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(EXPRESS, 14 Feb 84) 121

EXPANSION OF ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION, SERVICE DISCUSSED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] The Guyana Electricity Corporation (GEC) yesterday afternoon signed two contracts for the construction of 110 miles of transmission lines from Sophia to No. 53 Village, Corentyne. These woodpole, single circuit 69 kV lines (Phase II of Stage I) when completed, will interconnect the Corporation's electricity systems in the Demerara, Berbice and Corentyne areas, according to a GEC release.

This will "increase the generation reserve, flexibility, reliability and security of the National Grid".

The programme for these contracts, which were signed with two local firms--Construction Management Combine Limited (C.M.C.L) and D.R. Spence and Associates--is divided into three parts. The first part "will see a link up of the Onverwagt and Canefield systems to be completed by the end of November, 1984. The second "will see a direct 69kV connection to the No. 53 substation, which will improve the quality of supply to existing consumers in the East Berbice Region and will facilitate supplies to those areas not presently supplied with power in that region.

This should be completed by May 1985.

"The third part, Onverwagt to Sophia (Georgetown System) which is expected to be completed by January 1986, will improve the reliability and security of the National Grid," the release stated. The programme also includes the refurbishing of the Canefield power station.

The overall project management services will be provided by the Corporation's 69 kV Project Management Unit, which will be headed by Cde J. Ledra, Project Manager. The Unit was specifically set up by the Corporation for this purpose and agreed to by the main financing agency--the Caribbean Development Bank.

CSO: 3298/549

BRIEFS

ASSESSMENT OF TESORO--An up-to-date situation regarding Government's move to purchase shares held by Tesoro Petroleum Corporation in Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company Limited was yesterday given by Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Patrick Manning. Mr Manning told a news conference at Trinidad-Tesoro's beach camp that the current position is that the assets of the company are being valued. "When such valuation is available to the majority shareholder, then it will take a decision as to what it would do in respect of the assets now held by the Tesoro Corporation," Mr Manning said. The Minister said the Government had an option to exercise and could only exercise that option when it was in possession of the cost implications "that such an exercise will have for us." Government has the controlling shares in Trinidad Tesoro, making Government the majority shareholder. Mr Manning said discussions were taking place at this time between the Government and the Tesoro Petroleum Corporation in respect of an offer for the Government to acquire the shares of that company in Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company Limited. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Feb 84 p 1]

TESORO SPENDING PLANS--San Fernando: Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company Limited could spend about $500 million over the next five years in production and secondary recovery activities aimed at boosting crude production. This was stated on Wednesday by Mr G.L. Lewis, general manager, in response to a question regarding the approximate cost of the company's five-year programme. Mr Lewis made the statement in the presence of Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Mr Patrick Manning, who held a news conference, following technical discussions with managerial personnel at Beach Camp. On the other hand, Mr Manning said he had an excellent presentation by the staff of the company. He recalled the time when British Petroleum in 1969 took a decision to pull out its operations in Trinidad and Tobago. This led to Government purchasing the assets of BP here. He said BP took that decision against the background of declining production and relatively low productivity as compared with other operations that the company conducted elsewhere. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Feb 84 p 11]

NEW POWER GENERATOR--A new generating unit, which has been installed at the Penal Power Station, was commissioned on February 10. It is one of three units which will form part of a combined cycle generating plant now being assembled by the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC). The new unit has a generating capacity of 67 megawatts. It represents a combination of steam and gas turbines in a manner which results in improved thermal

efficiency and economy in the use of fuel. Work on the system began in late 1982 under contract with the Sumitomo Corporation of Japan. However, all of the major items used in the plant are being supplied by General Electric of the United States. When completed the entire plant will comprise two simple cycle gas turbines generating units, two unfired heat recovery steam generators and one steam turbine generating unit with a combined capacity of 196 megawatts. The entire project is expected to be completed by December this year. An official of TTEC explained atht the new plant would replace the existing Penal steam units which are coming to the end of their life and also increase the generating capacity of the station. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Feb 84 p 6]

CSO: 3298/556

BRAZILIAN CULTURAL DELEGATION COMMENTS ON VISIT TO CUBA

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 29 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Delfin Xiques]

[Text] A year ago the Jose Marti Cultural Association was established in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with several purposes, including the promotion of Latin American culture among the Brazilian and Cuban peoples.

This cultural institution has been very active in making known the work of the Cuban Revolution, turning out posters and leaflets, organizing exhibits and concerts and sponsoring trips to Cuba for Brazilians to take a firsthand look at our island's natural beauties and the Revolution's accomplishments.

The first group of 52 association members recently arrived in Cuba, headed by Itoby Alves Correa, Jr., general secretary of the Association. Also in the group are Municipal Councilmen (Deputies) Fausto Mato Grosso, from Campo Grande do Sul, in Mato Grosso, and Armando Raineri, from Marilia in Sao Paulo, members of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party.

Alves Correa said that the Association promotes better understanding of the culture of the peoples of Latin America in Brazil and especially Cuban culture. "Our association works to strengthen the ties of friendship between our countries and is a useful took in helping to break down the isolation and artificial barriers created by the imperialist blockade.

"We have come with a contingent which is broadly representative of Brazilian society. There are lawyers, economists, professors, doctors, industrialists and political figures who want to become better acquainted with the Cuban people on the 25th anniversary of the victory of the Revolution.

"We have seen how Cuba has solved problems which have not been solved in Brazil in the areas of child care, health and education. In my country these are matters of great concern.

"We have witnessed the social progress made by the Cuban people. Every citizen has a strong concept of nationhood and dignity and a marked sense of their history. They have strong national feelings and see themselves as the heirs to the struggles of the past to which they have a commitment."

Fausto Mato Grosso commented that what impressed him most were the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. "I could never imagine the magnitude of the organization, the participation of the masses in the various tasks of the Revolution, their organization and enthusiasm.

"I visited Santa Maria del Mar beach, east of Havana; Lenin Park, west of Havana; and an agricultural community in Jibacoa to the east, near Matanzas. There is no big difference between town and countryside.

"In these communities, farmers live in comfortable apartments with all the advantages of life in the city: water, electricity, TV, etc. In Brazil there is very little information about Cuba, about these gains, and about the Revolution itself; and what information there is has been distorted."

Deputy Armando Raineri spoke of how preoccupied leaders of the Cuban Revolution are with the well-being of the people and especially children. This is evident in the schools, on the streets and in the smiles of young Pioneers.

"Another thing I noticed is how the Revolution is reflected in the lives of Cubans. Their nationalist and internationalist feelings are everywhere, in their homes, on the balconies, in the flags at work places and slogans become truth."

The general secretary of the Association explained how sorry the group was not to have been able to participate in the festivities marking the 25th anniversary of the Revolution in Santiago de Cuba from which they could have learned more about the revolutionary process. It was impossible to do everything in 15 days.

"After the 1964 coup, we were subjected to severe internal repression and a campaign against countries which became independent, especially Cuba.

"This limited freedom of information. Our Association is trying to overcome that isolation. We feel that broad segments of the population are interested in knowing more about Cuba. There are people who come to the events we organize, use our library and ask about travel to Cuba.

"You soon realize that Brazil and Cuba are peoples with common roots and that Cuba with its history and accomplishments can serve as an inspiration in our struggle for economic, political and social gains."

CSO: 3200/12

CARIBBEAN NATIONS LOOKING TO EEC FOR AID, TRADE ASSISTANCE

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 19 Feb 84 p 21

[Article by Sandra Baptiste]

[Text]

BARBADOS and other Caribbean countries, whose economies have been shaken by the international recession, falling production levels for major commodities and a decline in foreign exchange receipts, will be pushing hard over the next coming months to get a better deal for aid and trade with the ten-nation European Economic Community.

Along with their counterparts from Africa and the Pacific, the Caricom states will be engaged in what Barbados' Trade Minister, Bernard St. John, anticipates will be "exceptionally difficult" negotiations for a successor agreement to the Lome Two Convention, which expires next February.

Under the second convention some $5.3 billion in aid was earmarked for ACP states, of which eight per cent was allocated to the Caribbean.

Barbados' share of that was $2.5 million (US). To date some of the major EEC-financed projects include a fisheries development project in the South of the island, tourism promotion, an agricultural project to encourage fruit production, training and another fisheries scheme, was being developed in the North.

Said Mr. St. John: "The negotiations are going to be difficult because a lot of smokescreens are going to be raised to try and take up the time which should be spent on solid negotiations, on the unsatisfactory character of the two previous conventions, which have arisen in the two accords."

According to him, very few countries have benefited substantially from the aid and trade pact with the EEC.

DIFFICULT TIMES

"We really have to have an in-depth analysis as to why this treaty which promised so much fulfilled so little, particularly the trade, industrial and transfer of technology aspects," he said.

The position of the Caribbean is being strengthened at the current negotiations in Brussels by the presence of a team from the Caricom Secretariat which will work along with the Caribbean missions in Brussels.

The Barbados Minister said Caricom states have recognised that Europe is going through difficult times and the economic environment is rather different to some five years ago when Lome Two was being negotiated.

"The truth is that Europe is in a worse position than it was before, but the truth is also that ACP trade, far from increasing, has deteriorated over the two conventions."

The EEC delegate in Bridgetown, Joannes ter Haar, has also pointed out that Europe's economic position will have a real impact on the quantity of aid which will be available to its ACP partners in the future.

"It's without doubt that Europe is going through a critical economic phase. The general economic environment is not conducive to incremental allocations of the European Development Fund," Mr. ter Haar said.

The European diplomat also referred to the high level of unemployment in the European Community and problems related to the EEC budget and its common agricultural policy.

PROTECTION

The ACP group, including Barbados, is looking for protection for the tourist industries, of member states, since a shortfall in receipts from this vital sector has had a severe impact on some countries.

The Barbados Minister and his counterpart in the Seychelles have been calling for tourism to be covered under the stabilisation of Exports Earnings Scheme, which covers mainly agricultural commodities.

"I believe there ought to be a mechanism somewhere in the convention to help protect small island countries whose foreign exchange earnings are dependant upon the receipts from visitor expenditure in thec ountry and who are affected greatly when there are devaluations in the dollar," said Mr. St. John.

However, as far as Mr. ter Haar is concerned, there's very little chance of tourism being part of the Stabex programme.

He said: "So far from our side we have not reacted very favourably to this. It would really be out of line with the traditional Stabex products which are agricultural commodities mainly and we feel that the fluctuating economic plight of tourism is one which is really beyond Stabex coverage."

Mr. ter Haar acknowledged that there were major problems relating to Stabex during the last convention and the scheme needs to be better budgeted for. "We ran ourselves into deep waters on the last occasion with

Stabex, mainly because of the very poor performance of key agricultural products, mainly coffee and cocoa, well exceeding the funds available and we simply ran out of money," he said.

Another area of priority for the EEC is cooperation on food and agriculture. The emphasis, according to the European Community, should be on supporting ACP states' own efforts to better implement their food policies and encouraging food strategies at both the national and regional levels.

BETTER PRICE

The ACP states have not voiced their concern over this policy and in this context, the Caribbean is expected to seek more substantial assistance for the Caribbean Food Corporation and the Regional Food and Nutrition Strategy, which has been on the cards for years.

The Caribbean countries are concerned, along with their sugar-producing conterparts in the Pacific, about the sugar protocol under the Lome Convention. Although this protocol is not up for negotiation now, the ACP group views it as one of the significant elements of the trade and aid pact with the EEC.

Barbados and other ACP states, although offered a better price from Europe for their sugar than on the world market, have been dissatisfied for some time about the disparity in the price paid to the European farmers for beet sugar compared to that given the ACP countries.

Said Mr. St. John: "Our price does not take into account the cost of transport from the ACP states to Europe, whereas the EEC price is at farmgate, so they are at an advantage. We also have the problem of the coast of mechanisation and machinery which we import from Europe and we have no control over that."

He also noted that the European farmers have increased their production greatly while the ACP states have been restriced to specific amounts allocated. Barbados has a quota of 49,000 tons under the sugar protocol, but last year, because of a shortfall in other ACP states, the quota was pushed up to 51,000 tons.

DROP IN PRICE

The ACP countries recently sought a nine and a half per cent increase for their sugar, but the EEC approved a four per cent increase which, because of the currency situation, still means a drop in the actual price the ACP producers will receive for a ton of cane.

Barbados, along with some of the other Caribbean countries, is also unhappy with the rum protocol under the Lome Convention, since Caribbean rum has not been able to make any substantial breakthrough on the European market.

"The ACP has a solid case when it argues that rum is a most natural by-product of cane sugar and if the EEC really wishes to help us, they should give us free access to their markets," the Barbados Minister said.

Yet another sensitive area during the negotiations is the question of a human rights clause which the EEC is advocating as part of any new accord.

HUMAN RIGHTS

"It is an area which has become increasingly important to Europe," Minister Haar explained. "We will not necessarily insist on a very explicit reference to human rights, but the well-being of mankind, the Charters of the UN, the OAS and other organisations all refer to human rights and we are merely asking that those references be incorporated one way or another in the preamble of the new convention."

However, Barbados is one of those countries which feels such a clause has no place in a trade and aid pact.

"Matters like human rights," Mr. St. John said," are irrelevant to the main aim and object of the convention and the meat of it, which is to provide improved access between the two groups of countries to permit a measure of industrialisation and transfer of technology to take place."

The EEC in its consultations has acknowledged that during the eight years of Lome One and Two, times have changed radically and it has expressed a willingness to adapt to these changes. However, the big question is to what extent will the current economic environment in the ten-member community, with Britain alone having over three million unemployed, enable the necessary changes to take place.

COMMITMENT

EEC Commissioner, Edgar Pisani has already indicated the Community's willingness to hammer out an agreement which is a life-long commitment, rather than one for five years and one which, in the long term, is expected to make more economic sense.

Already, the EEC delegate in Barbados says that despite the toughness of the negotiations, some positive signs are emerging.

"The ACP group and ourselves have been rather distant from one another's position, but fortunately at the technical level we seem to be getting closer, Mr. ter Haar said.

CSO: 3298/542

BARBADOS MINISTER SLAMS CARICOM FOR BROKEN PROMISES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 9 Feb 84 p 2

[Text]

Minister of State with responsibility for Energy and Planning, Senator Clyde Griffith, has said that too many commitments made at CARICOM meetings have been broken.

"I have attended meetings where decisions are made and when people leave they do something differently," Griffith said.

But he made it clear that the Barbados Government "has been making a significant effort to keep its part of the bargain as far as regional agreements are concerned."

He charged Trinidad manufacturers with having done a great deal of damage to the region and reminded local manufacturers that if they limited themselves to trading within the region they were really limiting themselves "in every sense of the word."

Senator Griffith was winding up debate in the Senate on a Bill to provide assistance to Caribbean Financial Services Corporation Limited to enable that private sector financial institution to develop financial and commercial opportunities within the region.

Senator Griffith told the Upper House that the corporation stemmed from activities of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), which represents private sector organisations in the region.

He said CAIC determined that there were great opportunities existing for the private sector in vital and productive areas within the region.

Senator Griffith said it was also determined that other financial institutions in the region have not been sufficiently active in the private sector and, in the opinion of CAIC were not properly equipped to undertake the responsibilities of private regional financing institutions.

Caribbean Financial Services Corporation will be providing venture capital and term-financing to the private sectors in Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and other countries within the Caribbean region.

Senator Griffith stated that the company would provide a new source of credit which would address the needs of the private sector not being met by the commercial banking sector.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and International Finance Corporation, an agency of the World Bank are among the sources of capital for the corporation.

Senator Griffith commended the CAIC for the steps it was taking to solve some of the problems facing the region's private sector.

CSO: 3298/542

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY RECEIVES GRANT--St Johns, Antigua, 12 Mar (CANA)--The Organisation of American States (OAS) has given the Antigua-Barbuda Ministry of Agriculture a technical assistance grant of 541,000 (U.S. dollars to finance a programme in the field of natural resource assessment, Permanent Secretary Ernest Benjamin announced. Benjamin said the main component of the programme is an agricultural census and production survey which will be carried out later this year. He said it will also include a land capability and utilisation assessment, anticipated to produce land maps of the different soil types around the island. Benjamin further stated that the exercise is expected to produce information and data which will allow for effective planning and implementation of agricultural projects. The permanent secretary mentioned that the final result of the programme will be the establishment of an agricultural planning unit within the ministry with the help of OAS consultant Joseph Campbell, who is already here. [Text] [FL130130 Bridgetown CANA in English 2203 GMT 12 Mar 84]

CSO: 3298/1138

NPC CHAIRMAN NOTES PLANS FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 6 Feb 84 p 4

[Article by Trevor Yearwood]

[Text]

Barbados is laying almost 15 miles of new natural gas pipeline in a programme the government says will rope in 4 000 more consumers and further reduce leakages in the network.

Five million dollars (Bds$1 equal 50 cents U.S.) are being spent on the exercise, announced as the 431 square kilometre island with a population of a quarter million prepares to step up its hunt for oil.

Businesses and households in the thickly populated St. Michael parish — containing the capital, Bridgetown — and in the southern parish of Christ Church will again benefit from the two-year programme, with other areas to be linked up later.

"We have worked out a plan to spend $5 million in the laying of natural gas mains," said Chairman of the state-run National Petroleum Corporation (NPC), Aaron Truss. "Preliminary data indicate that we will be able to increase our residential service installations by some 4 000 and we expect to achieve this within the next two years."

The NPC has just over 8 800 customers, with about 8 400 being householders. The biggest single customer is the island's lone electricity-producer, the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited, whose 1983 bill was estimated at more than $2 million.

That's almost half of the $4.6 million the Petroleum Corporation picked up from gas sales in 1983. Barbadian households and businesses consumed 6.85 million cubic metres of gas last year.

With the island's gas reserves estimated at 130 million cubic metres, those sales are modest. So too is the expansion programme, but industry officials said this was largely because of financial aid constraints.

"(For a major expansion) we would require 15 to 20 years money at low rate of interest," Truss said. "But that is not possible at the time being."

According to Truss, money problems have largely been responsible for the failure of more than 300 applicants to obtain natural gas, even though all they had to do was provide the connection from their homes to the nearest gas main.

"This could cost anywhere from $300 to $600 and we have discovered that many people find this a problem," he added. "We are presently negotiating with the Barbados National Bank to get some assistance not only for these people, but any others who have applied for natural gas and those who will apply as we expand our programme.

"We hope to tie them in with the National Bank and ask the National Bank to advance any money for the installation of natural gas and they can have this payment amortised over two or three years, paying the bank back gradually ... we ourselves do not have the money to give subscribers a full service and then bill them over a year or two years."

Barbados has 137 miles of production, transmission and distribution gas pipelines and the NPCs plan is to lay 75 000 feet in the next two years.

Some of the new pipeline will be replacement for old lines — some over 100 years old — which have been causing the corporation concern because of leaks.

The state-run concern had been losing about 40 per cent of the gas flowing through the pipes up to mid-1982 when the U.S.-owned Mobil Oil Company was in charge of the modest oil exploration programme here.

By gradually replacing oil pipes, the government cut the loss to less than 20 per cent of the gas piped and the plan is to push the figure down to single digits.

Government officials estimate that Barbados is losing in the vicinity of $250 000 yearly because of the leaks.

The gas flows from the southern Barbados Woodbourne fields, source of all the oil produced here. But government officials have identified a small concentration in a rural district earmarked for a major well drilling programme later this year.

The government also expects a major upsurge in production when drilling for oil in 6 000 feet of water 30 - 35 miles off the north coast gets under way. There is reported to be a heavy concentration of gas in the offshore field.

Local production, however, is still way above consumption. In 1982 Barbados produced over 11 million cubic feet of gas and the following year production was up by two million.

A lot of the gas is flared — released into the atmosphere. The problem, said Truss, was absence of a facility for storing it. Creating such a facility would be "extremely costly," he said.

In Mobil's day, production was a lot lower. "Under Mobil, production of natural gas and crude oil was perhaps 30 or 40 per cent less than it is today," Truss said.

"The operation in Barbados for them was a very marginal one. It did not suit or serve their interests to really embark on a tremendous programme because it was a drop in the bucket."

Truss said there could be further significant expansions in the gas pipeline network after this — two-year programme ends, but this would depend on how successful the oil drilling programme of the pipes subsidiary, the Barbados National Oil Company (BNOC), turned out to be.

"There is sufficient natural gas, in our view, for this first initial expansion of 75 000 new feet of distribution lines ... but we have to monitor that situation very carefully because we want to ensure that when someone applies for and gets natural gas that we can maintain the pressures and keep the customers satisfied," Truss remarked.

But the corporation is also worried about maintaining the modest profit of $132 000 it made in the last financial year, which ended March 31, 1983.

"The reason for concentrating (the expansion programme) mainly in St. Michael is that over 56 per cent of the population lives in St. Michael," Truss explained. "Obviously when one looks at the economics of it, it is a very densely populated area and laying mains is a very expensive proposition.

"When you lay mains in a very densely populated area the returns are very much greater, and (the population spread) is a problem we faced with in many of the other parishes."

Not only was the population in other areas spread out, but some of these places had a difficult topography which would mean a costlier expansion programme.

"We cannot afford to install natural gas in areas where there is not a good return because we would end up losing money and having to get subsidies from the government — and that's the last thing we want," Truss said.

Nevertheless, more people are clamouring for natural gas linkups. "The demand for natural gas is there," Truss said. "There is no question about it. It is cheaper than bottled gas. It is a cleaner fuel. It is easier to work with."

"There is no need to travel, especially the poorer people, who have to travel with bottled gas on bicycles, in cars, and on their heads."(CANA)

INTERVIEW WITH FORMER ARMS DEALER, MERCENARY LEADER

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 3 Feb 84 pp 16-17

[Text] As a man who is never reluctant to let people know about his desire to overthrow the Government of Barbados by force, Sydney Burnett-Alleyne is always under close scrutiny.

"I know they watch me but I am outside of their reach," says the man whose plan to land a band of mercenaries on the beaches of Barbados and to take over the country towards the end of the 1970s was first dismissed as a bad joke but taken seriously when he was arrested off Martinique.

Sounding less excited but still maintaining that his plan to mount an assault on Barbados was not something of the past, the Barbadian who has acknowledged that he was in the gun-sales business has expressed a burning desire to return home.

"I want to be able to return," he said during a recent overseas telephone conversation which lasted about 90 minutes.

An enigmatic figure whose exploits in the arms sales business in the 1960s and 1970s are well-known, Mr Burnett-Alleyne insisted during the conversation that his "love" for the people of Barbados was quite strong and it presented him with "a dilemma" as he proceed with his plan to overthrow the Government.

What follows is an edited version of the lengthy Sunday morning conversation:

WEEKEND NATION: It has been almost two years since we last heard from you. How have you been keeping yourself?

Burnett-Alleyne: I am fit as a fiddle. I can do my exercises much better than before and I can jog even faster. But that comes after my long illness, some 15 weeks of it. I was in the hospital. The doctors told me I had a stroke but I am fully recovered. I am making all preparations to go once again.

WEEKEND NATION: To go once again? Where are you going?

Burnett-Alleyne: Back to Barbados to take over the country. I have plans and I have been discussing them with my men. You know, people have been hearing me say now for many years about sparing Barbados from the trauma of the Government but nothing has happened. So they think that Sydney old boy is just bluffing. But I am not bluffing. I am serious about this matter. Barbados is the country that I love. After all, my umbilical cord is buried in St. John and the people of Barbados are my people. They are the nationals of the sovereign state of Barbados and I love them dearly.

WEEKEND NATION: But how could you be talking about loving the people of Barbados so much and yet be planning to initiate military action which ends up with people being killed?

Burnett-Alleyne: Old boy, that's my dilemma. I know that the action which I am planning with my men would result in some death but there is no other course of action open to me if Barbados is to be saved from the group of people who are now running the country. The sophisticated weaponry which we would have at our disposal could take out some strategic points in Barbados without causing loss of life; or should I say, sophisticated materials which would minimise the loss of life.

WEEKEND NATION: Don't you think that you would be much better off if you desist from talking about taking Barbados by force?

Burnett-Alleyne: They have left me no other choice but to move in and take over the country and set up a government of national reconciliation or national reconstruction. I will declare myself the archduke of Barbados.

WEEKEND NATION: The last time you laid your plans to overthrow the Government of Barbados by force, the country's security system was far from its present strength. How would you cope with the size and the strength of the Defence Force?

Burnett-Alleyne: Taking Barbados would not be a difficult proposition, with or without the Defence Force of Barbados. You must remember, the men reporting to me are highly trained and would be well prepared for anything the island has to offer. One should not forget that Barbados is quite easy to take. I could have taken Barbados without too much difficulty if my plans were not leaked to my enemies.

WEEKEND NATION: How has life been for you since the expose in the BBC-Television programme?

Burnett-Alleyne: At first it was kind of difficult. With all the publicity people avoided me and my family. The emphasis on me being an international gunrunner contributed significantly to that situation. It was during those times that I recognised who were my friends and who were my detractors, if not enemies. Old boy, I have never seen the Television programme.

WEEKEND NATION: Apart from people avoiding you did anything else happen?

Burnett-Alleyne: Oh yes! Some people in Barbados paid thugs to beat me up. I know who was responsible for that. But I want those persons responsible to know that they will have to account to me for those acts on my return. Then I was in the hospital after they beat me up.

WEEKEND NATION: In all of what you have been through since your plans were disclosed what's the one thing that bothers you the most?

Burnett-Alleyne: My inability to return to Barbados. I want to return even if it is to spend a few days. The government has refused to renew my passport. I raised the matter with a particular cabinet minister and he told me that it was not in his hands. I called him over the telephone and asked about my passport. He was a bit shaken up when I called. The High Commission in London refused to give me, a person born and raised in Barbados, a man who loves Barbados and its people. They are refusing to give me a passport while issuing such documents to foreigners who land in the country. It is my understanding that (Mr Tom) Adams issued an order that I should not be given the passport.

WEEKEND NATION: Why do you wish to return to Barbados using a Barbadian passport?

Burnett-Alleyne: It is my right as a Barbadian to hold a passport and it is my right to be able to return to the land where I grew up, played cricket as a swing bowler, and where I did all the things that young people did at that time. Were you aware that Herman Griffith once told me that I was the greatest swing-bowler he had ever seen play the game?

WEEKEND NATION: What do you think would happen if you arrived at the airport in Barbados and it became known that you were in the island.

Burnett-Alleyne: The Government would have me arrested and I would eventually be shot. I know that. That's why I must return to my country and liberate it from the grips of those people who now control it. Still, I feel the Government is duty-bound to give me a passport and to allow me to travel freely in and out of Barbados.

WEEKEND NATION: What reason did they give for denying you the passport?

Burnett-Alleyne: No reason was ever given. Not even the cabinet minister who I believe was part of the decision not to issue the travel document explained the reasoning. But I wish to re-affirm my constitutional right under the laws of the sovereign state of Barbados to have a passport. When I called the cabinet minister he seemed to be more interested in where I was calling from than about talking to me about the matter I had raised with him. When I told him that I was calling from Barbados he was nervous. I guess he wanted to call the police to carry out a search for me and then arrest and shoot me.

WEEKEND NATION: But were you calling from Barbados.

Burnett-Alleyne: No, not at that time. It should be made perfectly clear though that I have been to Barbados once since I left in 1975. I slipped into Barbados just to prove that I could go there without being detected. My people, the forces under my command, staged a landing and I went ashore. I will not disclose my point of landing or how I arrived in Barbados. It is not difficult to land in Barbados, you know.

WEEKEND NATION: But if as you say you landed in Barbados secretly why then are you worrying about a passport?

Burnett-Alleyne: Because I want to be able to return to Barbados in a normal way just like any other Barbadian. One should not be forced to resort to such means to gain entry into the land where one was born. The reason I am seeking the passport is because I wish to function in a particular way when I go back to Barbados even for a few days. My greatest pleasure would be to go to St. John, walk around and breathe the fresh air of that place. That's where I belong.

WEEKEND NATION: What documents do you currently use to travel outside of Britain?

Burnett-Alleyne: My friends in Africa, South America and the Middle East have ensured that my ability to travel would not be impaired by the illegal and unconstitutional actions of the party in power in Barbados. I currently have in my possession seven passports, three of which were issued by my friends in Africa. By now it should be quite clear why I have to execute my plan to take Barbados by force. The disrespectful way in which I have been treated makes it even more imperative that I move against them.

I will not forget how they informed the French police in Martinique and had me arrested and imprisoned in Martinique. I was mistreated in the Martinique prison.

WEEKEND NATION: Were you going to overthrow the Government of Barbados and then make Patrick John prime minister of both countries?

Burnett-Alleyne: He could have become prime minister, although that was not the real reason behind my plan of action. I wanted to add the land mass of Dominica to that of Barbados and also to be able to undertake an industrial project of considerable size. South African resources, millions of dollars, were available to me to be used for such a project. But Patrick John didn't do what he was supposed to have done. But more than that, I became incensed when I found out he was giving away Dominican land to Americans. He lost an important opportunity to be a central figure in the history of the Caribbean.

WEEKEND NATION: Do you feel comfortable working with the South Africans?

Burnett-Alleyne: I do not approve of their system of apartheid but I see nothing wrong in utilising their vast resources for the betterment of the countries in the Caribbean.

WEEKEND NATION: Anyone familiar with the logistics of the Caribbean would not be deterred by the defence force. The forces under my command know the region very well and we all know that one can penetrate the area quite easily. We are not afraid of any regional defence force. We conduct regular surveillance of the area and we have our planning in an advanced stage.

WEEKEND NATION: Back in the 1970s we heard quite a lot about your financial resources. What is your financial position these days?

Burnett-Alleyne: Not bad at all, not bad at all. I have enough money to last me a lifetime. I don't have to worry about money.

CSO: 3298/544

POLICE OPEN CAMPAIGN TO UNCOVER UNLICENSED FIREARMS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 6 Feb 84 pp 10-11

[Article by Charles Harding]

[Text] Anytime now Barbadians could be rudely awakened to find policemen searching the most unlikely places in their villages for hidden firearms.

The unsuspecting, and perhaps the innocent, may also be intercepted at road blocks, anywhere between the Grantley Adams International Airport and North Point in St. Lucy, as Police Commissioner, Orville Durant and his men move into phase two of their operation to haul in unlicensed guns.

For the police have stopped talking. Their appeals have gone mostly unheeded. The amnesty for those with unlicensed firearms to surrender the weapons without fear of punishment, expired a month ago. So the police are now toughening their action and embarking upon a series of strategic operations to uncover and capture what could be hundreds of unlicensed firearms sneaked into this country, or obtained through other than legitimate means.

And tough new laws, the enabling legislation for which is expected to be tabled in the House of Assembly shortly, will also add strength to the police operation, and perhaps give them power to enter homes and other places to search for unlicensed guns.

It need not have been so, for last July 1, when the police gun amnesty became effective, the holders of unlicensed guns were assured they could have been eligible to apply for the appropriate licences when they had handed over the illegal guns.

But there was little response to the six-month amnesty, and up to last weekend, a mere handful (50 guns) were turned in: a surrender that is nowhere near police expectations.

Police know there are just over 3,000 licensed guns in Barbados, a country with a population of about 275,000. Yet, although there is no reliable estimate of the number of registered guns, the conservative guess is that there are much more than one gun to 91 persons, as the register of licensed firearms suggests.

For concealed guns have been entering this country for years, and some have been manufactured here without police knowledge. It is believed that a great majority of them were brought in by Barbadians returning home from farm labour programmes in the United States and Canada. Merchant seamen, and under-the-counter bargains and streets buys in world capitals where gun laws are more liberal than those in Barbados and other Caribbean countries, have managed to conceal sophisticated weapons, or somehow get past customs after they step ashore at the Bridgetown Port.

Those without friends in some places have also discovered other means to sneak weapons of different makes and calibre into the country.

In fact, at one time during the 1960s and early 1970s, guns had been entering Barbados with such frequency and numbers, that if they were registered, statistics would have given one in every ten Barbadians a firearm.

Guns proliferated in one Barbadian parish. Villagers in that part not only showed off their "irons", but manufactured them as well, and it was not uncommon for the manufacturer and buyer to negotiate deals over rum-and-coke in the parish rum shops; or for a sawn-off shot gun or shot guns to suddenly appear during rum shop brawls--that is if a modern day Don Juan from outside that parish did not find himself staring down the wrong end of an automatic revolver for attempting to exert his charm on a female from the village.

Guns, or the carrying of them, are not outlawed in Barbados, but the use of them has been restricted by licence since 1896.

The relevant law has been amended and modified since then, perhaps to match the changing social and other conditions, but has remained basically unchanged since the 1963 amendment.

The local statute gives the Commissioner of Police the sole authority to issue, renew or revoke gun licences; each licence specifying the maximum number of cartridges (not exceeding 250) that may be possessed at any one time by the licensee, except the amount in excess of that number is sanctioned by the responsible minister.

Certain persons, including members of the Barbados Rifle Association, who use or carry guns exclusively for target practice, gunsmiths, and auctioneers having guns in their sales room for sale, are exempted from penalty under the act.

The law makes it clear, however, that "it shall be unlawful to sell by retail or let on hire a gun to any person unless at the time of sale or hire, such person produces a gun licence issued under this Act and then in force, or unless such person is a trader dealing in guns and requires the gun he desires to buy for the purpose of sale or hire in his business."

There are some mandatory provisions. One is that traders dealing in guns should maintain a book record of the description of the gun and the date of its sale, in addition to the name and address of the purchaser. A copy of

that entry must also be sent to the Commissioner of Police within seven days of the transaction.

Persons. other than dealers, who transfer guns, whether by sale, gift or loan, must also notify the police within seven days of the transferee.

Persons are forbidden to carry guns while drunk; if caught they are liable to fines of $250. Those who sell guns to intoxicated persons, or those of unsound mind, are also liable on summary conviction to fines of $500 or terms of imprisonment for three months.

Manufacturers, retail traders, and gun repairers, must all be registered with the Commissioner of Police, and on the payment of an annual fee of $100 will be issued with the appropriate licences.

But the law goes further:

*No rifle (except air rifles) shall be imported and brought into the island unless the importer has obtained from the minister a licence to do so.

(Such a licence shall be effectual for one year only and may be renewed from time to time at the discretion of the minister.

*No person other than the president or the secretary of the Barbados Rifle Association, shall import into the island any rifle of point-303 calibre, nor revolver of point-450 calibre or point-455 calibre.

*No person shall export from the island any firearm unless he shall have obtained from the minister a licence to do so.

The law and its application are clear. It is not merely to restrict the number of guns on the island, but to control the use of firearms, and to help the police in their solution to crimes involving such weapons.

The police are somewhat tight-lipped about the number of solved or unsolved crimes involving the use of unlicensed firearms, but there is a belief that it was the spate of gun crimes around the end of 1982 and early 1983, that pushed the police into action against unlicensed gun holders.

The appeals and amnesty in 1983 brought only limited results. Phase two in 1984 should trigger a number of surprises, and Barbadians may well discover that the quantity of unlicensed firearms yet unrecovered, more than double the number for which licences have been issued.

A successful police operation could also haul in weapons from many unexpected places.

For many, time may have run out.

CSO: 3298/544

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SPEAKS ON INTERNAL, CARICOM SECURITY

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Deputy Commissioner of Police, Clovis Boyce, has called for the establishment of a security desk within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat.

Addressing the opening yesterday of a management course for senior police officers at the Regional Police Training Centre, Boyce noted that police forces in the Caribbean were still operating as separate forces and questioned why it was that Caribbean Commissioners of Police could not come together more often to discuss common problems and solutions.

"The Caribbean area has come together for promotion of tourism but the matter of security has been relegated to a low status," the Deputy Police Commissioner said.

"It is not to my knowledge that there is on any Caribbean tourist board a Commissioner of Police by virtue of his office," Boyce added.

He asked how there could be an organisation like the Board of Tourism geared and equipped for attracting tourists to the Caribbean "but an agency like the police force which has sole responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in the territories has not got say."

Boyce maintained that the time has come when the Commissioner of Police should be present on tourist boards to give some direction in respect of security in the tourist industry.

On the question of training for police officer, he said he has often wondered why the University of the West Indies has not found it possible to offer a certificate course in police "Science."

"We cannot continue to progress if we keep ourselves insulated from what inputs could be made from other disciplines," Boyce said.

He added that, on examination of the Bachelor of Laws degree (LLB) more than half of it was marginally relevant to policing.

Boyce pointed out, therefore, that the LLB "was not the answer", and added that the Police Force should have a certificate course at the university.

Boyce believed that the time was not far off when the Royal Barbados Police Force would be subjected to severe public criticism because it mounted programmes aimed at crime prevention.

He said the programmes were aimed at denying those who were disposed towards criminal or anti-social behaviour from pursuing their cause.

Boyce, while not being specific, warned the senior police officers not to be surprised if they were "dragged over the coals for that exercise."

"That is the sort of society which is developing. If you were to look at the social mobilisation you will find tremendous problems resulting therefrom... where there have emerged new villages, new districts called by their fancy names--parks, drives, crescents etc--but this has meant a pulling up from a certain standard of behaviour and settling in an individual separate and distinct from the community in which they lived and, initially, this creates problems for us because neighbour 'X' is not acquainted with neighbour 'Y'. So they are all separate strangers, cast on areas which hitherto we ignored because they were grasslands, scrublands or in some cases, canefields."

CSO: 3298/544

BARROW SCORES U.S. GRENADA OPERATION, IS CRITICIZED BY BLP

CARIBBEAN REVIEW Article

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 6 Feb 84 p 4

[Article by Norman Faria]

[Text] Opposition leader Mr Errol Barrow, has accused the administration of U.S. President Ronald Regan of disrupting the unity of the Commonwealth at governmental level.

Writing in a recent issue of the U.S. magazine CARIBBEAN REVIEW, Mr Barrow in a column headed: "The Danger of Rescue Operations," and subtitled: "Crossing Swords" also lashed out at the U.S. President whom he described as "a sheriff (who)... rode into town with guns ablaze looking for an enemy" during last October's armed landings on Grenada by U.S.-led forces.

"Whether (President Reagan's) motivation was to send messages to Nicaragua, Cuba and El Salvador or to other left-leaning forces in the West, or whether it was to bolster his chances for re-election, he has left a lot of dead bodies in the Caribbean, bereaved families in the United States, Cuba and Grenada, and disunity in the Commonwealth Caribbean whose governments now deeply distrust one another," Mr Barrow said in his column.

"He has nearly succeeded in destroying the inner strengths of the Commonwealth as was evident from the bitter exchanges which characterised the daily deliberations in November in New Delhi," he added.

"It would take a master with the stature of Sophocles," he continued, "to properly dramatise the tragedy to the people of Grenada, or to illustrate the inevitable damage to Caribbean sovereignty and self-respect, not to speak of the systematic dismantling of the Caribbean Community."

In further analysis of President Reagan and his administration, the veteran Barbadian politician argued: "... Reagan's mind was made up; like a sheriff whose posse was ready to mount, some of them on donkeys, he rode into town with guns ablaze looking for an enemy."

Mr Barrow also criticised what he termed "the satellite governments" in the region for their part in what he explicitly called the "invasion."

Mr Barrow observed that the Grenada army junta which was in power after Bishop and other PRG ministers were murdered had given permission for the government of Canada to evacuate its nationals on October 24--one day before the invasion --but the U.S. Government "interdicted the landing on that day and the satellite governments obediently ordered the withdrawal of the lease of the Leeward Islands Air Transport (planes which operated in and out of Grenada)," wrote Mr Barrow.

In describing Dominica's Prime Minister Ms. Eugenia Charles' role in the invasion, Mr Barrow opined: "Ms. Eugenia Charles is an ingenious political neophyte, in no way a perjorative description of an academically well qualified, highly intelligent member of the legal profession from a sound godfearing upper middle-class background who faute de mieux found herself drafted into the maelstrom of Dominica politics at a late stage in life and struggled to create some kind of order out of that ungovernable situation ... Ms. Charles is a 'no-nonsense' person. She is neither power-hungry, nor power-drunk."

"The same cannot be said for some of her fellow politicians in the area; that is why it was so sad to see her being conscripted by the U.S. to give credibility to the decaying political image of the American President," he added.

Mr Barrow termed as "a belated excuse" the reported claim that the U.S. Government and its regional allies had received an invitation from Grenada's Governor General Sir Paul Scoon for the invasion.

"(It is) a story that not even the most uncritical follower of the events is tempted to entertain," wrote the Barbadian Opposition leader.

A blurb attached to a photo accompanying Mr Barrow's article in the CARIBBEAN REVIEW magazine described him (Mr Barrow) as a member of the periodical's editorial board.

Ruling Party's Statement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Feb 84 p 12

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, Feb 12, (CANA):

The ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) took a swipe at Opposition leader Errol Barrow, saying comments on the U.S-led invasion of Grenada that were attributed to him embarrassed and disturbed freedom-loving Barbadians.

In a statement, the BLP asked the opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) whether Brrow'scathing attack on Caribbean leaders who had helped the U.S unseat a military junta in Grenada last October meant it had changed its mind on the issue.

The Barbadian press last week published extracts from an article said to have appeared in,

the U.S. magazine "Caribbean Review" in which barrow, a former Prime Minister, described as American satellites Caribbean countries which had supported last October's invasion.

Barrow's comments contrasted with those of DLP Parliamentarians, who offered "critical support" to the BLP government in its stand on Grenada.

BLP chairman, Dr Richard Cheltenham "pointed out that freedom-loving Barbadians of all walks of life had been found to be embarrassed and disturbed by Mr Barrow's views, which reflected very harshly on President Ronald Reagan, the leader of a country with whom Barbados enjoys friendly relations," the party statement said.

"The BLP chairman said his party was therefore calling on the DLP either to voice its support for Mr Barrow or publicly dissociate itself from his comments, thereby reassuring the nation of its commitment to the preservation of our democratic way of life."

Barrow was absent from Parliament when DLP members started their position on the Grenada situation.

The ruling party said it was of the view that the Grenada situation had been carefully discussed by the DLP before the party had lent its support to the Government's resolution dealing with the matter.

Barrow said President Reagan had harmed relations between commonwealth countries. He was quoted as saying "whether (President Reagan's) motivation was to send messages to Nicaragua, Cuba and El Salvador or to other left-leaning forces in the West, or whether it was to bolster his chances for re-election, he has left a lot of dead bodies in the Caribbean, bereaved families in the United States, Cuba and Grenada, and disunity in the Commonwealth Caribbean whose governments now deeply distrust one another.

"He has nearly succeeded in destroying the inner strengths of the commonwealth as was evident from the bitter exchanges which characterised the daily deliberations in November in New Delhi," he added.

CSO: 3298/544

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON TRINIDAD PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Feb 84 p 9

[Text] Barbadians have been reminded that their passports should be valid for at least six months beyond the period of their proposed visits to Trinidad and Tobago.

This has been stated by the Ministry of Immigration which issued a statement yesterday following the refusal of a Barbadian Dr Adrian Lorde who went to the twin-island republic to accompany a sick person here.

The statement read:

"Dr Adrian Lorde, a Barbadian, was asked by the hospital director at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to go to Trinidad and accompany a sick patient back to Barbados. On arrival at Piarco Airport on Sunday, November 20, 1983, the immigration officer informed Dr Lorde that he would not be allowed entry into Trinidad since his passport was due to expire on December 20, 1983.

Dr Lorde explained that his visit would be extremely brief, a maximum of two days, but the immigration authorities there were not prepared to accommodate Dr Lorde's request. He was only allowed a few hours to see the patient. With the patient not being in any condition to leave at a few hours notice, it resulted in Dr Lorde having to return to Barbados without the patient. Furthermore, he was issued a Rejection Order.

"As a result of the difficulties experienced by Dr Lorde on November 20, 1983 Barbados' Immigration Department along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, contacted and sought the assistance and co-operation of the Trinidad authorities in having the matter clarified so that other Barbadians visiting Trinidad in future, would clearly know of the regulations which assist the Trinidadian immigration officers in making their decisions.

"Barbadians should be aware that Section 44 of the Trinidad and Tobago Immigration Act No. 41 of 1969 allows the Minister to make regulations respecting the terms, conditions and requirements relating to the possession of means of support or of passport, visas or other documents pertaining to admission.

"In this regard, Regulation 13 of the Immigration Regulation of Trinidad provides inter alia--

"Every person seeking to enter Trinidad and Tobago shall be in possession of a passport issued by the country of which such a person is a citizen. A person who is on a temporary visit shall be in possession of a passport, the validity of which shall extend for a period of at least six months beyond the period of the proposed visit."

"The Trinidad and Tobago Government states that this Regulation has been in force since 1974 and that it has the perfect right to make such a regulation.

"It would therefore be in the interest of all Barbadians to become familiar with this regulation.

"The Barbados Government, however, wishes to emphasise that Trinidad and Tobago nationals are welcome at all times in Barbados and are normally granted permission to remain in Barbados for such time as the validity of their passport permits." (BGIS)

CSO: 3298/545

NEW PERMANENT SECRETARIES IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PLANNING

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Feb 84 p 6

[Text] Two senior officers in the Ministry of Finance and Planning have been appointed on promotion to the status of Permanent Secretary, with effect from January 1, 1984.

Mr Erskine Griffith, Acting Permanent Secretary, Finance, since January 1982, has been appointed Permanent Secretary; and Mr LeRoy Roach, General Manager, Agricultural Development Corporation, (ADC), has been appointed Permanent Secretary, Planning.

Mr Griffith, 43, being the holder of a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Economics, a Diploma in Public Administration from the University of the West Indies, and a Master of Science Degree in Financial Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland, has a wealth of experience in public finance and public administration matters.

The new Permanent Secretary entered the public service in 1959 as a Clerk at the Government Industrial School, and served in Customs, Audit, and the then Ministry of Home Affairs, before his appointment to the post of Budget Analyst in the Ministry of Finance in 1973. Mr Griffith also acted as Chief Budget Analyst for two years before being appointed Senior Administrative Officer in 1980, and Acting Permanent Secretary in 1982.

During Mr Griffith's stint in the Finance Ministry he has attended a number of training courses including an International Monetary Fund (IMF) Course in Public Finance; and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) course in Project Administration; and a University of the West Indies sponsored course on the Development of Support Systems and its Importance in the Planning Process.

The new Permanent Secretary, Planning, Mr LeRoy Roach, aged 48, is in no way new to the demands of public sector planning. He entered the public service in 1954 at the clerical level, and was promoted to Administrative Assistant, Economic Planning Unit in 1965. In 1967 he was appointed as Economist, Planning and in 1969 Senior Economist.

After acting as Chief Economist from 1969-73, Mr Roach was appointed to that post until May 1976. He served in that capacity until January 1978 when he

became Manager, Public Investment Unit. In November 1980, Mr Roach was seconded to the post of General Manager, Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation.

Mr Roach has been well prepared for his duties as Permanent Secretary, Planning. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Economics and Political Science, Punjab University of India; a Certificate in International Relations, Colombia University, N.Y. and a Master of Arts Degre, Public Policy and Administration, University of Wisconsin, U.S.A. (BGIS)

CSO: 3298/545

EEC APPROVES PROJECT TO REPLACE LIAT FLEET

FL082043 Bridgetown CANA in English 1826 GMT 8 Mar 84

[By Albert Brandford]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 8 Mar (CANA)--The European Economic Community (EEC) has approved a 42 million dollar (1 BDOS dollar ; 50 cents U.S.) project to replace the aging fleet of aircraft operated by LIAT, the island-hopping eastern Caribbean air carrier, EEC delegate Joannes Ter Haar announced here today.

He said the funds will be used to buy four new 50-seater aircraft to replace the five British Avros which from time to time have been grounded for increasingly long ground periods for servicing, repairs and overhauls, resulting in high maintenance costs.

The project will be jointly financed through a 26 million dollar special [loan] from the European Development Fund (EDG) and a 16 million dollar loan from the European Investment Bank.

Ter Haar said the EDF loan, which will be made to the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank for on-lending, will carry an interest rate of one percent and is repayable over 40 years.

The EIB loan, half of which will go to LIAT's 11 equity holding governments to finance an increase in their paid up share capital, will carry a maximum interest rate of two percent and is repayable over 20 years.

The EEC delegate said the project was unique for the community for at least three reasons.

It is the first time that the EEC has financed a project to buy aircraft for an airline: It is the largest project ever approved for the Caribbean under the Lome aid, trade and cooperation agreements and the first to benefit 15 French, Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean countries covered by LIAT's operational network, with a combined population of 2.8 million.

Approval of the project on 29 February, followed an EEC-finance study completed last October on LIAT's aircraft needs in the light of the airlines present and projected passenger and cargo traffic volumes, Ter Haar said.

Ter Haar said that in anticipation of the project, the EEC had already approved during 1983 1.5 million dollars for technical assistance to LIAT to be provided by Aer Lingus of Ireland over a two-year period.

He said a five-member Aer Lingus team will assist LIAT in optimising the benefits of another EEC-financed project approved last year, which saw the provision of nine million dollars to buy miscellaneous ground and wide-bodied handling equipment as well as repair, engineering, printing and navigation equipment along with an extension of the airlines workshops.

Said Ter Haar: "We are confident that the cumulative effect of these three projects, representing a total EEC allocation of well over 50 million dollars will prove instrumental in assisting LIAT to look and plan ahead with additional confidence, to further improve its financial performance, and most important of all, to provide an even better inter-island transport service to the region that we feel the airline has already been able to provide in the past."

LIAT is to set up a committee to coordinate the selection of the aircraft and is believed to be looking at acquiring up-to-date Avros, which could be delivered within six months.

CSO: 3298/1139

LABOR PROBLEMS SURFACE: UNION RESENTS CURRENT TRENDS

BWU Meeting

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 4 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) is holding its first half-yearly meeting at Solidarity House tomorrow with a number of important matters down for discussion.

Among these are the current wages negotiations facing the union and the May Day celebrations.

Tomorrow's meeting has been described by the BWU as "very important one for the union and its members".

The BWU will be reporting to the committees of management of the various divisions on the activities since the last annual delegates conference held in August.

The BWU said it will be making new decisions regarding the May Day celebrations following the decision of Government not to celebrate May 1 as a public holiday. In its place Government has made the first Monday in May the public holiday.

When the decision was made last year the BWU opposed it. Its committee of management will discuss this new feature in relation to the celebrations.

In relation to the negotiations, the BWU said that foremost among these will be the "government proposals" and the attitude of the members to these areas of discussion.

Among the up-coming negotiations are the Port, Hotels, Telephone Company, Construction, British American Tobacco, Roberts Manufacturing, the BARBADOS ADVOCATE, and the NATION.

In addition, the meeting will discuss the new facilities at the Union's headquarters, and will also receive a report on the Credit Union since its formation.

Introduction of a Sports Club in the union for both sexes, the club's constitution and early provision for affiliation to the Barbados Cricket Association (BCA) will be among other matters raised.

Work Force Situation

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 4 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] Barbadians have responded admirably to requests for field and other labourers to work in this year's sugar crop.

An official of Barbados Sugar Industry Limited pointed out yesterday that according to information he had received there were no shortages of labourers.

More than a week ago the industry advertised for more than 1,000 field labourers with the bulk of the required workers needed being cane cutters.

But, the official said yesterday: "From the information given to me, there is no shortage of labourers".

The official reported that the crop, now in its second week, was making progress after two initial setbacks earlier this week.

Two days of heavy and persistent rainfall earlier this week made some fields soggy and forced a halt to the reaping and packing of canes. In addition Andrews sugar factory had some problems which halted the delivery and grinding of canes at the St. Joseph plant.

However, it was noted that with favourable weather after the rainfall and the sorting out of problems at Andrews, "everything was back to normal."

"The crop is going fairly well at the moment and we are making progress following those two setbacks", the industry official stated.

Yesterday the two factories serving the north of the island, Portvale and Haymans, were receiving adequate and regular supplies of canes and in the case of Portvale there were long queues of vehicles waiting to be offloaded.

The situation was similar at Bulkeley in the central area where there had been a buildup of canes on the heap.

The crop is targeted to yield just under 100,000 tonnes of sugar this year.

Wage Offer To Civil Servants

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 4 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

Public servants in Barbados have been reportedly offered a 10 per cent increase in their salaries over the next two years.

This increase is below what the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) is said to be seeking for its members.

According to reports the NUPW is seeking a 15 per cent hike at the top of the salary scale and 25 per cent at the bottom. The new increases being sought are to take effect from April 1 this year.

The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) which negotiates with Government also on behalf of some public workers, will be discussing the Government's proposals at a half-yearly meeting tomorrow.

Government's proposal is spread over two years and the NUPW said it cannot accept the offer.

It has been a long time now since settlements for public officers' salaries have been reached at the negotiating table.

Rather they have been settled in Parliament, by Government's passage of legislation to effect increases.

BWU on Antiunion Atmosphere

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 5 Feb 84 p 2

[Paid advertisement: "The Union Speaks: Industrial Relations in the 'Eighties'" by Frank L. Walcott, general secretary, Barbados Workers Union]

[Text] The impact of the international oil crisis has created many problems for all of the developing countries, moreso, for the working population in these communities. This assessment was clearly predicted by those far-sighted economists who realised that the developing world, in addition to facing the difficult debt burden for higher oil prices and incidental costs, would suffer the additional problem of being unable to expand their economies. The foregoing has placed additional strain on the economies of the Third World and has reduced their general standard of living.

Over the past ten years, we have witnessed in our community a trend among the business sector to promote industry at a level and a cost not in harmony with the social and economic reality of the island. We cannot have a successful and virile development without one of the main elements--labour--playing an active role.

We find it unthinkable and illogical for these small communities to foster economic development without creating a climate for complete industrial cohesion by seeking the support of the working population in any move towards advancement. This should be a number one priority on the list of all sectors of the economy, if it is to be the success we are looking to achieve.

We repeat that our small communities cannot survive unless there is a clear and unmistakable understanding that all of the people in the communities are expected to enjoy a life that is tolerable and reasonable. In Barbados we need not mention to our readers that we are too small to follow the examples that are sometimes used in continental countries.

In these large populated areas people live impersonally and there is not the cohesion that a small community engenders. The advantage of a small community is that it forces all of its inhabitants to know each other and to be able to identify their neighbours easily. This, in itself, is a quality that should be encouraged and fostered.

The trade union movement, as an aspect of industrial cohesion, fosters this kind of living on the wider plane of our industrial life. It provides an opportunity for labour and management to build an understanding of working together that no other institution can provide. We are aware of some of the methods used in developed countries to destroy this cohesiveness because it is alien to large communities.

We must caution the public openly that Barbados is not a community that is suitable for the practices designed at destroying the trade union movement and thereby making the right to join unions difficult. These methods have been used in continental areas. We are conscious of the criminal methods that were employed by some countries in the '30s to stop the growth of trade unions. The methods are alien to our culture.

We cannot, however, ignore what has been creeping into Barbados gradually. Either by ignorance or innocence the media have given wide coverage to some of the institutions that are noted for their anti-trade union practices. These practices have been condoned by the authorities. Some of the governments in these small communities are so anxious for economic development that, though they say we are living in a Christian community, they are prepared to exchange their faith at the altar of the dollar. In these circumstances, the workers are exploited and the community as a whole pays a high price for this sacrifice.

There is a growing tendency that a worker should not have the right to join the trade union. Consequently, many obstacles are being placed in the way of workers from exercising this right that is open to people in a free and democratic society.

We do not wish to find ourselves in a national crisis with our backs against the wall like the dramatic situation that occurred some months ago in Grenada before we take action to remove a social cancer. We do not like to go over beaten ground and repeat that we are aware that in some of the territories in the Caribbean, a high level of indifference has been shown to the workers and a measure of callous treatment meted out to them. This treatment of the workers has created its own rebellious reaction and formed new areas for negative action in the society.

We do not wish to continue this method in our own community. We would like to see the eagerness that is shown for economic development expressed in a respect for the human personality. We, who represent the workers, have spent time over the years building an institution for this said purpose, not an institution to create mischief and horror for the community. We have built an organisation that provides protection for the workers and enables them to develop. Our Union has provided the way for the workers to grow up in a free and democratic atmosphere and to show respect for all who live in the community.

We reiterate that we share the view for making our tourist trade attractive and viable. We have, in the first instance, the resources--the natural facilities and the people. What we must learn and must not forget is that tourism is more than smiling with a tourist; it is demonstrated by the way you treat your nationals within your community and make them feel that they are part of this country; that Barbados is their country. They must not be made to feel that they are outside of the community and that you are creating an atmosphere of special individuals for the strangers within your gates.

Politeness, decency and all of the attributes of good manners are qualities that we must spread far and wide. However, we must also learn not to isolate people and make them feel unwanted and suddenly believe that we can open up the flood gates of charm and happiness to our guests and ask our people to be important hosts-hostesses. We are of the view that good manners should not be restricted but should be exercised from the top to the bottom.

Workers dominate the society in every corner of Barbados and they must feel wanted in this community, not wanted as tools, but for being who they are--human beings. We are satisfied that the subtle attempt that is used to create the barrier to good trade unionism will prove to be inimical to the best interest of this community. We seek to represent the workers in the highest form, not the lowest. For that reason we are not afraid of our opponents.

We do not regard the workers as pawns to be used in any game for playing off one against the other. The workers are not elements of games of chance. Those who regulate theorganisations that they belong to cannot operate them on the narrow basis of personal aggrandisement. Organisations of workers must be established on the basis of 'what is best for the workers is good for the community'. This is a principle that must be ingrained in the minds of all sections of the community.

The plans that are afoot for industrial development cannot succeed unless they are grounded in the hearts of the workers of this country and on the faith and belief that what is being done is to promote their best interest. We do not subscribe to the view that the workers are on a mission to destroy what is good in Barbados; this is not the role that an intelligent core of people would adopt. We are aware that if large numbers of people are forced into corners of temptation, then it is not unusual for negative steps to be taken.

We are conscious of the role that has to be played at this time. We reject the negative steps that have been introduced in some quarters on an anti-trade union basis, but shall not adopt an equally negative method in combating this improper practice. We shall take the positive role of organising the workers as a matter of right in their own interest and in that of the community.

BWU on Wage Offers

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 5 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) has warned that it has the means to refuse offers made by any employers, including Government.

And it has insisted that the power in the union rested on the workers' capabilities of reaching agreement in wages set by negotiations.

BWU General Secretary Frank Walcott was reacting to a query concerning Government's recent trend in legislating salaries, without trade union agreement.

Mr Walcott spoke at a lecture-discussion last Thursday at the BWU's Labour College. His topic was the development of the BWU.

He cautioned workers that losing the union would bring home to them the realisation ofhow badly they would be, without the organisation.

In tracing the development of the BWU, Mr Walcott paid tribute to the late Lord Citrine, who as a member of the Royal Commission in 1938, recommended that the BWU be organised as a general workers union.

Mr Walcott said this method of organisation has molded the union into a strong and vibrant body that was unique in the Caribbean.

Walcott Attack on Government

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 6 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, Frank Walcott, has said that the trade union has been cast in the role of villain by Governments who were faced with huge debts and balance of payments problems.

Walcott, in his report to the half-yearly meeting of the BWU at its "Solidarity House" headquarters yesterday, noted that some Caribbean economies, including ours, have been running deficits on their current account.

"The result has been that governments have incurred huge debts and faced with the problems of heavy debt and the added balance of payments problems have tried to cast the trade union in the role of villain," the BWU head said.

Walcott added that there has been an orchestrated call for wage restraint from governments and their associated financial and economic institutions.

"Governments have been leading both in the call and in the practice. The scenario has therefore been very bleak for the workers," Walcott said. He, however, submitted that the BWU has been able as far as possible to maintain a living standard for those workers whom it represents through collective bargaining.

"We realise that the way ahead will be a difficult one but we are convinced that policies which have guided us in the past and the support and solidarity to which we have become accustomed will see us through the coming difficulties," Walcott told delegates of the BWU's divisions.

The BWU general secretary said the policies of protectionism and ideological pluralism have posed a serious threat to continued Caribbean integration.

He added that the union has always been a firm supporter of regional unity and has always demonstrated this in its dedication to the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL).

"The union therefore considers it very important that the leaders of Caricom should desist from the individualism and competition that has appeared among the various territories and should plan for an even more decisive approach to regional integration in the future," Walcott urged.

Among matters discussed at the half-yearly meeting were upcoming negotiations, specifically those dealing with Government workers.

Government has already offered Government workers an increase of five per cent in the first year and five per cent in the second year across the board.

BWU delegates also looked at new dimensions for the staging of May Day celebrations and discussed the plans by Government to change May Day from May 1 to the first Monday in that month, the credit union and the sports club.

Warning on Antiunion Firms

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 6 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) has spoken out against what it said was an open anti-union stance by some locally based foreign companies. It warned that such a position could burst into serious problems.

BWU General Secretary Frank Walcott speaking in a lecture discussion at the Labour College on Thursday, said the situation came down to a matter of politics but Government was not firm enough on the matter.

Walcott said the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) to which the BWU was affiliated, had just released a document on "union busting" as practised by some American firms.

He accused many of these plants of using techniques to bar trade union organisation and made specific mention of a U.S. based electronic firm which he charged had an appearance like a slave camp.

He cautioned "...if you start working against the will of the people, you are likely to create problems."

He referred to "similar rumblings during trade union organisation during the early start of the construction of the Arawak Cement Plant in St. Lucy.

Walcott said the BWU which was representative of a significant proportion of the workforce of Barbados, was not only concerned about the bread-and-butter needs of the workers, but rather about national life, particularly when it effected the lives of the workers.

He stated that the BWU had been responding to some of those needs, as expressed in education, economics and culture.

Looking in more specific terms at the BWU's contribution to national life, Walcott said the organisation had recently been requested to nominate a person to sit on the National Advisory Council on Culture.

According to him: "The union has a membership of around 30,000. Those members, who are parents, would have children who could range from any number from 60,000 on. We, therefore cannot be impervious to what happens in education in Barbados. We have to be as keen on education as we are on other matters of national development."

He added: "We have to be concerned over the state of the roads because we travel on them; moreover, because we pay taxes which run the country."

Unemployment Benefits

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 6 Feb 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Some Bds$1.6 million was paid out in Unemployment Benefits for the last seven months of 1983--June to December.

The highest pay-outs were made in December, when the National Insurance Department which administers the scheme released Bds$356 149.68.

In that month, when people's spending power is at its greatest because of the Christmas festivities, 446 applications for Unemployment Benefits were received but only 355 approved.

June was another month for high receipts. Four hundred and fifty-one applications were received and 481 approved but the expenditure stood at only $190 160.29.

'Politics' in Public Service

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 6 Feb 84 p 20

[Text] The public service in Barbados is being turned upside down by political interference.

This charge was made yesterday by general secretary of the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), Mr Joseph Goddard, who called on senior civil servants to help rectify the situation by standing up for their rights.

Mr Goddard told the Monday NATION that too few senior officers were standing up and telling politicians "you can't do this and you can't do that" because they seemed afraid of having their posts abolished or being placed in no man's land with nothing to do.

He said the main effect of this interference was inflated staff in many Government departments, made so by politicians bypassing the established route for recruitment.

According to Mr Goddard, this condition exists throughout the service and he referred to it as "juggling of job opportunities" to create the false impression that unemployment is being reduced.

He referred to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), as an example, saying that maids and other auxiliary staff were losing their jobs because of "general workers" who were doing their work although listed in a different category.

Mr Goddard said that because of the large number of people placed in positions in various departments, those departments were finding it difficult to operate within their budgets and, therefore, had to lay off regular staff.

The NUPW head added: "Because of this situation personnel managers and department heads find it difficult to get any work out of these people because they answer to "higher masters."

CSO: 3298/547

HARASSMENT OF TOURISTS GROWS; U.S. AID SOUGHT FOR TOURISM

Call for Action

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Joy Springer]

[Text] Hoteliers in Barbados want the National Conservation Commission to enforce the regulations which prohibit beach vendors from harassing visitors on the beaches.

A check with a number of hotels yesterday revealed that the problem of harassment was becoming progressively worse. They supported Tourism Board Chairman Jack Dear's call for a tough policy to end such harassment.

Mr Jurgen Giesbert, general manager of Sam Lords Castle described the problem as the single biggest source of irritation to the hotel's guests.

He said: "Our guests are asleep on the beach and suddenly they are shaken awake by these people who want to know if they want to buy something. They have taken in upon themselves to beat up our Director of Security and they have abused our guests in the foulest manner."

Mr Giesbert noted that it was only a small minority of vendors who posed this kind of problem and he said all he was asking was that the vendors be controlled and that they behave in a civilised manner.

He said he had written to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Lands informing him that the hotel was willing to build stalls for the licensed vendors if it had the assurance that they would be used.

He said he had also sent the National Conservation Commission which is responsible for the vendors comments from guests about their problems with the vendors..... We have been fighting this battle for two years. The controls must be enforced" he said.

Sandy Lane Hotel in St. James also has a major problem. In addition to guests being harassed to buy legitimate items, general manager Mr John Iversen said that some guests had also complained that vendors have offered to sell them drugs.

He said that the licensed vendors who operated from stalls on the beach were no problem since they waited for guests to approach them.

"The problem is with the unlicensed vendors and those licensed to sell on other beaches. One of my guests recently said to me: "I'm not coming back. Barbados is a lovely island, your hotel is nice but I can't take the constant hassle of vendors approaching me every five minutes."

Mr Iversen said that if tighter controls were not put on the beach vendors by the National Conservation Commission, then soon the vendors would not have any one to sell to.

Mr Roy Yallop, general manager of Tamarind Cove Hotel, also on the St. James coast, thinks that "in this day and age when the Barbados tourist industry needs every guest it can get, this problem should be tackled immediately.

He said that while most of the vendors on the beach of his hotel were very polite, it was still annoying for guests to be approached by them one after the other for the entire time that they are on the beach.

He said that he has written Mrs Iris Bannochie, chairman of the National Conservation Commission asking that rangers be posted on the beach and he is hoping that this will help ease the problem.

Mr Yallop said that one of the most frequent complaints on guests' comment cards was: "Put some control on the number of beach vendors."

St. John Proposal

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 3 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Tony Best]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Mr Bernard St. John, has acknowledged that tourist facilities in Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean were in need of improvement, and has called on the United States to step in and provide long-term financing.

Such assistance, Mr St. John said, could come from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, and other financial institutions in the United States.

"What we need right now is money to help refurbish the tourism plant in Barbados and other countries in the Caribbean," Mr St. John told a tourism seminar at Columbia University in New York.

He said: "Our way forward is to convince the United States government that tourism is important to us.

"In much the same way that the Caribbean countries have been able to convince the European Community that the tourist industry is vital to the economic and

social well-being of the region, the task before us now is to achieve a similar objective as far as Washington is concerned," he said.

Mr St. John said that it must be appreciated that the hotel industry in the Caribbean was bound to get into trouble at some period in time because of the method of financing.

He recalled there was a time when the longest period of financing was for ten years. But the European Community recognised this problem and offered longer-term financing for 15 years, Mr St. John said.

The tourism seminar was part of a two-day conference on the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which was organised by the Caribbean Trade Institute in Harlem.

CSO: 3298/547

BARBADOS JOINING IN AREA PLAN TO FIGHT COASTAL POLLUTION

Participation in Caribbean Project

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 6 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Barbados will soon be joining in a Caribbean plan to fight regional marine pollution, including a cooperative effort in combating oil spills.

This was announced by Minister of Lands, Mr Lloyd Brathwaite, at the welcome address at a workshop to enable consultants to the Coastal Conservation Project to discuss beach erosion and forward remedial measures.

Noting that in 1976 the Mediterranean countries (likened to the Caribbean because of they each share a common seal) had adopted a convention against pollution and two protocols to prevent dumping from ships and to arrange cooperation in emergencies like severe oil spills. Mr Brathwaite said that in the Caribbean area an action plan was adopted in 1981.

"The regional convention for the protection and development of the marine environment of the wider Caribbean area is ready for signature as well as the protocol concerning cooperation in combating oil spills. The Barbados Government, it is hoped, will soon ratify the convention and protocol," he stated.

But, he noted it would be no mean task "for unless practical measures are taken to diagnose and clean up the oceans, the fine words and lofty resolutions of the convention and protocol will be worthless".

The Coastal Conservation Project was initiated as a response to the serious and widespread nature of coastal erosion. The project is being funded by the Government of Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank. It started in March 1983, and will be completed in April 1984.

Brathwaite Address

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 6 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

MINISTER OF LANDS, Mr. Lloyd Brathwaite, yesterday charged that Barbadians have been dumping wastes into the sea over the years, and it has turned out to be detrimental to man's health and his environment.

Delivering the opening address at a workshop for a group of consultants to outline the major problems of erosion to Barbadian beaches and propose recommendations for remedial measures, Mr. Brathwaite said:

"...In Barbados ... man has introduced, directly or indirectly, substances into the marine environment, resulting in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources, hazards to human health, hindrance to marine activities, including fishing, impairment of quality for use of sea water and reduction of amenities."

He continued: "Our coasts and beaches are extremely important to ourselves, and, in addition, they provide a major attraction for our visitors. Within recent years, the problems of beach erosion have become extremely serious; some beaches have been lost and properties have become endangered by the erosion, with consequent loss of income to the owners."

Mr. Brathwaite told the group of consultants to the Coastal Conservation Project that "a tremendous amount of remedial work will be required" if Barbadian oceans are to be rescued from their present filthy conditions.

"Coastal erosion is a very complex matter, and many variables are involved and there is no simple solution. Even the most qualified coastal engineer will admit that there is no way to predict exactly nature's effects," he said.

The minister had earlier noted that on hearing of beach erosion one often thought of an area of land disappearing. "If, however, we look into the reasons for that occurrance, we find they may be very far-ranging; they may include off-shore pollution, inland agricultural practices, off-shore storms many hundreds of miles away, and coastal structures located far distances from the particular beach."

For these reasons it is so important to look, not just at the beach zone, but to include the land behind the beach and the waters off-shore from the beach," Mr. Brathwaite said.

CSO: 3298/547

FOOD IMPORT SPENDING

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Barbados appeared to have spent less money last year on imported foodstuff continuing the downward slide of the ountry's food import bill, started two years ago.

Provisional data from the Government's Statistical Department indicated that for the first 10 months of last year some $119.5 million were spent on imported food.

This is the third straight year that the island's food import bill has been on the decline. In 1982 the bill stood at $153 million while for the previous year it was $169 million.

Last year the country's non-sugar agricultural sector performed credibly with surpluses being recorded in the production of many food crops.

The Barbados Central Bank reported that the price trends indicated a modest improvement in the output of vegetables with some food crops notably potatoes being exported with Trinidad and Tobago taking the bulk of this commodity.

Yams were also in good supply during the first half of the year with some 470,000 kilogrammes valued at $513,000 going to England, Canada, Martinique and Caricom countries.

In addition the modernisation of the island's fishing industry and the increased use of boats with cold storage facilities led to an increase in the fish catches.

CSO: 3298/547

CROP PRODUCTION FORECASTS SHOW LOSSES IN PARANA, SAO PAULO

Fecotrigo, Emater Officials Comment

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Mar 84 p 19

[Text] Porto Alegre--The summer agricultural harvest in Rio Grande do Sul is starting to be gathered, and the Federation of Brazilian Wheat and Soybean Cooperatives (FECOTRIGO) is making the last preliminary survey to estimate this year's corn and soybean production. According to the entity's survey on the state's farms, the two crops will have production exceeding that of last year, with 5.64 million tons of soybeans and 3.57 million tons of corn.

FECOTRIGO's director of technical assistance, Carmine Rosito, explained: "After the drought, the rain and the caterpillars, soybean production is now stabilized. Owing to the weather and pest problems, productivity declined from 1,661 kilograms per hectare, as estimated at the beginning of the harvest planting, to 1,547 now. Corn also lost productivity from the drought at the end of last year, followed by intense rainfall. The output anticipated at the start of the planting was 2,167 kilograms per hectare, and it has now been cut to 1,869."

Despite the drop in productivity, this year's soybean production will exceed that of last year, which was only 5.26 million tons. Both last year and this year, the initial forecast was a harvest of 6 million tons. During the current harvest drought, rainfall and caterpillars have cut production to 5.64 million tons.

With regard to corn, despite the fact that the final output will be less than that predicted at the start of the harvest, production will exceed last year's, which stood at 3.17 million tons. The initial estimate for the present harvest was 4.14 million tons, but it has now been reduced to 3.57 million.

Carmine Rosito, the technical assistance director for FECOTRIGO, remarked: "The limit of self-sufficiency has been reached, because the estimated consumption in the state is 3.5 million tons."

This year, Brazil will be forced to import cotton. This prediction was made by the technical director of EMATER [Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Enterprise]-Minas Gerais, Mario Ramos Vilela. Yesterday, he said that this

would occur because the Minas crop was already reduced by a fifth as a result of the drought in the northern part of the state. He remarked that the Parana harvest, hit by the finch pest, has also declined, and will be unable to offset the losses in Minas and Sao Paulo.

Sao Paulo, Moura Reports

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Feb 84 p 19

[Text] Sao Paulo--The secretary of agriculture, Nelson Nicolau, in reporting on the third survey of this year's harvest, anounced that the state's agricultural harvest would decline 10 percent in comparison with the average for the last 5 years.

The secretary explained that the difficulty in importing fertilizers affected the drop in production. The native seed used is of inferior quality; hence the low output from the farms. Nelson Nicolau also cited the extreme heat during the summer months, and the high cost of money as factors having an influence.

The secretary predicted that the situation would not improve during the next harvest; on the contrary, Nelson Nicolau thinks that it will become worse. He gave a reminder that corn experienced the greatest decline in the last 3 years, followed by that of rice and cotton. Corn, despite the expansion of the planting area, showed a reduction of 6.5 percent in comparison with last years' crop.

The situation on the rice farms is more serious: The planted area was increased 1.8 percent, but the production dropped 29.4 percent, owing to the drought. The only product which benefited was water-grown beans, allowing for a crop of 166,000 tons, as compared with 151,000 tons in the 1982-83 harvest.

Londrina--Corn production should not exceed 18 million tons. This figure, released by the Moura Agricultural-Livestock Cooperative (COMO), the second largest in the country, challenges reports from the Production Financing Company (CFP).

CFP has estimated 20.5 million tons for a national consumption of 20 million. The cooperative maintains that the real production will force the government to import corn in order to avoid the collapse of the domestic market. Nelson Silas, the cooperative's director, claims that the 18 million discovered are a result of direct questioning of the producing cooperatives and that the decline is due to the excessive heat.

The 1982-83 agricultural harvest is ridiculous, standing at 10 million tons less than the population's requirements, which are for 60 million tons. This is the opinion of the head of the Brazilian Rual Association, Renato Ticoulat Filho.

He argues that 5 years ago Brazil did not produce over 50 million tons, whereas there was a demographic growth of 2.5 percent per year; and he recalls Argentina: with no population growth, it had an increase of from 26 to 40 million tons during the same period.

Parana Losses Cited

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Feb 84 p 15

[Text] Curitiba, Parana--Parana has already lost 800,000 tons of farm products (worth 237 billion cruzeiros), because of the drought that has struck the state since the beginning of this year. The products most seriously hit are soybeans, rice, corn and cotton, in addition to dry-season beans which, although they are at the beginning of the planting, could be seriously jeopardized by the dry soil.

In the west-central region, one of the largest soybean producers, the pluviometric index for this February was only 3 millimeters, whereas the normal index is 175 millimeters. Parana expected to harvest 4.85 billion tons of soybeans, but now there is a decline of 6 percent, with a loss of 100 billion cruzeiros. Rice, which is grown all over the state, has already suffered a reduction of 21 percent: of the 400,000 tons initially forecast, there remain 290,000 tons, with a loss of 15 billion cruzeiros.

Cotton, which is grown mainly in the northern part of the state, in the areas of Londrina and Maringa, declined 13 percent, from 600,000 to 530,000 tons; representing a loss of 64 billion cruzeiros. Corn, also planted in the north, lost 8 percent, dropping from 6.2 to 5.6 million tons, which represents 580 billion cruzeiros.

According to the technician Altair Araldi, from the Rural Economy Department of the Parana Secretariat of Agriculture, the situation is quite disturbing, because this month, throughout the state, the pluviometric indexes have not reached a third of the normal amount. He said: "We are afraid that the drought will persist, because then the situation will become even worse."

Feed Industry Union Reports

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 Mar 84 p 15

[Text] Sao Paulo--Based upon a survey conducted by the National Union of Feed Industries, Brazil's grain production during the current harvest season will be 56 million tons, with 17 million tons of soybeans, and 22.5 million tons of corn. According to the entity, there is no "possibility of importing those products this year."

The same survey reports that the early soybeans have already been completely harvested in the central states, the northern part of Parana, the southern part of Minas Gerais and Sao Paulo. And it notes that the corn from the "little harvest" has already been completely marketed, with a good crop.

Productivity

Within 10 days, the harvesting of the corn from the big harvest will start, increasing the supply of the product on the domestic market and allowing for a drop in the price.

The National Union of Feed Industries estimates that the country will finish the grain harvest with an increase of from 8 to 10 percent in production, owing primarily to the rise in productivity.

According to the survey, the rice harvesting will begin next week in Rio Grande do Sul, the interior section of Mato Grosso, Minas Gerais and Maranhao. The beans from the water-grown crop have already been gathered and those from the dry crop will be harvested in May.

2909
CSO: 3342/79

JOST ON EXPANDED PLANTING AREAS, ERRONEOUS MARKETING PRACTICES

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 8 Mar 84 p 13

[Text] Brasilia--Yesterday, the new minister of agriculture, Nestor Jost, disclosed that he had received guarantees from President Figueiredo and Planning Minister Delfim Neto that there will be sufficient financial resources available for marketing the 1984 agricultural harvest and next year's production; even though, to accomplish this "it may be necessary to make changes in the current limits set for the monetary budget," such as a restriction on the expansion of the monetary base set at 50 percent.

He defended the privatization of agricultural marketing and freedom for producers to export, provided a strategic reserve is kept for the purpose of ensuring the supply of essential items such as rice, beans, corn and cassava, among others, to the domestic market.

Privatization

In an interview that he held after taking office, Jost proved to be an intransigent defender of private enterprise. He even announced the privatization of certain agencies of the Ministry of Agriculture (he did not specify which ones), as a means of lending more flexibility to Brazilian agricultural production.

As part of this rationale, the minister claimed to favor the termination of the monopoly that exists at present in the domestic marketing of wheat, now that the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) calls for the total abolishment of the subsidy currently granted for consumption of the product.

He explained that the monetary budget called for the outlay of 50 billion cruzeiros until the total abolishment of the subsidy for wheat occurs in June, but with an expected inflation not exceeding 5 percent during January and February. He stressed that, since the inflation has exceeded that estimate, the figures will have to be revised.

Extensive Debate

He also revealed that he had received encouragement from President Figueiredo for starting his project to create an emergency program in order to increase

the area planted with essential products (rice, beans and corn). His idea is to submit a program of this type to the National Monetary Council [CMN].

He criticized the CMN's operating system because, he claimed, sometimes topics are not debated extensively enough. Jose said that the CMN members are caught by surprise with problems difficult to solve, without an extensive discussion of them.

Offering a Price

Even though he favors the release of controls on exports of farm products, by means of the formation of strategic reserves, Jost deems it essential that the government offer a gainful price to the farm producer. He argued: "We can export only if we have prices."

Jost criticized the way in which the marketing of cotton and corn was handled last year. In the case of corn, he noted that the exports of the product (particularly the 500,000 tons to the Soviet Union) were based on a forecast of a 23 million ton harvest, "whereas in fact the harvest did not exceed 19 million tons." He also criticized the release of controls on exports of cotton, because that measure caused an increase in the domestic price of the product, with negative effects on the domestic supply.

Inflationary Pressure

According to Nestor Jost, it is better to change the limits on the monetary budget and guarantee the normal flow of the supply of farm products, rather than jeopardize the preestablished limits and cause an even greater inflationary pressure. In this connection, upon being asked about the agreement signed with the IMF, Jost stressed that the agreement is "a tool of a political nature, and the changes in the monetary budget are completely viable."

He also remarked, quoting from an interview by the president of the Central Bank, Afonso Celso Pastore, with JORNAL DO BRASIL, that he "respectfully disagrees with the opinion of Pastore," who defended the inflexibility of the monetary budget.

2909
CSO: 3342/79

BRIEFS

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER RESIGNS--After 20 months in office, Rolando Araya Monge has tendered his resignation as minister of public works and transportation in order to engage in political activities within his party. Hernan Azofeifa Viquez has been appointed to replace him. [Summary] [PA211228 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Feb 84]

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER APPOINTED--Jorge Urbina Ortega has been appointed as the new Costa Rican deputy foreign minister. Urbina Ortega is currently the alternate ambassador to the United Nations. The new deputy foreign minister replaces Ekhart Peters, who was removed from the office for failing to file a declaration of his assets as required by law. [Summary] [PA032148 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Feb 84 p 2]

CSO: 3248/484

COURTESY VIEWED AS INTEGRAL PART OF SOCIALIST SOCIETY

Havana TRIBUNA DE LA HABANA in Spanish 19 Jan 84 p 4

[Commentary by Gregorio Ortega]

[Text] There are still some citizens who do not realize the extent of the enormous significance attached to the everyday details of social coexistence: giving up one's seat on a crowded bus to a female comrade, particularly if she is an expectant mother or aged; avoiding impertinent or rude behavior in public places; treating a consumer politely; expressing oneself properly; or dressing simply. These ostensibly very minor details determine the real cultural level of a society.

The societies ruled by oppressive classes impose coercive regulations in order to ensure their existence; but different kinds of behavior among the various social classes and sectors prove unsuccessful. Sometimes, as a confused repudiation of the arbitrary rating of values and exploitation, alienated groups appear, attempting to identify themselves and express their differences by means of obvious external signs, ranging from clothes to speech.

When the exploiting classes disappear in a socialist society, and the slow process of the disappearance of classes begins, there is created for the first time in the primitive community the possibility of a society without harmful divisions, in which the personality acquires all the requisites for attaining its fulfillment. In the socialist society, social equality does not mean the elimination of differences in talent, vocations or artistic tastes. On the contrary, only in the socialist society is there the greatest freedom for expression and satisfaction. But it is not in clothing or jargon that these natural differences show up, but rather through the intellect.

This just society, which is enhanced by each talent, each vocation and each artistic taste, affords, as no other does, after the classes have been eliminated, the development of solidarity, mutual assistance and harmonious social coexistence, and the conversion thereof into strong supports for the community and guarantees for every citizen.

These beautiful qualities of the new society that we are building must be reflected not only at critical times, when confronted by the attacks of the imperialists or natural disasters, but also in every daily action of our lives.

Courtesy, kindness, knowing how to keep to ourselves feelings that we have no reason to impose on others, the correct use of our very rich language and conduct respectful of the rights of others in public places are all daily evidence of this solidarity.

To obliterate millennia during which the majority of the population was reduced to poverty and lack of culture, wherein the law that man is the prey of his fellow man prevailed, is no easy task, nor one that can be carried out within a few years. This is why the new society must put into action all its educational and persuasive facilities to change deeply rooted habits and concepts, and to make new values prevail. Nothing must be left to chance nor to spontaneity.

Whereas the language is something living, which grows every day, the slang that contributes new blood to it (often impoverishing it, dimming its clarity and precision with shortlived terms having meanings so vague and variegated that they reduce the language to a ridiculous gibberish) is not. And it is not just the home, the first shaper of character, or the school, provided the teachers have fully mastered this irreplaceable means of transmitting culture, namely, language, but also radio and television which are called upon to instruct, by their daily example.

Shoddiness in language is a faithful reflection of shoddiness in work, in the necessary daily creation of high quality material and cultural values. A people who are models of patriotism and altruism, who have, under their revolution, made such great progress in education, health and culture, can, if they set out to, erradicate the coarseness, the vulgarity and the antisocial behavior that downgrade and damage social coexistence.

Daily example, patience and consistency in giving training in the rules of socialist behavior, persistence in criticizing wrong habits and conduct, and an effort to prevent their becoming models for the weak and those who have gone astray, can attain constantly higher levels of social solidarity. Every social organization, especially those for the youth, because they are helping to shape the younger generations, is dutybound to carry out this unavoidable task. If we realize and attach to it the importance that it holds, we shall be able to eliminate these flaws. Based upon the conviction expressed by our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, for this purpose it will suffice if, using fundamentally political methods, we devote our minds, our efforts and our hearts to dealing with these problems.

2909
CSO: 3248/467

DIRECTOR OF GRANMA ASKS READERS TO REPORT 'SLOPPY WORK'

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 4 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] ROBERTO VEIGA introduced one of the speakers at the Congress as a man who was with Radio Rebelde during the Rierra Maestra fighting and a good friend of the unions and the CTC; Jorge Enrique, Mendoza, director of Granma.

After greeting the Congress on behalf of the workers and journalists of Granma, Mendoza quoted Cuban National Hero Jose Marti's words when he said that "the press is neither benevolent approval nor insulting wrath; it is proposition, study, examination and advice."

"To criticize," Marti said, "is not to bite...to criticize is to point, with noble intentions to the flaw and disperse with merciful hands the shadow that darkens a beautiful work."

"We, the journalists," Mendoza went on, "have concluded that we have not yet fulfilled Jose Marti's mandate." He listed the duties of the press: "the things," he said, "that Marti taught us and that Fidel's teachings raised to great heights."

The head of the organ of the Communist Party of Cuba asked the workers to contribute to the national press' function of constructive criticism. "Help us," Mendoza asked, "to comply with the Constitution of the Republic, to fulfill the resolutions of the 1st and 2nd Congresses of our glorious Party, with the resolutions of the 8th Party Plenum and with Fidel."

Mendoza, also a member of the Central Committee of the Party, emphasized the need for criticism "to advance even faster." He then asked for the cooperation of all the workers, unions and union locals in the fulfillment of the necessary and sacred duty of criticizing. He asked the workers to write to the paper denouncing things that go wrong and sloppy work. The column "From Our Mailbag," he said, "must be a sort of loudspeaker for you. Of course we can't assign at the same time, a journalist to every workshop, every factory, every agricultrual enterprise, every sugar mill, every school, every port, every merchant, vessel, every mine, every tobacco plantation, every forest, every construction site. And yet in every place, in every inch of the country there is a union, there are workers who can help us find out about not only what's wrong or defective but also what's right, for it often happens

that given the modesty of many administrative leaders we don't learn about the tremendous work and effort of the Revolution.

"Dear comrades," Mendoza emphasized, "Please write and help us; help us by making revolutionary and constructive criticism; help us produce a Party paper worthy of Jose Marti, Fidel Castro, our Party, the Revolution, the working class, the 15th Congress of the CTC."

After the applause died down, the general secretary of the CTC commented, "We view this request not as help but as a revolutionary duty."

CSO: 3200/15

INCREASED TRADE WITH JAPAN SUBJECT OF CABRISA'S TRIP

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 26 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Carlos Iglesias]

[Text] TOKYO (PL).--According to Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas, the 7th Cuba-Japan Economic Conference had been a fruitful one, its protocol reflecting all the objectives of the delegation which he headed.

Meetings with Japanese government and business leaders were held in a cordial and constructive climate of mutual understanding of the outlook for bilateral trade, Cabrisas told Prensa Latina before leaving Tokyo.

The Cuban delegation had set a series of important objectives for the development of relations with Japan, including an increase of Cuba's traditional exports to this country, plus certain new export items, along with increased imports, investments, scientific-technical cooperation and tourism, all of which was achieved.

Cabrisas recalled that the Cuban economy had registered a five-percent growth rate, in spite of contrary pressures and world economic problems, thanks to its social system and fraternal relations with the socialist countries.

Cabrisas declared that Japanese firms had always shown a favorable disposition toward Cuba, which explains the fact that the economic conferences have been functioning fruitfully now for a decade.

"My country always responded to that trust with maximum efforts to meet all its commitments, even ahead of schedule," he said.

The minister stressed the importance of the backing of this body of more than 100 firms and economic organizations in achieving a constructive position on the part of Japanese officials regarding the negotiation of a new international sugar agreement.

Japan is one of the leading sugar importers in the world. In 1983, it purchased 350 000 tons from Cuba for direct consumption and 200 000 tons for third markets.

Cabrisas also referred to his meeting with Yoshihiro Inayama, head of the Federation of Economic Organizations, who expressed great interest in the concept of international cooperation outlined by Fidel Castro in his book The World Economic and Social Crisis.

He also expressed satisfaction over his meeting with Japan's Minister of Finance Noboru Takeshita and the latter's optimistic outlook for bilateral relations.

CSO: 3200/15

PUBLISHER WILL OFFER CUBAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 28 Jan 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Yesterday, the official introduction of the Jose Marti Publishing House, for foreign-language publications, took place, with the issuance of its first title (in English): "Revolutionary Cuba," by Terence Cannon.

Armando Hart, member of the party's Politburo and minister of culture, attended the function, held at the headquarters of the Marti Studies Center.

In making the introduction, the first vice minister of culture, Rafael Almeida, remarked: "The new publishing house (under the direction of Felix Sautie) has been created for the purpose of translating and publishing Cuban literature in all its forms of expression, in order to contribute to its most extensive international dissemination."

He added: "It is also the intention of the publishing house to print works by authors from other countries the content of which is associated with the Cuban revolution's cultural policy."

It will engage in six major types of publishing work: fictional literature of the most extensive range of genres, literature for the youth and children, sociopolitical literature in all its forms of expression, art literature of a critical nature, monographs and publications on graphic arts, books on journalism, publicity aimed abroad and on special issues, and scientific-technical and sports literature.

"Revolutionary Cuba" starts an uninterrupted series of publications in other languages, including "History Will Acquit Me" (English, French, Esperanto, Russian and Dutch), "Fidel Castro's Speeches" (English and French), "On the March with Fidel" by Antonio Nunez Jimenez (English, French, Portuguese and Esperanto), "Bertillon 166," a novel by Jose Soler Puig (English), "Cuba and Hemingway on the Gran Rio Azul" by Mary Cruz (English), "Underdevelopment and the Path to Development" by Humberto Perez (English), "Three Documents by Jose Marti," a compilation of the works "Our America," "The Truth About the United States" and "Letter to Manuel Mercado" (English, French, Portuguese, Esperanto and Russian) and a series of children's titles taken from Jose Marti's "The Golden Age" which will be published separately in 11 volumes, with illustrations for coloring (all in English).

Almeida explained that, with regard to the poetry genre, owing to the delicate nature of its translation, it has been decided to operate more cautiously, in order to achieve high quality versions for next year.

Also present at the event were Jaime Crombet, member of the party's Secretariat; Jose F. Carneado, of the Central Committee and chief of its Department of Science, Culture and Educational Centers; other party and cultural leaders; and authors and representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to the country.

There was a discussion of the book "Revolutionary Cuba" by a panel consisting of Ivan Perez Carrion, Francisco Lopez Segrera and Lisandro Otero, who underscored the valuable, documented information on Cuba and its revolution offered by the work of Terence Cannon, an American free-lance journalist and editor, and the author of many articles on Latin America and Cuba.

"Who were the revolutionary leaders preceding Fidel Castro? What is the Communist Party of Cuba and what role does it play? Why have all the enemy's attempts to overthrow the revolution failed? Cannon reponds to these and many other questions that have become a constant element to anyone abroad who wants to learn about Cuba," remarked Ivan Perez.

Segrera called attention to the fact that the book proves that the United States has been the systematic aggressor, and Cuba the one attacked. Lisandro Otero, for his part, emphasized that the text tells great truths with effective analyses, proving, for example, the ancient origin of the U.S. greed for Cuba.

2909
CSO: 3248/467

CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO KISSINGER REPORT NOTED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 29 Jan 84 p 9

[Article by Luis M. Arce]

[Text] The dangers of the Central America report drawn up by a U.S. bipartisan commission are cause for reflection and analysis. From a practical standpoint, the creation of the commission, composed of representatives from the Democratic and Republican Parties selected by the Reagan administration, and the commission's conclusions are the result of a carefully studied White House plan designed to achieve a consensus among both parties as well as among the U.S. people which is of vital necessity to Washington in implementing its aggressive, reactionary policy in Central America.

The report, in considerably demagogic terms, draws attention to a number of social and economic problems in the region, but the window dressing fails to hide the main purpose of the document. The White House's well-known thesis that Central America's conflict can be solved only through military action forms the grist of the report.

Of course, the language used in the report is far from being so straightforward. Using phrases filled with patriotic fervor and anti-communist venom, the document sets out to convince people that the situation in Central America constitutes a threat to U.S. security and that, in effect, the conflict in the area must be viewed within the framework of the so-called East-West confrontation.

Such an assertion reveals the strategic essence of the commission's existence and of its conclusions: the southern border of the United States must be "extended" to Central America and the Caribbean where the nearest source of East-West confrontation is located. In other words, the conclusion reflects the latest imperialist concept of expansionism.

So far, Reagan has achieved something of significant importance to him: to have representatives of the United States' main parties arrive at a consensus on the issue and declare themselves in favor of his policy toward Central America. This means that Regan now holds a potential instrument--valid from the standpoint of the country's power structure and political practice--to legitimize an eventual attack on Central America.

It also means a substantial step forward toward a possible establishment decision that would enable Reagan to speak of a strategy against Central America and the Caribbean or, even worse, to take the Central American conflict out of its historical and geographic context and place it within the broader framework of the East-West confrontation, allowing him to attempt a series of actions similar to that of Grenada even beyond Central American limits.

The Reagan administration's concept of today's world, accompanied by its stubborn opposition to universal peace, confirms Fidel's warning in his speech of July 26, 1983, when he said, "We are living in risky and difficult times. The threat of confrontation is not only local; it is worldwide. We need nerves of steel, the utmost strength and mobilization of the peoples and an absolute determination not to yield to blackmail if we are to stop the aggressor, if we are to safeguard peace, if we are to survive."

The danger doesn't lie only in the fact that the bipartisan commission has sponsored the Reagan administration's militarist attitude. While the White House was seeking a consensus on the aggressive policy toward Central America and its legitimization, the Pentagon was increasing U.S. military presence in Central America and the Caribbean and high-powered lobbying was being carried out at the Capitol for increased military aid to the regimes of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Hence our conclusion that the recommendations made in the Kissinger commission do not reveal anything new for Central American peoples. It simply supports what has already been done, what is "in force" in the region, that is, U.S. military presence in the coastal waters and territory of Central America; the CIA's "secret" war against Nicaragua; the maintenance of counterrevolutionary bands; the increase in military aid to El Salvador and Honduras; the implementation of a new program of military aid for Guatemala, and the permanent Big Pine maneuvers. In a nutshell, the military machine deployed by the Pentagon for an eventual mass-scale intervention in the area.

As is generally known, while the Kissinger commission was going about its work, the Reagan administration was involved in an intensive diplomatic campaign in the rest of Latin America in an attempt to convince some governments of the "justness" of the recommendations made in the bipartisan report and to have them eventually committed to some of the least offensive aspects and utlimately to attract and turn them into de facto accomplices.

All this maneuvering spells danger. The fallacies contained in the report--for example, trying to blame Central American revolutionaries for the war situation in the region and insinuating that an increase in U.S. military aid to the regimes of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala does not mean intolerance toward the revolutionaries or scorn for their negotiating position--indicate that the Reagan government is determined to adopt most of the commission's recommendations as the cornerstone of U.S. strategy for the area.

We harbor the hope, however, that the U.S. Congress will not be deceived by Reagan's appeal for support of most of the commission's recommendations.

There are already important signs of refusal, such as Senator Edward Kennedy's statements accusing the commission of repeating the mistake of encouraging U.S. interventionism and ignoring the lessons of past "military solutions" by insinuating that success can only be achieved through U.S. troop involvement in the conflict.

Similar statements were made by Democratic Senator Daniel Moynihan, vice-president of the Senate Intelligence Committee, who asserted that the commission had adopted a dogmatic stand to try to make its unfounded conclusions prevail. Another 32 Democratic representatives wrote an open letter to the president, rejecting the commission's recommendations.

No matter how many commissions are created or how many studies are made, neither the Reagan administration nor any other will ever be able to assure Congress that in the event of the war becoming generalized and of U.S. military internvention Central America will not become another Vietnam.

Any action of force that the White House may decide to take in Central America will be more costly and more hateful than the political solution desired by Central American peoples and, in fact, by all of Latin America. This was demonstrated in the Quito Declaration, and in the support given by the continent's representatives to the Contadora Group.

The peoples of Central America want peace, the kind of peace that will also enable them to solve vital problems such as hunger, unemployment, disease and illiteracy; the kind of peace that will do away with uncertainty about the future and that will light the way to happiness.

That kind of peace can never be offered by the commission report because, in essence, the report is an invitation to war.

The peoples of Central America are not scared by the Reagan administration's policy, now backed by the Kissinger report. On the contrary, that aggressive policy is what makes those peoples determined to be better prepared. That way they can make the intervention forces pay dearly for their actions in the event of a decision to put into effect the Reagan administration's insane, adventuristic policy, a policy that the bipartisan commission has de facto adopted as its own.

CSO: 3200/14

BRIEFS

PASSAGE OF TREASON ACT--Roseau, Wed., (Cana)--Dominica House of Assembly passed last night the so-called Treason Act, designed to preserve parliamentary democracy here, with minor amendments suggested by the Opposition. The Act, tabled by Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs, Ronan David, is according to Government officials, inter-related with the State Security Act, passed in Parliament on Monday. The Treason Act, according to a white paper circulated by the Eugenia Charles administration, seeks to "ensure the protection of the State, the Constitution, the Government and Parliament, by making it an offence for any person who owes allegiance to the State to form an intention to levy war against the State, or to overthrow the Government by force of arms, if such intention is supported by some overt act." It states that a person arrested for any offence committed under the Act would not be granted bail, a provision which was heavily criticised by Opposition members, Michael Douglas and Senator Elford Henry, both of whom described it as being "unconstitutional." However, Government parliamentarians rejected the allegations, saying that the Act had been considered by Government since 1981, following an unsuccessful attempt at unseating the administration, and though it was now being introduced in Parliament, it was not being retroactive. Under the new Act, anyone found guilty of treason would be sentenced to death by hanging. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Feb 84 p 5]

CARIBBEAN 'ONE OF MOST STABLE AREAS'--Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica, one of the chief proponents of the October invasion of Granada, said the Caribbean region is becoming one of the most stable areas of the world. Prime Minister Charles, on a 3-day visit to Puerto Rico, said the United States should double its aid to the region to safeguard that stability. U.S. President Reagan's Caribbean initiative plan provides over $300 million in aid and trade incentives to Caribbean nations. [Text] [FL161435 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 16 Mar 84]

CSO: 3298/1140

BRIEFS

RESEARCHER ON CHEMICAL WARFARE--Mexico City, 15 Mar (NOTIMEX)--Researcher Camilo Balqui Cachi reported here today that the appearance of epidemics of conjunctivitis, denge, poliomyelitis, and other diseases in Salvadoran towns supports the hypothesis that that country's army has used chemical weapons. The professor at the Autonomous University of Guerrero and member of the Mexican Committee for Solidarity With the Salvadoran People said that the indiscriminate use of these weapons in El Salvador could cause genetic problems and problems in the ecology. [Excerpt] [FL152030 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1936 GMT 15 Mar 84]

CSO: 3248/483

PPP SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON CRIME SITUATION, POLICE ROLE

Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Jan 84 pp 2-3

[Text] The chief parliamentary spokesman of the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) on Home Affairs and National Security, Clinton Collymore has disagreed with assertions that the Guyana police are on top of the crime situation.

In a question and answer session withMIRROR journalist Moses Nagamootoo, the 44-year-old journalist-politician said that there is currently a clear trend towards organisation and central control by ganglords and Guyana is merely a step or two away from a situation where the various independent gangs begin to co-operate.

Collymore, besides being a Member of Parliament, is an Executive Committee Member of the PPP and holds the positions of Secretary of Propaganda and Editor of THUNDER, official organ of the party.

The following is a full account of the question and answer session:

Question: What are your views on the crime situation, particularly during last year, and what impact it had on the social fabric of the society?

Answer: The crime situation in 1983 could be considered dramatic and blood curdling in view of the numerous savage murders, hold-ups, rapes, and armed outrages which took place. There is every indication that 1984 will not be much different if the economic and political crises continue to deteriorate. A lot depends on exactly what the government does in its economic policies, most of which are ill-advised and completely wrong. In other words, government action particularly in the field of employment where large-scale sackings are concerned, generate or create crime, prostitution, etc. Crime as a whole has had a disastrous impact on the social fabric of the nation.

Question: What can you say about the methods used by the bandits, and do they fit in with fears that there is organised crime in Guyana?

Answer: The bandits nowadays seem to be well armed and their methods are brutal and sadistic. They cannot be excused, and the full severity of the law should be applied to those caught and brought to justice. The violation of the sanctity of homes cannot be countenanced, nor can the cruel tortures

to which victims are subjected; some of these tortures ended in death for the victims. Not even infants are spared. While it may be premature at this point to say definitely that there is organised crime in Guyana, perhaps as exists in the decadent US society in the form of the Mafia, and Cosa Nostra, there is currently a clear trend towards organisation and central control by ganglords. It is merely a step or two away from a situation where the various independent gangs begin to co-operate.

Question: The Police have said that they are on top of the crime situation. Are you satisfied that this is so? If not, what in your opinion needs to be done?

Answer: The police are not on top of the crime situation. They may simply mean by that assertion that armed robberies have been reduced somewhat; but armed robberies are only a part of the appalling, terrifying crime crisis strangling this nation. There is widespread black-marketing which is mushrooming; increasing incidents of burglary, larceny, robberies without arms but with some sort of violence or intimidation, rapes, praedial larceny, etc. Armed hold-ups notwithstanding, the most scandalous zone of criminal activity is corruption. The thieves in high places make off with millions of dollars in tax-payers' money at one swoop, and are no better than the armed gangsters. In socialist countries these corrupt officials are usually shot. The nation is still awaiting the anti-corruption law solemnly promised by the PNC.

The police alone (or better put) police measures alone cannot snuff out crime or corruption. Political action is needed, plus full accountability of the government to the electorate. The latter ingredient as you know does not exist in this country. If the economic crisis gets worse, crime is bound to increase regardless of drastic police action. The economy therefore must be improved.

Question: The PPP has had a campaign against crime during last year, and you yourself led delegations to the police high command. How do you assess those efforts and what follow-up measures do you suggest?

Answer: The PPP is vehemently against all sorts of crime including vicious armed hold-ups and endemic corruption. The Party is therefore constantly agitating in this respect and has been making useful suggestions to the authorities most of which have been ignored. Demonstrations were held by the Party in key areas last year, including Georgetown in front of the Home Affairs Ministry. In some areas these anti-crime demonstrators were actually arrested by police. It was a shocking display of stupidity if the police and the authorities really wanted to convey to the harassed public that they are sincere in combatting crime.

Several delegations have indeed been led by me to the Police Commissioners and to the Crime Chief on specific matters. The results while positive in some respects, left much to be desired although both the Police Chief and the Crime Chief showed great courtesy to the delegations and to myself in particular. On to this day a lot of issues raised by me with those two key officers of the law have not been addressed. These include overdue inquests, inquiries

into police tortures, departmental and court punishment of offenders in the force, suspicious deaths of prisoners while in police custody, compensation to the PPP for vehicles and equipment damaged or stolen while in police custody, etc.

Numerous questions on the said issues have been submitted to the Parliament including requests for statistics but no replies have been made to date. Annual reports by the Commissioner of Police are late, to date by 5 years, the last report being for 1978. The Party intends to continue its agitation to get rampaging crime and corruption curbed and is not cowed by the stonewall attitude of officialdom. Crime and corruption in Guyana are twin scourges which must be arrested.

Question: On several occasions during debates in the Parliament I heard you repeat the allegation that there are criminal elements in the police force and other sections of the disciplined services. How do you propose that those elements be purged, and do you think that the new recruitment policy of using the National Service as the entrance door to the police and army would give those sections of the forces a clean look and greater efficiency?

Answer: Of course they are undesirable elements in the Police Force, as even the Commissioner has admitted to me and my delegations on several occasions. However, he informed me that whenever they are spotted, he gets rid of them. No one can tell what is in a person's mind, so unless a member of the disciplined forces does something unlawful or corrupt (the same thing virtually) he cannot be removed or punished. Using the National Service as a recruitment channel would not help weed out these elements. They have to be caught red-handed or sufficient evidence must be obtained to justify their dismissal.

The efficiency of the disciplined forces particularly the police and army depends on proper administration, proper management, honest commitment, high morale, firm rapport with the public, correct political guidance, and a realisation that they are servants and not masters of the people. Too, they need decent salaries; satisfactory risk incentives; adequate allowances; decent housing; and merited promotions. These are some factors militating against police efficiency in particular, not to forget inadequate and atrocious transportation facilities and obsolete and ineffective crime fighting techniques and equipment. Policemen have many grievances which are legitimate. The full blame for the crime crisis should not be laid at their door. Given the tools, the will and the lack of political interference they will work satisfactorily. As such, recruitment procedure alone is not the answer.

Question: The PPP has been calling for a National Patriotic Front Government. How would the question of crime under such a government be tackled?

Answer: The PPP has recently, in and out of Parliament, renewed its call for a National Patriotic Front Government (NPF). The Party sees this as the only way out of the political, economic social and cultural impasse. For an NPF government to be achieved, discussions must first be held on the subject by interested parties, with an agreement signed to that effect.

Such an NPF government will serve to galvanise the masses in a specific forward direction, and will serve to end worker-peasant alienation at the grassroots thereby tremendously boosting productivity and production. The necessary mechanisms will be installed to ferret out corrupt elements, and employment opportunities will expand as the economy expands. As was mentioned earlier the crime situation will get worse if the economic situation worsens; and thus if the economic situation improves, crime incidents will drop.

On the other hand crimes like dope peddling, smuggling blackmarketing, profiteering, currency rackets, embezzlement of state funds, rapes, etc. will be dealt with severely. Praedial larcenists will not be tolerated either, for stiff penalties will await them if the courts find them guilty. An anti-corruption law will be speedily enacted and the necessary enforcement mechanisms put in place to be supervised by an All-Party Parliamentary Committee.

Another factor to note is the importance of nation-wide Vigilante Groups based on community support. The PPP is vigorously advocating these Groups all over the country, mainly in high crime areas, and as the Party sees it, their role is to assist the police in crime fighting and crime prevention operations. Sad to say not enough of this is taking place due to official intransigence and foot-dragging tactics.

The Party says that the Vigilante Groups should be trained and armed by the police for the specific purpose of crime fighting. This would be financially cheaper in the short and long term than expanding the size of the police force which now stands at some 4,000 officers and men and women. A bigger police force does not necessarily mean better salaries, or conditions. An NPF government would seek to maximise the use of Vigilante Groups or Community Police as they are known in official jargon, and boost police salaries, benefits, allowances and conditions of work.

CSO: 3298/551

EXPANDING BAUXITE OPERATIONS GET BOOST FROM NEW DREDGE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Jan 84 pp 1,5

[Text] Expanding bauxite operations in Berbice are likely to benefit immensely now that the Transport and Harbours Department has acquired a new dredge.

During the last four years bauxite shipments from Berbice have been restricted severely because of siltation in the Berbice River channel, as a result, the Bauxite Company lost millions of dollars in export earnings.

The T&HD's new dredge christened 'Steve-N', was built by the Guyana National Engineering Corporation (GNEC) with technical assistance from Damen Shipyard of Holland for the T&HD at a cost of $12.2 million.

At Saturday's handing-over ceremony Vice-President Social Infrastructure, Hamilton Green said investigations have revealed that the rate of siltation in the Berbice River is greater than assumed earlier.

And, noting that BIDCO is expanding its operations in the Berbice area and aims at exporting annually about one million metric tonnes of various grades of bauxite from Everton, Cde Green pointed out that the dire need for Guyana acquiring its own dredge "is not debatable."

River commuters in the Essequibo area who use the T&HD's ferry service between Adventure and Parika are also likely to benefit immensely after the dredge is put into operation.

At the moment one of the major problems plaguing commuters in the Essequibo area is the frequency with which the T&HD's vessels run aground on sandbanks which dot the Essequibo river--especially in the channel between Hogg Island and Wakenaam.

Since 1974 when the T&HD dredge, "Sir Crawford" became unserviceable, the department has been without a dredge and no significant dredging has been done.

Three years ago when the accumulation of silt alongside the wharves in Port Georgetown posed serious problems for river navigation, the T&HD was forced to put together a makeshift dredge by mounting a crane on a pontoon pulled by two split barges and a tug.

Around that same time, the situation in the Berbice River channel had reached such proportions that BIDCO was obliged to contract the services of an overseas company to dredge the Berbice channel at a cost of five million US dollars--nearly three million dollars more than the cost of "Steve-N".

As a result of that exercise, the depth of the Berbice channel was increased from 14.4 feet (4.4 metres) to 19.6 feet (6.0 metres) and BIDCO was able to increase its average shipments out of Everton from 6,000 tons to 13,000 tons thereby saving an estimated four million US dollars per annum.

In his remarks Saturday, Vice-President Green noted that when dredged, the Berbice channel at high tide could permit the passage of vessels with a draught of up to about 19 feet (6.0 metres).

These vessels, he pointed out, can carry loads of 13,000 tons of bauxite. And, a reduction of one metre in the permissible draught will result in a corresponding reduction of the load of about 2,700 tons.

He noted further that it is normally considered that the transportation of bauxite is ideal in shipments of 23,000 to 30,000 tons.

And, he added: "Since our rivers permit maximum loads of only about 13,000 tons, it can be readily appreciated how important it is to maintain properly the channels not only in the Berbice River but all of our rivers."

All the carpentry works including all the vessels' furniture were made from local woods by GNEC's carpentry and joinery crews.

Meanwhile, the CHRONICLE understands that in keeping with agreements between Guyana Government and Damen Shipyard the latter will send one dredgemaster and one engineer to help train local technicians.

CSO: 3298/551

LOAN OF $42 MILLION FOR MMA SCHEME APPROVED BY IDB

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Jan 84 p 1, 4

[Text] Guyana's application to the IDB for a loan of $42 million [US] for the Abary II of the MMA Scheme has been approved by the Bank's Board of Directors, reports from Washington said last night.

The loan from the Inter-American Development Bank represents 78.4 per cent of the total cost of the project. The Guyana Government is required to provide the additional $11.6 million (US) (21.6 per cent of the total cost).

In July last year, the US Government vetoed the Board's approval of the loan application for financing of this project under the terms of the Funds for Special Operations [FSO].

The present approval relates to financing under Ordinary Capital (OC) terms, the route which the Guyana government chose to explore consequent upon the veto exercised in relation to FSO.

According to the Bank's rules the US Government has the voting strength to exercise a veto by itself on matters involving FSO financing. However, for loans to be considered under OC financing, the US Government does not have such veto powers.

Approval of the loan under OC financing means that Guyana will lose approximately 67 million US dollars in net foreign exchange earnings over the repayment period of the loan.

This loss results from the higher interest rate of 11 per cent per annum and the shorter repayment period of 25 years under OC financing as against the low interest rate of one to two per cent and the longer repayment period of 40 years under FSO.

The works in Abary II which the loan is intended to finance are integrally linked to the primary works already completed in November 1983 on Abary I. They consist of secondary drainage and irrigation canals and related hydraulic structures. Approximately 37,000 acres of rice lands will benefit from adequate drainage and irrigation when these works are implemented. (GNA).

CSO: 3298/551

PNC GENERAL COUNCIL MEETS TO WEIGH 'CRITICAL' ISSUES

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 22 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] General Council, the highest forum of the People's National Congress between Congress is involved in discussions on the numerous issues affecting the nation at this critical time of our development.

Among the issues being looked at are the organisation of the People's Co-operative and the adjustment of the Guyana dollar to facilitate a greater receipt of the local currency for exports.

When the session began Friday, Leader of the Party, Cde Forbes Burnham, was absent, and, according to reports, he was considering details of the amendments to the Party constitution.

Prior to the amendment, the first General Council meeting after the congress would have elected members to the Central Committee of the Party. But under the amendment the congress elects 15 persons to the Central Committee.

But the Leader of the Party has been entrusted with making appointments to the body after consultation with the elected members. He has also been entrusted with the task of assigning tasks to the members of the Central Committee.

Up to press time, the Comrade Leader had appointed three members to the Central Committee and he had appointed Cde Hyacinth Godett to the position of Treasurer of the Party, a position she had been holding for a number of years. The three appointed members are Cde Ptolemy Reid, who has been appointed General Secretary of the Party, Cde Urmia Johnson, who has been appointed Assistant General Secretary of the Party and Cde Elvin McDavid, Chief Political Adviser to the President.

And unlike previous General Council meetings, there were no special invitees to Friday's opening session. As Cde Reid, who is currently performing the duties of Chairman, explained, those persons who would have been invited were engaged in fashioning the various aspects of the National budget, an assignment that is considered urgent at this time.

Yesterday, General Council was scheduled to discuss the organisation of the People's Co-operative unit, creating a system that has been enshrined in the

People's New Constitution and which had been proposed by Leader of the PNC, Cde Forbes Burnham, more than a decade ago.

The publication, Co-op Republic Guyana 1970, contains all the thoughts behind the establishment of the People's Co-operative.

Cde Burnham was also scheduled to make his first presentation yesterday, opening the way for serious discussions at this forum on matters of national importance.

Recommendations coming out of General Council have repeatedly been adopted at the national level and among such recommendations have been the opening of service stations at weekends and the refusal of government to enter into an agreement with the International Monetary Fund under the terms proposed by that body last year.

Cde Burnham is scheduled to make another presentation to General Council today. This presentation is to be followed by further discussions.

Other issues at the current meeting of General Council included reports by the various Regional Chairmen, the Chairman of the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement and the national Chairman of the Young Socialist Movement.

The meeting is still to look at the reports on the Supreme Congress of the People which convened for the second sitting last month, the Special Congress of the Party and the 19th anniversary of the Party in government.

CSO: 3298/551

GREENIDGE SAYS CONSUMER ACTIONS BRING RISE IN COST OF LIVING

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 22 Jan 84 pp 4,5

[Text]

The cost of articles not intended in the list of price-controlled items is high, giving rise to an increasing cost-of-living and with the recent adjustment to the Guyana currency there is every indication that the price of these items will go even higher.

Among these items are some edible goods which have been designated restricted imports, consumer items which are at present scarce, and luxury items.

The fact that these items are abundant on the parallel market is indicative of the amount of money in the system and the ability of many persons to pay for them.

As Finance Minister **Cde Carl Greenidge**, said last weekend, there are persons who by their actions contribute to the rise in their own cost-of-living by spending more money than is necessary to procure items they consider necessary in keeping with their tastes.

Such persons also contribute to the growth of the parallel market by establishing the kind of demand that can only harm their economic interests. More simply put, if a person does not buy on the parallel market then there will be no parallel market.

Further, a concerted effort on the part of those who support the parallel market, can force the price of those scarce commodities down. One item, wheat flour, is now fetching a high price, not because of demand, but because of the desire of the vendor to recover his investment and make a handsome profit.

In some countries housewives have been known to protest the high cost of commodities, by instituting a boycott of those commodities, forcing the price downward.

Back in Guyana another feature that has developed during this period of crisis is the attitude of legitimate distributors. These distributors obtain scarce items from government wholesale outlets and promptly pass these on to the parallel market for a quicker and higher profit than would have operated normally.

In our society there are those who complain about the high price of commodities in one breath then tell you, in another, that one cannot eat the money.

At the same time there are others who are discovering that they can control their cost-of-living by concentrating on those items that are readily available. For example: pumpkin is now in plentiful supply and so are boulangers (egg plant). People are buying a lot of these.

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Fortunately for those who want to control their economic destinies, at some time or other there is always a group of food items in plentiful supply. And while meat prices are high fish is cheap

CSO: 3298/551

NEW REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO STREAMLINE GOLD INDUSTRY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

THE Ministry of Energy and Mines has introduced tough regulations as it moves to clamp down on smuggling and other irregularities within the gold industry.

The Mining (Amendment) Regulations 1984 make provision for the registration and annual licensing of dredges. It also sets out penalties, including forfeiture and disposal of aircraft and all other carriers found involved in gold smuggling.

Owners of unlicensed or unregistered dredges found in the country's six mining districts will not only have their machinery forfeited, but will also be liable on summary conviction to a 25 000-dollar fine.

The new mining regulations signed by Energy and Mines Minister, Harun Rashid on January 10, also set out clear guidelines for the transfer of ownership and the movement of dredges and other specified machinery from one mining claim to another.

Registers of dredges and other machinery are to be kept in each mining district. All registered machinery will have to carry an easily distinguishable identification mark — a number and a letter. Failure to fix proper identification marks will be considered a breach of the new regulations.

The introduction of the 1984 Mining Amendment Regulations follows the approval in the National Assembly, in September last year, of a Bill empowering the Minister of Energy and Mines to make regulations on the operations of mining claims and dredges, and other activities within the industry.

Licences will have to be bought for all dredges operating in or taken into the mining districts, except those owned or used by the Geology and Mines Commission. All such dredges will also have to be registered with the Commissioner of Geology and Mines.

Registration certificates and licences will be revoked if owners are caught contravening the Mining Act.

Under the new regulations, the Commissioner of Geology and Mines will have to sanction the removal of any dredge or registered machinery from one mining claim to another.

The Commissioner will also have to be notified of transfers of ownership. Both parties will have to submit transfer applications, along with the relevant documents, within seven days of the change of possession.

No person below 18 will be registered as the owner of a dredge or other specified machinery.

—(GNA)

CSO: 3298/551

OPPOSITION FORCES LAUNCH ATTACK ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT SCHEME

Blast at PNC Rule

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 9 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] The country is still waking out of its holiday doze, but the ruling politicians have been planning against your interests.

On December 31, 1983, Guyanese had endured 10 years of nominated local government in the country. Of course there were laws "postponing" and then "further postponing" local government elections. The ruling party argued in 1970 that the government it succeeded had frozen local government elections for seven or more years.

After hints by VP Cammie Ramsaroop at the opening of the PNC's 5th Biennial Congress last August, the herald angels of the ruling party have now begun to sing of a new sin: the setting up of People's Cooperative Units.

With two years to run before General Selections are due (unless the President says there is a state of war) there is a declaration that these smaller bodies will be launched to get the people to make decisions.

The central government holds power by heavily rigged voters' lists, laws and elections. This is also the case with the regional councils. The district councils elected and selected in June and December 1970 are still in office. On the appointed day, October 6, 1980, when the new constitution came into force, all these rotten councils became "local democratic organs" according to law.

Lawlessness at the top councils, lawlessness in the middle, lawlessness at the bottom is the method of rule.

To hold these elections without the 1980 census being declared, to hold them on the invincible voters' lists which nobody accepts--these things show the basic agreement between Seaga and Burnham, not in matters of foreign policy, but in matters of power.

Democratic lawyers, civil rights leaders, religious thinkers, artists, women, trade unions, political parties, look out! The PNC marines are on the march.

PNC 'Misuse' of Councils

Georgetown DAYCLEAN in English 21 Jan 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Local Government Horsewhip

The rulers are getting set to use local government as a horsewhip across the people's backs. The first hint that a fresh round of lashes were about to come down came from Cammie Ramsaroop, Vice President, at the PNC 5th Biennial Congress last year. Since then the air has been buzzing with talk of plans for local democracy and local government organs; much talk, but little information.

But what we already know about PNC "local democracy" is dread enough.

Under the law, Act No 12 of 1980, the Local Democratic Organs Act, one aim is "to involve as many citizens as possible in the task of managing and developing the communities in which they live". The other aim is "ensuring popular participation in organising the political, economic, social and cultural life of those communities".

To understand how the PNC will go about "involving citizens" to carry out the first aim, we only have to look at the system at the government's Pin Hope. Women do forced labour at Hope for the right to buy cooking oil and cigarettes to sell above the controlled price. Ministry and corporation employees, teachers at training institutions and anyone the PNC can lay their hands on serve time at Hope under the whip of the big massa on horseback. This is the PNC's idea of community development.

To understand how the PNC will set about "ensuring popular participation", we only have to check Mass Games, the Tata bus rallies, the scraven levies. We only have to recall their use of rigged elections, assassination, arrest, the House of Israel and bans on meetings and marches to know what this dictatorship thinks about popular participation. The only form of people's participation free from harassment is the funeral procession. Because of the state of the hospitals, the malnutrition diet of the people, the vicious crimes up and down the country the processions to the graveyard are growing daily.

These Organs Have the Touch

We know that the existing town councils were last elected in 1970. A law passed in 1980 turned these dead bodies, these corpses, into "democratic organs". These organs have been rotting. And since the country is short of disinfectant, they have been smelling.

Now the PNC plans to set up a thing called People's Cooperative Committees. These will be set up through the party. They say also that they will be setting up People's Cooperative Units. The Units will be established under the constitution, Act No 12, 1980. PCCs under the PNC party and PCUs under the PNC constitution. This is a plan for PNC paramountcy over every aspect of the people's lives in their communities.

Before they are even born, the People's Cooperative Units are starting to smell bad.

These new organs have the Burnham Touch.

We Know Enough

In 1982 the PNC entered our kitchens by the back door and banned wheat flour. For most of the year, they cut out milk for babies and little children. The little milk there was they hoarded from October to December 19th for their market day. They took away old age pensions for many of the aged over 65 years. Their advisers, their bodyguards, their sons have maimed, caused death and killed without penalty. Last year they retrenched thousands of workers. Only last week they devalued by 25 percent. Another devaluation is to come. It is said that after that they plan to five 25 percent increase in wages. Look at what happened to the teachers last year, they took away the increase before they handed it over.

The 1979 minimum wage of $14 a day is still due. Mr Melville's 1983 report that a family of six needs $998 a month to keep from begging, stealing or starving--still stands.

Is this why they are planning to put a lot of local massas on horseback with horsewhips in hand? We know enough about Burnham's national democracy to guess what his local democracy is going to mean. When he made his barefaced victory speech after the December 1980 selections, he promised local elections "shortly". Burnham's "shortly" is already three years and more.

The way things are going, one cannot be sure that they even plan elections for the People's Cooperative Units--constitution or no constitution. Rabbi Washington said last week on Night Ride that he was born a prophet. He did not have to be anointed. So too will the PCU's come into being, with the Burnham Touch, "as if elected".

This is the same Burnham no one can libel. The same Burnham who promised that the 1980 constitution would go to a referendum. The same Burnham who promised in 1975 to publish the assets of the PNC comrades holding secret wealth. The same Burnham who promised in October 1973 that the Mazaruni Highlands would grow Guyana wheat by 1976.

We Have to Protect the Courts

With this new attack on what little freedom we have left, we have to make new efforts to protect the courts. The courts and everybody assisting the courts must fight hard to keep the courts out of Burnham's clutches. This will mean a new respect for the courts. It does not mean that we will give up our rights. It means that our protests, even in the courts, must show due regard. We have to act so that it is clear that the disrespect of the courts comes from the oppressors only.

The courts already have a list of important matters laid by the WPA. There are defences in libel cases, application for the right to hold meetings and

processions and an application against the Chief of Staff for acting illegally and under PNC paramountcy. These matters concern our rights, the people's right to speak, to assemble, to march and the right to an army that does not side with any one political party. Apart from these the arson appeal is pending since 1981. Appeals by Mrs Olga Bone and Mr Richard Small, the Jamaican attorney, are also pending.

The courts must do what they can, because there is much they cannot do.

This Is How to Spell Slavery

Under the PNC constitution which gives Burnham the power to cover up crime before it reaches the court, local councils have the legal power to drive the people here and there like the Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea. Parliament can give the local councils power to make decisions that are binding on the people. Laws are binding, but here we can have motions that are binding on the residents of a community. This goes along with the power to organise "cooperation" in social, economic, political and cultural matters.

This is where the little local masses on horseback with horsewhips come in.

This is how to spell slavery nowadays.

We Have to Use What We Have

Be on the look-out for what can be done to stop the spread of slavery in 1984 in Guyana. The WPA will expect your support in this and bigger struggles, struggles we are going to fight without waiting for arms we have not got and cannot get.

The WPA will find new use for what the masses have plenty of: Commonsense. The commonsense of the masses can be turned into a powerful weapon against the dictatorship.

As a start please send up reports of people victimised because of their opinions or suspected opinions. Tell us how they were victimised. Wherever you are in Guyana, send in the names of the victimisers and oppressors for the guilty list. People outside have a great interest in the list. For example, is it true that Brigadier McLean fired a woman soldier because she told him to "hold on"? This can get him another entry on the guilty list.

The arrest of Brother Roopnaraine for arms and ammunition on the Corentyne last weekend helped people to know that the struggle continues. The only thing is that the weapons to be used do not fall under the National Security Act. They do not kill; they give life.

Plan for One-Party State

Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial: A New Monster]

[Text] The latest gimmick from the ruling PNC, which wants to hold on to power at all costs, even at the cost of destroying the social and economic fabric of the nation, is the establishment of "People's Co-operative Committees." With a pronounced and sudden assault, the PNC propaganda has gone into gear since the beginning of the year to propagate its new distorted vision of what is needed at the local government level.

According to PNC propaganda, the People's Co-operative Committee is the "smallest sub-division of the new Regional system and of the Local Democratic Organs. This unit will be operating at two levels, the level of the Party and the state thereby providing greater opportunity for participation in the national development process by the greatest number of people."

If this machination was not so sinister, it might be considered a big joke. It is clear to the Guyanese people that another PNC dominated local government body could never, never draw any support from the "greatest number of people." The more the PNC pushes its nose into anything, the less support it will have from the people. This equation has proved to be true and the evidence can be seen in the colossal flops of so many of its ventures, at such high cost to the taxpayers, the steady decline in production, particularly the areas over which the PNC exercises control and the growing alienation of the people.

According to the NEW NATION, the People's Co-operative Committee, (PCP) at the political level, will supervise all PNC Party groups and all political activities that are either economic or social. And at the level of the state, the PCP will have the responsibility for initiating all "micro state activities", supposedly to involve all citizens in the decision-making process. It wants to involve all citizens in decision-making, but the making of decisions for a nation is first of all decided by the people at free and fair elections when they elect the government of their choice to carry out the policies for which they have been voted into power. This has been denied in Guyana by periodic rigged elections. The consent of the people has not been acquired by the ruling PNC; thus it cannot talk with decency or authority, about participation and consultation.

The PNC has already established state corporations and nationalised industries crying out for involvement of workers in the decision making apparatus of these industries. But the PNC has never seen fit to involve the workers meaningfully.

Why then this spurt of activity to start this new process? It is obviously being carefully orchestrated for we now learn that Mr Burnham will deliver an address at the opening session of a 5-day conference on local democracy. Mr Reid, the Prime Minister, we are told, will focus attention on the

"political and adminitrative underpinnings of the regional system" with special attention on the People's Co-operative Units.

All of this monkey business points to a plan of the ruling party. The plan appears to be aimed at establishing a one party state at the local government level, straining upwards to the final removal of any opposition parties. There seems no other explanation to the introduction of a party--cum-state apparatus at the lowest rung of the local government ladder. The attempt at the higher level has so far failed because of strong opposition to the Ministry of National Development as a PNC vehicle for funds and free personnel, and to the office of the General Secretary of the PNC being combined with a Ministry. While these two aberrations still exist, because of strong opposition, they have kept low profiles. The PNC has learned to "low profile" issues which have caused intense public protest, as in the case, too, of the House of Israel links with the PNC. While these relations still exist, they have had to be toned down, to keep the lid on, so to speak.

We denounce in the strongest terms the PNC efforts to introduce this deviation of local government and call on all public spirited Guyanese to protest in every way, through their organisations, trade unions and at the village levels this latest hybrid party-state monster being created by the PNC regime.

WPA Statement

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 23 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] In a release issued to the press on January 20, the WPA warned "that a process more sinister and threatening than Seaga's non-election in Jamaica is afoot in Guyana". The party was referring to moves by the ruling party to set up local government units, which according to the NEW NATION of January 15, 1984, will "operate both at the levels of the party and the state".

The WPA release also pointed out that there is no information as to whether the units are to be interim, as permitted by the Local Government Act of 1980 or whether they are to be elected.

"The regime may be planning to hold local government elections on the basis of the discredited and invisible voters' lists used in the general elections of 1980 against the protests of all the parties in the opposition. The regime has still not revealed the population figures from the census taken in 1980. It maintains a strong partition between the census and electoral lists"...

The release reminds the public that Articles 74 and 75 of the 1980 Constitution provide for local government organs to be given powers of coercion over the citizens in a particular local government area. It states that since the people do not consent to the campaigns of the regime, "this is another reason why the ruling party is anxious to put this system into place".

In its weekend editorial MIRROR denounced "in the strongest terms the PNC efforts to introduce this deviation of local government" and called on "all

public spirited Guyanese to protest in every way ... this latest hybrid party-state monster being created by the PNC regime". The weekend DAYCLEAN headlined "Local Government Horsewhip" also spoke out.

It is expected that considerable controversy will dominate this issue, especially given the fact that "there have been no elections to the existing district councils and municipalities since 1980" and that "laws were passed deeming the councils legal despite their non-election" (WPA Release 1984-01-20).

CSO: 3298/550

WPA ORGAN DECRIES PNC GOVERNMENT'S 'ONGOING COVERUP'

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 14 Nov 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] The GUYANA CHRONICLE has given much information about Grenada in recent times. The information played an important part in giving citizens a picture of events in that country. Some of the reports came from GNA and CANA, a few from IPS, one or two from Prensa Latina, the Cuban news agency and the bulk from the US based Associated Press.

Those who control the press, not the reporters, must have been very glad to have something to fill the paper so as to have an excuse for not reporting on conditions in Guyana.

It is always in the CATHOLIC STANDARD that one has to read about the size of the Guyana government delegations travelling abroad for a conference. The state-owned press and radio hide this vital information from the citizens who will have to foot the bill in foreign exchange. Few rich countries can rival this regime's outings in size and extravagance.

The Burnham regime has managed long before the ban on wheat to starve Guyanese of information and sources of information. This is one of the most powerful weapons against the people.

Even before the paper shortage, who can remember the last time the government budget was advertised for sale? When last has anyone seen a record of debates in the National Assembly? Are such records kept nowadays?

Last week a citizen gave OPEN WORD the Annual Report of the Director of Medical Services for one of the pre-Burnham years. It carried every kind of information on health in great detail: reported diseases, child health, birth and death rates and information on the health administration of each district in the country. Today, this information is secret. It is in fact classified information. Today even practising medical officers, that is, professionals, cannot get the information they need.

This information is for the ruling party and the ruling party alone; and perhaps for members of parliament. Even when there is an official document on

any question, it is treated as of no interest to the public. In the past these reports were advertised and placed on sale to the public at a cheap price.

Today Guyanese people do not enjoy any right whatever to information about the administration of their country. What people are getting in place of information are the speeches and declarations of this or that Minister or functionary who has more to hide than to tell. The whole design is to make it as difficult as possible for anyone to have official facts about the country so that much time is spent chasing down a single item of information for public use.

The Guyana government is engaged in an ongoing cover up.

CSO: 3298/550

BURNHAM TO ADDRESS CONFERENCE ON 'LOCAL DEMOCRACY'

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] President Forbes Burnham will deliver the keynote address at the opening session of a five-day conference on local democracy scheduled to begin on February 1 at the National Cultural Centre.

During the course of the five days, several presentations will be made by senior government ministers, including Prime Minister Cde. Ptolemy Reid, Vice President for Production, Desmond Hoyte, Vice President and Attorney General Dr Mohammed Shahabuddeen and Minister for National Mobilisation Robert Corbin.

Chairman of the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (NCLDO) Cde Hulbert Mc Gowan and Auditor General, Pat Farnum will also present papers.

Prime Minister Reid will focus attention in his presentation on the 'political and administrative underpinnings of the regional system", during which special attention will be placed on the People's Cooperative Units.

Vice President Hoyte will deal with production at the national and sub-national levels and the role of the regional system in stimulating and organising diverse production, whiel Vice-President Shahabuddeen will examine the legal and constitutional aspects of the regional system.

Minister Corbin will review the performance of the regional system in relation to its objectives and Cde Farnum will look at central and local government financial and accounting systems.

CSO: 3298/550

BRIEFS

FIRE AT BURNHAM RESIDENCE--Fire yesterday afternoon destroyed sections of the roof and ceiling of the official residence of President Forbes Burnham on Vissengen Road. The fire which started at around 16:30 hrs. was brought under control within a hour by firemen who arrived on the scene minutes after the alarm was raised. President Burnham who at the start of the fire was attending the first day's session of the PNC's General Council meeting at Sophia arrived on the scene some ten minutes later. The fire was the result of two children playing with matches in the attic. Cde. Carlton Rogers, a senior officer in the Fire Service said an emergency plan designed to protect The Residence was executed without a hitch. Scores of citizens witnessed the fire-fighting exercise as household staff cleared the upper flat of the three-storeyed building of personal effects. The bedrooms are situated on the top flat of the building. The building, believed to have been designed by Castellani, an Italian, is more than 80 years' old. And, according to a Ministry of Information publication, 'Guyana in Brief', it is considered "a typical" example of the vernacular architecture" of the late Nineteenth Century. In 1965, one year before Guyana attained independence, the building was completely renovated for use as the Prime Minister's official residence but its architectural style has been retained. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Jan 84 pp 1, 4]

FINES FOR CONTRABAND--East Berbice--Two government employees who were charged with knowingly concerned in dealing with uncustomed goods were yesterday fined a total of $4,800 by Corentyne Magistrate Christendat Molai at No. 51 Court. The men, Eric Archibald and Philbert Dublin, who were arrested with a large quantity of flour, split peas and cheese, pleaded guilty to the charge. The charges were laid after the police at No. 51 Village found six bags of flour, two bags of split peas and 18 pounds of cheese in a Land Rover in which the two defendants were travelling. Meanwhile the Berbice police Tuesday detained three more vehicles and arrested six persons with uncustomed and contraband goods. In one of the vehicles the police found two improvised gas cylinders filled with sardines and flour and a rice bag with flour. Charges are expected to be instituted shortly. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Jan 84 p 1]

CALL FOR TUC UNITY--East BCE (GNA)--Chairman of the Education Committee of the Guyana Trades Union Congress, T. Anson Sancho, yesterday called on workers and trade union leaders to close ranks and help eliminate conflicts in the Movement. There must be cooperation and oneness among workers and their unions, he said. The Critchlow Labour College principal was speaking at the opening of a three-day seminar sponsored by the TUC for shop stewards and branch officers of its affiliates at the Public Service Union building in New Amsterdam. The seminar which has as its theme Labour Constraints in the 80's is aimed at assisting participants to understand some of the constraints of the TUC and to develop a consciousness on certain issues. Cde Sancho said that despite conflicts in the TUC, the Movement still holds good as the workers' organisation. He spoke about some of the failures of the previous government to co-operate with the Trade Union Movement and the workers. This, he said, led the present government to develop a closer and better relationship with the Movement. Cde Sancho said that to build co-operation workers, trade unionists and politicians must work closer together. He suggested that government give the TUC more representation on some of the major decision making bodies in the country, especially in the areas involving industrial matters. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Jan 84 p 1]

TUC STUDY OF ECONOMY--The Guyana Trades Union Congress on Wednesday decided to refer the present economic situation facing workers to its Economic and Research Committee which is headed by Cde. George Daniels, President of the Guyana Public Service Union. Since the adjustment of the Guyana dollar a number of workers have called on their trade union representatives to look at the situation to see what could be done to cushion the effects. It was disclosed that the Committee will be trying to find out what impact the adjustment has on the earnings of the workers, the present economic situation in the country and the public generally. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 22 Jan 84 p 3]

GOLD BOARD APPOINTMENTS--Energy and Mines Minister Cde Harun Rashid has appointed five persons to sit as members on the Guyana Gold Board for 1984. The Permanent Secretary, Energy and Mines, will sit as the Chairman, and the Commissioner of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission as the Vice-Chairman. Other board members will comprise representatives of the Bank of Guyana, the Governor for his nominee, the Presidential Secretariat, the State Planning Secretariat, the General Manager of the Board and Cde W.A. Baird, the Miners' Representative. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 22 Jan 84 p 9]

PNC SEMINAR--A series of seminars is to conducted in Region Six for Party staff workers according to an announcement at Monday's PNC Administrative meeting at Congress Place, New Amsterdam. Assistant Regional Supervisor for the Upper Corentyne District, Cde Vibert Welch, said that some paid Party employees believe no one has the right to tell them anything. It is as if they are beyond the leadership of the People's National Congress, he added. Member of Parliament, Cde Milton Armogan, also pointed out that some paid Party officers are not functioning efficiently. Most of them are not pulling their weight. Party officers in many districts are not opened on time and in some cases not opened at all, he added. He called on the Administration to take drastic steps to correct these mistakes. Regional Supervisor,

Cde Stanton Lambert, promised to investigate the reports and informed the meeting that he will begin a series of seminars, throughout the Region to bring Party members up-to-date on their roles and functions. He said the time has come when Party members, especially those who are paid should understand what they ought to do and to do the things in the interest of the people and the Party. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 22 Jan 84 p 3]

REGION 6 SUBCOMMITTEES--The Regional Administration of Region Six has established 11 sub-committees which will handle all political matters in the Region. Cde Brenda Johnson will be responsible for the Culture Committee. The other committees are International Relations headed by Clement Wong; Territorial Interity by Cde Winston Samuels; Finance by Cde Joseph Cox; Regional Affairs by Cde Gerald Scotland; Regional Disaster by Cde Gerald Scotland; Disciplinary Committee by Cde Barbara Pilgrim; Public Welfare by Cde Joseph Scott; Economic Project by Cde Surujnarine Singh; Administration by Cde Santon Lambert and Education and Research, by Cde Isaac Chowritmootoo. Meanwhile, a five-member committee has been set up to work out proposals which will be submitted to Regional Chairman Cde Surujnarine Singh on recommendation for reorganising the distribution system in Region Six. The Committee is headed by Regional Supervisor, Cde Santon Lambert and will include Cdes Isaac Chowritmootoo, Ranga Apadu, Brenda Johnson and Rhyburn Primo. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 22 Jan 84 p 3]

PLANNING COUNCILS -- Government is to establish councils for social and economic planning to help the national development programme. These councils are to be concerned with social affairs locally and they will be involved in planning, revising, reviewing and advising central government at the level of decision-making. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 22 Jan 84 p 5]

ACROSS-BORDER GOODS -- Last year Guyana's sugar consumption was thought to have moved from approximately 530 tonnes to more than 800 tonnes without a significant increase in the population. But as the analysts later discovered this increased amount of sugar that was put on the local market was not consumed by Guyanese in Guyana. Rather, this sugar found its way across our borders where people were able to buy it for less than what they were paying in their shops. In addition there was a movement of imported fuel, toothpaste, rice and any movable commodity for which there was a demand on the foreign market. One economic expert said that this practice not only robbed Guyana of foreign earnings but it also helped create shortages. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 22 Jan 84 p 5]

PRODUCTION SHORTFALLS--The major areas of the national economy in Guyana, rice, sugar and bauxite all experienced shortfalls last year for one reason or another. But one area that did not suffer a similar fate was domestic production of foodstuff. Domestic production of foodstuff and other agricultural activities enjoyed a bumper year to the extent that the prospect for this year is good in relation to what was anticipated in 1983. Emphasis was placed on a variety of root crops, ground provisions, legumes and green vegetables to the extent that the prices of these commodities remained fairly stable during the past year. Finance Minister, Cde Carl Greenidge, told Guyanese last weekend that increasing production is the only solution to easing or cushioning the rise in the cost-of-living. Increasing production in this area could also ensure foreign earnings. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 22 Jan 84 p 5]

WPA ON PPP RIGHTS--The Central Committee of the WPA has protested in strong terms the denial of the PPP's right to hold a public meeting in Wismar/Mackenzie. It declared "this action of the ruling party and the Commissioner of Police to be high-handed and repressive". "It is clear," the statement went on, "that the PNC regards as illegal all parties that move to challenge its abuse of the population". The statement added that since it is known that the WPA has applied to the High Court against the banning of six meetings and two processions, it is also clear that the repression is now habitual and must be opposed. [Text] [Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 17 Oct 83 p 5]

'PLOT' ARRESTS, 'DISAPPEARANCES'--Reports of widespread arrests and virtual disappearances of citizens arrested by the Guyana police reached a new stage in writs of habeas corpus to be argued before Mr Justice Harper today. When the writ was filed, Pandit Surujdeo and Mr Nazleen Alli had been held for 10 days and 7 days respectively without charge, without bail and without being seen by relatives, friends or counsel. These conditions always raise suspicion of other illegal procedures by the police. It is understood that the arrests followed the news from Canada and the USA of the arrest of members of a Guyanese party, sometimes referred to as Conservative and sometimes as Conservative-Liberal. Some sources say they are in fact two groups. Guyana police habitually respond to habeas corpus writs by releasing the prisoners before the issue is argued in court or by placing a holding charge to frustrate the writ. Habeas corpus is the court remedy to secure possible release for persons held unlawfully. The writs were advised by Attorney-at-law Doodnauth Singh. [Text] [Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 9 Jan 84 p 4]

NEW VARIETY OF RICE--Rice farmers in Guyana will be able to increase their yield substantially thanks to a new variety of rice called (dewani). The new rice has proven to be the highest yielding among some 260 varieties tested, and it is believed (dewani) will enable farmers to increase their income by about $15 million annually. This new variety of rice is also resistant to some of the common diseases which attack rice. Rice is one of Guyana's chief exports. [Text] [FL011426 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 1 Mar 84]

CSO: 3298/1141

COLD WEATHER AFFECTS QUALITY OF BANANA CROP

FL091758 Bridgetown CANA in English 1638 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 9 Mar (CANA)--Unusually cold January weather has seriously affected the quality of Jamaica's bananas and drastically cut into exports of the major British market, the Agriculture Ministry said.

The ministry said the chill caused bananas to develop a condition called under peel discoloration (UPD), which makes the fruit unmarketable in the quality-conscious British market.

As an example of the effect, it said that the Banana Company of Jamaica had for the week ending 25 February exported 172 tonnes of bananas, against normal shipment, at present production levels, of between 350 and 400 tonnes.

The condition has caused the banana company to close buying at nine stations in central and western Jamaica, which were heavily affected with UDP, the ministry said.

It is estimated that banana delivery for export would not return to normal until next month, adversely affecting export projections and earnings.

Officials say that Jamaica was projecting banana export this year at 40,000 tonnes, against last year's 23,000 tonnes.

Jamaica's industry is still recovering from near total devastation in 1970 when a hurricane swept the island.

Jamaica has a secure market in Britain for 150,000 tonnes which has not been met for several years.

But the government is hoping to meet that target within a few years with the introduction of high technology and high yield varieties.

CSO: 3298/1142

MEXICAN BISHOP COMMENTS ON REVOLUTION, CHRISTIANITY

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 29 Jan 84 p 11

[Article by Mirta Balea]

[Text] Many say that his ecclesiastical air pervades his whole body, large as it is and with a very prominently bald head. And yet, meeting him, for one who scratches beneath the surface, is an experience and a lesson in culture, common sense and sound judgment imparted in a quietly soft-spoken tone.

Mexican-born Monsignor Sergio Mendez Arceo, whose message is so much in accord with his times, is one of those Latin American figures who has dedicated his energies and talent to spreading the Gospel.

"The Church must take into account," he said, "that Christ did not order us to form state against state, perfect society against perfect society. Christ sent us to announce a kingdom, not a kingdom in conflict with kingdoms on Earth, but rather a kingdom to be realized within kingdoms on Earth.

"Man's rule over man negates the Christian idea of God. God gave man things for him to master. But he never created man to be dominated by another.

"The Gospel speaks of a series of actions which are also called miracles which the Bible, in turn, calls signs. They are signs, expressions of what Jesus wants, that is, health for the sick, well-being for the poor, and justice for all."

Who is this man who is ponderously silent before expressing his thoughts far removed from the enthusiasm of political activity and an eventual obligation to lead the actions of a revolutionary class?

Monsignor Mendez Arceo was bishop of Cuernavaca, Morelos state, Mexico, from the decade of the '50s until 1982, at the age of 75, when his retirement was accepted by the Pope.

The overriding characteristic of Monsignor Mendez Arceo is that each and every one of his conceptions derive from a realistic outlook on life.

"Man is what inspires socialism," he said. "This is why I've often said and I repeat that that system is much closer to Christianity than capitalism."

He has expressed this conviction for many years in his homilies at the Cathedral of Cuernavaca, foredooming capitalism to be replaced by socialism.

"Political systems are what define the pursuit of life and socialism seeks the well-being of man. That is what draws it closer to Christianity.

"Capitalism is the exploitation of man by man--in classic terms, the accumulation of surplus value. In other words, a man is deprived of a value, the value he accumulates. This is why so many have accumulated so much value while others barely make enough to survive.

"They are not identical. I insist that socialism is a system created for solving relations of equality and freedom among men. Christianity is a principle of life."

No one has ever succeeded in provoking Monsignor Mendez Arceo. This is why he is respected by believers and nonbelievers alike. Under constant attack, he holds the bridge with his firm position in life.

"I have asked revolutionaries not to allow capitalist countries to present themselves as defenders of Christian civilization, because they are the ones that promote the arms race and become rich at the expense of other peoples, the ones that uphold the principles of exploitation and colonization."

Neither concessions out of self-interest, cautious judgment or tacit silence are to be expected from him, but rather clear-cut confessions born of his fervent desire for justice.

"The reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican grieves me," he said. "The language of diplomacy is not that of the Gospel, and in such circumstances it is difficult for evangelical freedom to subsist in those relations."

Such relations are ambiguous, he declared, because "it isn't a question of equal states; the relations are between a head of Church and a head of state." He went on to say that he doesn't expect anything good to come of these relations, that in fact he fears them.

Nothing good could come out of these relations to raise any hopes of either the Reagan administration or any U.S. government in general changing their policy. "U.S. administrations will change the day the people of the United States change," he said.

He went on to point out, however, that the people of the United States are changing. "For example," he said, "this is shown by the large number of religious people who are determined to set up a human wall on the Honduras-Nicaragua border and also the large number of lay people who are willing to serve witness to what is going on there."

Regarding the tense situatin in Central America, especially in Nicaragua as a result of the repeated threats of invasion and attacks from Honduras, he recalled his letter of December 9 to the bishopric of Honduras, a country, he said, which has taken the side of forces that are trying to asphyxiate the Sandinista Revolution.

"The Nicaraguan bishops will also have to change their views regarding the Sandinista Revolution when they delve deep into the principles of Christianity and of the Revolution and into the situation of the Nicaraguan people.

"This does not mean to say that the bishops are the villains in the tale and that the revolutionaries are perfect. But there's proof of the latter's depth of feeling. I have a book called Teoria y practica revolucionaria en Nicaragua (Revolutionary Theory and Practice in Nicaragua) which shows how the Sandinista movement probed Nicaraguan reality without neglecting but taking into account that it is a Christian reality."

True to his realistic outlook on life, Monsignor Mendez Arceo went on to say the path to be followed is the path to truth. "No one can pretend to know the absolute truth or that things are black and white," he said. "They have to be sought somewhere in between."

He considers it ridiculous of Reagan to "pontificate" on freedom of information in Cuba in his end-of-year speech, and went on to say that there was no such thing in the United States.

"Hypocrisy of freedom is what characterizes that country. Hypocrisy. A country where the actions of the Mafia can be conducted from a prison cell through level loopholes is a country that thrives on legal hypocrisy.

"There's also hypocrisy regarding freedom of information. That's manipulation of information. How can it exist in newspapers in which 90 percent of the pages are given over to advertisements designed to capture the attention of the reader while the news gets lost among them? What chance does a person have of being informed amidst this publicity barrage?

"I know of studies, for example, on UPI's actions in connection with the overthrow of Salvador Allende in 1973, detailing moment after moment. For example, the news that upset U.S. public opinion at the time of Jacobo Arbenz' overthrow in 1954, the whole anticommunist campaign and now the events in Grenada. How can anybody speak of freedom in the United States" It's a tarnished, prostituted freedom."

Believing as he does that all thoroughgoing social change comes of the united action of revolutionaries, he is necessarily identified as one of them. Nonetheless, he says, his affiliation has not caused him a great deal of suffering.

As far as he can remember, he has only been subject to harassment on two occasions. The first, on his arrival in Mexico in 1972, following his participation in the 1st Christians for Socialism Conference held in Santiago, Chile, when a group of fanatics covered him in red paint from head to toe. The second

was in Ecuador, in February 1977, when he was jailed along with 15 other bishops, two archbishops, other priests, and religious lay people, 59 in all.

Talking in Havana, where he had come for surgery, an inevitable topic was the Cuban Revolution and the Church.

"As a bishop," he said, "I am sorry that in Cuba a young Revolution found an aging Church that was as if paralyzed, which is why the encounter was not and is still not a happy one. However, things are bound to evolve.

"The Cuban Revolution has done all that a state is to do. It ensured that the people eat and be clothed, provided health, education, justice and equality. The Church protested because it could not continue as usual, as all-powerful."

Perhaps for him the most radical and valid aspect of this continent is the long opporessed, ignored and exploited masses who in the final analysis are the leaven of a foreseeable greatness for which there is already struggle. Our interview ended on an evangelical note, pointing the path along which others must follow.

"What draws me to the Cuban Revolution is that I've come here freely and truly a bishop and a revolutionary. It's the problem every Christian must face: to be truly Christian and truly revolutionary."

CSO: 3200/13

DRUG TRAFFICKING, WEAPONS SMUGGLING DENOUNCED BY MAYOR

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Jan 84 p A-12

[Article by Javier Ascue Sarmiento, special correspondent]

[Text] Tumbes--A lucrative trade in smuggled weapons that enter our country through the mangrove swamps, and estuaries, of the Tumbes coastline, was reported by the mayor of this city, Architect Ricardo Flores Dioses.

He said that a few days ago a clandestine airport used for drug trafficking was discovered, as well as several launches and sloops that carry weapons of every caliber. "The police authorities are cognizant of the situation. The arms traffic in this border area is an open secret, yet nobody does anything to prevent it."

As evidence of this announcement, Flores Dioses pointed out that a large part of the Tumbes coastline, where there are many mangrove swamps, "has been appropriated by the fishermen with the knowledge of the townspeople, who use weapons of every caliber to protect their domains, since they are engaged in a bitter prawn war. It is nothing new to see people in Tumbes sporting modern weapons better than those used by the forces of order."

He pointed out as key points for smuggling drugs and weapons the marshes from "Corrales" to "El algorrobo." "I am making this public because it is high time for the authorities to put an end to these clandestine activities which are putting our territorial integrity in grave danger." Finally, he said that another proof of the smuggling is that most of the criminals and raiders carry modern weapons to commit their misdeeds. "What we need is more surveillance plus an inspection of the prawn fishing businesses that have turned this area into a highly armed territory," he concluded.

12448
CSO: 3348/260

BRIEFS

EXTREMIST INFILTRATORS AT UNMSM--The rector of the Major National University of San Marcos [UNMSM], Gaston Pons Muzzo, announced yesterday that he is ready to request police protection in view of student disorderliness, but he denounced the distance of the judges on duty who since Monday have not come near the campus to confirm the report of the Public Ministry. He also indicated that he has reports that prove extremist infiltration in the universities, but abstained from making them public because they are secret, he said. The rector of the UNSMS also acknowledged that among the 46,000 San Marcos University students there may be 100 infiltrators, whom he called salaried criminals belonging to extremist groups and act by systematically stirring up social chaos. He ruled out the possibility that these infiltrators belong to legal political parties, including the United Left, he specified. "The democratic parties try to do all they can to maintain legality in the country," he added. Pons Muzzo emphasized that if by the police action infiltrators are detected and sanctioned among the student body, faculty or staff, he is not going to defend them. In answering one question, he said that although he would not like to go to extremes, if there is a need for great sacrifices to be made to correct great evils, he would have to shut down San Marcos University. He recalled that the authorities and the student body itself rejected terrorism and Shining Path, whereby he argued against the possibility that any action is being orchestrated at that university with that subversive group. [Excerpts] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 27 Jan 84 p A-4] 12448

TEXTILE EXPORTS TO SOVIET UNION--Peru will export non-traditional products to Russia for a total of 8 million dollars per month, minister of industry, tourism and integration, Dr Ivan Rivera Flores, announced last night at the dinner meeting of the Association of Peruvian Sales and Marketing Managers (ADV-Peru). He said that with the agreements concluded with this country, a large market is opening up for Peru, especially where textiles, leather and hides are concerned. He maintained that this year exports will exceed one billion dollars and that this is why new prospects are opening for Peruvian businessmen, who last year experienced a shrinking export market. The minister of industry added that his sector is correcting internal shortcomings by granting concessions to stimulate exports and business production. He maintained that at the next Council of Ministers new laws to eliminate bureaucracy and red tape and to encourage the commercial and industrial sector will be approved. With regard to informal trade, he pointed out that his ministry has discovered that there are about 10,000 businesses that operate

illegally, not because they do not want to operate legally, but because it is very hard to go through channels. He reported that there are government employees who demand big bribes in order to be officially recorded. Rivera Flores added that out of 300 businesses that each month apply for registration at the ministry, only 30 manage to be legalized, since the procedure is very cumbersome and lasts between 8 and 10 months. [Text] [Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Jan 84 p 2] 12448

CSO: 3348/260

UNION, SUGAR INDUSTRY AT LOGGERHEADS OVER WAGE, BONUS ISSUE

Union Compromise

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 18 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, representatives of the National Agricultural Corporation, the St.Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Corporation and the St.Kitts-Nevis Trades & Labour Union met at the NACO Headquarters, Church Street, Basseterre, to continue their negotiations concerning wages and bonuses for sugar workers in St.Kitts.

The meeting started at 2:15 p.m. and lasted for one and a half hours. NACO was represented by Messrs L. James, W. Simmonds and W. Rogers and SSMC by Messrs V. Corbin, S. Nathaniel and B. Audain.

The Union was represented by Comrades Joseph N. France, Welford Gumbs, Fidel O'Flaherty, Owen Caines, Lascelles Rawlins, Ernest Osborne, Dudley Gumbs and Okpara Akil.

At last week's joint meeting the Union had suggested that there are millions of dollars in the special sugar funds set up under the Sugar Cess Acts (for example, the Special Wages Increase Fund, the Price Stabilisation Fund and the Rehabilitation Fund), and that the employers should consider using some of that money to improve the wages and bonuses of sugar workers.

Yesterday, the management reported that there were only paper balances in the banks and that there was no money in the sugar funds which NACO or SSMC could use. They said that the sugar corporations owe the banks more than $40 million.

NACO/SSMC rejected the Union's suggestion that attendance payments should be made to encourage sugar workers to turn out regularly and consistently during the first stage of the crop.

They insisted that sugar workers should not get any wage increase for the 1984 crop they offered to increase the end-of-crop and dull season bonuses from 2 percent to 2½ percent with the Christmas bonus remaining at 7 percent. They said that that was their final position.

For its part, the Union reduced its claim for a general wage increase from 12½ percent to 12 percent and continued its claim for a 5 percent end-of-crop bonus, a 5 percent dull season bonus and a 10 percent Christmas bonus.

No date has been set for the next meeting of the three organisations.

Meanwhile, in related news, sugar workers in Barbados are to get a 12½ percent general wage increase for 1984. The Barbados Government has agreed to help the industry with millions of dollars to be able to pay the increase.

Opposing Positions

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 21 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] As we reported in Wednesday's issue, a meeting of the National Agricultural Corporation, the St. Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Corporation and the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades & Labour Union was held on Tuesday 17 January at the NACO offices. At the end of that meeting the position concerning wages and bonuses for the 1984 crop was as follows:

Union Request

12% general wage increase
5% end of crop bonus
5% dull season bonus
10% Christmas bonus

NACO/SSMC Offer

No general wage increase
2½% end of crop bonus
2½% dull season bonus
7% Christmas bonus

On Wednesday 18 January NACO referred the dispute to the Labour Commissioner and asked him to intervene.

Yesterday, Friday, at 2 p.m., the Acting Labour Commissioner, Mr Rupert Herbert, B. Sc., convened a meeting of the three organisations at the Department of Labour, Church Street, Basseterre.

The meeting lasted for 2 hours.

The Union stressed that the workers need and deserve a wage increase to be able to meet the rising cost of living. NACO/SSMC admitted that the workers need an increase but said that the sugar industry should not be called upon to pay money which it did not have.

The Union pointed out that the Barbados Government and the Trinidad and Tobago Government had provided money to assist the sugar industry in those countries to pay increased wages and benefits to the sugar workers.

The Union requested that NACO and SSMC should join the Union in an approach to the Government of St.Kitts-Nevis for financial assistance to improve the wages and bonuses of sugar factory and sugar estate workers.

NACO and SSMC replied that they are not willing to make such a joint approach to the government because the government does not have any money.

The Labour Commissioner said that he would write a report on the meeting and present it this morning (Saturday).

Please see page 5 for information about the Barbados sugar negotiations.

Government Antagonism Toward Workers

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 21 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial: No Love for Sugar Workers!]

[Text] Four years have taught the PAM/NRP government nothing about the sugar industry and the people who work in it.

When PAM was in Opposition they were very anti-sugar. They proclaimed for all the world that sugar was dead and if in reality it was not dead it ought to be killed.

They based their antipathy to sugar on any of a number of grounds. They argued that sugar had too long reigned as King Supreme and that sugar was responsible for keeping us tied to a monocultural economy.

They claimed to be against sugar because of its historical association with slavery and after slavery with a kind of plantation proletarianism.

They pointed to the cycles in the fortunes of sugar and they were sure that on balance sugar was not good for us.

They looked at neighbouring countries, some of which had abandoned sugar and saw what seemed to them as quick progress and they longed for us to tread the same road.

But PAM's real problem with sugar was the sugar workers. They felt that sugar workers formed the real backbone of the Labour Support and that if they could remove that support Labour would be dead.

All PAM's talk and all PAM's efforts could not kill sugar. Even after 4 years of PAM in government, sugar is still the backbone of the economy; it is still the country's largest employer, it is still the main foreign exchange earner, it still represents by far the largest percentage of exports from the country. And all this is so in spite of the drastic decline in production and in spite of the heavy debt burden which has been foisted upon the industry.

Since PAM could not succeed in killing the sugar industry, they had to do something about the sugar workers.

In the 1980 general elections they made an appeal to sugar workers. They promised to refund to all workers including sugar workers their National Provident Fund Contributions. And there were a few sugar workers who were earning enough money to be liable to income tax. PAM also appealed to them by promising to abolish personal income tax.

In addition they promised them better food at reduced prices, free school meals for their children and a whole lot besides.

When the votes were counted it was clear that PAM had not made any real impact on the sugar workers. But they had made sufficient in roads to link with NRP in Nevis and capture the government.

They then made an open gesture to win the love of the sugar workers. Quite without counting the cost they gave sugar workers a gift of an additional 8 percent increase and backdated it to the start of the crop. At the same time they launched an all out attack against the trade union in which sugar workers had been the strongest element since its formation in 1940. There was some immediate euphoria in response to the gift.

In 1981 the government paid the sugar workers a special bonus of 15 percent. They extended the payment to waterfront workers in St.Kitts and Nevis. There was great rejoicing. Now, at last the government thought they had succeeded in buying the sugar workers.

But events were to prove them wrong. The sugar workers had maybe flirted with PAM but there had been no real love. Because the sugar workers knew that PAM did not really love them.

After all PAM had sought to do to win the affection of the sugar workers, the rejection hurt badly. They had to show the them. Having failed to respond to the carrot they would be obliged to endure the stick.

So they set about a strategy of starvation against the workers in the industry. They called them austerity measures. For 5 months in 1982 they refused the workers any meaningful wages. Then in January, 1983 they denied them any "goat water" and they ordered them to work on the basis of a one-and-a-half percent wage increase. This time, surely, they had victory. They had humiliated the sugar workers and they had forced them to surrender.

But the government lost more than they gained in the short and long run. The workers had not been defeated. Their spirits had not been crushed.

Still the government was not done with the sugar workers. Austerity measures and forced labour had not worked. They would try a different combination. They would keep the austerity measures and intensify them. Between August and January, they would give the workers about 9 weeks of no work and for the rest they would give them one and two days' work a week. That would ensure their want.

This time, however, the government would not add pressure. They would appear as bringing relief. They would offer out of the goodness of their heart to pay goat water. But they would not say when. And worse yet they would not pay it. They would use it to tempt and tantalise the workers like the imaginary pools of water that the tired desert traveller with his parched throat sees ever before him.

And they would keep on insisting in a game of brinkmanship that there was no money to pay an increase. And they intend, no doubt, when all appears lost, to appear to be driven in extreme is to show a measure of magnanimity and to offer the workers money that is not there. It is a last desperate stratagem to try to win over the sugar workers.

But it will fail like all the other strategies and stratagems before it. It has one thing in common with them. It is not really concerned with the welfare of the sugar workers nor indeed with the sugar industry.

The one objective of the government is to use the sugar workers as so many pawns in their political game. They have no respect for them as people. Indeed they have called them monkeys and pappyshows.

You may give some one the world on a string and he will still be able to recognise that you don't love him. Thus it is with the government and the sugar workers. The government want the sugar workers. The government do not love the sguar workers. And every move they make only proves that more and more.

Sugar workers like people everywhere know and can respond to genuine caring love. But you can't buy love out of them or bully love out of them or beat love out of them or bawl love out of them.

You can only truly love them and show it. But the government has run out of time.

CSO: 3298/554

BRIEFS

ELECTORAL REGULATIONS ROW--Basseterre Sat: (Cana)--The Opposition St.Kitts-Nevis Labour party has again objected to provisions in the draft electoral regulations for the registration of voters which it said paves the way for non-resident voting. Members of the National Assembly met here yesterday to discuss the draft which will institute a system of continuous registration for voters, and according to a government statement "..resolved and clarified several areas of concern which had been raised by the opposition and agreed to reserve certain other matters for further reflection." When the new electoral law was introduced in the assembly last November, it was amended after the opposition agreed to a system of continuous voter registration, but disagreed with the concept of non-residents voting. Opposition leader Lee Moore said the draft elections regulations discussed yesterday contained "certain fundamental matters which in the oppositions view reopened the question of the non-resident vote." "The regulations purport to define domicile and ordinary residence in such a way as to revert to the notion of non-residents voting, and the opposition objects to that in the regulations, but, there is a serious difference of opinion," Moore said. He said the opposition was "prepared to accept a proposal for "ordinary residence" which is in part similar to a proposal advanced by government in the Citizenship Act. [Text] [Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 26 Feb 84 p 4]

CSO: 3298/554

OPPOSITION ORGAN ASSAILS U.S., UK MILITARY PRESENCE

Castries CRUSADER in English 11 Feb 84 pp 1,2

[Text] The simultaneous presence of a British warship and an untold number of American troops in St. Lucia earlier this week symbolised a clear example of the growing American and British incursions into the military and political life of the Caribbean, following the invasion of Grenada last October.

The HMS "Berwick" was not the first British warship which called at Port Castries and invited locals aboard to display and exhibit the sort of weapons that were used in the Falklands war, and other British naval battles.

But it was the first time that American troops and military specialists were here training local policemen in techniques of counter-insurgency, and psychologically preparing their minds for possible armed intervention in the neighbouring countries, or against any local uprising.

When the British troopers met their American counterparts for the first time after the arrival of the "Berwick" last week, they hilariously greeted each other as on the battlefield: with hugs and shouts, and greeting reminiescent of the TV war movies.

Several of the British navy officers must have listened with some jealousy as their American counterparts told them of the "easy prey" which Grenada had been for the thousands of Yankee soldiers deployed to put an end to the Revolution there in last October's action. For the British, it had not been so easy in the Malvinas, where several aircraft and costly battleships were bombed, destroyed, and sunk, and where so many of the Queen' soldiers had died so that "Britannia could [word indistinct] in that part of the South Atlantic.

The British soldiers were indeed envious. The Thatcher government had kept them out of the action, and was now financing the building of a new police force in Grenada. But in contrast, since the October invasion in less than four months, the Reagan administration not only had several hundred American soldiers still in Grenada, but so many extra units in several East Caribbean islands training the locals for the formation of a sub-regional army. Already having lost the feel of the brief "excitement" of the Falklands encounter, the British navy officers, whose vessel was part of the fleet dispatched to the South Atlantic to re-establish British colonial rule over the Argentine island couldn't but be jealous.

"Bloody lucky blokes, you Yankees", said a British officer to his new American friend, "wish we were in your bloody boots".

The Royal Navy bunch were further excited when their American "host" shared words over drinks about the great enthusiasm of their local police trainees. Witnessing "action" for the first time in Grenada, the selected trainees from the Special Services Unit were yearning for their own piece of action, one of the American military specialists told a senior British naval officer.

"They're learning fast, and if the other units in the other East Caribbean islands are doing as well, we could ensure the whole damned world that Democracy will be maintained forever in this part of the world, and no God-damned set of communists will ever see the lights of another Grenada, ever again", said an American.

The HMS "Berwick" left St. Lucia on Wednesday, the same day that US Secretary of State, George Shultz, was meeting in Barbados with Prime Minister John Compton, Police Commissioner, Cuthbert Phillips, and some of the other OECS leaders and police commissioners. They were discussing just what the American and British troops were discussing during their brief encounter here: Grenada, the proposed East Caribbean interventionist army, and Washington's future military plans for the region.

Already, Shultz's boss, Ronald Reagan, has provided the OECS countries, as well as Barbados and Jamaica, with US$15 million worth of sophisticated military hardware, and the Barbados meeting was to put the cream on Washington's military pudding package. By the time Comptom and the local police Chief returned here, they were both satisfied that American military assistance to St.Lucia and the other neighbouring islands in the sub-region will be both long-lasting and heavy.

But even while the Prime Minister and his Police Commissioner went to the Barbados meeting together, there are signs that all may not be well on the home front in the state's security apparatus. Commissioner Phillips has officially dismissed reports from a Trinidad newspaper, the CHALLENGE that the American-trained Special Services Unit (SSU) is demanding that it be declared superior to the official police force, on account of its newly-acquired military status. Two such articles have been printed in the CHALLENGE (the second of which is being reproduced in this issue of the CRUSADER), and notable enough, both quote a "senior Cabinet Minister" in the Compton administration. In his response to the CHALLENGE article in last weekend's issue of the VOICE, Commissioner Phillips did not say whether his force had investigated who that mysterious "senior government minister" could possibly have been.

But it is known in St.Lucia that there are elements in the leadership of the SSU who are likely to see themselves as a separate entity from the regular force. These tendencies are manifested in public by the superior attitude being displayed by such elements, and their distinctively militaristic appearance and behaviour is beginning to attract questions from concerned members of the public relating to whether this new elite should ever be allowed hegemony in the state's defense and security apparatus.

It was earlier announced by the Government that the American military specialists were only here for a "six-week training course". That intensive" course, which was supposed to prepare the SSU for "any eventual insurrection", has been completed, and another one has started. Thus Americans will still be here for a while and there has been no indication as to when these training exercises will be over.

Similar specialised military training courses are also taking place in the other OECS states, all in preparation for the launching of the sub-regional joint army, which is aimed at ensuring that the present regimes in the Eastern Caribbean remain in power to continue to exchange Caribbean sovereignty for American guns, and aid.

CSO: 3298/555

U.S. 'INTERVENTION' IN CARIBBEAN, ST LUCIA SCORED

Castries CRUSADER in English 11 Feb 84 p 2

['Guest editorial' by unidentified author: "Political Education the Major Task as Washington Penetrates Eastern Caribbean"]

[Text] Whether in Lebanon or Grenada, the Reagan administration's current course in international relations and political behaviour is as reckless as ever, only that at this present time, mindful that it is a Presidential election year, the men at the White House are trying on the one hand to lessen the reckless image, and at the same time, to ensure that the reckless crusade to restore the US international political and military hegemony to the level of earlier decades continues.

This year, Reagan is talking about being interested in "peace and disarmament", and seeking to extol the virtues of a human being. The cause of other nations and peoples have suddenly drawn his attention, like never before. But at the same time, the "war" goes on. More foreign-base American troops are present in other countries today than ever before during Reagan's term, so far. Many are involved in active combat duty. We have also seen the most regular, longest-lasting, and most aggressive military manoeuvres sponsored by Washington in Latin and Central America, the Middle East, and other parts of the world. American soldiers are more deeply involved in the war in El Salvador than ever, and the US military presence in Honduras is now declared by the administration itself to be both official and permanent. The threats from Washington against Nicaragua have both intensified and deepened, and in many other areas and arenas of international life today, Washington's role under Reagan has been manifested as the worst the world has known in recent times.

The men at the White House and the Pentagon are carefully pulling the strings, and stagemanaging international events as they pursue their continued policy of escalating US military and political hegemony in areas under Washington's influence, and simultaneously seeking new grounds to conquer.

In Lebanon today, mindful of the loss of over 230 American lives in the suicide bomb attack last October, and the effects a possible repeat could have on the American public in this election year, Reagan has ordered a tactical retreat by sending the marines in Beirut to the safety of the US warships

off the Lebanese coast, to avoid direct attacks from the forces that have taken over Beirut after the resignation of the Lebanese Government a few days ago. But at the same time, Reagan has made it clear that Washington will resume provision of training and equipment to the Lebanese army, as soon as a new government is created (undoubtedly with Washington's approval). In that part of the world, Reagan seeks to justify continued US military presence and the risking of the lives of the American soldiers by blaming Syria for all the problems in Beirut. No mention is made or consideration given to the criminal role of the Israelis who are armed and supported politically and diplomatically by Washington!

In Grenada, where Washington manipulated weak and conservative Caribbean leaders into taking formal and legal responsibility for an illegal invasion aimed at achieving Washington's longtime military and political objectives, the White House and Pentagon strategists are achieving their sinister objectives with less care and concern. Now they have stopped blaming Cuba and the Soviet Union, and are concentrating more on arranging an election that will exclude any party which supported the Revolution, and setting up a puppet regime that would continue to serve the dictates of Washington. Suddenly, US Secretary of State, George Shultz, is saying that the same Point Saline airport which Reagan described as a "military threat" to the national security of the United States is "for economic purposes", and expresses certainty that it will be completed soon. But all this is happening against a background of affairs in Grenada still being under the direct influence of US Ambassador Tony Guillespie, and the other US military, intelligence and "aid" officials and advisors on the island, as never before.

For us in the Caribbean, this is one of the most dangerous periods of our history. Many, in fact most of our less politically conscious people in the region are still to understand the long-term implications of this unbridled American penetration of the Eastern Caribbean at the military, political and economic levels in recent times, and in particular, since last October's invasion of Grenada. It is this low level of political consciousness and understanding of the intrigues of international politics which the White House and Pentagon strategists are taking advantage of in the current period, to set the stage for their future designs in our region.

Their designs and plans are further enhanced by the willing collaboration of puppet leaders in the region, who are hoping that their current overall submission to Reagan will be rewarded in the medium and long term with economic handouts and political favours.

Already, the Barbados-OECS military alliance is being transformed into an active joint sub-regional defense force that would be able to intervene militarily in any country where the existing conservative and backward regimes may be threatened by widespread internal opposition to continuation of their rule. Washington has already started a second round of intensive training for selected policemen and soldiers in Barbados and the OECS member-states, first of all to strengthen the foreign military presence in Grenada, and secondly, to form the main core of the proposed regional interventionist army. This is going on with great fanfare at the level of the governments, who continue to play on the confusion coming out of Grenada last October, to justify

their setting up of dangerous military structures that spit in the face of all respect for sovereignty and independence.

Meanwhile, again mindful of the need to clean Reagan's dirty image in this election year, the stage-managers in Washington are operating from behind the scenes, pumping the dollars, as well as the military hardware and training personnel necessary for the regional political proxies to materialise the military designs of Washington for the Eastern Caribbean. Unlike Lebanon and the Middle East, the Eastern Caribbean is a new ground that HAS BEEN CONQUERED, and is being consolidated withing the context of Washington's present and future military and political designs.

The rate and pace of Washington's intervention in this part of the region is something which every progressive political force, and every individual with the slightest love for sovereignty and independence must pay adequate attention to at this point in our region's history.

In the case of St.Lucia, it is the task of every progressive, democratic and anti-imperialist party and political organisation of every progressive trade union, of every progressive individual, and of every single person who understands the negative implications and dangerous consequences of this Yankee military and political invasion of our region (not of Grenada alone (to clearly spell it out to those not yet able to understand the dangers we face. In this period when serious setbacks and reversals have been [word indistinct] throughout the region on [word indistinct] of the Grenada invasion and subsequent developments, the task of political education becomes a thousand times more important and necessary. Never before has there been a greater need for the verbal pledges of support for "unity of the progressive forces" to be translated into practical reality.

The major and greatest task at the moment is to achieve this political unity at the widest possible level, so that the movement and the struggle could be revived at the level required to move closer towards genuine national liberation on a more serious note.

CSO: 3298/555

COMPTON BILL TO RAISE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ALLOWANCES HIT

Castries CRUSADER in English 11 Feb 84 p 8

[Text] Only a few months after Prime Minister John Compton tried hard to impose his wage freeze on the woking class masses through a Tripartite arrangement (which the people crippled), he is now passing a bill to entitle the already well padded Governor General as wage hike. One wonders whether the initiative was ever mooted by the Governor General or whether the Prime Minister has done this injudicious act on his own.

Surely, any person would recognise that the Governor General should at this stage consider giving national service like so many other poorer persons who serve on Associations, Societies, as Justice of the Peace, etc.etc. At this incredibly sad stage of the Island's economy, one would assume that the Governor General in a humanitarian gesture, (if this Government would dare approach him) would agree to remain as Governor General without a salary or for that matter at the same salary. After all, the Governor General is by no means a man in desperate need, and it is common knowledge that he receives a few fat pensions and collects rental on many properties, added to which his off-springs are all established in comfortable employ. His present position absolves him of most of the telling expenses which beset the average man, he has no tax headaches, gets free housing, cars, vans, maids, entertainment allowance, seized liquor, police protection, secretariat staff, stewards, groundsmen, allowances in lieu of import duty refunds, duty allowance, cost of living allowance, subsistence allowance, upkeep of house, grounds and vehicles, you name it, G.G. gets it.

Knowing the G.G. as some people do it is difficult to believe that in his luxurious position vis-a-vis the crippling conditions of the majority of the masses, that he would of his own, make such irrational demands on such a damaged subterranian economy. One is therefore left to presume that Compton and his Cabinet in their pledge promise to mesmerise the poor tax payers are imposing this wage hike possibly to entice the 75 year old Governor General and his ailing wife to remain in office.

The bill increases three allowances, from $30,000.00 to $48,000.00 another from $6,000.00 to $8,000.00 and a third one from $2,000.00 to $3,600.00 effective from 1st January, 1984, supposedly to meet the rise in the cost-of-living, which as pointed out above, does not affect him.

May God have mercy on the souls of the poor tax payers and bring Compton and Company to their senses before they put this bill into effect. Dear G.G. please save us from this act of injustice, and if you sit silently by, we shall be forced to assume that you are a part of this inhumane act.

CSO: 3298/555

BRIEFS

GRENADA TORTURE CHARGE--Information available at the CRUSADER indicates that St. Lucian policemen who form part of the foreign occupation forces in Grenada have been among Caribbean and US personnel administering "mental torment" to members of the leadership of the New Jewal Movement (NJM) being held in jail without charges since the US led invasion last October. A report with information originating at the Richmond Hill Prisons (where the N.J.M. prisoners are Kept) indicates that "St Lucian and Dominican Policemen wearing P.R.A. uniforms" mentally tormented the prisoners day and night, while Barbadian and American troopers and officials have been administering "physical and psychological torture, including electric shocks". Details from this report, as well as a letter from the NJM prisoners describing conditions under detention, will be published in a major exposure to be carried in next week's CRUSADER. [Text] [Castries CRUSADER in English 11 Feb 84 p 8]

CSO: 3298/555

CHAMBERS PREPARED FOR NATIONAL 'MEET THE PEOPLE' TOUR

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] An official visit to the Borough of San Fernando beginning March 10, a visit to Tobago shortly thereafter and trips outside of Trinidad and Tobago, expressly to give personal support to the Government's export thrust and foreign exchange earning capacity are among the items on Prime Minister, George Chambers' agenda during 1984.

Speaking at the closing of the 24th annual convention of the ruling People's National Movement, Chambers said he wanted to lend his personal support to the Government's drive for more exports and more foreign exchange.

He said also that he took note of suggestions from the convention floor that he should continue meeting people across the country.

To this end, he said, he was going on an official one-week visit to the Borough of San Fernando, beginning Saturday, March 10. This visit, he told the convention, would be somewhat different from his visits to Counties St. Patrick, Caroni and St Andrew/St. David.

He said in San Fernando he would be meeting with a wider cross-section of the residents their trade union and business leaders included. "I look forward with keen interest to this visit," Chambers said.

The Prime Minister also told the contention that he would be making "some external visits" during 1984, as a means of helping to push this country's reactivated export drive and its consequent objective of correcting present trade imbalances between Trinidad and Tobago and a number of other countries.

He said he felt the need to talk "face to face" with certain countries about the present trade imbalances with Trinidad and Tobago and his contemplated visits abroad would be considered against that background.

He said he was at present holding discussions with the Minister of External Affairs, Dr Basil Ince, as to the areas where Ince felt Chambers' personal contact might be desirable in this effort.

Repeating a theme which he addressed at the opening of the convention Friday night, Chambers said that the presence of the party and the government needed to felt in Tobago, "with a little more weight."

He said he would be going to Tobago to initiate action on this matter shortly, also pledging to lend support to an idea from the floor that the Ministry of Information set up facilities in the sister island.

He said that over the last 18 months Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance, who has responsibility for Tobago, was not being allowed to perform his constitutional functions in that regard.

"I am talking to the party and I am not seeking to get into any controversy with anyone," Chambers said several times as he outlined his plan of action for the rest of the year. He said he also wanted to pay some attention to the agricultural diversification taking place at Caroni Limited.

He said the company now had more than 5,000 acres of prime agricultural land at its disposal and he was concerned that it should be utilised to the maximum. Government acquired full assets of the former sugar-oriented company in 1975.

CSO: 3298/557

CHANGES MADE IN TOBAGO ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Feb 84 p 10

[Article by Compton Delph in Scarborough]

[Text] There has been a reshuffling of responsibilities among secretaries at the Tobago House of Assembly as a result of the inability of Assemblyman Kenneth Jones to continue as Secretary for Health and Environment.

Making the announcement at last Thursday's meeting of the Assembly, Chairman A.N.R. Robinson said that Jones had asked to be relieved of his Assembly portfolio because of personal commitments.

The chairman recommended that the responsibility for health be assigned to Assemblyman Hochoy Charles, the Secretary for Works.

Robinson himself has taken over the responsibility for the School Nutrition Programme from Councillor Dr J.D. Elder, who retains his Education portfolio but has been given charge of special assignments.

Assemblyman George Archer, who had assisted J.D. Elder, has been made a full-time secretary with responsibility to Sport and Youth Affairs which were previously Elder's responsibility.

Following is the Assembly's new "Cabinet" with each secretary's responsibility.

. A.N.R. Robinson--Chairman and Secretary for Finance, Planning, Legal Affairs, Environment, Tourism Development, Port, Airport, Utilities (Water, Electricity, Telephones), Community Development and School Nutrition Programme.

. Jefferson Davids--Deputy Chairman and Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and State Lands.

. Hochoy Charles--Leader of Assembly Business and Secretary for Works and Health.

. J.D. Elder--Secretary for Education including Technical and Higher Education, Culture and Special Assignments.

. Mrs Bernadette des Vignes--Secretary for Social Services and Welfare.

. Regis Caruth--Secretary for Marketing, Supplies, and Co-operatives.

. George Archer--Secretary for Sport and Youth Affairs.

Edwin Caesar was named to assist the Chairman with Community Development and the School Nutrition Programme.

CSO: 3298/557

ONR CRITICIZES TTT, DEMANDS TIME EQUAL TO THAT GIVEN PNM

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Feb 84 p 16

[Text]

STRONG CRITICISM have been levelled at the General Manager of Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT) for the station's policy on political broadcasts. The criticisms were contained in a letter to Mr John Barsotti from Mr Lennox Raphael, Public Relations Officer of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR).

Mr Raphael said that it was a stated policy of TTT that the ONR be allocated only three television broadcasts of ten minutes each per calender year.

"This allocation has been rigidly applied to the ONR and the instances are few when any live statements from members of this organisation were carried by your station as news.

The letter continued: "We note that on February 11, 12 and 13, 1984, your station carried live and prerecorded broadcasts of the Political Leader of the PNM, in his capacity as such, from the annual convention of that party. The total amount of time given to such broadcasts was approximately 25 minutes. In one of the four broadcasts, the time allocated exceeded the ten-minute limit laid down in the policy communicated to us."

Mr Raphael pointed out that the ONR's annual convention, held on November 26 and 27 at the Mount Hope Junior Secondary School, was not covered by TTT although invitations had been issued to the station.

"We wish to lodge a protest against this continuing and blatant discrimination and inequality of treatment towards the ONR. Your station has consistently permitted members of the ruling party to appear and make political statements on television under the guise of news."

The letter went on to list instances of alleged "discrimination and inequality".

The letter called on Mr Barsotti to accord the ONR an equal amount of time to that given to the Political Leader of the PNM.

CSO: 3298/557

CHAMBERS CLAIMS HE WAS MISQUOTED IN REMARKS ON TOBAGO

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

STAFF REPORTER

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers rose to his own defence several times yesterday afternoon in the House of Representatives to deny that he told a convention of the People's National Movement (PNM) he would establish who is Prime Minister of this country in 1984.

The Prime Minister made his denial during debate on a private motion by the Representative for Tobago West, James Ogiste (Opposition), that the Parliament take note of the second annual report of the Tobago House of Assembly.

In her contribution, Pam Nicholson (Opposition), representative for Tobago East, referred to a report in which Prime Minister Chambers was said to have inferred that it was his duty to report to the people of Trinidad and Tobago so that the people of Tobago would know who is the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Chambers objected to this remark and said he had never made that statement.

House Speaker Matthew Ramcharan ruled on this order, informing Miss Nicholson that the member for St. Ann's East had said that the report was inaccurate.

Miss Nicholson asked that the correct remarks be given to the Lower House but Prime Minister Chambers did not respond to this request.

Continuing her presentation, Miss Nicholson again alluded to the alleged remarks and Prime Minister Chambers rose once more to state: "I have no objection to being quoted, but I strenuously object to being misquoted."

Miss Nicholson said she was just summarising the report and not quoting directly, but Prime Minister Chambers refused to accept this and said a summary must also be accurate.

Miss Nicholson went on to point out that the PNM was put into power in Trinidad and not Tobago.

This remark brought a further response from Prime Minister Chambers that the reference to the responsibility to the people who elected him had nothing to do with Tobago.

Despite all these objections, Miss Nicholson at the conclusion of her contribution referred to the alleged remarks again noting that perhaps the Prime Minister was not functioning all the time which was why he was not known as the Prime Minister.

Following her contribution, the Minister responsible for the administration of Tobago Affairs, Senator Anthony Jacelon, rebutted Miss Nicholson's presentation informing the Lower House that he was against the motion because the report did not contain audited financial accounts.

After Sen. Jacelon spoke, the Opposition representative for Oropouche, Trevor Sudama, questioned why the Minister quoted extensively from the report when he said he was not acknowledging it.

He,too, referred to statements attributed to Prime Minister Chambers on who was Prime Minister which remark again found disfavour.

According to Prime Minister Chambers: "That is not what I said. I did not say that. I don't have to say what I said. I have no responsibility to say what I said."

He added that he accepted "no responsibility whatsoever for what appears in any newspaper in Trinidad and Tobago."

Mr. Sudama told the House that it appeared that Opposition members were touching a "sensitive chord" if it called for the Prime Minister getting up at least five times and disturbing his contribution.

Using the Tobago East representative favourite phrase of describing Sen. Jacelon as the "Minister for Residual Affairs", the Oropouche representative was interrupted by Prime Minister Chambers yet another time when the latter told the House he had not informed the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Ellis Clarke, to appoint anyone Residual Affairs Minister.

He said Sen. Jacelon was a Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Planning and was not responsible for Tobago Affairs as was also stated.

"He is a member of the Cabinet responsible for the administration of Tobago," said Prime Minister Chambers.

CSO: 3298/557

COUNTY ASSOCIATION HEARS CALL FOR LIMIT TO CARICOM PRODUCE IMPORTS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Leonard Robertson]

[Text]

A CALL HAS been made to limit the importation of agricultural produce from Caricom countries.

At a meeting of the Association of County Councils on Saturday at City Hall in Port of Spain, Councillor Ramdharrie Ramnanan, Chairman of the St Andrew/St David County Council, called for the support of the Association in a battle to save agriculture in the twin county.

Ramnanan said that the importation of foodcrops from Caricom countries was stifling local farmers who had to dump produce because the outside farmers were underselling their produce. He said that production costs were lower in the Caricom countries primarily because labour costs were less.

Ramnanan said the farmers in his community grew bananas and oranges in sufficient quantities to supply the country but because of poor marketing facilities and the lack of proper access roads, they were forced to dump tons of produce.

Councillor Basdeo "Bill" Manmohansingh of St Patrick said that the provision of an adequate infrastructure in agricultural districts would enable local farmers to compete favourably with their Caricom counterparts. He pointed out that there were no funds for the development of agricultural access roads in 1983.

Members accused Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, Kamaluddin Mohammed of "hoodwinking the people" as regards the true picture of the agriculture industry in the country.

CSO: 3298/557

FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ATTACKS PROPOSED BUDGET

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 Feb 84 p 48

[Text] Former Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries Minister Lionel Robinson launched a scathing attack on the 1984 budget claiming that its objective must have been to weaken the country's agricultural sector and destroy whatever was left of tourism in Tobago.

Robinson, who is the brother of Tobago House of Assembly chairman ANR Robinson, spoke at the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Trinidad Islandwide Rice Growers Association (TIRGA) held at the Penal Junior Secondary School on Saturday.

Robinson was honoured by TIRGA for his contribution to the rice industry and his interest in rice farmers in the country during his tensure as Minister of Agriculture. TIRGA's president Chaitram Gayah also addressed the meeting.

Others honoured at the celebration included advisor Ramdass Mahabir, journalist Ramdath Jagessar, Rampersad Bridgemohan, Tackoor Persad, Mulchan Sahadeo, Jugmohan Mahabir, Basso Basing, Poro Rampersad, Bishnath Khelawan, Ramadar Sookoo and Kissoondath Mahabir. They received a scroll and a plaque.

Robinson said that the increase in land tax from 24 cents to $20 would have a "serious" effect on agriculture in the country. He said the government's objective in raising land tax was not at all clear since the long term result would be to put people out of land cultivation. He said the government should have used the tax increase on land as an incentive to stimulate agriculture. Robinson said that the "prudent thing to be done was increase the tax on producing lands from 24 cents to $5."

He said lands that were not cultivated should have been taxed up to $10 an acre. Said Robinson, "by doing this the owners would be encouraged to cultivate the lands or if they could not do it, they would have rented out the lands. You must have a clear objective in doing things. Clearly the government did not have an objective in mind."

Robinson said that while subsidies in agriculture had been abused, it was necessary that they be retained but under a new structure. He said that subsidies should have been given as price support and not at the planting end. Said he, "you give the subsidies at the harvesting end. The point is you give on the swing and get it back on the roundabout."

Turning to the increase in the fares in air and sea traffic to Tobago, Robinson said that the Tourist Industry would be the loser. He said the average tourist would prefer a one-stop flight to his destination and not one in which he had to make expensive transfers. He said that the case of Tobago was important since tourists would by pass that island and go elsewhere. He said if the government was interested in giving Tobago a chance to support itself it should first provide a deep water harbour and improve the landing facilities at the Crown Point Airport.

CSO: 3298/557 END