingly planted to sugar cane, root and garden vegetables, coffee, grain, fruit and cacao and used for the breeding of cattle and other livestock.

As of August 18, a total of ten provinces had surpassed the nationwide average rate of cooperative farms organization. Matanzas leads with 75 percent and has been holding the lead for over a year. Next in line are Ciego de Avila (61%), Villa Clara (57%), Sancti Spiritus (56%), Las Tunas, Camaguey, Cienfuegos, Holguin and Santiago de Cuba (51%); and Pinar del Río (50%).

● *Ofelia Gómez*
Granma daily reporter

CSO: 3200/47

SAVARIN QUILTS CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION; BACKGROUND REVIEWED

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 27 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

THE NEW CHRONICLE HAS LEARN THAT SENATOR CHARLES SAVARIN, WHO WAS LAST WEEK (FRIDAY AUG. 18) APPOINTED MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO, SUBMITTED HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION ON THE SAME DAY OF HIS APPOINTMENT TO CABINET.

We understand that the Executive Committee of the CSA, has not yet convened to discuss the matter and so it is still uncertain as to whether it will accept or reject Mr. Savarin's resignation.

However, Executive sources close to the CSA have indicated that Mr. Savarin's resignation will be accepted.

Mr. Savarin has been General Secretary of the Association for the past 18 years. He joined the CSA in 1963 as an Assistant Master at the Dominica Grammar School.

In 1966, only three years after joining Mr. Savarin was elected General Secretary of the union. He held that post while still employed as a teacher at the DGS, until 1970 when the post of General Secretary became a full-time job.

The CSA Executive body approached the then Labour Party government to have Mr. Savarin seconded from his teaching post so that he could fully devote his time and efforts to the job of General Secretary.

Then it was rumoured that Mr. Savarin had made himself General Secretary for life. The NEW CHRONICLE has, however, learned that Mr.

Savarin stood for election in every one of his 18 years as General Secretary, and was re-elected on every occasion by the general membership of the CSA.

What did happen was that Mr. Savarin was made a life member of the CSA along with John Bully, Ossie Symes, Chris Maximee and J.J. King.

The provision for Life Membership in the CSA constitution was introduced in 1973 as a counter-measure to the Le Blanc Administration's attempt to sever the leadership of the CSA, from its general membership by legislating that senior civil servants (which all members of the executive were) could not be members of that union.

This was reported to have been part of an attempt to silence and undermine the union following its 22-day strike in 1973 in protest of the transfer of Daniel Caudeiron (Papa Dee) from DBS.

This, of course, was the same period in which Mr. Savarin and the other executive members were placed under house arrest.

In 1982, Mr. Savarin was elected President of the Caribbean Public Servants Association (CPSA). His term as President expired at the

recently held St. Vincent conference of the Association.

Although still eligible to serve the executive of the CPSA, Mr. Savarin has informed the NEW CHRONICLE that he has notified that body that he will no longer be able to serve their executive due to his ministerial appointment.

Born in 1943, Mr. Charles Angelo Savarin attended St. John's School in Portsmouth, then went on to the Dominica Grammar School and graduated from the Sixth Form in 1962.

In 1970 Senator Savarin attended Ruskin College in Oxford, England, where he did a diploma in Developmental Studies for a period of two years.

Mr. Savarin has also attended numerous workshops and seminars on trade unionism in both the United States and the United Kingdom.

When asked about the criticism concerning his appointment as Minister, Senator Savarin said: "All I can say is that I have been appointed to a new job, and I intend to carry it out as efficiently as I did my last job."

BRIEFS

DRUM DENIES ALLEGATIONS--ROSEAU, Dominica, Friday (CANA)--The fortnightly independent Drum newspaper here yesterday denied allegations that it was a reflection of Dominican opposition political parties and asserted that its main goal was to introduce new issues and analysis for public consideration. "In doing so we accept being characterised as opposition and controversial, because neither conflicts with being independent," said the newspaper. In a special issue reporting at length the response of recently dismissed Communications and Works Minister Henry Dyer the Drum said that the coverage given the opposition by the state-owned DBS-Radio and the weekly New Chronicle newspaper was virtually non-existent. It was an affront to the news profession that Dyer's response to the Prime Minister on DBS-Radio was a paid ad, the Drum declared and asked: "Was her letter to Dyer any more newsworthy than his response." The state-owned station had carried in full the contents of the August 4 letter sent by Miss Charles to Minister Dyer dismissing him from Cabinet. "Our objective is to reflect political realities as they are and become, rather than to comment for the pleasure of any special interest group," said the drum. [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Aug 83 p 3]

UDLP OBJECTION TO SAVARIN--ROSEAU, DOMINICA, Wednesday, (CANA)--The United Dominica Labour Party led by former Finance Minister Michael Douglas has said that the appointment of general secretary of the Civil Service Association, Charles Savarin, as Minister without Portfolio was a measure aimed at dividing the country. Savarin, who failed to win a seat in the last election, was appointed by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, after the three-year-old Freedom Party Government decided to increase Cabinet members from six to seven. In a statement signed by Douglas, the opposition party, which is still a faction of the main opposition Dominica Labour Party said the appointment of Savarin cast a vote of no confidence in the elected parliamentarians within the ruling party and highlighted the level of disunity within the Government. The United Dominica Labour Party rejects the appointment of Savarin as a retrograde and nationally divisive measure and calls on the Prime Minister to replace her faith in the people's elected representatives," the statement said. [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 25 Aug 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/947

BELIZEAN OPPOSITION LEADER CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Aug 83 p 2

[Text] The leader of the opposition in Belize, Alejandro Vernon, will hold a big meeting today in Toledo to reaffirm his wish to put an end to the old border dispute between Guatemala and Belize.

Bernon, the greatest opponent of Prime Minister George Price, has been one of the politicians who has been making an effort to facilitate Guatemala's attempts to find a solution to the dispute.

During the regime of General Laugerud Garcia, he served at the U.N., where he requested the support of the nations toward recognizing Guatemala's right to Belize.

On repeated occasions, he requested an impartial and just solution to the dispute. Price considered him to be his "number one enemy" because he continually levels severe criticisms at the Belizean premier.

On his last trip to Guatemala City, Vernon declared to one of our reporters that his political association, called "Toledo Progressive Party" (PPT), has more than 5,000 members.

Little by little it is gathering momentum, despite the obstacles the current Belizean authorities have been placing in its path.

During today's meeting, Vernon will reaffirm his opposition to the position of George Price. At the same time, he will release the names of mayoral candidates who will place their hats in the ring in next November's elections.

Vernon has twice been deputy for Toledo and 4 times mayor of the same district. During the regime of General Rios Montt, he applauded the Guatemalan Government's decision to claim only Toledo.

The Belizean politician likewise opposes U.S. intentions to locate 10,000 Haitian families in Toledo in exchange for economic aid to the Price regime.

Toledo has over 15,000 inhabitants, and is 4,600 square kilometers in size. Its departmental head is Punta Gorda, a port city located near Puerto Barrios, Izabal.

12448

CSO: 3248/1257

GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF CENTRAL AMERICAN CURRENCIES URGED FOR TOURISM

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish REVISTA TURISTICA (supplement)
31 Aug 83 p 3

[Article by Danilo De Leon: "Banco de Guatemala: Not Interested in Accepting Other Central American Currencies"]

[Text] One of the new economic measures which would give real solidity to our currency in the Central American area.

The expansion of our currency is vital for the economic recovery of the country.

Acceptance of Central American currency in payment for hotel services is undoubtedly the first real step to be taken by the country to achieve recovery in tourist travel into our country. In this connection it is no secret that all the countries of the area have serious problems in earning dollar income. This seriously and directly affects what we could call the circulation of the internal, Central American market. One of the solutions which we have suggested for this serious problem is specifically that any Central American currency be accepted in payment for certain tourist services (hotel, restaurant, taxis, local tours, and other expenses). This is a step which would have the following results:

Recovery of Central American Tourism

In recent years Guatemala has slowly been losing a scandalous percentage of the tourism originating in the other countries of the Central American area. More than anything else this has been due to causes well-known to everyone: the social violence in our country and in El Salvador, the economic crisis in Costa Rica, and the isolation of Nicaragua from the Central American area. A number of other, purely economic factors are also involved: unemployment, the high cost of living, and inflation. These factors have had a direct impact on purely Central American tourist flows.

Just as Guatemala has lost all of this tourist potential, the other Central American countries have also lost it, and we no longer are receiving thousands of Central Americans annually who, in the years gone by, used to travel throughout all of our area of the world. It happened that in our

country, in addition to the loss of this tourism flow, we have also lost out on international tourism, which has resulted in the fact that one of our most flourishing industries, tourism, which is vital to earn foreign exchange, has been going through serious difficulties.

Turning back to Guatemala, the loss of Central American tourism is undoubtedly one of the severest and strongest blows which the tourist industry has suffered. The results of the loss of Central American tourism are as serious as those coming from the loss of North American tourist travel to our country.

The strongest evidence in support of the foregoing lies precisely in the fact that Central American tourism has the real function of supporting the tourist structure of the country, and not only because of the number of tourists who come into our country, coming from the other countries of the area. Rather, and more than anything else, this concerns the frequency with which these tourists visit our country. After all, what we are looking for (and this applies to any country or tourist destination) is precisely the frequency with which tourist services and facilities are used. It is at this point that we can state Central American tourism, with its frequent visits to Guatemala, supports our tourist structure.

The Banco de Guatemala should understand why it has become necessary to bring back Central American tourism to our country and why it has become essential for our monetary authorities to adopt an aggressive posture to implement a proposal for general acceptance of Central American currencies in the area.

Furthermore, it is not possible that Guatemala, as a country with greater economic strength, should not be able to use this strength to reach agreements with the other Central American countries, either in bilateral or any other form, and to permit a significant expansion of the Quetzal itself.

It is not possible that the Banco de Guatemala should forget that, just as we need dollars, this country also needs other foreign exchange in general to recover economically. Perhaps the most important matter to point to at this time is the fact that our way of economizing at the government level must change radically, and we must consider those real and appropriate economic measures which are in accordance with the economic and financial times in which the world lives.

Acceptance of Central American currencies is not a luxury which we are going to indulge ourselves in. On the contrary, it simply means adopting a necessary measure which will permit the country to obtain greater economic resources which at present do not exist.

Assigning Quotas

One of the alternatives to follow to achieve the liberation of Central American currencies could be a monthly allocation which the Banco de Guatemala would earmark for the tourist industry to guarantee the conversion of other Central American currencies into Quetzales.

Guatemala should be the first to take such action. There is not the slightest doubt that the acceptance of Central American currencies in all countries of the area is already an imminent necessity which could be implemented before the end of this year. Our country should be the first to adopt this foreign exchange practice.

The Government Should Intervene

The present government should intervene to make acceptance of other Central American currencies a reality. We are convinced that if we look in detail into the advantages which applying a plan like this would bring our country, it would not be surprising to see one of the existing options to begin the economic recovery, not only of tourism, but also of the country, become a reality in the near future.

5170

CSO: 3248/1255

STATE COUNCIL INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES DEFEND THEIR ROLE

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Aug 83 p 29

[Text] In the face of groundless criticism and constant distortions of the proceedings of the State Council in general and of the Council president, Engineer Jorge Serrano Elias in particular, we councillors representative of the ethnic groups find we need to inform public opinion and the indigenous population in particular of the following:

a) The State Council constitutes for us the first opportunity to participate actively and personally in a democratization process, which we understand as the broad participation of all sectors to express their points of view, and then, jointly to seek peaceful solutions to our most serious social, economic and political problems. In this way we hope that by means of adequate procedures, processes and proceedings, electoral mechanisms will operate which will allow the people of Guatemala to exercise their vote freely and let their will be recognized.

We consider an important factor in our task to prove and make clear the existence of a majority population which traditionally has been impoverished and which now through the rostrum of the Council, can communicate and express its aspirations, its needs and its frustrations, too.

We feel gratified by our action, because although it is not a physical deed of impressive dimensions, it constitutes a first step in putting us in touch so that we can openly dialogue with sectors and communities very distant from one another but which have a series of problems in common. We were gratified to be present at the appointment of the Supreme Electoral Court, because we are convinced that an electoral process the supervision of which is entrusted to persons so honest, honorable and upright, and so highly qualified as its current constituents, is much harder to manipulate than if it were in the hands of sectors partially interested in its outcome.

b) In recent days in the face of frequent allusions to our work as Councillors, we have wondered: what did they expect of us? Have we endorsed proposed laws detrimental or harmful to the interests of the people of Guatemala? Have we supported proposed laws that affect the sectors with the smallest income? Have we gone astray in thinking that the political parties will believe the most reliable and trustworthy documentation possible? Is it

erroneous to recognize that the process of return to constitutionalism will be honest and representative? There is no basis in fact to any charge of lack of good intentions on our part.

c) The truth is that we are weary of electoral farces and of the way in which elections have usually been held up to now. We believe there must be democracy in Guatemala, but we wish to take an active part in the structuring and organization of this new democracy.

If we do not take an active part, we do not wish to be used later as cannon fodder in wars between ideologies. Ideologists provide ideas and schemes. Others provide weapons, and we provide the people to get killed on the battlefields for other people's ideas.

Whoever gets involved in politics in Guatemala must start by maintaining morality. There has never been a politician in Guatemala who became good on account of getting into politics. But the opposite has occurred. Now we hope that politicians will become good on account of starting to get into politics for reasons of morality; because politics is only a small part of the moral, civic order every society must have.

We indigenous peoples have an ethic and we have our concept of justice, which is why we want all social, economic and political situations in Guatemala to be patterned by ethics rather than by ideology, so as to prevent the destructive process of violence which we have suffered.

We want real political participation. We do not believe that abstention is the right road to follow, because while we abstain, opportunists will profit.

We wish to base our participation on the age-old wisdom of our people, and not on vengeance. On the contrary, we need help to try to seek how to join together what others have separated, to prevent further bloodshed, and more killing of brother by brother. We wish to seek paths to unity and dignity. It is a path that seemed very hard to find but we believe we have found it. We do not want a bunch of bigshots in the capital to start telling us and our communities what we want, when they have not even shown their faces at any of the municipalities in order to find out what is happening there. We want the next constitution to be a real national consultation in which the sense of our people comes across.

d) Regarding the president of the State Council, Engineer Jorge Serrano Elias, and ourselves, it is clear to us from his dedication and effort to contribute the best solutions to the diversity of problems which have beset us in our official capacity as councillors from the start. We are cognizant of his positive humaneness, loyalty, honesty, and responsibility for carrying on the work of the Council, as well as his democratic calling, which he has wisely used to bring together the diverse positions and opinions of the sections that shape the Council, to the extent that we feel we are members of a group that can succeed peacefully in proposing common solutions.

Feliz Sarazua Patzan
Regular State Councillor
Cakchiquel group

Celso Sesam Tecu
Regular State Councillor
Rabinal Achi Group

Virves Francisco Diego
Regular State Councillor
Kanjobal Group

Pascual Alonzo Diego
Regular State Councillor
Chuj Group

Fidencio Guzman de Leon
Regular State Councillor
Ixel Group

Marcos Santos Us
Regular State Councillor
Uspantanec Group

Fortunato Pablo Mendoza
Regular State Councillor
Mam Group

Jose Patrocinio Chacon
Regular State Councillor
Pocomam Group

Juan Lopez Osorio
Substitute State Councillor
Uspantanec Group

Doroteo Mendoza Jimenez
Substitute State Councillor
Mam Group

Sebastian Tilon Moran
Regular State Councillor
Kekchi and Pocomchi Group

Melecio Agustin Baltazar
Regular State Councillor
Carib Group

Gilberto Jeronimo Cortez
Substitute State Councillor
Rabinal Achi Group

Nicolas Juan Juarez
Substitute State Councillor
Kanjobal Group

Francisco Pascual Chacon
Substitute State Councillor
Pocomam Group

Manuel Chox Guarchaj
Regular State Councillor
Quiche Group

Medardo Quexel Jeronimo
Substitute State Councillor
Cakchiquel Group

Felix Tzul Tzi
Substitute State Councillor
Kekchi and Pocomchi Group

Diego Panjoj Chan
Substitute State Councillor
Quiche Group

Guatemala City, 24 August 1983

12448
CSO: 3248/1257

CANTUR FINDS NEW GOVERNMENT RECEPTIVE TO ITS PRIORITIES

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish REVISTA TURISTICA (supplement)
31 Aug 83 p 2

[Text] Through a study prepared on the present situation of tourism in Guatemala, the Chamber of Tourism [CANTUR] presented the new government with a list of the actions which should be taken to ensure the resumption of foreign tourists visits and also to achieve greater results from the development of internal tourism.

The fact that the present government has permitted the tourist industry to set out its problems and suggested solutions to them has been well received by the industry. This is even more satisfactory at present, when government support is urgently needed and highly important to make a beginning on the recovery of one of the most flourishing industries of our national economy.

If the government provides real support to the tourist industry, a basis will be established for the tourist industry to adopt a definite policy which will make it possible for it to set out its objectives and, at the same time, it will be this very sector which will find the solutions and alternatives to be taken in order to reestablish the flow of foreign tourists to Guatemala.

Set out below are the most important aspects of this problem which have been discussed between the new government and the tourist industry.

The Chamber of Tourism, or CANTUR, the national organization of the tourism sector in the country, had a meeting last week with Gen Humberto Mejia Victores, the chief of state, at which various aspects of tourism were discussed which are directly related to the future development of this important aspect of economic activity.

CANTUR presented the chief of state with a detailed report on the present situation of tourism and, for its part, the government offered its support in resolving the problems of this industry. Also accepted as valid was the fact that tourism constitutes one of the principal ways of bringing foreign exchange into the country.

It was useful to bring out the importance which foreign tourism has in bringing foreign exchange into the country. For this reason we consider that it should be treated as an "export" and provided with suitable incentives as such.

Many factors had a decisive role in the decline of tourist activity, whose effects made themselves felt, beginning in 1980, since as recently as 1979 tourism effectively demonstrated its ability to generate foreign exchange and its impact on the national economy, for it provided employment to hundreds of thousands of Guatemalans, and all of the various activities involved in tourist activity profited from it.

These factors, among others, included inflation, the world recession, the lack of air flights, political instability, and the rise of strong competition in the tourist market.

Despite the fact that considerable efforts have been made in the past and, thanks to them, we are not in a worse position at present than might have been the case, it has become imperative to take immediate action to permit the economic recovery of the tourist industry. For that reason we set out below what in our view should be considered priority steps to be taken in the framework of a plan for the recovery of tourist activity and the national economy.

1. Improvement of Our Foreign Image

Guatemala urgently needs to improve its foreign image, and one of the means of doing so is tourism. The tourist industry exports to the outside world hundreds of thousands of "satisfied visitors" who will be our best ambassadors in telling in their own way the experience which they have had in our country. Guatemala as a "tourist product" is not unknown to travel agents and travel wholesalers abroad, who manage the international travel market. However, these people, because of their own sense of responsibility to their customers, cannot send tourists in an organized form and through special promotional activity to a country where violence apparently rules, as has been reported abroad by different social communications media.

The first step for us to take, then, is to improve our foreign image, in order to bring in more tourists. This should be one of the most important functions performed by our representatives abroad, the ambassadors and consuls, by means of a dynamic security policy aimed at creating in international public opinion an image of respect, reporting on the positive developments which are happening in our country.

2. Travel Advisory

On 6 August 1981 the Department of State of the United States imposed a kind of warning on Guatemala through a measure known as a "Travel Advisory," which was revised on 3 September 1982. According to this announcement, an American citizen traveling to Guatemala does so on his own account. Consequently, insurance companies do not cover risks he may face during his

stay in Guatemala. This has had the result that not only tourists, properly speaking, but businessmen as well, stopped traveling to our country.

The Chamber of Tourism considers that the reasons which led to the imposition of the "Travel Advisory" on Guatemala have disappeared, as President Ronald Reagan and Frederick Chapin, the American ambassador in Guatemala, have stated.

Your attention is called to the fact that there are South American countries where the U.S. Government has never imposed this kind of measure, despite the political situation in some of them.

Therefore, we should undertake continuous efforts to arrange for the total withdrawal of the "Travel Advisory" imposed on Guatemala, an effort which in fact will have a positive impact on our international image.

Furthermore, the employees of the United States Embassy in Guatemala may travel throughout the country, which signifies recognition by the North American government of the change in the situation within the country and now provides secure conditions to those traveling through the interior.

3. Open Skies

Tourism brings in foreign exchange and promotes a good image abroad, from which not only tourism benefits but also all the other sectors which earn foreign exchange. At times critical for tourist activity, it is necessary for airlines coming into the country to receive appropriate assistance, because not only do they create jobs and pay taxes, but they bring in tourism, an inexhaustible source of foreign exchange.

The airlines invest large amounts of money in travel promotion, in order to maintain a relatively profitable air traffic level, if not to hold down their losses. In this way also they contribute to maintaining the image of a country.

Guatemala has become a crossroads of international travel, and we should try to maintain this situation, providing more incentives to the airlines which fly to our country. The "open skies" policy has been a profitable one in various countries, because the purpose has been to bring in tourists. We would think that as long as Guatemala does not have a fully developed commercial aviation industry and up to the point where air traffic becomes excessive, we should not consider adopting restrictive aviation policies. About 3 years ago Guatemala received an average of 25 flights per day, whereas at present it receives 10 flights. In this connection we should consider incentive policies.

We would therefore suggest that the civil aviation law should be brought up to date, so that it functions in an efficient and competitive way. It would also be desirable for Aviateca [Guatemalan airlines] to change its routes and revise its marketing and promotional policies in coordination with the

Guatemalan Tourist Institute [INGUAT]. Aviateca should maintain permanently such domestic routes as Tilal-Flores, Coban, and Puerto Barrios. At the same time the possibility of turning this company into a private or mixed government and private enterprise should be studied, to provide efficient service to the user and/or consider the offers already made by foreign airlines to buy this national airline.

It is useful to point out that, within the framework of an "open skies" policy and the provision of facilities for tourists, procedures for the entry and exit of travelers should be improved. Security measures presently in force which make access to the air terminal difficult should be revised. Let us not forget that the first impression of a country is the one we gain when we arrive there.

The Chamber of Tourism requests that a member of its board of directors should belong to the Civil Aviation Consultative Committee, to ensure that aviation policies are congruent with the tourist needs of the country.

4. Santa Elena Airport

Guatemala has made a substantial investment in Santa Elena Airport. Our country has no alternate airport, for which reason it would be desirable for Santa Elena Airport to operate as a regulated international airport, meeting the minimum requirements. This would be of benefit to the whole country. All of that should be done to stimulate the income flow from tourism and facilitate the development of the El Peten area.

5. Caribbean Basin Initiative

The North American government has expressed its interest in helping Guatemala. The Caribbean Basin Initiative contemplates a tax incentive for United States organizations and bodies which hold conventions in the Central American and Caribbean region. This aspect provides an incentive for capturing the convention tourism market which, professionally speaking, is easier to do, since the decisions to be taken are in just a few hands. Hence, appropriate action should be undertaken with the urgency which this situation merits. Guatemala should enter into an agreement with the United States to allow our country to be eligible under this initiative as a convention site for those participating in such conventions. Such agreements have already been entered into with Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, Costa Rica, and other countries of the Caribbean Basin.

6. Statistics

Frequently, we find that the Directorate General of Immigration, the Banco de Guatemala, INGUAT, and the Secretariat General of the National Economic Planning Council publish statistics which contradict each other. Considering that these data are essential for decisionmaking, implementing plans, etc., we would like to make two suggestions:

(a) That INGUAT and the Directorate General of Immigration should revise the immigration card which the tourist fills out when he enters the country. This should be done to provide the data which the institutions charged with developing statistics need, so that they can do their work on the basis of real and complete figures.

(b) That INGUAT, the Banco de Guatemala, the Secretariat General of the National Economic Planning Council, and the Directorate General of Immigration should jointly determine the parameters and lines to follow in the preparation of statistics, to ensure that these data do not contradict each other.

7. Fuel

It has been demonstrated that the limitations on the sale of fuel have damaged the internal tourist flow and the international surface traffic. This has damaged the economy within the country to a greater extent than the supposed savings in the consumption of fuel. Despite the fact that we have seen the good results from freeing the sale of fuel on Saturdays, this is not enough, and we request the total cancellation of this restriction.

8. Tax Reform

We consider that the tax reform which recently entered into effect, despite our direct request, did not take tourist activity adequately into account. For this reason serious problems of interpretation and in the application of the law have been encountered. For this reason we request that, when this law is reviewed, the views of the tourist sector should be taken into account and that the necessary changes, both in form and substance, should be implemented.

9. Tourist Promotion and Economic Help

Competition in the international tourist market is very strong because all countries want to attract that clean form of foreign exchange which has immediate repercussions on the economic well-being of the various peoples. Therefore, these countries attach considerable importance to tourism investment, and the strongest promotional efforts are those which bring large flows of travelers to certain areas.

There is no doubt that at the same time that recuperation of the tourist trade is pursued through aggressive promotional programs the tourist industry needs urgent economic assistance from the central government, by means of soft credits, a moratorium on the payment of interest, and negotiation of loans with the appropriate backing. Since the tourism situation has reached a regrettably low point which could lead to the closing of tourist installations and finally to an increase in the unemployment rate, it is believed that the recovery of the industry will cost much more than the present level of economic assistance.

The Chamber of Tourism considers that tourism deserves economic assistance of the kind which has been given to other important forms of activity in the national economy, such as agriculture, trade, and industry, which have been strengthened during difficult periods with substantial amounts of money and credit facilities.

In the promotional field increasing the overall budget has become urgently necessary, specifically the budget for trade promotion and public relations allocated to INGUAT, in order to carry out an intense campaign, which not only will bring us more tourism but will also help in the improvement of the international image of Guatemala.

Furthermore, Guatemala has a conventions bureau, which has been maintained by private initiative since its establishment more than 3 years ago. However, due to the decline in the tourist traffic, it has become less active, day by day, and unfortunately is now only partially functioning.

The conventions bureau is a "promotional arm" whose principal mission is to promote Guatemala as a site for conventions and meetings. To do its job, it needs decided support from the central government, with consequent benefits for Guatemala.

5170

CSO: 3248/1255

BRIEFS

COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION QUESTIONED--Guatemala City--26 Aug--The functioning of the Communist Party in Guatemala is prohibited by a law in force in the country, issued during the administration of General Ydigoras Fuentes, the chief of state, General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores recalled today. Any future participation will have to be the subject of a study concerning the matter, said the chief of state when he talked to several newsmen, from which there emerged the existence of that law which forbids the functioning of the extreme Left group. He went on to refer to the proposal of some political associations that are threatening not to meet with the chief of state again and declared that "if they simply do not come, they will not be invited again." He insisted on announcing that meetings with political leaders will be held on a monthly basis, though they have practically nothing to do with the executive now, since the Supreme Electoral Court and the Registry of Citizens is where political activities have become concentrated. In addition he ratified the announcement made that the identity card is the document whereby voting for the Constituent Assembly will be held, since the personal identity card (CIP) will not be ready in time. The personal identity card may be ready by the time general elections are held, stated General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Aug 83 p 4] 12448

CSO: 3248/1257

CHOLUTECA BISHOP CALLS FOR AID TO SOUTHERN REGION

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 31 Aug 83 p 17

[Text] Monsignor Raul Corriveau, auxiliary bishop of Choluteca, yesterday made an urgent appeal to the country's governmental and investment institutions to develop projects in the southern region so that new sources of employment can be created and the people of that region can earn wages that permit them to provide for their livelihood.

The prelate said the emergency aid being raised for the region is valuable, but it cannot last to alleviate the needs of the thousands of starving Hondurans.

"Solid long- and short-term projects are required to stop the hunger," said the bishop. He added that "[fund-raising] marathons are great but they also are transitory, and the people of the region must provide their own livelihood through their work."

Scope of the Problem

The bishop explained that the Honduran people have become aware of the scope of the problem in the southern region, adding that El Paraiso municipalities have asked him to intercede with the Interagency Committee--which is examining the situation--so that they are included in the emergency zone that the government plans to declare.

"This afternoon I received," he said, "telegrams from Texiguat and Vado Ancho and the mayor of one of these municipalities, Oscar Pineda M., requests that I intercede with the committee so that the emergency zone includes their municipalities."

It is a truly alarming situation, added Monsignor Corriveau, and we believe it can get worse unless true development projects that can generate jobs are undertaken in the region.

"I have learned that many families have taken their children out of school because the children do not have the strength, due to hunger, to walk the long distance from their homes to school."

These are the only serious cases of which I am aware. Thus far I am unaware of any deaths caused by starvation, but "there is weakness and despair," said the bishop.

Amapala In Crisis

He noted that the situation in (Amapana) is a difficult one. "The people there," he asserted, "even have to transport their supplies from land on Coyolito to the island, which raises the costs of such goods."

"I believe that the committee established in the national congress can be of much help. We can see that it wants to present practical solutions," commented Monsignor Corriveau.

"The situation is grave," he repeated, "and if the distribution of grains is not well organized, it is going to get worse, at least within 3 months which is the time anticipated for harvesting the current crop."

"It has started to rain in some areas and the people are getting ready to sow the land. But they will have to get relief to live over these 3 months, and not a very large group of emigrants leaves today for Bajo Aguan."

Caritas Working

The bishop said that ever since the emergency caused by last year's floods, the church, through Caritas, has undertaken and is working on several projects, including emigration to Bajo Aguan.

"We are distributing food, medicine and everything we can, and already we have spent 1 million lempiras on such assistance," he asserted.

"The money has been obtained from such areas as Canada, the United States and Europe and from the internal contribution of Caritas of Honduras. But the problem is that some places, such as Apacilagua, are not centrally located and it is difficult to deliver the assistance to them," he noted.

9925

CSO: 3248/1273

FRG FOOD SUBSIDY, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM EXTENDED

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 31 Aug 83 p 20

[Text] The Federal Republic of Germany recently approved extension of the COHAAT (Honduran-German Food-for-Work Cooperation) program until late 1986 because of the critical situation being experienced by the people of Honduran departments, Luis Roberto Fores, secretary of CONSUPLANE [Higher Council for Economic Planning], has reported. CONSUPLANE coordinates implementation of this program which since 1975 has been concerned with carrying out and supporting small development projects, primarily in the country's southern region, using the "food-for-work" system and other mechanisms.

With an annual contribution of approximately 3.5 million lempiras from the German Government and complementary funds from the Honduran Government, from 300 to 400 small rural and community development projects are being carried out, making use of technical and credit assistance, social development and food subsidy.

Total food aid in 1983 amounts to 62,000 quintals of basic grains, purchased in the national market so as to promote national production as well as foreign exchange earnings since the funds come from donations in the form of foreign exchange. The program is given priority in the southern region because of the critical situation of its rural population and of the region's basic grains deficit. With the distribution of food rations consisting of 6 pounds of corn and 3 pounds of beans, the program is designed to encourage active participation of beneficiaries in the various supported projects. The food incentive is given in connection with specific projects and according to their status. One ration corresponds to the average work that can be done in a day. The food, which is based on the diet in the country's rural area, covers the basic food needs of a family of six persons and is complementary since it does not cover all the needs of beneficiaries.

The program is understood to be an integral community development program primarily aimed at the reformed sector, which means that most of the groups participating in the program are from the agrarian reform sector. A total of 7,875 families benefited from the program in the first half of this year. Since the average is six persons per family, this represents a total of approximately 47,000 persons. Individual projects are carried out either directly through a COHAAT team in Choluteca or through the following institutions:

INA [National Agrarian Institute], MRRNN, SECOPT [Ministry of Communications, Public Works and Transport], COHDEFOR [Honduran Corporation for Forest Development], ACPH, CEDEN [Evangelical Committee of Development and National Emergency], FEDEJCO, and FEHCOVIL.

The group of beneficiaries has a participating role. It decides on its needs and on priorities of the types of projects to be undertaken. The 1983 program provides for a total of 643,000 food rations as an incentive to obtain an equal number of man-days of work on the various activities to which backing is given. Taking into account the participating concept and integral development focus of the program, support is given to the following activities: agricultural cultivation and production (basic grains), livestock activities (cattle and other stock), pasturage improvement, soil conservation, installation and management of community nurseries, reforestation, rural roads construction and maintenance, rural housing construction and improvement, potable water wells, latrines, lorenas stoves, adapted rural technology, vegetable gardens, and others.

In view of the critical situation in the southern rural areas as a result of lost crops over past seasons, the German Government has authorized additional funds in 1983 for the special purchase and distribution of 4,500 quintals of basic grains to be distributed to the regions that have been most affected by drought.

A total of 46 persons currently are assigned to the program, including professionals, service personnel and six German professionals. Honduran personnel are assigned by CONSUPLANE, INA, MRRNN, SECOPT and COHDEFOR, according to established interagencies agreements.

9925

CSO: 3248/1273

COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY DISCUSSES HIS RESIGNATION

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 26 Aug 83 pp 2, 3

[Text] According to Jose Azcona Hoyo, his resignation as secretary of state for Communications, Public Works and Transport (SECOPT) occurred because his rights were violated. The Liberal Party's internal electoral lists did not, he said, include some members to convention and departmental delegates and local authorities of municipalities where he has worked, and who were elected in public assemblies.

Azcona Hoyo, who was also chairman of the Executive Central Committee of the Liberal Party (CCEPL) as of yesterday afternoon, announced during a press conference his resignation as secretary of state and singled out the secretary of state for the presidency, Carlos Roberto Flores, accusing him of manipulating the electoral lists together with his trusted employees at the Presidential Office and for not showing them to other leaders, "as is the procedure."

"Saturday at 10:00 am I arrived at Carlos Flores' office so that he would show us the electoral lists for Francisco Morazan Province, this because of my right as a Rodist leader and not as chairman of the CCEPL," said Azcona, "and the minister for presidency maintained that the tickets had already been sent, just as we had agreed upon, and that the directorate of the Rodist Liberal Movement [RLM] had them in its power."

"The copies of the electoral tickets were refused to us. This infuriated us to such an extreme that, with Carlos Orbin Montoya, we visited the office of Alberto Rodriguez Espinosa, the secretary general of the RLM at the National Congress. Since we didn't find him we went to the CCEPL where we waited for him and he never arrived," added Azcona Hoyo.

The minister said that around midnight on Saturday they got hold of the lists "and only then did we realize that we had been deceived. Up to that moment we had no reason for involving the president of the republic, Roberto Suazo Cordova.

"When we heard what Rumualdo Bueso Penalba, secretary general of the CCEPL said, that they had been ratified by the president of the republic himself and we received other information, we confirmed our belief that we had been deceived."

"By ratifying these tickets, they were damaging nothing less than our right to have our friends, elected in municipal assemblies, aspire to these positions. As a man of dignity I am not deserving of a situation of this nature and to avoid having this ministry's actions affected by the prevailing situation in the Liberal Party, I am now resigning irrevocably," he said.

Azcona Hoyo indicated that he would keep his office as chairman of the CCEPL, that he had no reason for resigning this publicly mandated position and that only a convention of the Liberal Party could cause his departure. He added that he would remain a Rodist liberal and that his love for the party would not be diminished by the events.

He made it clear that he had never publicly expressed presidential aspirations and consequently those had not been truncated but that "starting this day I tell the Honduran people and particularly the liberals that if the masses of the party back me, Jose Azcona is ready to follow the party's policy until the bitter end."

On the original problem that led him to present his resignation to the president of the republic, Azcona Hoyo said that he preferred not to mention guilty parties, if any, in this situation but that he had witnesses that Carlos Flores didn't show them the electoral tickets that he sent to the RLM. "If he is the guilty one, if it is in part the RLM directorate, that is no longer the problem, because several members of the RLM such as Carlos Orbin Montoya and Carlos Salgado were not invited to that organization's sessions. What I do say is that my rights were violated and I do not accept this kind of maneuvers," he criticized.

He maintained that it wasn't only the rank and file of the Liberal Party who ignored the candidates' names because "I myself, up to this moment, do not know the electoral tickets, except three that were presented by Carlos Montoya and Carlo Salgado." He did not want to think of the elections as a farce, but he did assert that the term "fatal" which exists in the rules and permits filing the electoral tickets up to 10 minutes before the hour had been taken advantage of to the maximum.

He recognized that Roberto Suazo Cordoba is the principal leader of the Liberal Party, but he questioned that assertion because according to him "this is natural, the office of president of the republic or of prime minister, in any country in the world, entails the position of head of the governing party. This is not being argued. Of course men move on, Suazo will move on and power will go to other men, just as he received it at the death of Modesto Rodas Alvarado, and as Rodas Alvarado received it at the end of Villeda Morales' government. This is inexorable, men move on and the party remains."

Finally, he said he will return to the National Congress to occupy the seat he held before accepting the leadership of SECOPT spending his free time performing his duties as chairman of the CCEPL because he is not thinking of abandoning politics. "Even if they throw the rolling machine on me at the CCEPL when the statutes are violated, there will be a record in the minutes, even if I know that I will be a lone voice in the desert," he concluded.

12381

CSO: 3248/1245

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE LOAN--A 30 million lempirs loan was awarded by the Argentine Government to Honduran businessmen, announced the economic adviser of the embassy, Saturnino Garcia Ramos. The official revealed this during a meeting with San Pedro Sula businessmen and added that the credit has a 12 percent interest rate with an 8-year term. He manifested that at this time, many businessmen from El Salvador have benefited in similar form and that some of them have obtained credits of up to 2 and 3 million colones. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 24 Aug 83 p 2] 12381

CSO: 3248/1245

POSSIBLE PRI REORGANIZATION; CHANCE OF UPSET IN STPRM

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Sep 83 pp 4-A, 23-A, 23-A

[From "Political Fronts" column by Roberto Gonzalez P.]

[Text] PRI Will Be Reorganized

Now that the difficulties of the elections in Baja California Norte are over and before the end of this month--very probably on the 28th--a spectacular announcement will be made in the national political sector: the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] will be reorganized.

The changes include the totality of the members of the National Executive Committee, except for Adolfo Lugo Verduzco and Deputy Juan Saldana Rosell, who will remain in their posts, while it is considered certain that the following persons will be leaving: Mario Vargas Saldana, secretary-general; Manuel Garza Gonzalez, secretary for organization; and Alfredo Nolasco, secretary for information.

Two men are being considered for the post of secretary-general: Jorge de la Vega Dominguez, former secretary for commerce, and Deputy Enrique Fernandez Martin, current head of the popular sector.

The reorganization which has already received President De la Madrid's approval for announcement at the end of the month is--and this is what will be said--a response to the Popular Poll taken during the election campaign on the subject of the PRI's functioning. A mixture of old and young politicians is being sought for the membership of the new Executive Committee.

The governors throughout the country have been informed of the changes, as it is believed that the PRI reorganization could give rise to a series of rumors of more changes in other areas of the government, something that is not going to happen.

With respect to this entire situation, it should be remembered that each PRI leader is conducting his own reorganization which has been nothing more than a lot of words and little action, which account for PAN [National Action Party] advances in several important localities in the country.

Trade Union and PEMEX Crisis

Last week the number one news story was--and will continue to be in the next few days--the Mexican Petroleum Workers Union (STPRM). First, there was the arrest of "El Trampas," Hector Garcia Hernandez, in McAllen by representatives of the trade union's strongman, Joaquin Hernandez Galicia, "La Quina." Next came the death of oil leader Oscar Torres Pancardo, the causes of which continue to be suspicious, as you will see.

In accordance with STPRM statutes, the secretariat-general is rotated among the three coordinating committees: Number one, which is headed by Salvador Barragan Camacho--the current leader; number 30 (Central Region) which was headed by Oscar Torres Pancardo; and number 10 (Southern Region) headed by David Ramirez Cruz in which the "power behind the throne" is Sebastian Guzman Cabrera, a man who heads a movement of moral and trade union renewal and is very dangerous, according to reports, to the interests of "La Quina" and Barragan Camacho.

With the death of Torres Pancardo, a strong trade union movement in the Southern Region and the threat of "El Trampas" to make public the million-peso deals of "La Quina" and Barragan Camacho, the latter is now seen to be weighing the possibility of his nonreelection rather than perpetuating himself in office as is his wish.

The matter promises to become difficult in the next few weeks, as the dispute between "El Trampas" and his colleague, "La Quina," surely will not remain in the talking stage.

8143

CSO: 3248/4

CAMPAIGN TO LINK CHIAPAS BISHOP, GUERRILLAS ALLEGED

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 29 Aug 83 pp 18-21

[Article by Carlos Fazio]

[Text] There is every indication that the Church in Chiapas is proving to be an annoying presence to certain government sectors. At least that is what may be interpreted from the actions being taken by lower-level officials in the southern state's Secretariat of Government.

Confessions have been forced from prisoners with torture, in an attempt to involve the bishop of the Diocese of San Cristobal Las Casas, Samuel Ruiz, with the guerrillas.

This is happening at a time when dialog between the local Church and the national authorities has been sought on a high level.

The problem is nothing new. Samuel Ruiz, with his Indian pastoral action and his preferential option for the poor, has been the target of the right, specifically, for years. The recent records indicate:

On 7 November 1982, the "community leaders" of San Cristobal, including the Rotary Club, the National Chamber of Commerce and the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM), with a press campaign on the national level, attacked the "local political clergy represented by Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia," who "are inciting to violence" from "the pulpits."

On 24 April 1983, the weekly newspaper ECOS, which is distributed in Naucalpan, Tlalnepantla, Ecatepec and Huixquilucan, in the State of Mexico, and in some sections of the Federal District, such as Polanco and Anzures, under the management of the PAN [National Action Party] deputy, Jose Armando Gordillo Mandujano, in an article entitled "With Regard to a Trip," directly implicated Samuel Ruiz with the guerrillas.

The anonymous press note commented: "Even the government itself is afraid of the bishop of San Cristobal Las Casas, Monsignor Samuel Ruiz, because it considers him the only one capable of raising at least 300,000 peasants up in arms within a matter of hours"; (...) "he has turned what was the Chiapas

seminary into a center for training subversives and guerrillas, as well as a weapons storage place"; and "the pulpits of the diocese, with but few exceptions, have been turned into platforms for Marxist agitation and propaganda, from which the priests encourage invasions and the most absurd class struggle."

The arguments have now been taken up by certain sectors of the Secretariat of Government. The facts speak for themselves:

1. Sunday, 24 July. At 1300 hours, five armed men kidnapped Gustavo Zarate, a professor at the School of Social Sciences of the Autonomous University of Chiapas. They forced him into a pickup truck and took him to his residence, which they entered and searched without a court order. Then they "made him disappear." For 3 days, there was no way of procuring any information concerning his whereabouts.

On Wednesday, 27 July, "he appeared" in the lockup of the State Judicial Police. Suddenly, everything became "legal" again. A press bulletin was released, the prosecutor of justice made public statements and the news began to be handled in a showy way, with interviews in newspapers and on radio and television.

During the 3 days of his abduction, Professor Zarate was interrogated and tortured with severe beatings that were constantly repeated at the nape of his neck; and they also poured mineral water into his nostrils. At 0300 hours on the morning of Thursday, 28 July, Zarate could not stand the torture any further, and agreed to sign all the statements submitted to him.

Under torture, they questioned him about: his relations with Bishop Samuel Ruiz; what contacts exist between Samuel Ruiz and the guerrillas; which party the Church supports; what are the activities of the Christian Solidarity Committee in the diocese; what is the layout of the seminary building; where is the weapons arsenal that the diocese has located; and information on several individuals working in the diocese.

Professor Zarate scarcely knows the bishop. But, with torture, they forced him to "state and sign" to the effect that Bishop Samuel Ruiz is linked with the guerrillas, whom he is supplying with arms; that there is an arsenal in the diocese; and that Zarate himself is the contact between the guerrilla organizations and the bishop.

2. Tuesday, 26 July 1983. At 0715 hours, Mercedes Ozuna, an assistant instructor of social sciences, left her house in San Cristobal, located almost opposite the side door of the seminary. She noticed that there was parked at the nearby corner a white Dodge car without license plates, inside of which there were five men wearing civilian clothes.

When she walked by the car, one of them aimed a heavy caliber pistol at her, while the others surrounded her, carrying submachine guns. Mercedes managed to shout that they were kidnapping her, asking that her mother be told. The abductors kicked her and pushed her into the car. Then they tied her

hands and blindfolded her eyes. Her body was thrown on the floor of the car, covered with a blanket. The kidnapers rested their boots on Mercedes' head.

For 4 hours they "drove her around" in the vehicle, while simultaneously interrogating her. They threatened to rape her and torture her to make her talk. They put her in another car and took her to Tuxtla Gutierrez. There, they locked her in a room. When she tried to remove the blindfold from her eyes, they beat her. They again bound her hands behind her back and subjected her to lengthy questioning. One of the interrogators knew her position. The questions included: whether she knew Bishop Samuel Ruiz; whether she knew those working on the Christian Solidarity Committee; whether the bishop was helping the guerrillas with arms; and the identity of some of the individuals in the diocese who are working with refugees.

The questioning lasted all night. At 0500 hours in the morning of Wednesday, 27 July, she heard shouts. Another kidnap victim had arrived. Then she found out that it was the student, Victor Hugo Gutierrez. At 0700 hours in the morning there was another interrogation; and, about 0900 hours, they moved her to a different room. She heard a woman's cries, and assumed that they were torturing her. She heard them order her to undress; and since she refused, they stripped her by force. The guards told Mercedes to listen, and that it would be her turn next.

At 1100 hours in the morning they moved her again, and there was another interrogation. Professor Zarate was there, and they asked him to corroborate whether Mercedes was telling the truth. After 30 hours they removed the blindfold from Mercedes' eyes. She saw next to her Professor Zarate and the student, Victor Hugo, who was without a shirt. They forbade them to talk to one another.

Later, all three recovered their "legality." They were taken before the prosecutor of justice. She was interrogated again there before the attorneys. There was a repetition of the questions about the bishop, the Christian Solidarity Committee and the weapons.

Both the prosecutor and the investigative attorneys threatened them: "Do not tell that you were kidnapped and tortured, do you understand? As far as we are concerned, you have just arrived from San Cristobal to make your statements, and once these inquiries have been completed, you may go home."

At night, in an interview on local TV, the prosecutor of justice calmly disclosed that both Mercedes and Victor Hugo had only been "introduced" to make a statement, and that they were free. It was not recalled that several witnesses had seen the kidnappings in the middle of the street, and that there had been charges and protests from relatives and university personnel.

When Mrs Ozuna appeared to complain to the court authorities about the kidnapping of her daughter, Mercedes, they asked her what her relationship with Bishop Samuel Ruiz was.

3. Victor Hugo Gutierrez Meza was kidnapped at dawn on Tuesday, 26 July, by unidentified agents who entered his house, aimed guns at him, beat him, wrapped him in a foam rubber mattress and threw him onto the floor of a pickup truck. Two of the agents sat on him. They took him to Tuxtla Gutierrez, where they subjected him to three interrogations. They put both him and Mercedes in a room from which he could hear the cries of another man being tortured. When they released him, they never returned his billfold to him.

4. On Sunday, 7 August, Genaro Dominguez, member of the board of directors of the National Council of Indian Peoples, was kidnapped in front of the Tuxtla Gutierrez cathedral. The abduction had features similar to those of the previous ones.

Aggressiveness of the Migration Authorities

The account of incidents is not dissociated from other subsequent ones. The participants are not the same, but they are similar: a bishop, in other words, the Church; and the Guatemalan refugees in Chiapas. And this is the story:

Santa Rosa and El Chupadero are two of the many settlements of Guatemalan refugees in the state of Chiapas. They are located in the vicinity of the border zone, in the direction of Ciudad Cuauhtemoc. Mayan Indian communities escaping from their native land who asked their Mexican brothers for "a little of the shore" have arrived there.

Since the bishops of the South Pacific Region visited the refugees in February 1982, and published a document of solidarity with them, they have tried to be present among them in very diverse ways.

In this context, it is only normal that the bishop of Tehuantepec, Arturo Lona, wanted to make a short visit to the camps. So, on Monday, 8 August, he arrived at the Santa Rosa camp with a small group, including several members of the Christian Solidarity Committee which cares for the refugees in the diocese of San Cristobal. They invited Mexican catechists and peasants, and a meeting was organized at which Mass was celebrated. The bishop chatted with those in charge of the camp, who explained to him their situation and their needs. Among other things, they told him that they needed to know that they were not alone, and that they had the sympathy and affection of Mexicans.

On Tuesday, 9 August, the bishop and his party traveled to another camp: El Chupadero, which is the largest in this area, with 3,000 refugees, many of whom had previously been evicted from the first camps formed, which attained world-wide fame as "The Shadow" and "The Hammock."

The group carried provisions and medicines. Arturo Lona had especially wanted to bring some balls, a volleyball and a net for the children. Upon reaching the camp, they noticed that all the people had gathered. Their faces were not happy. With them was a small wagon and a camper vehicle.

The visitors had not yet finished getting out of the car when they found themselves surrounded by six migration agents and two civilians. They were in an aggressive mood. Before it was even possible to give a greeting, they shouted orders: "Return! What have you come to do? You have no permission to be in the camp! There are orders that no one is to enter the camp."

Arturo Lona attempted to submit his credentials as bishop. The mere gesture annoyed the two agents, who tried to push the bishop.

One of the men in uniform quieted the two aggressive ones. Then the bishop managed to explain that he had come representing the Southern Pacific Region. They did not understand anything. More calmly, he tried to explain the bishops' work and how the bishops are attempting to give aid in this area. It was as if they were being addressed in Chinese. The only thing that interested these officials was to investigate: "What have you come for? What are you bringing?"

Reverend Arturo said: "You will see; we want to celebrate a Mass with the refugees, and we are bringing them a few provisions. We are here to coexist with and to greet these unfortunate brothers." "All right," the agents agreed, "you can celebrate Mass, but these people (referring to his companions) are visitors. They must leave!"

The bishop patiently explained to them that they were not visitors, that they had come to serve and that they intended to bring them food and assist them spiritually since the camp was set up. It was not the first time that they had done this.

Meanwhile, the people from the camp had approached the visitors. "Go away from here," shouted the agents, now aiming their aggressiveness at the refugees. "Look here, you officials, come and remove all these people." They led the peasants and Indians away like cattle, and out of fear they did not even dare to give a greeting. The Mexican flag waved proudly over the migration service station.

A police inspection ensued: They asked for the names of all those who had arrived, and took down the number plates of the vehicles. Their annoyance was visible when they saw that one of the pickup trucks was registered in the name of Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristobal. They went so far as to say: "We have nothing to do with him."

Then they took them to the COMAR representative, Felipe Sanchez, who, seated solemnly in his office, addressed this speech to them: "A very good afternoon to all of you. We have gathered you here because, from now on, all those who come to the camp must report to me and sign the book, telling who they are. No one can be in the camps."

It was necessary to repeat all the previous information and to reiterate the reason for the visit. The answer was categorical: "That can no longer be done; a special permit from COMAR in Comitán is required. That is an order, and you may not remain here. You are dismissed."

The bishop explained that celebrating a Mass for the refugees could not be any kind of crime, and that it is not banned. "All right," explained Sanchez, "I am not saying that you may not celebrate Mass, but you may not do anything else."

So, very unwillingly, they sent the food to the storage place, after making a tally. They refused to accept the medicine. Finally, as if giving a slap in the face, they said: "Go and celebrate Mass, for whoever comes!" They prepared the place for the Mass, and spoke to the catechists; and when everything had been prepared, someone circulated the rumor: "Here come the 'pintos' (the sinister Guatemalan police)!" There was widespread panic; everyone ran and disappeared. The bishop had to begin the Mass with very few people; gradually, upon hearing the hymns, the people began approaching again.

Bishop Lona asked pardon from the refugees for the bad treatment that they often receive. A catechist translated what the bishop was saying into the Mayan language.

At the ceremony, the nervous presence of the agents was noted, as if they intended to intervene. While communion was being distributed, one of the agents grabbed a young man hard, and tried to drag him away. The youth began to defend himself, shouting: "They will take me to the other side!" The bishop requested a young female religious to appear before the migration entity, because the agents promised the nun that they would not hold the boy, nor return him to Guatemala. When he arrived before the chief, they tried to detain the boy, but he escaped. They told the nun: "Now you see, if he had not committed a crime, he would not have escaped. He should not be here, because he already belongs to the government of Guatemala." The religious explained that he did not escape because of a crime, but rather out of fear. But the agents replied that the youth was already a fugitive from the law. And they added: "We are going to send this report to the other side."

2909

CSO: 3248/1295

CLERGY ON POLICE ABUSES IN CIUDAD NEZAHUALCOYOTL

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 29 Aug 83 pp 33-34

[Article by Raul H. Mora]

[Text] In Ciudad Nezahualcoyotl the police are a source of worry, anxiety and dread. The inhabitants of the country's most heavily populated municipality fear no one more than the police agents. Obligated to prevent crimes, they are actually perpetrators of holdups, thefts and rapes.

For some time, fear of reprisals inhibited complaints, but on Wednesday, 24 August, the problem caused a crisis: Fifteen priests from the El Sol, Las Flores, Ciudad Lago, Estado de Mexico, Virgencitas, Maravillas, Fuentes, El Palmar, Tamaulipas and Agua Azul housing developments complained to the municipal president, Juan Alvarado Jacco, about the "disgraceful acts" committed every day by the Neza police.

In a letter addressed to the public and to Alvarado Jacco himself, the priests state that, during July and August, they received constant complaints from families that had been subjected to thefts, rapes and holdups, which "the police, both uniformed and in civilian dress, and whether in patrol cars or private automobiles, are committing on the Tapo Road (Xochiaca Dam), along the section between Seventh Street and Lopez Mateos Avenue, against persons traveling along that Tapo Road, or reaching it upon boarding and leaving buses after 2000 hours at night, or before dawn."

In the complaint lodged by the 15 priests (including the vicar general of Bishop Jose Melgoza Osorio and a curate from Maravillas, Jesus Meza, Pedro Pedrazzini, Jose Gonzalez, Luis Piana, Antonio Alvarez, Alejandro Garciadiego and Apolinar Murrieta), they reveal that the assaults committed by the police have multiplied since the opening of the Urban Services Modules located on Xochiaca and Riva Palacio Avenues, and on Chimalhuacan and Cuauhtemoc, Higinio Guerra and Aureliano Ramos Streets.

The signers of the letter of complaint, "in the name of over half a million persons living near Tapo Road," demand that the lighting installed along Xochiaca Dam be kept on every night without interruption. They make the criticism that the lighting operates for 1 or 2 weeks, and "then they turn

it off for months; and it is on the nights without lighting that all these crimes occur."

They also request that the Urban Services Modules be really a protection for the citizens, and "not a center of operations for those with bad intentions and abusive persons disguised as police."

PROCESO interviewed several of the churchmen who were witnesses to the abuses of which they complain, and many residents of the developments. Following is the testimony given by them:

The curate of the Talpa church in the Estado de Mexico housing development, Pedro Pedrazzini, commented: "A young woman from the Virgencitas development came to me humiliated and ashamed. Upon leaving a house on Xochiaca Dam, where she had gone on a visit with her boyfriend, she and he were stopped by the patrol car. They beat him and stripped here, 'to find out whether you are a virgin.'"

This incident prompted the group of priests to publicly complain of everything they had seen and heard. At their meeting on Thursday, 18 August, they decided to write and sign the letter of complaint sent to Alvarado Jacco on Wednesday, 24 August.

The police blackmail against couples is constant. The reports have multiplied, with the names changed or omitted, for greater safety for the victims. The curate Alejandro Garciadiego, of the El Sol housing development, recounts:

"Esperanza washes and irons for others to support her family. She went to the Moctezuma development to deliver freshly ironed clothes in a small bag. The lady who gives her this kind of work paid her the amount agreed upon and gave her a loan. With the soiled clothing that she picked up there, she put in the same bag 5,000 pesos, some medicine that the employer had given her for treating an ulcer and a kitchen knife. When she got off the bus to go home, in Villada, the police stopped her. They took her to the La Perla jail, charged with theft and carrying knives. The employer's testimony did not suffice to belie the accusation." When the curate arrived at La Perla they had already released Esperanza, with her bag containing the dirty clothes and medicine, but without the knife or the 5,000 pesos, and with an additional fine of 2,000 pesos.

Garciadiego made the reproach: "The police know that, with the most brutal poverty, these people manage the impossible so as not to leave their relatives in jail for a single night; and 7,000 pesos stolen in this way should burn the hands of the thieves, even if they are police."

The reporter learned of a great deal of evidence such as the following:

Bertha went to the curate Roberto Guevara, at the Holy Spirit chapel, to ask him to help her find Jeronimo, her boyfriend: "We were coming back from work at night. We got off the bus and crossed Xochiaca Dam along the bridge

that is located at 35th Street in El Sol. At the lower part of the bridge a patrol car was waiting for us. They grabbed me, as if to paw me. I escaped from them and started running, because Jeronimo shouted to me to run away. They beat him, and put him in the patrol car. We did not find him." Jeronimo then completed the account of the assault: "They kept beating me. They took all that I was carrying from payday. They threw me out at San Lorenzo. I thought that they would kill me. Better to leave things that way than to have them obtain revenge with Bertha."

Another example:

Upon leaving a meeting at the El Sol parish house at 2300 hours at night, Martin, Tomas, Jorge, Arturo and Beto (who, a few months earlier, had been unjustly arrested "as thieves" as they were playing football in the church yard) saw a highway patrol car throwing a bundle onto the street, at Higinio Guerra. When the patrol left, they approached, with fear. Martin recognized "Pachin," an old man who earns his living collecting cardboard boxes from the rubbish. They carried him to his house. The men in the patrol car had nabbed him: "Since he was not carrying even a centavo, they just beat him so that he would not say anything. They took off his shoes and threw him out. The patrol car was watching us. Since they observed us dispersing, with each one going to his own house, they did not follow us."

A considerable number of victims and witnesses agree on this complaint:

"It's too bad for anyone who stays for over 5 minutes at the Xochiaca Dam waiting for a bus at night. Since they only run late, the police approach you, in a patrol car or on foot, from the Riva Palacio Module, and simply accuse you of theft or drunkenness. They take whatever you are carrying."

With the change in governor, the dreaded Barapem disappeared; but its members have not disappeared. However, the municipal police are now involved in the maneuvers of the other branches of police. Even the highway patrols, both black and white, are implicated in this quagmire of robberies and intimidation.

The 15 churchmen reflect:

"We must conquer fear and multiply these complains, legally and publicly. There are risks, but there is no other way, because the way is knowing how to defend one's neighbor, and brother. It is hard to take courage and embark along that path. The Gospel was correct in saying that the gate is narrow. Only an inveterate Jacobin could tell us that this is getting involved in politics. And if it were, then we are getting involved."

2909

CSO: 3248/1295

BRIEFS

NUEVO LEON: WORKDAY REDUCTIONS--Monterrey, N.L., 9 September--Despite the fact that the unemployment index has now become stabilized, 30 percent of the workers in the metal machinery industry of Nuevo Leon (about 45,000 workers) have reached agreement on a reduction in the workday, owing to the drop in demand and the lag in the investment plans; factors which limit that sector to working at almost half of its capacity. This statement was made by the manager of small and medium industry of the Nuevo Leon Chamber of the Processing Industry, Rogelio Arrambide Leal, who added that, at present, the metal machinery branch, which includes companies engaged in smelting, structures, boiler-making and other activities, is working to replace imported parts and equipment. In addition, during recent months they have received inbond assembly contracts from American manufacturers. [Text] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 10 Sep 83 p 2] 2909

CSO: 3248/1295

PLAN TO INCREASE RICE PRODUCTION IMPLEMENTED

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Aug 83 p 5

[Article: "Initial Goals Were Ambitious. Plan For Immediate Action in Rice Production."]

[Text] With a view toward contributing to fulfilling goals in rice production for this cycle and trying to guarantee to some extent the supplying of rice for domestic consumption until the end of the year, the revolutionary state has started up an immediate action plan, sources from the National Food Program [PAN] disclosed yesterday to BARRICADA.

The rice situation is worrisome, according to investigations made by our reporters, since a reduction has been recorded in planting area due to many factors, among others: the delay in the rains, the lack of spare parts for machinery and equipment, the shortage of foreign currency to import them and military aggression in northern Nicaragua, where one of the most productive regions is located.

In this sense the measures tend to facilitate the granting of foreign currency to the growers for them to import the spare parts that they need to start their machinery functioning, which, according to what they stated, are damaged and are decisive for the production of rice.

Also, an increase in the purchase price was authorized for the growers from 164 to 184 cordobas per quintal, at 20 percent moisture and at 4 percent foreign matter, which came into force starting from 18 August. In addition, the importation will be negotiated of 45 tractors which will be distributed between the private and the state sector.

Initial Goals Ambitious

A PAN official, Benjamin Linarte, from the rice administration of MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform] pointed out that at the beginning of the harvest somewhat ambitious goals had been proposed, which on being examined in the light of reality and problems, they were obliged to reduce considerably in relation to execution.

In this way they had introduced a goal of planting 81,393 manzanas that they were hoping to fulfill 100 percent. After examining objective conditions

they decided that they would succeed in fulfilling these goals 85 percent, which was adequate to guarantee the national demand for rice until December of this year, taking into account that monthly consumption is about 140,000 quintals.

Linarte said that in fact they had recorded a reduction in planting area in the harvest of unirrigated land, since of 9,618 mechanized, planned manzanas they planted only 6,193 and of 19,820 traditional manzanas they planted 7,402.

In the region of Jalapa, one of the most productive, because of counter-revolutionary action, of 4,190 planned manzanas they succeeded in planting 2,367. Because of the same situation in Special Zone I (Zelaya North), of 4,549 planned manzanas they planted 2,440. In Special Zone II (Zelaya South) of 1,593 manzanas they planted 48.

Nationally, said Linarte, in the production of unirrigated land the goal was 28,552 manzanas and they planted 13,595.

Referring to the winter harvest for irrigated rice, which normally starts on 10 July and finishes on 30 September, Linarte said that due to the problems with machinery and equipment there has been a gap and 1,300 manzanas have not been planted. For this period (winter irrigated rice) there is a goal of 26,780 manzanas. In order to fulfill it, added Linarte, the planting period will be extended until 10 October. On 13 August they already had planted 7,414 manzanas.

Linarte said that today there is in stock a total of 340,500 gold quintals, which added to the 195,000 quintals that they expect to harvest, would add up to a total of 535,500 gold quintals, adequate for taking care of consumer demand until December, if problems with the threshers do not arise.

Private Growers

On the other hand, in the Valley of Sebaco, another of the productive regions, the secretary of the Regional Association of Rice Growers, Jose Ponciano Cruz, stated to BARRICADA that because of problems with spare parts for machinery and equipment the private area planned for planting of 4,000 manzanas has suffered a reduction of 26 percent. In this region the state area in rice is about 600 manzanas that is administered by the Oscar Benavide Benavides Enterprise.

"Our members are interested in producing," Ponciano stated. "Proof of this is that they have made investments in infrastructure for growing, which they cannot start functioning if they do not have the machinery in working order."

In Region IV (Masaya, Granada, Carazo and Rivas) sources from the planning office at the regional office of MIDINRA stated that in the harvest of unirrigated land, the 7,423 manzanas planted last year fell to 6,347 manzanas for the present cycle.

In the 82/83 harvest, of a planned goal of 10,500 manzanas they planted 7,423 of which 3,995 were harvested, with 4,000 manzanas being lost because of problems caused by the drought.

This year of the 6,347 manzanas planned in the region they succeed in planting 3,527, hoping for a production from them of 109,478 metal quintals (65,687 gold quintals).

9545

CSO: 3248/1253

BRIEFS

RECORD COFFEE CROP--Nicaragua achieved a record coffee harvest in the 1982-83 cycle, about 1,600,000 quintals, exceeding the original goal by approximately 200,000. MIDINRA Vice Minister, Manuel Coronel Kautz, disclosed at a press conference that the substantial increase was due to several factors, particularly: 1) advantageous climatic conditions 2) incorporation of coffee areas that had been renovated years before 3) better administration of the coffee plantations, resulting in greater productivity per area. For the 1983-84 cycle a decrease is expected compared with last year, due especially to the long drought and the unexpected rain that fell in the middle of summer. He also pointed out the exhaustion of the plants' productive balance, because of excessive production in the previous cycle. Ivan Zuniga, provisional chief of MIDINRA's coffee and cacao division, said that according to estimates the next harvest will reach approximately 1,200,000 quintals. "However, in October, through new field evaluations, we will refine the estimate to obtain a more accurate figure. We could not predict if this big drop was going to cause negative repercussions in getting foreign currency, since everything depended on the variations of prices in the international market." Coronel Kautz added that the price was about \$120 per quintal and it was very risky to foretell the movement of quotations in the future. [Excerpt] [Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Aug 83 pp 1, 14] 9545

NEW JRM VICE MINISTER--Yesterday the vice minister of the Reconstruction Junta of Managua [JRM], Captain Pedro Ortiz, was presented during the weekly assembly that the JRM workers hold Mondays. The concise report was learned yesterday at a JRM press conference. Ileana Machado, the spokeswoman, stated that Ortiz was presented by the minister of the junta, Samuel Santos, who explained that Ortiz will assume the duties of general administration of the JRM. [Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Aug p 12] 9545

CSO: 3248/1253

SIMMONDS TERMED 'LUKEWARM' TO UK POST-INDEPENDENCE AID

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 20 Aug 83 p 12

[Text]

Lukewarm is perhaps the best way to describe the reaction of the Premier the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds yesterday Friday to a British news release stating that a £10 million aid package has been allocated for Post-Independence aid from Great Britain for St. Kitts-Nevis.

The aid package was said to consist of a £5 million Grant followed by £5 million Soft Loan.

Premier Simmonds expressed surprise at the timing of the British release, at a time when his Government had made out a strong case for increased aid to take into account the current depressed value of the pound - and the state of this the country's main export earner - sugar.

The rate of the aid disbursement, in keeping with Britain's allocation to other newly Independent Caribbean States is roughly approximately to Pre-Independence levels.

Premier Simmonds notes that the £5 million loan component is an additional input, but cautious that this will become available to Government AFTER

the £5 million Grant has been fully disbursed. The Premier went on to say that INDEPENDENCE from Great Britain will give St. Kitts - Nevis the scope to broaden our discussions on co-operation to include negotiations with non-traditional aid donors, a potential source of assistance which has not been accessible so far.

The Common-

wealth of Dominica has only just begun to draw down on its loan component from Great Britain after five (5) years of INDEPENDENCE, but the hurricane - ravaged island has had what has been described as phenomenal success in attracting financial subscriptions for its development projects since attaining full national sovereignty

CSO: 3298/949

NEW 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO GET PUBLIC SCRUTINY

Plans for Serial Publication

Castries THE VOICE in English 24 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

AS part of the process leading up to the production of a new five-year National Development Plan for 1984 to 1989, the first of a series of draft sector papers will be published in THE VOICE this coming Saturday. A different Sector Paper will be published on each Saturday until November 26.

The draft sector papers will outline proposed policies and programmes in each major social and economic sector, and will form the basis of an intensive public discussion and participation process designed to stimulate island-wide public response and reaction to the proposed policies and programmes.

The publication of each weekly draft sector paper will be followed by a call-in issues programme on Radio St Lucia on Sunday afternoons, during which a panel will discuss the issues raised in the draft sector paper and receive calls from the general public.

The aim of the call-in programme will be to familiarize the public with the issues involved and to bet-

ter prepare them for the public discussions to be held.

In the week following the publication of each draft sector paper public discussions will be held at the Soufriere Town Hall on Monday evenings, at the Vieux Fort Town Hall on Wednesday evenings, and at the Castries Town Hall on Thursday evenings.

At these discussions the Minister together with senior officials of the Ministry concerned will make a presentation on the draft sector paper and will respond to questions and comments from the general public.

On the Friday evening following the publication of each draft sector paper there will be a TV panel discussion including Government officials, representatives of the public, and the private sector.

Following the programme of public discussion each draft sector paper will be revised to reflect the issues and concerns voiced by the public before being considered by Cabinet.

Castries THE VOICE in English 24 Aug 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Government Takes New National Plan to the Public"]

[Text] **PREPARATIONS by the Government for the formulation of a new five year National Plan for St. Lucia for the period 1984-89 are now at an advanced stage.**

A national plan is a response to a particular social economic and political environment. Its preparation involves a logical sequence of activities which include the clear definition of national objectives, the formulation of coherent policies, the establishment of a framework of programmes and the identification of projects.

The plan makes it possible for efforts aimed at national social and economic development to be undertaken in a co-ordinated fashion under an umbrella of nationally agreed objectives and policies. The absence of a national plan during the process of development usually leads to chaos as a result of duplication of effort, wastage of scarce resources, and the lack of clear national objectives with which the population of the nation can identify.

For this reason the planning process must allow for the participation of the population as a whole. Where a National Plan is formulated by a government without allowance being made for public participation, the redictable result is the lack of public

identification with the objectives and policies defined for the nation over the plan period.

This would explain the consequent failure of a government to mobilize support for the unified national effort which is so necessary to the success of the development programme.

A national plan must be realistically formulated and the objectives and targets identified must be directly related to the level of available resources. A plan which is grandiose tends to raise the expectations of the populations unjustifiably, generating adverse reaction when objectives and targets are not realized.

The plan must also be flexible enough to allow for modifications and revisions in the light of progress realised and changing circumstances. The environment within which the plan is formulated cannot be expected to remain static over time and provisions must therefore be made for changes in strategies, programmes and projects.

The exposure of the draft sector papers to public scrutiny and comment is potentially the most important and constructive action aimed at public participation in the planning process which has been taken by government. If the possibilities for public involvement and participation are to be realized all St. Lucians must seize this opportunity for public discussion and comment.

The first sector paper on Health will be published in THE VOICE this coming weekend.

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY EXPLAINS FIRM'S SWITCH TO ST KITTS

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 20 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

MINISTER of Industry George Mallet yesterday told the House of Assembly of the circumstances surrounding the decision by a United States Company to establish an assembly plant in St Kitts, after it had first approached St Lucia.

Mr Mallet said that the Progressive Labour Party and the CRUSADER newspaper, which he did not call by name had been making "scurrilous allegations of gross misconduct and irresponsible behaviour" against one Ministry or other and on occasions on the entire government in the affair.

Mr Mallet said that Pico Products Ltd had in February proposed the establishment of a subsidiary in St Lucia which would have started initially with 86 employees working up to 704 within 12 months of commencement of production.

In return, the Company had requested 100 percent waiver on income tax on profits and dividends, 100 percent waiver of customs duties on equipment, machinery, raw materials and commercial vehicles, 100 Percent export allowance — all for 15 years — and waiver of aliens landholding licence fees.

He said: "Government welcomed the proposal for the establishment of the factory, particularly at this time when the unemployment rate continues to be a source of grave concern to government"

In considering the application, the Ministry of Industry was of the view that most of the concessions requested could be allowed if the levels of employment indicated by the Company were achieved.

But, Mr Mallet said, the

Company was anxious to secure a factory building to enable its operations to commence with the least possible delay. Production was expected to start in July 1983.

Mallet added: "The building which previously accommodated the Milton Bradley operations was offered to the Company by the National Development Corporation. Unfortunately, this could not immediately have been made available as the condition of the building had deteriorated over the last few years since the closure of that factory and some improvements had to be done. At that point agreement had not yet been finalised.

"In the meantime and as is not uncommon in such cases, the representatives of the Company were looking at possible alternative locations in the region and in the process visited St Kitts where discussions were also held with that government.

"There, in addition to the fiscal incentives usually extended to such operations, the Company was offered factory

space in a building which up to a year ago was occupied by a shoe factory but had since closed its doors. This building was practically brand new, requiring no renovations or improvements and completely fitted with all the necessary amenities.

"Government has since learnt that St Kitts was selected for the establishment of the plant. Obviously, the fiscal incentives offered by St Kitts were acceptable to the Company. In addition, and bearing in mind the Company's anticipated early production date and in the fortunate position of being able to occupy the premises immediately, it would not be unreasonable to assume that that was an important consideration in the Company's choice of that location".

Mr Mallet said he was aware that his statement would not induce "the perpetrators of the current malicious rumours to desist, since their motives are clearly dishonest", but, he said these were the facts of the matter.

ASSEMBLY WILL BE ASKED TO INVESTIGATE PASSPORT SCANDAL

Castries THE VOICE in English 17 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

THE well-publicised passports scandal which rocked St. Lucia during the first part of last year, is to be taken to the House of Assembly for the first time on Friday.

That's when Government backbencher Mr Eldridge Stephens, representative for Vieux Fort South will seek the House's approval for a motion urging the house to investigate the affair.

The motion will call on the House's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to investigate fully "certain administrative irregularities" during the reign of the St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP), which ended prematurely in January 1982.

These, it said, were known as the "passports deal," the "stamp deal" and the "lumber deal."

Mr. Stephens, who entered parliament in May last year when the United Workers' Party was swept back into power, wants the PAC to make a report and recommendations within three months of the date of the passage of the resolution.

The passports racket broke out in February 1982, when the then Interim Prime Minister Michael Pilgrim told the nation in a radio and television address that 21 St. Lucian passports had been stolen from Police Headquarters here and illegally sold to aliens overseas.

Pilgrim announced that Scotland Yard was assisting in investigations into the incident.

Later the Police issued a warrant for the arrest of a former senior police official, Barbadian Ormond Reece, who disappeared from the island just before Pilgrim's announcement.

The passports were believed to have found their way into the hands of a London-based gun runner, and although Pilgrim had implicated "lawyer ministers" in the ill fated SLP Government which had fallen from power a few weeks before, no evidence to this effect was ever produced.

In the months leading up to the 1982 general elections campaign, members of all three political parties were involved in accusing opponents, sometimes subtly, of involvement of what then became known as the passports scandal.

In May 1982, the UWP was returned to power with a promise to the electorate to fully investigate the scandal, and although Attorney General Lennard Riviere later announced that the Government was seeking the

extradition of Reece from the U.S. to answer charges in connection with the affair, all moves to date have been fruitless.

It is this state of affairs that has prompted Stephens' motion.

He told THE VOICE yesterday that since the recent Libyan affair—in which the Government claims that a party of St. Lucian youths had been secretly recruited for training in sabotage and terrorism in Libya — there was now greater urgency for an investigation into the passports scandal.

He said the Government believed that there were St. Lucian passports being held illegally overseas to be used by persons engaged in

subversion.

Further, Mr. Stephens says he believes the Government has a responsibility to the electorate to investigate the passports affair as well as allegations of misconduct by Ministers in the last SLP administration in matters relating to stamps and lumber.

Said Mr. Stephens: "One of our pledges to the people was to have these matters investigated when we took office. To date, whatever steps that have been put in motion by the Government have not produced the results we would have liked.

"It is my view that by taking this whole matter to the House of Assembly we may get more effective action."

CSO: 3298/950

MODERATE INCREASES REPORTED IN SOME SERIOUS CRIMES

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 13 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

POLICE said yesterday that there had been a slight increase in some serious crimes in St. Lucia during the first half of this year.

According to statistics released from the Criminal Record Office at Police Headquarters the main increases were in the housebreaking and stealing category.

Reports of wounding and related crimes were also on the rise, but sex offences and fraud dropped.

The CRO figures show that incidents of housebreaking and stealing rose from 1592 during the first half of last year to 1663 during the same period this year.

Woundings and kindred offences rose by just over 100 from 713 during the January to June period last year to 817 this year.

However, there was encouraging news in other areas. Reports of rape and indecent assault fell from 72 last year to 56 during the first six months of this year. Forgeries were also down, the Police records show, from 15 last year to a mere five this year.

The statistics also reveal that the Police have stepped up their fight against the use of dangerous drugs. In the 1983 half year, 109 arrests were

made for possession of dangerous drugs compared with 61 for the same period of last year.

A police spokesman commenting on the crime statistics yesterday told THE VOICE that the apparent increase in the reports of housebreaking could be attributed to the fact that since Hurricane Allen in 1980 more properties were now insured.

As a result, he added more reports were reaching the police because property owners were claiming losses from the insurance companies. It is believed that before many people failed to report housebreaking crimes.

If that is the case St. Lucia's crime figures may not be as bad as they seem. In recent months, regular police patrols have been reintroduced in several parts of the city, both day and night.

CSO: 3298/950

ODLUM URGES COMPTON: DROP CHARGES AGAINST ENGLISHMAN

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 20 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

LEADER of the Progressive Labour Party George Odium this week urged Prime Minister John Compton to either drop "charges" against Englishman David England for his alleged involvement in the Libyan affair or pursue the matter formally through the due process of law.

Mr. Odium's remarks were contained in a letter to the Prime Minister, in which he ended by pleading with Mr. Compton to "let sleeping dogs lie."

The Government contends that Mr. England was involved in the travel preparations of a number of St. Lucians for what it says was a secret trip to Libya to be trained in terrorism and sabotage. Mr. England and the PLP, which recruited what it refers to as students who were "to study technical skills" deny the Government's claims.

In his letter Mr. Odium referred to what he said was the Government's expressed intention to declare Mr. England an undesirable alien and to deport him. He said: "It is my personal opinion that this is a grave act of political victimisation and it is patently unjust, and your Government must consider what irreparable damage such an action would do to the normal political life of St. Lucia."

Mr. Odium denied that Mr. England was involved in the preparations leading up to the departure of the St. Lucians for Libya. He said that as PLP leader he was the person directly concerned with the details of the venture "and I

give you my absolute word of honour that Mr. England knew nothing about the trip to Libya and was not in any way associated with the arrangements."

Referring to Mr. Compton's claim at a public meeting of his United Workers Party that Mr. England's name had been found on a telex, Mr. Odium said: "No details were given of the content of the telex or the nature of Mr. England's alleged activities."

The letter added: "My party is extremely disturbed about the treatment meted out to persons like Mr. David England and Mr. Newman Monrose and the violation and infringement of their democratic rights. I wish to suggest that the so called charges against these gentlemen should either be quietly dropped or pursued formally through the due process of law. My party intends to treat this as a matter of confidence on the streets if your Party persists in promoting this policy of victimisation."

"I trust that at this crucial point in time in our economic and political evolution that you would see some merit in letting sleeping dogs lie."

BRIEFS

CDB ASSISTANCE--THE Board of Directors of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has approved financing from its Technical Assistance Fund for advisory services and training at the Port Authority in St. Lucia. The CDB, announcing this in a release, did not say how much the grant was worth, but said that it was part of the Bank's continuing thrust to provide project financing and to upgrade manpower skills. The meeting also authorised CDB President William Demas to sign a cooperation agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany for technical assistance in implementing a regional biogas expansion programme which includes projects already identified in St. Lucia. [Castries THE VOICE in English 17 Aug 83 p 2]

CSO: 3298/951

PAPER COMPARES GAIRY UNFAVORABLY WITH GRENADA'S BISHOP

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 26 Aug 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

The news that Eric Gairy, Grenada's notorious ex-Prime Minister, was in the Caribbean certainly came as a surprise. His presence in Barbados has confirmed three things about the character of the man:

1. his gall,
2. his determination,
3. his complete disregard for the welfare of Grenadians.

Gairy was overthrown on 13th March 1979 by a coup, engineered by the New Jewel Movement headed by Maurice Bishop. His record of tyranny made Bishop's assumption of power comparatively easy. Grenadians of all ages, classes and creeds hailed him as a deliverer. Even Gairy with all his arrogance and gumption did not dare to put his foot back in his homeland. There would have been so few to rally around his banner that even that supreme egomaniac would not try. Now over four years later he is drawing near to his erstwhile domain. Is he feeling out the situation?

For some unknown reason Bishop seems to have devalued the love element in his take over in favour of the power. So some of his popularity has waned! However since nothing that the Bishop regime has done can obliterate the ruthlessness of Gairy and his "Mongoose Gang" the gall of the man by his presence and utterances -

In a Caribbean island that can almost be termed a neighbour of Grenada - is stupendous. Journalist Alister Hughes for example has scarcely received gentle treatment at the hands of Bishop. But he will tell you that he can walk Grenada without fear after dark under Bishop, whereas under Gairy he went with dread for his physical safety - and with good cause.

Does Gairy really believe that the Grenadians who disapprove of Bishop because they feel that he has violated his democratic promises would encourage his return - having already experienced the Gairy brand of totalitarianism, tyranny and injustice?

After so much water has flowed under the bridge since the revolution and knowing his own undemocratic record only a unique type of determination could make Gairy imagine that he has a chance of resuming power over the people whom he wronged so blatantly and so persistently for so many years.

Determination is an important element in any success story. Gairy obviously has more than his fair share of the commodity. His success as a politician was phenomenal. But even here seems to us to be going a bit far by extruding it into an attempt to return to power in Grenada, after the mistreatment of citizens spear-headed by him when he was ruling affairs.,

But gall or brazenness is only superficial; and determination per se is a virtue. Gairy's presence in the Caribbean, even if he never enters Grenada, can only be detrimental to his countrymen. It displays that complete disregard for the welfare of Grenadians for which there can be no excuse. The mere news that Gairy was in Barbado's must have built up tensions in all sorts of people in the little Caribbean state.

How dare Gairy do this to his compatriots? What repercussions will his action in returning to the Caribbean against the background of such a sensitive situation create?,

And what about other Caricom countries? Should they sit by and allow Gairy to come in and use them as a base from which to destroy the psychological, and perhaps the physical, peace of the region? We think not.

In the days of Gairy's ruthless tyranny over our fellow, West Indians; when he trampled shamelessly on human rights, other Caricom countries stood by and did nothing! They shielded themselves behind the excuse of the sanctity of national sovereignty.,,

While we would not expect or wish other Caricom countries to send troops to overthrow a Grenada government, what would have been wrong with diplomatic isolation? And what about that marvellous weapon which West Indians have at their disposal - sport? Grenadians would probably have thrown out Gairy by any means needed, long before Bishop became necessary, if their cricketers had been kept out of Shell and other regional cricket; their athletes were not allowed to participate in Caribbean games; and their lawn tennis players were banned from competition for the Hughes, Barnard, Phillips and Brandon trophies. There are a lot of ways in which displeasure at Gairy's behaviour could have been shown without infringing the sovereignty of Grenada.,

We believe that Gairy could only initiate a counter revolution in Grenada through outside aid. We trust that no Caribbean country, regardless of how it dislikes Bishop's policies, will allow its territory to be used militarily in an ideological struggle. If the people of Grenada want to get rid of Bishop any counter revolutionary action within Grenada must be initiated and carried out by Grenadians themselves. We certainly do not see them shedding their blood and that of their fellows to restore the tyrant Gairy!,

Let the Commonwealth Caribbean be watchful in the protection of its integrity.

RESOLUTIONS OF PEOPLE'S MOBILIZATION CONGRESS

Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 22 Aug 83 p 5

[Report on People's Mobilization Congress: "Proposed Resolutions Adopted"]

[Text] Sunday afternoon the nine working groups introduced five (5) resolutions to the People's Congress.

The aim of the resolutions was to express the ideas which are alive among the working groups and the people's structures.

All five of the proposed resolutions concerning the People's Mobilization were adopted by the congress.

The adopted resolutions read as follows:

Resolution No 1

Whereas:

1. the Surinamese revolution has now reached a new phase;
 2. the above mentioned phase came about because, on the one hand, the most important points of support of the counterrevolution have been seriously affected while, on the other hand, imperialist aggression against our country and our people has never been so strong;
 3. there is a need to unite all peace loving and patriotic forces into an organization;
 4. the People's Mobilization should be considered able to support the creation of such an organization forcefully,
- the People's Congress, meeting on Sunday 21 August 1983, has decided to recommend the following to the leaders of the revolution:

The People's Mobilization needs to be reorganized in terms of content and form in order to meet the demands of this phase of the revolution.

Resolution No 2

Recognizing that the recommendation in Resolution No 1 is right with regard to the new phase of the revolution, with respect to the new tasks of the People's Mobilization, the People's Congress, meeting on Sunday 21 August 1983, has decided to make the following recommendation to the revolutionary

leadership in order to assign the following tasks to the People's Mobilization:

1. to stimulate the new democracy forcefully within the people's committees, regional councils and district councils;
2. to recruit and train cadres from the people's structures;
3. to create organizational and material conditions for the establishment of the unity movement "Steadfast";
4. to tie all activities with and by the masses to propaganda and instruction.

Resolution No 3

Recognizing that the recommendations in Resolutions No 1 and No 2 are right, the People's conference, meeting on Sunday 21 August 1983, has decided to make the following recommendation to the leadership of the revolution:

1. to alter the legal form of the People's Mobilization in such a way as to maintain the organizational tie with the state and to ensure, on the one hand, that the demand that this body be able to function with flexibility and, on the other hand, that its officials be given the necessary legal security, be met;
2. that this body will attain its authority and rule if the leadership of this body has the same composition as that of the leadership of the unity movement, that is to say if the leader of the revolution runs the mobilization body of the unity movement.

Resolution No 4

Whereas the People's Mobilization must fulfill important tasks, specifically to stand by the cradle of the unity movement "Steadfast," the People's Congress, meeting on Sunday 21 August 1983, has decided to make the following recommendations to the revolutionary leadership:

1. that new cadres be recruited who can be put into service;
2. that the revolutionary leadership determine the requirements which the political cadres must meet;
3. that the above mentioned cadres be trained uniformly, in theory and in practice, to fulfill their tasks;
4. that the establishment of a cadres school is necessary in order to fulfill the provisions of Resolution No 3.

Resolution No 5

Whereas

1. the People's Mobilization is only a part of the whole revolutionary happening;
 2. the People's Mobilization can do its work only in cooperation with other bodies of the state and of the people,
- the People's Congress, meeting on Sunday 21 August 1983, has decided to make the following recommendations to the revolutionary leadership:

1. that the relationship with the unity movement "Steadfast" shall be such that the People's Mobilization will take all the necessary measures to make the development of this movement possible;
2. that the relationship with the government shall be one of cooperation and regular consultation;
3. that the relationship with the people's structures shall be one of support, education and promotion of democratic relations;
4. that the relationship with the district administration shall be one of consultation and coordinated action, on condition that
 - a) the district administration is decentralized;
 - b) the people's structures are recognized by decree and the district administration is forced to develop a democratic form of cooperation with the people's structures;
5. that the relationship with the Ministry of Information shall be one of consultation and close cooperation;
6. that the relationship with the leader of the revolution shall be one whereby his instructions are translated politically into programs and reports on their implementation are directed to him in order to make possible an improvement and deepening of programs/campaigns;
7. that, in order to increase the effectiveness of the work of the people's structures, the establishment of a cadres school shall be implemented immediately for the workers within the people's structures.

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AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH NETHERLANDS TO EXPIRE

Amsterdam ELSEVIERS MAGAZINE in Dutch 3 Sep 83 pp 95-97

[Article by Sig. W. Wolf: "End to Schiphol-Paramaribo Flights -- Surinamese Rulers Cut into their Own Flesh"]

[Text] In order to force the Netherlands into paying the suspended development aid, Suriname has put an end to the golden Schiphol-Paramaribo-Schiphol air route. This could be the deathblow for Suriname Airways.

A Surinamese aviation committee will be traveling to a few European countries in the next few weeks in order to save Suriname Airways. The aviation agreement between Suriname and the kingdom of the Netherlands will expire in mid-October. This means that as of that date the lucrative Amsterdam-Paramaribo-Amsterdam air route, which is used by 80,000 passengers a year, will be discontinued. But it was precisely this route which saw to it that Suriname Airways was able to keep its head above water. The more than 2 million guilders profit made last year was almost completely due to the intensive traffic between Paramaribo and Schiphol airport, which was exploited on a fifty-fifty basis by Suriname Airways and KLM [Royal Dutch Airlines]. Without being sufficiently aware of it, the Surinamese rulers have led the goose that lays the golden eggs to the chopping block.

The first step toward the cancellation of this route took place last year when Suriname and ALM, Antillean Airlines, could not agree on a distribution of the flights between Paramaribo and Curacao. Suriname demanded a larger number of flights. The lack of agreement led to a conflict with bizarre side effects. For example, the ALM emphatically refused to hold the negotiations in Paramaribo for fear of the methods of intimidation used by the military. They were afraid of being kept hostage in Paramaribo until an agreement acceptable to Suriname had been reached. As the Netherlands Antilles are part of the kingdom of the Netherlands and as aviation matters are a concern of the kingdom, the treaty between Suriname and the kingdom of the Netherlands was terminated last October by the rulers in Paramaribo. This also meant that arrangements included in the treaty, and hence also the flights between Paramaribo and Schiphol, would be terminated after a 1 year period.

Following the suspension of Dutch development aid to Suriname, the result of the December assassinations, the rulers in Paramaribo declared that they were not interested in negotiating a new aviation treaty with the Netherlands. Army chief Bouterse let it be known that development aid would first have to be resumed before any talking could take place. He used the Amsterdam-Paramaribo air route as a means to exercise political pressure.

The rulers in Paramaribo realized too late that this cut deeply into their own flesh. Their position first of all hit their own national carrier, whose main source of income was taken away. At the same time, 80,000 passengers who fly back and forth for family visits were left out in the cold. A measure which will hardly contribute to the popularity of the regime in Paramaribo. But the Surinamese farmers were also hit hard by the elimination of the air route between Paramaribo and Amsterdam. Every week 6,000 kilograms of vegetables are exported via this route, which will also become a thing of the past after 15 October.

The jobs of approximately 500 employees of Suriname Airways as well as the jobs of those who earn their living in companies indirectly involved with the flights to Amsterdam, such as catering businesses, and bus and cab companies, are threatened. It is estimated that more than 1,000 people are facing dismissal.

Faced with this not very promising prospect of loss of profits, large numbers of unemployed and a possible deathblow to the only profitable semi-public company, the Surinamese government is trying to save what can be saved. There were thoughts of allowing Suriname Airways to fly out of Paramaribo to a European country not too distant from the Netherlands. The countries being considered by the rulers in Paramaribo are England, Luxembourg, Belgium, France and (even) Portugal. Meanwhile, Portugal has let it be known that its national airline company PAL [Portuguese Airlines] does not have an adequate transportation capacity to be able to handle the transportation offer together with Suriname Airways.

England, Belgium and France are not much interested in offending their EC partner, the Netherlands, by starting to do business with the regime in Paramaribo. Furthermore, like Portugal the airline companies in these countries do not see any likelihood of their being able to make airplanes available in the short term which would be able, together with the one suitable airplane from Suriname Airways, a DC-8 63, to exploit possible routes between their capitals and Paramaribo. Aside from the unsuitability of the transportation capacity, the technical preparations for such flights require so many services (maintenance facilities, passenger and cargo handling) that it would be hardly possible to get this set up within a period of a few months. But even if it were possible to overcome the political and aero-technical knots, the question would remain of whether the passengers would be willing to pay the substantially higher air rate which these detour routes would inevitably entail. It would hardly be possible to compete with the KLM which, in a counter-move, could start flying from Amsterdam to countries neighboring Suriname, such as French Guyana, Brazil or Venezuela, at a special rate and would then draw away most of the passengers. To fly with KLM via one of those countries

would not only be cheaper, it would also be quicker. The latter plays an important role with regard to family visits in case of illness or death. The percentage of passengers who fall in this category is relatively high.

The Surinamese committee, which is supposed to find an alternative to the elimination of the Amsterdam-Paramaribo route, has its back to the wall. They know that there is little likelihood that they will be able to come up with a solution without their own national carrier suffering badly at the commercial level. Ambassador Henk Herrenberg, who will lead the committee next week on its study trip to countries interested in cooperation with Suriname, is possessed by the idea of playing a nasty political trick on the Netherlands by doing business with one of the EC member countries. It is doubtful that he will succeed. It is simply a fact that political idealism does not combine with the management of commercial aviation. Meanwhile, several airline companies with which he has sought to make contact, have let him know that. They are not at all interested in being used as a tool in a political conflict, at the risk of antagonizing the Netherlands.

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END