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# Latin America Report

No. 2678

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## NEW DRILLING PROGRAM COULD INCREASE LOCAL OIL PRODUCTION

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Avonda Scott]

[Text]

Barbados' oil production, now standing at a record 1 000 barrels a day, could well register a substantial increase within the next couple of months.

This will depend on whether a drilling programme planned for Fisherpond, St. Thomas, is successful.

The state-owned Barbados National Oil Company will soon move its drilling machinery to that area.

Chairman of the Company, Mr. Louis de Verteuil, said yesterday that there

was a producing well at Fisherpond in 1965 and it was now planned to dig deeper wells.

Mr. DeVerteuil said Barbados expected to increase its production at Woodbourne, St. Philip, from where all production is currently carried out, "in the near future."

The island's oil production of 1 000 barrels a day is drilled from 45 wells at Woodbourne and represents 25 per cent of our oil needs.

"Our plans are to try and increase that amount...this would depend on what success we get in our continued drilling programme," Mr. de Verteuil said.

Government took over the drilling and production operations of Mobil Exploration Barbados Incorporated in July last year and oil output has steadily risen under a new shallow drilling programme.

Production increased significantly from 700 barrels a day to 1 000 barrels a day and the target is to be producing 1 200 barrels by the middle of this year.

Barbados sold over US\$1 million in crude to the Mobil Refinery last October.

In November last year an agreement was signed between the National Petroleum Corporation, of which the Barbados Oil Company is a subsidiary, and Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation for technical and management support to the NPC in operating its Woodbourne oilfield, other oil and gas fields and reservoir drilling evaluations.

The project involves substantial capital expenditure, including the upgrading of the environmental and safety aspects of oil production at Woodbourne.

## BRIEFS

KEROSENE PRICE CUT--The government's mid-week announcement of a substantial reduction in the price of kerosene appears not to have reached some distributors and sales outlets for that product. The reduction amounts to 24 cents per gallon, from \$.49 to a new low price of \$.25 per gallon. Throughout Thursday, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection was too busy to respond to enquiries. Unfortunately, the Chief Prices and Procurement Officer said that he was "not authorised" to make any statement confirming the price reductions. Meanwhile, distributors of kerosene, claiming that they have received no official notice of the reduction, have so far refused to sell kerosene to the public at the new lower price.

[Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Mar 83 p 1]

COS: 3298/536

## ELECTRICITY SERVICE ISSUE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, Wednesday, (CANA) — Opposition parliamentarian Randolph Russell has expressed fears about government moves to fully take over the lone electricity company here.

The British-based Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) now holds 51 per cent of the shares in St. Vincent Electricity Services Limited (VINLEC) with the Government owning the remaining 49 per cent, but negotiations are under way for the Milton Cato administration to buy out the CDC shareholding.

Mr. Russell, a former Minister of Health in the present administration here, said he feared that the elec-

tricity services of the country would deteriorate and consumers would have to pay more for electricity supply if VINLEC was nationalised.

"I don't think that Government can run these services. They are totally incapable.....and because of this they should let private enterprise or CDC handle it. Other than that consumers are going to have to pay a lot more for electricity once Government steps in."

Mr. Russell said Government had a poor record of running state enterprises and cited as examples the failure of the Milton Cato Administration to present to the public, the accounts of the five-year old Diamond Dairy Company and the revived sugar industry.

CSO: 3298/537

## OCLAE TO HOLD CONGRESS IN NICARAGUA 13-15 SEPTEMBER

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 30 Mar 83 p 7

[Text] Jorge Gonzalez, president of the Continental Organization of Latin American Students (OCLAE), who is currently in our country, has told a press conference that the Latin American student community is being convoked for the Seventh Latin American Student Congress, which will take place in Managua from 13 to 15 September next.

Gonzalez stressed the importance of this event, which will unfold against the background of increasing aggression against the Central American peoples of Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The Latin American student movement will show its solidarity with the glorious Sandinist revolution through its participation in this Congress, the OCLAE leader indicated.

He announced that, before the opening of the congress, OCLAE will conduct a series of activities with the objective of seeking the support of all the countries in the world for the Nicaraguan revolution and the Central American liberation movements that are fighting today for their permanent liberation.

Among the activities to be carried out in preparation for the seventh congress, there is the visit of an American continent-wide student delegation to Nicaragua to reaffirm the student movement's solidarity with this country.

Other similar activities, Gonzalez noted, will include the arrival in Nicaragua of a medical brigade that will remain for a year, a fund-raising campaign to raise funds for Nicaragua and student seminars in several Latin American countries for the defense and support of Nicaragua.

Moreover, indicated the president of OCLAE, some 120 delegates, not only from Latin America but also from African, Near Eastern and European countries, will attend the Seventh Latin American Student Congress.

Message of Convocation to Seventh OCLAE Congress

After announcing the objectives and importance of the congress, student leader Jorge Gonzalez read aloud the convocation message, which emphasizes the

struggle for reform and democratization of the education system, for a system based on the real needs of our nations and for the recovery and defense of our natural resources.

The seventh congress, says the message, will constitute a powerful manifestation of student solidarity with those who daily struggle for liberty and democracy against reactionary fascist regimes, following in the footsteps of those who daily defend their victories; with the heroic Salvadoran and Guatemalan fighters; with the victorious revolutions of Cuba and Grenada; and especially with the Sandinist revolution which is struggling with blood and sweat to achieve economic and social progress in the face of aggression by the imperialists and their lackeys.

Finally, the president of OCLAE, in the name of the Latin American student movement, saluted the glorious "Nicaraguan youth, which is fighting," he affirmed, "the reactionary forces that have invaded Nicaraguan territory." "In particular," he stressed, "we salute the heroic youths of the Sandinist Youth reserve battalions who are now under arms."

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CSO: 3248/694

## GUYANA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HOLD 'POSITIVE' TRADE TALKS

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 10 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

GUYANA and Trinidad and Tobago have decided to co-operate in a number of economic activities, High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean Rudy Insanally has said.

In a press release on Friday the Ambassador who recently headed a team to the twin-island Republic to discuss trading matters, described the talks as "pleasant, positive and promising."

According to Cde. Insanally, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have agreed to consider co-operation in areas such as forestry, fisheries, pre-fabricated housing, wood preservation, manufacturing of clay bricks and clay blocks, ceramics and the production of cotton.

The team also discussed the future of the Trinidad and Tobago's oil facility to Guyana and the question of food security.

Cde. Insanally observed that follow-up action on some of the matters discussed had already begun.

He explained that the talks were a direct result of a commitment by the leaders of the two countries to promote the expansion of bilateral trade and to explore the possibilities of joint ventures.

The Ambassador said that an invitation has been issued to the Trinidad and Tobago Government to send a mission to Guyana. The purpose of the mission would be to clearly identify those goods which can be traded by the two Caricom partners.

Guyana has expressed interest in the purchase of steel from the twin-island Republic while seeking to increase her exports of packaged rice, bauxite, timber and a number of other products.

Other members of the Guyana team were: Winston Murray, head of the Department of International Economic Co-operation in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance; Bernard Crawford, Chairman of Bidco; Darlene Harris, Assistant Economic Adviser to the President; Francis Blackmore, Export Promotion Officer and Ivan Allison of Allison's Industrial Engineering Limited. (GNA).

CSO: 3298/538

## WORK OF CUBAN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN NICARAGUA

Havana CUBA SOCIALISTA in Spanish Apr 83 pp 28-31

[Text] For the Cuban internationalist construction workers who work in Nicaragua, solidarity has a very intimate and beloved name that leads them to perform gigantic tasks--Celia Sanchez Manduley. Celia, who died a few years ago, is justly called */the native flower of the revolution/* [in italics]. During her entire life, she was present at the crucial times of the process lived by Cuba since the beginning of the armed struggle against the tyranny of Fulgen-  
cio Batista.

With the simplicity and humility that characterized her, the heroine of the underground struggle and in the Sierra Maestra won the admiration of all her people for the work done next to Fidel Castro in more than 20 years in all the great projects undertaken by the revolution.

Therefore, at the time of choosing a name for the contingent of construction workers who would work in Nicaragua, the workers chose the name of Celia Sanchez Manduley.

The stimulus that this name means for them has a lot to do with the already long and impressive history of accomplishments achieved in 3 years of hard work in the Sandinist nation.

The contingent was born in 1980 when men and equipment arrived in Nicaragua to undertake their first project which was very important: the Tuma-Waslala-Siuna highway. This permitted free travel between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the ancient desire of the Nicaraguan people.

This is stated in a few words but behind them lies a real legend, an almost incredible history of struggle to dominate nature, conquer a hostile topography, pierce stubborn hills and check rushing rivers.

To give an idea of what it meant to build this highway, let us say that it extends 210 kilometers through the densest jungle, skirting mountains. To make it possible, 2.5 million cubic meters of earth were moved.

The Cuban road brigades had to constantly fight the inclement weather, advance as much as possible before the rainy season and not stop a second after the

rain came. It cannot be forgotten that they worked in areas where the rich fauna included dangerous animals like poisonous snakes and the so-called tigrelo, a type of puma.

The difficulty of the undertaking did not daunt the construction workers because its counterpart was the social and economic importance of the project.

One of the major problems of Nicaragua, a typical underdeveloped country on the continent, is lack of communication. The isolation of vast areas is an insurmountable obstacle for the extraction and transportation of products, cultural development, medical care and general improvement of the living conditions of a major part of its population.

In the past, no authority gave the least attention to the Atlantic coast region where the peasants barely knew what a doctor or a school was, much less a highway.

Let no one imagine for an instant that it is an area devoid of natural wealth or economic importance for the country. Although this would never justify the neglect to which it was condemned, the truth is that the beautiful city of Matagalpa, one of the main cities in Nicaragua, and the Siuna gold mine and the town of the same name are found at its extremes.

Within that dense jungle, many thousands of men and women cultivate the land with exemplary effort. Large forestry reserves await rational and fruitful exploitation.

During the dry season, there had been only a path before for the inhabitants of the area, a dangerous slope or the risky crossing of the jungle itself when it was necessary to find a doctor, for example, to save a life that was perhaps lost at an early age.

For those reasons, there is deep pride in each one of the construction workers for the task completed. The inhabitants of the area show emotional recognition when they speak of what that road means. It extends now without interruption and ties the two coasts bathed by different oceans.

It is a mountain highway with very special characteristics. It is 6 meters wide and crossed by 41 bridges that had to be constructed, some over turbulent rivers. There are hundreds of culverts that drain the abundant rains that fall most of the year. It skirts enormous ravines but guarantees the safety of the travelers. This highway represents the victory of man over a hostile nature.

The work done by the Cuban contingent is part of the general project that the Nicaraguan Government undertook which includes 385 kilometers of highway to Puerto Cabezas on the Atlantic coast. The paving and maintenance are done by Nicaraguan workers.

As we said at the beginning, that highway is only the first chapter of the beautiful history of cooperation between the Cuban construction workers and Nicaragua, a cooperation that grew noticeably because of a natural disaster:

the rains and floods in May 1982 that caused very serious damage to roads, highways, bridges and housing.

The Nicaraguan Government requested international aid then. The Cuban construction workers and their brigades of specialists in bridges, housing and roads were on the front line again. With the Cuban donation of plants for the construction of prefabricated housing parts (Sandino model, of course) as well as for construction materials came the friendly hand of the Cuban workers who restored communication interrupted in vitally important zones and helped carry out general tasks of reconstruction in record time.

At the end of 1982, more than 800 Cuban workers and technicians of UNECA [Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises] were serving in Nicaragua for the study and execution of different projects including the construction of schools, hospital units and roads. All of this was in fulfillment of the agreements signed between the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation and the corresponding Nicaraguan organisms. For all those "men in white helmets," /solidarity/ [in italics] continues to be something more than a 10-letter word.

#### Breaking Through Mountains, Jungles

Carlos Reyes Rodriguez is 45 years old and is an equipment mechanic in a brigade of the Celia Sanchez Manduley contingent. He came to Nicaragua in November 1981 and immediately started to work on the construction work of the mountain highway Tuma-Waslala-Siuna.

That was when the battle by the construction workers to penetrate the thick wall of vegetation and earth acquired truly dramatic characteristics.

He told me: "I remember that I began to work in the place known as Illas during the alleged dry season but it rained every day. It was necessary to 'break through' hills and jungle since there was no passage even for mules. I really felt emotion and sadness when I heard the stories of peasants whose children died for many years because of lack of a road so that they could reach some town where a doctor could take care of them."

Carlos, selected as one of the most distinguished workers of 1982 by his own comrades and the union, recalled that he worked hard on the segment of road between Illas and Siuna. He will never forget the arduous work to construct the bridge over the Guani. "We worked up to 20 hours a day by necessity and we fulfilled the commitment to complete the bridge in less time than planned, thanks to the effort of all the comrades," he stated.

He had many exciting experiences. When he related them, he smiled and tried to diminish the importance of his personal participation. He stated that only the quality of the men in the contingent, their enthusiasm and work spirit made it possible to finish the 210 kilometers assigned to the Cubans a month in advance.

"At times I thought I was at the end of my days. That was when we had to go down through those hills, beside enormous ravines, with the equipment and

everything and just a little room to move. There were also swampy places where the equipment slipped dangerously....The determination of the comrades was the only security we had." He had not forgotten that Sunday when, after working until noon, the exhausted men of the brigade bathed and laid down to rest. At 6 pm a call was made for volunteers to help in an urgent task that had come up.

"No one stayed in bed; no one rested. We worked nonstop until the next day, with enthusiasm and an emulative spirit. This was not the only time this happened."

Reyes had participated before in the construction of schools in Jamaica. Now he was working on another highway 46 kilometers long in Nicaragua. He described those internationalist tasks as "something great in my life. I contribute my little grain of sand to help other peoples."

After the Disaster

Other comrades of the contingent spoke equally forcefully and emotionally. They were also among the most distinguished workers for 1982.

Diomedes Labrada Tejeda of the housing brigade is 50 years old. He recalled that his collective finished the construction and start-up of five plants for prefabricated housing parts, the construction of three schools and the expansion of a hospital in much less time than planned.

He emphasized the good relations developed with the Nicaraguan personnel whom the Cubans trained to operate the prefabricated parts plants.

"Now they do that work with total efficiency. I cannot forget their magnificent attitude, their great interest in learning, their understanding of the country's need for them to specialize in prefabricated parts. I cannot forget the fraternal relationship with the Nicaraguans who lived in the areas where the projects were carried out," he indicated.

Like many other of his comrades, Labrada has another internationalist mission to his credit since he was a construction worker in the People's Republic of Angola. He had a very clear definition of what this meant to him. "I believe that the most important thing for a revolution is the great honor it can achieve by contributing to a fraternal country to aid its development."

Orlando Monzon Morales participated in a titanic struggle during his service in Nicaragua: the restoration of the bridges damaged or destroyed by the huge floods in May 1982.

The bridge brigade to which he belongs was organized, trained and sent to Nicaragua in the short period of 9 days from the time when the Cuban Government responded positively to that Central American nation's request for aid.

The situation when it reached Nicaragua was worrisome. Ten bridges had been destroyed, isolating large areas of the country, especially Chinandega

Department. The damage to the two bridges over Rio Negro, the first 64 meters long, was notable for its complexity.

Another distinguished worker, Agustin Aguiar Arango, was responsible for projects of the transportation base of the contingent. He recalled that the situation was so critical that travel between Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, and Chinandega Department was completely disrupted.

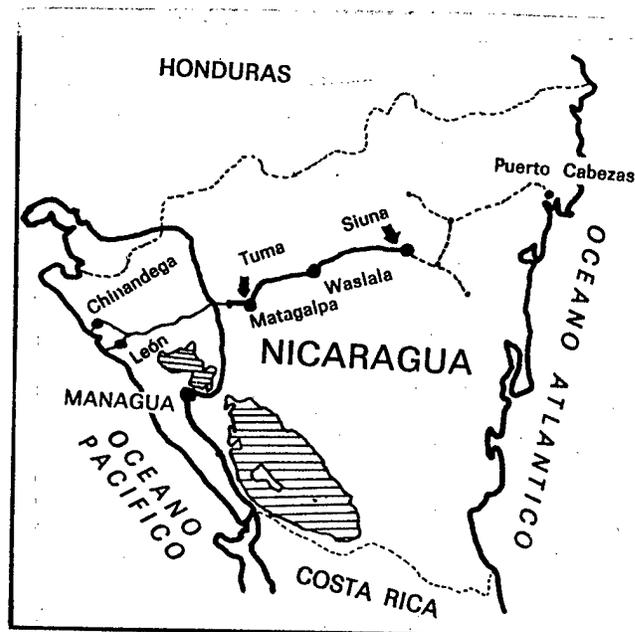
Working day and night for 3 months, they managed to reconstruct the largest bridge over Rio Negro and communications were reestablished with the northern zone.

Monzon said: "How happy the people of that area were! All the people in Somotillo, Villanueva and other places came out to celebrate; they carried us on their shoulders, laughed and sang. It was our best reward."

The men of the bridge brigade decided that they would reconstruct all the bridges in only 12 months although it had been estimated to take 2 years. Those who know how they work and how they solved the Rio Negro problem do not have the slightest doubt that they will succeed.

Aguiar, who also works on such an important front as supplies for the units of the contingent, knows that the word */nonfulfillment/* [in italics] is unheard of there. They work at any hour of the day or night.

They all feel "that they have the privilege of being with such a heroic people as the Nicaraguan people," he noted.



Route: Tuma-Waslala-Siuna

Length: 210 kilometers

Earth movement: 2.5 million cubic meters

Characteristics: 6 meters wide, improved base 30 centimeters thick, 41 bridges, hundreds of culverts to drain the water from the frequent rains.

Objective: To connect the Pacific and Atlantic coasts by land, connecting the provinces of Matagalpa and Zelaya as well as Siuna with the eastern Puerto Cabezas. This will permit development of an extensive area of the country submerged in neglect and great isolation until now.

Executor: Celia Sanchez Manduley contingent of Cuban construction workers

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CSO: 3248/693

## GUYANA PPP ORGAN NOTES RIGHT-WING ACTIONS IN ST LUCIA

Georgetown MIRROR in English 3 Apr 83 p 3

[Text] The rightwing John Compton regime in St. Lucia took three significant steps recently which are causing some degree of unease over its intentions. The first step was the sacking of the Governor General Boswell Williams, and his replacement by a person named Sir Allan Lewis. Mr. Williams was dismissed by Queen Elizabeth after he refused to resign as requested by Prime Minister Compton.

The second step was the passing of a law banning the wearing by citizens of "green type army fatigues", while the third step makes it illegal for films to be shown in public without prior police permission.

These measures were seen as aimed at the opposition Progressive Labour Party led by George Odlum. Government spokesmen including Ministers, have been claiming that the PLP is training youths for revolution.

One top ranking government spokesman is reported in Latin America Weekly Report as saying:

"Odlum and his gang have devised a new strategy of going all over the valleys showing our people films on revolution, and trying to incite people, but all that shit is going to stop. All of you who have these green uniforms of Odlum and his gang, will have to sell them or burn them. I am going to stick in George's backside: I am going to stick after the PLP until U run him out of the country."

Following the controversial election in May, 1982 in St. Lucia, Compton with lavish US assistance romped home to power. He has since pronounced in favour of U.S. capital and is one of those Regional hopefuls who are lining up cap-in-hand for CBI money from Ronald Reagan.

CSO: 3298/538

GUYANA PPP ORGAN CITES AREA BLASTS AT U.S. 'WAR PLANES'

Georgetown MIRROR in English 3 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

**KINGSTOWN, St. VINCENT:** General Secretary of the United People's Movement, Renwick Rose, declared that the attack against Nicaragua is an attack against the struggle for justice in the entire region. "It bears the mark of imperialist hysteria."

Rose said that the governments of the Caricom body should come out jointly against the invasion.

**CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA:** The U.P.M. view has also been expressed by Earl Bousquet, General Secretary of the Workers Revolutionary Movement and editor of the Lucian Times.

The young leader stated that he was writing Caricom Secretary-General Kurleigh King to summon an emergency meeting of Regional heads of government

to discuss the grave threat being posed by US imperialism to the region.

"This is the most serious threat to the progressive movement in the region since the Bay of Pigs. On April 19 we will commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the Bay of Pigs. We want to highlight that US imperialism can be defeated again."

Bousquet warned that the invasion of Nicaragua could spark off a Regional war. The US is denying any involvement, but it had also denied the Gulf of Tonkin incident which sparked off the war in Vietnam in which the US lost one half of a million soldiers, he added.

**ROSEAU, DOMINICA:** The Political Committee of the Dominica Liberation Movement, headed by Dr. Bill Riviera,

blamed the escalation of conflicts in Nicaragua on Ronald Reagan. "The Reagan administration is the main organiser, financier and director of the war against Nicaragua," the DLM said in a statement.

The organisation at the same time, issued a call to the Eugenia Charles government, which itself had been threatened last year with invasion by US-based mercenaries, to condemn the aggression against Nicaragua.

**BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS:** General Secretary of the Movement for National Liberation (Monali) Rickey Parris said that "there is definite proof of US involvement in Nicaragua." Monali feels that in the same way Cuba defeated the US-trained gusanos, Nicaragua will rout the Somozista contras.

CSO: 3298/538

## TOBAGO LEADER SEES TRINIDAD AS THREAT TO CARIBBEAN

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 10 Apr 83 p 36

[Text]

CHAIRMAN of the Tobago House of Assembly, A.N.R. Robinson, has issued a warning to Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean about a "great danger" to the region.

The former deputy prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago sees this danger emanating from Trinidad, where the government, in an attempt to defend what it claims as "the democratic process" might be inclined to resort to the use of force.

"Any such development in Trinidad and Tobago, in my view," said Robinson, "is bound to affect Barbados, not only economically, but possibly politically in the long run."

Robinson, on a brief vacation in Barbados, was highly critical of the way the Central Government in Trinidad is dealing with Tobago, its House of Assembly and administration, and expressed concern that the island-state of Tobago was being treated by Trinidad as "a colony", particularly in the light of what Trinidad and Tobago went through during its colonial days with Britain.

Robinson believes that in view of the deteriorating economic situation in Trinidad and more experiences of corrupt practices of the government and among top

People's National Movement (PNM) officials, "many people will feel threatened and may even be driven to desperation for fear of court action being taken against them if they lose power".

The present position, he said, is that the ruling PNM government and its officials are placing "party before nation" and deliberately stifling Tobago's efforts to progress, for fear of being "shown up" by little Tobago.

A former close lieutenant of the late Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Eric Williams, Robinson broke with the PNM in the early 1970s. A lawyer by profession, he is now a legal consultant to the United Nations Secretariat.

His wife, Patricia, who accompanied him on the Barbados vacation, is a former director of research for the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, and is currently director of financial institutions in Tobago.

The Robinsons have two children — a son studying aeronautical engineering in England, and a daughter, currently pursuing "A" level studies at a secondary school in Tobago.

Robinson and his wife returned to Tobago on Friday, and he will be holding a mass meeting in Scarborough, the island's capital town, tonight.

CSO: 3298/538

## BARBADOS TRADE WITH TRINIDAD STOPPED BY LICENSE DEMAND

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 14 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Neville Martindale]

[Text] **THERE is a halt in Barbados' export trade with Trinidad and Tobago.**

This has come about as a result of a requirement by the Trinidad government for export licences which became effective from March 25.

It is understood that the Trinidad move is in response to the trade situation with Jamaica, and was not specifically designed to affect exports for Barbados.

The Barbados Export Promotion Corporation (EPC) is now carrying out an investigation into the matter.

Clarke said that the Trinidad authorities had promised to issue the licences in four days.

He added: "Exporters have applied for licences with the relevant forms as much as two weeks ago, and they have not heard from Trinidad yet."

Clarke said that one of the reasons for the decision by Trinidad was because illegal goods were imported into Barbados, and the Barbados authorities had done nothing about it.

He said that the "smuggling of garments must stop, and people should produce what they are supposed to produce."

He spoke of the situation where firms came into Barbados and set up enclave industries and then were allowed to sell on the domestic and CARICOM markets.

Clarke is calling a meeting of his Garment Group to discuss the Trinidad licensing situation.

The present Barbados-Trinidad trade position is also understood to be one of the matters on the agenda of the current meeting in Jamaica between the trade ministers of that country; Trinidad and Tobago; and Barbados.

The volume of Barbados' domestic exports to Trinidad — including garments, furniture, building materials and processed foods — was to the tune of \$71.9 million last year.

President of the Barbados Manufacturers' Association (BMA), Mr. Henry Vieira, when questioned about the licensing decision by Trinidad, said:

"Certain commodities are now subjected to licensing. They are on the Trinidad Negative List, which is a lengthy document, and it includes some items that will affect us."

Chairman of the BMA Garments Group, Mr. Trevor Clarke, said that Barbadian exporters could not now ship to Trinidad unless they had licences.

CSO: 3298/539

## JUNE 1 TARGET DATE SET FOR START OF OECS CENTRAL BANK

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, Friday, (CANA) — June 1 is the new target date for the establishment of a Central Bank to serve the seven member countries of the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS), St. Lucia Prime Minister John Compton has announced here.

April 1 was the original date set for converting the St. Kitts-based East Caribbean Currency Authority into a full-fledged Central Bank.

But in a radio broadcast here, Prime Minister Compton said that date could not be met, because all seven OECS states — Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat — could not agree on the arrangements for the bank's establishment.

"The fact that the islands were not able to meet the April 1 target date is a cause of much regret," Mr. Compton said adding, "but St. Lucia will continue to persevere by setting another date, that of June 1, 1983, when it is hoped that all

seven ECCA territories or if not all those who are so minded will proceed with the setting up of this institution."

"While we may be prepared to travel at the speed of the slowest ship in the convoy, we must be sure that all the ships are indeed in the convoy," the St. Lucia leader said.

The ECCA administers the East Caribbean dollar — the currency used by all OECS members.

At a meeting in November last year the OECS heads of government agreed that the ECCA should be upgraded to Central Bank status by April this year. The date for the conversion had been postponed on at least two previous occasions.

The Central Bank is thought by OECS leaders to be a crucial element in future efforts by the islands to stem the flight of capital from their shores.

There are indications that once the bank becomes operational, the islands will pursue more vigorous efforts to stem the flow of capital.

CSO: 3298/53

## BRIEFS

HIGHER PRICES FOR BANANAS--St Georges Grenada Tuesday (CANA)--The British fruit purchasing company, Geest Industries Limited, is offering farmers in Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia an additional 30 pounds sterling for each tonne of bananas shipped to London, a spokesman for the Grenada co-operative Banana Society (GCBS) said yesterday. Prior to recent discussions held here between the Windward Islands Banana Association (WINBAN) and the British firm, the price offered to farmers was 395 pounds sterling per tonne. That price was paid on the shipment made in the week ending March 19, and since then it has moved first to \$410 pounds sterling, the spokesman said. "We received a cable yesterday," the spokesman said, "and the next shipment will be paid for at 425 pounds sterling per metric ton." In his address at a general meeting, WINBAN president Harry Atkinson said the price the grower received over the last few years was well below his production costs. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Apr 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/539

## BRIEFS

CALL FOR TOURIST BOARD--St John's Antigua, Wed (CANA)--President of the Antigua Hotels and Tourist Association, Brian Gonsalves, has called for the establishment of a state-run tourist board to effectively co-ordinate activities in the industry. Mr. Gonsalves said the move was important in the wake of steps being taken by other countries to become more competitive in the tourism market. "A tourist Board will bring Antigua and Barbuda in line with countries such as Barbados and St. Lucia which already have similar agencies to manage their industries", Mr. Gonsalves said. "The Board is necessary if we are going to continue to be a strong competitor in the various markets which are today becoming sophisticated." Mr. Gonsalves said that the Board would also lend a professional approach to the industry in terms of its promotion, marketing and management control. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Apr 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/540

## INFORMATION ON IMF MEMORANDUM RELEASED

PY211835 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2212 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr (NA)--Three and one-half months after being signed, the Economy Ministry and the Central Bank made public the Memorandum of Understanding with the IMF as the first IMB control mission is in Buenos Aires to perform its specific task.

On 30 June 1983 at the latest, under the commitments made by the Argentine Government, "foreign exchange will be made available without restrictions at the official rate of exchange to make all bona fide, current, international payments." The only limitation in this regard is that "reasonable limits can be set on the automatic apportionment of foreign exchange for overseas tourism and remittance."

According to the memorandum, the Central Bank's net international reserves stood at \$1.6 billion on 30 September 1982. Regarding the balance of payments, point 2 of the memorandum stipulates that the deficit cannot exceed \$500 million during the 15-month period from 1 January 1983 through 31 March 1984.

The memorandum just released was signed on 7 January 1983 by Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe and Central Bank President Julio Gonzalez del Solar. Since then its contents have only been partially revealed.

Another commitment refers to the financing needs of the public sector (fiscal deficit) which must not surpass 1,094,000,000,000 pesos in 1983, and must not exceed 559 trillion pesos in the first quarter of 1984.

The outstanding foreign debt must not exceed by more than \$2 billion the foreign debt balance on 31 December 1982.

The section on foreign exchange controls receives a special and detailed treatment in the memorandum. During 1983 and until April 1984, the government "will not impose new nor will it intensify existing restrictions on payments and fund transfers related to current international transactions." Also, it cannot "conclude any bilateral payment agreement which is incompatible" with the IMF pact.

Argentina is also committed to not imposing "new restrictions or intensify existing ones on imports for reasons related to the balance of payments."

"During the second quarter of 1983, the government in consultation with the IMF will undertake a broad revision of the Argentine exchange and commercial system, and will come to an agreement with the IMF regarding a timetable for eliminating multiple exchange rates and restrictions on payments and fund transfers which are related to current international transactions, and the distortions resulting therefrom."

It has also been agreed that "on or about 28 February 1983, the government will eliminate the system of special rebates on exports to new markets, but those rebates which have been authorized before that date will continue to be made until the preestablished expiration dates."

The Argentine Government also committed itself "to reduce the minimum requirements for foreign financing of private imports from 180 days in January 1983 to a maximum of 150 days by 31 March 1983 to a maximum of 120 days by 30 September 1983 and to no time requirement at all by 31 December 1983."

The Central Bank complied with that commitment yesterday, moving up the 120-day maximum requirement that was scheduled to go into effect only "by 30 June 1983."

In the area of foreign exchange, point 7 of the memorandum stipulates that during 1983 and until April 1984, "the government will neither introduce nor modify any multiple exchange rate practice."

Under the terms of the memorandum, all overdue foreign payments will be eliminated as soon as possible, or by 30 June [1983] at the latest.

CSO: 3348/351

## ADEPA SAYS FREEDOM OF PRESS LACKING

PY010336 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Apr 83 p 11

[Text] Repeated attacks on press freedom is the main subject of a lengthy statement issued by ADEPA, the association grouping newspaper owners, during a meeting of its executive officers. The statement, made public yesterday, says the government has continually done everything in its power to muzzle the media and adds "that as Argentines it is with sorrow that we have to place on record that there is no such thing as freedom of the press and information in our country."

The statement indicates that this situation has worsened during recent months as evidenced by unjust legal dispositions, threats against newspaper personnel and the closing of several publications.

The report, drawn up by the entity's press freedom commission headed by Carlos Ovidio Lagos, stresses that the state of siege restricts the freedom of the individual and the publication of information concerning subversion. It makes reference to the confiscation of issues, censorship and sanctions affecting the QUORUM, LINEA, LA SEMANA, and HUMOR magazines, threats against EL FEDERAL newspaper of Santa Fe, and the abortive scheme to establish a "press law." It also mentions threats against the editor of LA VOZ, a member of the NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS news agency, a cartoonist of TIEMPO ARGENTINO, the editor of the BUENOS AIRES HERALD and local correspondents for British newspapers.

The report recalls that newsman Plutarco Schaller is held at the disposal of the government. Dr Juan Argeo Rojo has restricted freedom, and several provincial newspapers have government-imposed trustees. It also says a number of newsmen have disappeared and nothing is known of their whereabouts.

CSO: 3348/351

## BRIEFS

PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY FUNDS--The Ministry of Public Health and Environment granted funds totalling 68,889,000,000 pesos during January-March 1983. The funds, which were granted through the general directorate for sanitary emergency, were allocated to purchase drugs, blood dialysis equipment and scanners for surgery. [PY010255 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 27 Apr 83]

MARITIME FREIGHT FIGURES--The Lineas Maritimas Argentinas shipping agency carried a little over 2 million tons of general and refrigerated cargo during 1982. The shipping agency's profits from freight fares amounted to nearly \$270 million during this period. [PY010255 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Apr 83]

MONTONERO LEADER SLAIN BY POLICE--Cordoba police released further details yesterday on the death of an alleged high-ranking member of the Montoneros left-wing terrorist organization, whose real name is Raul Clemente Yaguer, shot dead by police on Saturday. The police also said that they also had discovered a terrorist hideout in a house yesterday. According to the official police report Yaguer was the second in command of the Montoneros and was reportedly carrying false identity cards, 5,150 dollars in cash, documents of a "subversive nature," and a revolver. The police said that the II Army Corps assisted the police in the capture of Yaguer who reportedly went by the "war name" of "Commandante Roque" and belongs to the "highest leadership levels of the Montoneros." The police report said that Yaguer had an "extensive crime record of subversion" and that he took part in the 1975 terrorist attempt to take over the 29th Army Garrison. In Buenos Aires, Rear Admiral Baay Melbourne Hussey said that the Armed Forces were "willing to deal with the problem in the most efficient way against any attack on the nation made by our enemies" and added: "We have nothing to be sorry for." [Excerpts] [PY030013 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 May 83 p 7]

CSO: 3348/351

## OPPOSITION URGES IMMEDIATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR GRAND BAHAMA

Whitfield Address

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

**FREE NATIONAL** Movement chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield told House of Assembly members last night he spoke for 100 per cent of Grand Bahamians, who voted in the 1982 general election, when he urged local government for Grand Bahama.

"There seems to be a mutuality of the position that local government should be implemented," Mr Whitfield said as he moved a resolution for Finance Minister Arthur Hanna to consider providing funds to establish local government in Grand Bahama.

Mr Whitfield, who represents the Grand Bahama constituency of Pine Ridge, said that in 1968 the new PLP Government tabled a White Paper on Local Government with clearly defined power and responsibilities for local authorities.

He said the implementation of the White Paper had not yet been realized, although local government had been promised over and over again.

He said winners and losers in the election in Grand Bahama last year agreed that the island should be given local government, which, he said, is

not an impossible task from 1968 to 1983.

He said there were a number of different means by which local government could be funded, including revenue from the magistrate's court, liquor licences, road traffic licences and real property taxes.

Mr Whitfield also said that residents of Grand Bahama should not have to travel to New Providence to obtain birth and marriage certificates, police records and passports.

He said it was an undue burden having all power in the central government, rather than localizing it.

Mr Whitfield said that after holding out the promise of local government for years, those who have promised it have done "absolutely" nothing.

"They have no desire to do so for if they had a will, they would have found a way," he said.

High Rock MP Maruice Moore said the question of local government had been a desire of the masses of the Bahamian people for sometime, particularly those in the Family Islands where the population and economy justify some form of local government.

Mr Moore said he is in favour of abandoning the system today that the government used to administer the affairs of the Family Islands.

"In order for us to get the best of what our system has to offer, we must give the people the confidence they gave us," he said.

"Why can't we have the courage and be strong enough to give our people a chance at running our country?" he asked.

Because the government lacks the confidence in being able to face new ideas and the challenges from the youth, it keeps every vestige of power in its fist, he said.

He said 16 years ago, he was one of the delegates who went on the first mission "for the purpose of familiarizing ourselves with the function of local government, out of which came the White Paper that was tabled in 1968."

One of the purposes in 1968, he said, was to familiarize the youth with the running of government and to make them responsible citizens in the community.

He said the benefit that Grand Bahama brought to the national revenue was not being felt by the people in the far

flung communities in Grand Bahama.

Mr Morre said he believed the island of Grand Bahama was ready for local government and such a system would bring the people there nearer to democracy.

He called for suitable legislation to be enacted by parliament to give Grand Bahama local government.

#### MP Smith's Remarks

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Apr 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

MARCO CITY MP Cornelius Smith said today that the issue of local government is as fundamental as independence and should be the next progressive step of the government.

"The next progressive step has got to be local government," said Mr Smith, one of three FNM MPs for Grand Bahama speaking on the subject. "And we can't say not now."

He said the Free National Movement wants local government now.

Arguing against sending the resolution seeking local government for Grand Bahama to a select committee for further study, Mr Smith said the FNM has always supported having local government in areas where there are levels of infrastructure that could easily support the concept of local government.

He said when he first came to the House last year, he said at that time Grand Bahama was ready, willing and able to maintain a system of local government.

He said he does not agree for the matter to be sent to the committee because they never report back to the House and that four years from now, it will be just another campaign promise.

He said a White Paper on the issue was tabled in 1968, and Minister of Local Government George Smith made a communication in parliament

in 1981, to study the feasibility of local government.

"Nothing happened and we have to travel that same road again," he said.

Commenting on Home Affairs Minister Clement Maynard's remark that cowardly members of the PLP chickened out when they realized that local community leaders would have power under local government, Mr Smith asked what happened to the courageous ones since 1968.

He also said that it is not true to say that only West End is ideally suited for local government in Grand Bahama.

He said it is always a "red herring" drawn by government speakers that any form of local government in Freeport would conflict with the Grand Bahama Port Authority.

He said it should be the right of the people to decide on the issuing of licences and other local affairs instead of foreigners.

He was then asked by Housing Minister Hubert Ingraham if he wanted government to break the Hawksbill Creek Agreement under which the Grand Bahama Port Authority operates.

"The PLP government has gone on record as breaching the Hawksbill Creek Agreement before," Mr Smith answered. "Our position is local government for Grand Bahama now."

He said local government will bring employment.

Mr Smith said students had to leave school yesterday to ask what will happen to them when they finish in June. He said there are young people in his constituency who have the same need for jobs.

Mr Smith was referring to the demonstration yesterday through New Providence streets by students of CC-Sweeting and RM Bailey senior high schools.

He said the students were goaded by the fact that they recognized in this society today, there are no opportunities for them when they leave school.

"Local government and the issue of local government cannot be separated from the issue of job creation in the community," said Mr Smith.

"If we had local government in Grand Bahama, the amount of unemployment would not be at the same level it is today," he said.

Clarence Town MP James Knowles said the 1968 White Paper is extremely relevant to the needs of the Bahamian people in terms of local government, which, he said, has been the subject of debate on several occasions on the floor of the House.

He asked why after 16 years in power the government now sees fit to ask for a committee to look into local government.

He said local government is so long overdue in being implemented that the government should be avoiding

at any cost further delays in its implementation.

He said in his view, with reports made for government, and inputs from MPs and other persons, there is no reason why the Minister responsible cannot implement local government in an orderly fashion.

He called the move to send the matter to a select committee a "political move" to sidetrack the subject one more time.

"The time has come when talk must stop and there must be action," he said, adding that

if the government was really serious, "we would have had some form of local government in Abaco, Eleuthera and Grand Bahama some time ago.

"If we are to have it, let us have it and let us not talk about it," he said, but added that Bahamians "will not see local government under the PLP in any way or in any form."

"That is more true now than it has ever been," he said. And urged House members not to support the resolution being sent to a committee.

### Government's Deliberation

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Apr 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

GOVERNMENT will take its time and make a "deliberate consideration" on the all-important subject of local government, Minister of Youth Kendal Nottage said this afternoon.

"When we move in the national interest, we want to be satisfied that the peoples' interest is paramount and is served," said Mr Nottage as he supported a government move to send a resolution on local government for Grand Bahama to a House select committee for further consideration.

Mr Nottage said he supported the principle of local government all over the Bahamas, including Grand Bahama, which he represented in the 1970s.

He said local government is a national issue and affects all Family Islands, including New Providence, and cannot be considered insular and secular, but in the national context.

He said he is unsure of the opposition's position on the Grand Bahama Port Authority and the power vested in it by the law.

Mr Nottage said he remembered when the PLP put the question of independence to the party and High Rock MP

Maurice Moore and Marco City MP C A Smith were against it.

"The Member for Marco City wants local government now and did not want independence for the Bahamas," he said, wondering if such a posture was just another political stunt by the member.

He said he remembered Mr Moore and Mr Smith burying the Bahamas in effigy in a coffin.

"They were against independence and I would like to know now what their position is," he said.

"The question of local government for Grand Bahama ought to go to a committee," he said. "It needs a special consideration and there are certain matters that ought to be considered."

"We feel that local government ought to come and will come," he said. "Before we rush into it, there are things we must consider."

Its effect on the Grand Bahama Port Authority and whether or not government should break the Hawksbill Creek Agreement should also be considered, he said, adding that he is not sure what the opposition's position is on that.

"My position is that there are certain matters affecting the Hawksbill Creek

Agreement that ought to be considered," he said.

He added: "The government feel it is important to consider all aspects of the matter."

He said government did not want opposition members to return to the House and say government abrogated the agreement again.

"It is important that this government take its time and make a deliberate consideration on this all-important subject," he said.

Mr Nottage said one of the biggest and most important pieces of legislation that brought employment to the Bahamian people was the Bahamianization policy, which was extended to Grand Bahama.

Opposition MP, Vernon Symonette representing Inagua and Mayaguana, said that both sides of the House are in agreement on the principle of local government.

He said government has the power to implement a system of local government and if they start with New Providence, then they should do so.

He said local government for

the out islands would be ideal and that the original resolution moved by Pine Ridge MP Cecil Wallace Whitfield is fit and proper.

## ROW OVER FNM CHARGES OF RADIO'S FAVORITISM CONTINUES

## Pendling Invitation to Isaacs

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Apr 83 p 1

[Excerpt]

PRIME MINISTER Pindling thinks Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs is ill-informed about claims that Radio Bahamas has discriminated against his party and so the Prime Minister has invited the Leader in for a chat.

Mr Isaacs, FNM Leader, says he intends to take Sir Lynden up on his offer as soon as he returns from his Far East trip where he went on March 25 to persuade major shipowners to register their vessels in the Bahamas. Sir Lynden returns

to Nassau tomorrow evening.

Mr Isaacs confirmed he received a letter from Youth Minister Kendal Nottage, who is responsible for broadcasting, promising an investigation into why Radio ZNS and TV 13 boycotted the historic banquet for Yamacraw MP Janet Bostwick, the first woman elected to the Bahamas Parliament.

## Government's Position

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 Apr 83 p 1

[Excerpts]

**KENDAL NOTTAGE**, government minister responsible for broadcasting, claimed today that ZNS radio and TV were never invited by the FNM to report the Janet Bostwick testimonial banquet, which the station has been accused of boycotting.

In a letter delivered to Free National Movement Leader Kendal Isaacs, Mr Nottage demanded a public apology from Mr Isaacs and his party for making the accusations against the station.

However, Mr Arthur Foulkes (FNM-Blue Hills) insisted today that the radio and television station had been invited in the same manner as the other news media.

All the letters, said Mr Foulkes, were hand delivered by Mr Garth Wright, vice chairman of the FNM. Mr Foulkes said he will make a more complete statement on the matter tomorrow.

On March 21 Mr Isaacs wrote separately to Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling and Minister of Youth Nottage,

asking for an investigation of ZNS no-show at the banquet, and alleging discrimination against the Opposition party by the government-controlled Broadcasting Corporation.

In his letter Mr Nottage said he had "now received a report from the management of the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas concerning ZNS Radio and Television coverage" of the banquet.

"The report discloses," he said, "that ZNS radio and television was not invited by the Free National Movement or

any other party or persons to attend and cover the banquet in honour of Mrs Bostwick. If such an invitation was extended or given and was in fact received by ZNS the event would have been covered by ZNS radio and television news.

"The report further disclosed," Mr Nottage told Mr Isaacs, "that you were wrong in alleging that ZNS radio and television completely ignored the event and gave no coverage at all. The facts are that ZNS did broadcast a press release from the Free National

Movement concerning the appointment of Mrs Edith Turnquest as chairperson of the organizing committee for the said banquet. In addition ZNS did broadcast 14 commercials for the said banquet over a period of 12 days during the month of February from the 17th of February 1983 to the 28th February 1983.

"Your allegations that ZNS Radio and television has discriminated against your party is absolutely untrue and completely without foundation. Let me reiterate

what I said to you in my letter of the 21st March 1983, that it is not the policy of the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas and ZNS radio and television to discriminate against the Free National Movement. However, it ought to be appreciated by you and your party that the management of the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas and ZNS radio and television must be entitled to editorial discretion and control of its broadcasting service."

### FNM Countercharges

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Apr 83 pp 1, 5

[Excerpts]

KENDAL NOTTAGE, Minister responsible for broadcasting, was told that it was he and not FNM Leader Kendal Isaacs who should apologise and then resign over TV 13's failure to cover a testimonial banquet honouring the first woman to be elected to the Bahamas Parliament.

Opposition leader Kendal Isaacs told a press conference this morning that contrary to what the Minister had said, a letter inviting ZNS to cover the event was hand-delivered to the broadcasting station at its Third Terrace, Centreville offices.

"Mr Nottage denies that ZNS had discriminated against the FNM and he says we ought to appreciate that ZNS must be entitled to editorial discretion and control of its broadcasting service.

"Well, I must reiterate that ZNS does in fact regularly discriminate against the FNM

and from time to time also discriminates against other organizations which express ideas in opposition to the PLP Government.

"Our youth organization, the Torchbearers, for instance, invited ZNS to a press conference and a banquet in connection with its 10th anniversary celebrations. ZNS did not show up at either one of those events. They did, however, give three days of full coverage to the PLP's youth arm, the Young Liberals. What ZNS practises is a grotesque distortion and a cynical perversion of editorial discretion.

"Mr Nottage's demands of an apology from us is quite ludicrous. He underestimates our intelligence and, worse than that, he under-estimates the intelligence and common sense of the Bahamian people. If any apologies are in order then they should be

forthcoming from Mr Nottage and the Corporation for continuing to subvert a national institution to the narrow, biased and unfair partisan purposes of the PLP."

"To conclude, I repeat that ZNS was, in fact, invited to attend the banquet. Furthermore, if by some oversight they had not been invited, I suggest that if they were real professionals they would have enquired about arrangements for the media.

"I trust that ZNS in terms of fullness and frequency will give to this statement equal treatment given to the Minister's letter and the Corporation's statement.

"And far from apologising to the Minister, I very seriously call for his resignation."

At 1 pm today Mr Isaacs' statement was read in full by ZNS announcer Darrell Miller over Radio ZNS at news time.

CSO: 3298/542

FOUR FNM RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

FOUR Opposition-sponsored resolutions were passed in the House of Assembly yesterday afternoon.

Passed was the resolution for Minister of Finance Arthur Hanna to consider the advisability of providing sufficient funds to construct a medical clinic in the Delaporte Constituency.

Moving for the resolution, Mr Arthur Foulkes, (FNM-Blue Hills) said that preventive and emergency care clinics were desperately needed in certain areas of New Providence.

"People could die on Carmichael Road by the time an ambulance negotiates its way from the Princess Margaret Hospital, along East Street to Carmichael Road," Mr Foulkes said.

He said the Opposition is not asking for grand things, but things such as proper drainage, street lights, "things that should have been there already," he said.

Also passed was a resolution for Minister of Finance Hanna to consider the advisability of providing sufficient funds to construct a ball park in the greater Chippingham area. A third resolution passed was for the Minister of Finance to consider the advisability of providing sufficient funds to upgrade and improve the recreation park in Delaporte Village.

It was pointed out that there was need for street lights in the Delaporte constituency. The Resolution passed instructed the Minister of Works to consider the feasibility of erecting street lights in the Grove, Highland Park and Westward Villas.

CSO: 3298/541

STUDENTS NATIONAL ACTION PARTY HEARS OPPOSITION SPEAKERS

Call for Anti-PLP Alliance

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] FNM Vice chairman George Wilson urged young people last night to form an alliance with the official opposition to bring about a change in government.

"If it turns out that this government is no better than the last, then having exercised their option once before, it is obvious that they will be able to exercise that option again," Mr Wilson said.

Mr Wilson, the FNM's unsuccessful candidate for the St Michael's constituency in the 1982 general elections, was one of three speakers at last night's Students National Action Party (SNAP) at the House of Labour.

Other speakers included Dr John McCartney, Chairman of the Vanguard Nationalist Socialist Party, and Mr Philip Miller, a former lecturer at the College of the Bahamas.

In his address to a handful of students attending the session, Mr Wilson said the poor attendance at the convention was just another symptom of the victimization that goes on in the country.

"And the fear of victimization is much greater than the victimization," he said, "so because of this fear I think parents have sort of prohibited their children from coming and taking part in this particular event."

But, Mr Wilson told the students that he came to offer them a proposal.

He said in analysing the country, one would find that politically, the nation was split down the middle "for what reasons we say or not" between PLPs and FNMs in terms of the electorate.

"Now what that means is that young people generally, by not being a complete block, are generally wasting and dissipating their energies in many times

"useless causes because they have not become a part of one of the two blocks that have the political base in order to effect a change," he said.

Having suffered 16 years of PLP rule with the pressures, victimization, un-caring attitude that party displays without there being any intent to change, "I think what becomes the most important thing today is to effect a change in government," he said.

"Now that is my particular feeling," he said. "Now comes the question of how practically young people can assist in effecting a change in government."

He said young people can bring about a change in government by becoming a force, forming an alliance with one of the major political groups and thus making the change that is needed.

"Now I am not asking for an everlasting marriage," he said. "What I am saying is that we all, whether we are FNM, PLP or Vanguard, in the last election, we were all saying it was time for a change."

"But we could not get that change because we could not get the young people totally into a block that could form an alliance with a group that could win," Mr Wilson said.

"So I have come to propose that young people must now seriously think of forming and making such an alliance, and obviously with the FNM," he said.

Mr Wilson said that the young people must form the alliance to achieve a change lest we all be forced to continue to suffer for even another 13 years under the PLP government.

"I have not made these comments to attack or affect any particular political group," he said. "I made these comments because I feel that it is time young people must become practical and look at the political situation as existing in this country in a straight forward way and make a decision in this country to first of all change this government."

He added: "But taking the reality of the situation, I am here to propose that young people form this alliance with the FNM in order to effect first of all a change in government."

He said becoming partners in a change, young people would become partners in the formation of a new government.

## Vanguard Walkout

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

VANGUARD SUPPORTERS followed their leader out of the Students National Action Party convention last night to protest being labelled an "enemy" of the students.

Dr John McCartney, Vanguard leader, led the protest walk-out shortly after the address of former College of Bahamas lecturer Philip Miller. Dr McCartney told session chairman Lisa Thurston she should not have invited him to SNAP's convention if he was to be called an enemy of the group.

Miss Thurston told the Vanguard leader that Mr Miller had not called any names in making the reference. However, Dr McCartney, vice chairman Lionel Carey and other Vanguard members walked out.

Dr McCartney, Mr Miller, a former leader of the Workers Party, and FNM vice chairman George Wilson, addressed the convention last night at the House of Labour, Wulff Road.

A small group of students, in addition to several members of the Vanguard Socialist Party attended the third night of SNAP's inaugural convention. SNAP was recently formed by C C Sweeting students, who led a demonstration to protest the dilapidated condition of their school.

Mr Miller spoke on the art of political fighting and Dr McCartney on the origin and development of the Vanguard.

In his address, Mr Miller said the majority of the Bahamas' population was under 30 and it followed that a large segment of the voting public was young, and like SNAP, had neither been consulted nor considered by the established parties, such as the PLP, FNM and Vanguard.

By drawing support from a wide range of disenchanted Bahamian youth, SNAP could

easily win a very large section of the votes and become the government in part at least, and if not the government, then most certainly the official opposition by 1987, Mr Miller said.

He said SNAP was the single most important threat to every other political party, and to the dreams and aspirations of every established politician who is committed to getting and keeping his party in power.

He said attention is not being paid to SNAP because its members are 16 years old and cannot vote.

"Since SNAP threatens the political security of all, all seek to destroy SNAP," Mr Miller said.

He said SNAP must choose between survival and death and must fight every political party as every political party is out to destroy it.

He said enemies of SNAP were also partly responsible for the lack of attendance at the students' convention.

He told them that politicians might very well use the 1972-style of politics against them as a desperate effort before they are overthrown.

"If you keep a sharp watch for the booby traps set by the enemies, four years from now many of you will sit in parliament simply because young people are the majority in this country and SNAP is the party of the young majority and for the young majority," Mr Miller said.

Dr McCartney, in his address, gave a history of the origin and development of the PLP from its formation in 1953.

He said during the early years of the PLP, the UBP and a privileged few dominated the economic life of the country under a British system of colonialism and a local system of racism and capitalism.

He said such an exploitation of the economy and the

domination of political power through gerrymandering of elections, profited the Bay Street Boys or merchants.

"So the PLP struggle against the Bay Street Boys, a classical colonial struggle," he said, and was paralleled by struggles against colonialism in North, West and South Africa.

"The point I want to make is that the PLP holds so much power over the Bahamian people because with all its problems, it fought the colonial struggle and that is why the PLP will whip any party that identifies with the old UBP, whether it be the Vanguard, SNAP, the FNM or whatever, they will never win," Dr McCartney said.

"So when you are doing your political lesson, lesson number one: identify with the UBP and you will never win," he added.

He said the FNM, because of its links with the UBP, will never win an election although it may get a lot of votes.

Dr McCartney also said that a small privileged few have an interest in keeping C C Sweeting school the way it is and unless the system is changed, the plight of the school will remain the same.

He said Vanguard has chosen a rough road for the Bahamian people, that of educating the people and planning the economy.

"It is a rough road, but it is the only just one," he said. "I defy you to find another road that is more just than this one." "We said the Vanguard has nothing to give the C C Sweeting students but the party's principles, advice and spirit," said Dr McCartney.

## Student Demonstration

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Apr 83 pp 1, 12

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpt]

**NEARLY 300 students from two senior high schools tried to break through police barriers to deliver a letter to Speaker of the House Sir Clifford Darling today.**

Dozens of policemen, including the riot squad, were called out to prevent them from getting onto Bay Street.

About 100 students from C C Sweeting and R M Bailey High Schools were eventually able to break past the police, who had formed a human chain to try to stop them. It was shortly after 2 pm.

Two students - one from

R M Bailey and one from St John's College - crept into the House during the lunch recess, and placed a copy of the letter on the Speaker's desk.

The letter asked for permission to address the next meeting of the House on the problem of unemployment "among the nation's youth." It was signed by Dennis Dames, president of the Student National Action Party (SNAP), which was formed by C C Sweeting students.

While the two students were sneaking into the House, about 100 students gathered across Parliament Street, chanting and singing songs.

## Police Watch on School

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

**POLICEMEN** from the Security and Intelligence Branch were keeping an eye on C C Sweeting Senior High School today following Wednesday's demonstration by about 300 C C Sweeting and R M Bailey Students.

The policemen were sitting in an unmarked car outside the school gates reading newspapers this morning.

Feelings were mixed at C C Sweeting today about yesterday's demonstration. The purpose of the demonstration was to deliver a letter to Speaker of the House Sir Clifford Darling. The letter, signed by Dennis Dames, president of the Student National Action Party (SNAP), asked the Speaker for an opportunity to address the House on the unemployment problem, particularly for among youth.

About 300 students from both public schools tried to break past police barriers to get onto Bay Street. About 100 of them eventually succeeded and

the letter was placed on the Speaker's desk during the luncheon recess.

"The purpose of it was to present letters to each member of parliament and to the Speaker," Lisa Thurston, vice-president of SNAP, said today. "Since there is a big unemployment problem and with so many people leaving school - not just C C Sweeting but all the schools - in June, we wanted to know what jobs we'd be able to get."

Miss Thurston said yesterday's demonstration "showed that they're (students) interested in finding jobs" when they leave school.

She admitted that many students from R M Bailey "didn't really know what it was all about." She said the students were asked by members of the R M Bailey student council to meet C C Sweeting students at the Southern Recreation Grounds and there was no time to brief them on the situation.

Miss Thurston said that all of the students were briefed on the matter following the demonstration at the House of Labour on Wulff Road.

A number of teachers interviewed this morning were undecided as to whether they supported yesterday's demonstration. The majority of them supported the massive student demonstration in February for better school conditions.

Said one teacher: "As far as this is concerned, we don't know what's going on. We have people here who are working and we're trying to carry on as normal. At first, I didn't have a clue as to the number of students who were out there.

"I feel that the C C Sweeting students have made their point. Our school is being worked on - maybe not as fast as we'd

like, but thank God something's finally being done."

Questions have also been raised about the presence of political activist Rodney Moncur at the C C Sweeting demonstrations. Mr. Moncur told The Tribune that he was interested "as an old C C Sweeting scholar."

Miss Thurston said that Mr. Moncur has been following the students movements.

She said that although there are some politicians who might want to use the students, "no politicians have been involved, only students."

It is understood that Miss Thurston and SNAP president Dennis Dames were called in by the principal this morning. The principal, Mary Chertum, has warned students they might be suspended if they leave school without her permission.

CSO: 3298/541

## OPPOSITION LEADERS HIT GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC, POLITICAL POLICIES

## Haynes on IMF Dealings

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 12 Apr 83 p 2

[Text]

The official opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Sunday night charged that a wrangle between Government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was holding up presentation of the island's 1983 budget.

Shadow Minister of Finance Dr. Richie Haynes, claimed at a political meeting in Independence Square, that negotiations between both sides have been going on and that Barbados was waiting to see if Trinidad and Tobago would devalue its dollar.

"....The reason why there is no budget before this country which usually comes on March 31 every year is because they have a hell of a fight on their hands now with the International Monetary Fund," Dr. Haynes said.

Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams gave the assurance late last year that there would be no devaluation of the Barbados dollar, as a result of his Government's decision to enter into a 10-month standby arrangement with the IMF for balance of payments support last October.

Parliament began despite debate on the Government's draft estimates of expenditure

and revenue for 1983-84 on March 14 and ended it two weeks later.

Dr. Haynes said the Adams Administration had placed the Barbados economy "in a major crisis," and in fear of being exposed by the Opposition, had brought a resolution to parliament seeking to restrict the contribution of DLP parliamentarians during the upcoming budget debate.

The resolution, on the order paper for today's sitting of the House of Assembly seeks "to further order speeches for the better organisation and administration of the debate on the annual financial statement and budgetary proposals."

Under its provisions, Prime Minister Adams will have unlimited time for his Budget presentation while the Opposition's Chief Spokesman on Finance in his turn to speak on the proposals, will not be allowed to exceed the time used by the Prime Minister.

Besides the minister seconding the motion for the adoption of the budgetary proposals who will be allowed one hour, all other parliamentarians will be

entitled to half-an-hour for their presentations.

The resolution also states that no member, either from the Government or Opposition benches, will be allowed a second speech in the debate if he moves a motion for an amendment.

But Dr. Haynes said the proposed rules were unacceptable to the Opposition, and DLP members would have to take "a firm stand" on the issue. He did not elaborate.

It is an act of utter rascality as far as I am concerned. It is in breach of the Standing Orders of Parliament made under the Constitution of Barbados," Dr. Haynes told the crowd.

The Opposition parliamentarian warned that if Government does not pull out of the present standby arrangement with the IMF and discard its current economic policies, Barbados was in danger of ending up under an extended arrangement with the Washington-based agency.

Such an eventuality, he added, would mean additional hardships for Barbadians.

## Greaves on Socio-Political Problems

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 12 Apr 83 p 2

[Text]

Minority leader in the Barbados Upper House, Senator Evelyn Greaves, has said that the ruling Barbados Labour Party Administration seems to have lost all moral and social responsibility to run the country.

His comments came last Sunday night during a mass political meeting in Independence Square sponsored by the Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP).

Senator Greaves told his audience that there is, and always has been, a serious power struggle within the ruling BLP and that the party must take responsibility for the many serious socio-economic problems facing the country.

The DLP Senator lashed out against the Government for the many levies it had introduced — transport and health — and added that it had collected a great deal of money from the people in both indirect and consumption taxes. The BLP,

Senator Greaves said, had imposed increased bus fares on the working class people and pointed out that there was the likelihood of further increases in a few weeks' time.

He gave the background to the Severance Payment Act which was introduced by the DLP Administration back in 1971 and termed it a far-reaching piece of social and labour legislation. This legislation he said had allowed a number of workers to justly benefit from what was theirs, and accused the ruling BLP Administration of trying to put the workers under great pressure by amending the Act so that they would receive less if made redundant.

Senator Greaves created a controversy in local tourism recently when he made public a letter which had been written by Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams to the Director of Tourism, Mr. Patrick Hinds. In his letter the Prime Minister launched a scathing attack on the Director and the Board of Tourism.

CSO: 3298/543

## BRIEFS

DISSOLUTION-OF-PARLIAMENT PROPOSAL--There has been a call for the immediate dissolution of Parliament and the establishment of a Commission for National Re-construction to run the Government of Barbados for an interim period. The call has come from the Barbados Industrial and General Workers Union (BIGWU) led by Mr. Bobby Clarke. The union's suggestions came in a letter sent to Prime Minister Tom Adams on Wednesday which said that "the malaise which permeates the Barbadian society, has reached such a depth, that there is an urgent need for actions to be taken in the interest of the Barbadian peoples." BIGWU said in its letter that Prime Minister Adams had over the years taken over the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Trade and that of Tourism because of certain events and actions. Because of what BIGWU sees as problems in our society, it said: "We are asking you, Mr Prime Minister, to dissolve Parliament immediately and set up a commission for National Re-construction to run the Government for an interim period." This Commission should be represented by the present Government party, the Parliamentary Opposition, the National Union of Public Workers, the Barbados Union of Teachers, the Barbados Secondary Teachers Union, the BIGWU, the Barbados Workers' Union, the Movement for National Liberation, the Barbados Youth Council, the Barbados Chamber of Commerce, the Barbados Manufacturers Association and progressive elements in the church, BIGWU's president Bobby Clarke said. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Apr 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/543

## SPEECH BY NEW UDP LEADER SENATOR ESQUIVEL

## Part 1

Belize City AMANDALA in English 18 Feb 83 p 7

[Policy speech by new UDP leader Sen. Esquivel delivered at Belize City public meeting 4 Feb 83]

[Text] As we the people of Belize face the new year of 1983 and ponder on what is to come, the UDP has set out on a path of national reconstruction of our Party. We are continuing the building of a Party that has its foundation firmly set in 30 years of Belizean History. Ours is a Party that has carried on the never-ending fight started by our predecessors in the 50s and 60s to build our democracy, secure civil liberty for our people, and preserve our country's sovereignty and territory. The people of Belize can rest assured the UDP will never abandon these important struggles.

But, we also recognize that in today's Belize, our people are crying out for a UDP with a strong economic and social programme to rescue them from the economic depression and the alarming break-down in the social fabric of our society. Belize wants a change, needs a change of government, and the UDP must convince the electorate of our ability to provide them with a better government and a better Belize.

It is therefore our obligation to our Party, our supporters, and all citizens, to develop policies that come to grips with the ills that plague our new nations. In developing these policies, we cannot ignore the realities of the world around us, but at the same time we must apply the minds and talents of Belizeans to working out Belizean solutions for Belize. Looking for imported pre-packaged, ready-mixed solutions often leads to dead-ends. Ideological blinders reduce us to theorists rather than pragmatic problem solvers. Belize needs solutions, not rhetoric, and the UDP pledges to find solutions. In the weeks ahead we will be building our Party machinery in the city, towns and villages so that we will be ready with the programmes, and the people to promote them, whenever the call comes.

On the economic front, Belize is in a depression. We are living from hand to mouth. Each month's ending finds the government scrambling around trying to scrape together sufficient money to pay public officers, teachers, nurses, policemen. And each month it gets worse. It all started with the 50% cut in revenue from sugar sales last year - less foreign exchange for the country,

less taxes for the government, less spending by the consumers, therefore less import duties.

The devaluation of the Mexican peso has made matters worse. It is true that some Belizeans have benefited in the short term - so long as you can get to Chetumal you stand to save considerable amounts of money in shopping for your needs. Many a Belizean family were able to have the Merry Christmas they would not have had if the peso wasn't at 65 to one dollar. But in the long run, we will all suffer for this unexpected windfall. Shops in Belize, especially in the North and in Belize City, are not selling their goods. The warehouses are full and nobody is buying. The prices are too high and people have to struggle to make ends meet. So the shops can't pay their bills; they are laying off workers, and the importers have stopped importing, so the government collects less duties, and we are back to where we started - a bankrupt government. What is worse, the big Mexican importers of goods through Belize have stopped operations. This represented valuable foreign exchange being brought into Belize and some handsome taxes for government, but now that is out too.

Now that the Christmas spree is over - modest as it was, our economy now finds itself hitting bottom. And what is our government doing about it? What hope have they offered? In September of last year the P.M. stated that every country is having a hard time, and we have to expect hard times for the next two or three years. Is this what we want to hear from a government that has promised us for 30 years "with Independence More Development?" Is this the response of a government that feels responsible to the people and that is capable of leading us to the plateau of plenty? The Minister of Finance, who also happens to be Foreign Minister and Prime Minister offers no hope, no indication that his government is concerned and searching for a solution. Yes, the world economy is in bad-shape, but do we hear world leaders proclaiming that there is nothing that can be done? Are other leaders in the world or in our own region sitting down with arms folded, with no plans, no ideas, no initiations, forecasting gloom and no hope? Of course not. Responsible leaders must search for solutions and consult with the people to keep them informed on government's efforts to remedy bad conditions. The Belize government has yet to utter a single word on its plans to restore our economy to good health - and the reason is quite simple: Belmopan has no plans. And they have no plans for the following reasons: First, the government is paralyzed by the open warfare between the so-called right and left within the P.U.P. We see it here in Belize City in the City Council. The drains stink and clog; the garbage piles higher and higher; the streets are crumbling and falling to pieces, and why? Lack of funds? Did they not receive new garbage trucks and dump trucks, graders, rollers, pick-up trucks from their fairy god-mothers in Belmopan? Has not the Ministry of Works been repairing the streets from the day the P.U.P. won the City Council election? Yet, we see the city crumbling before our very eyes. This warfare between left and right in the P.U.P. is also causing the nation to crumble before our very eyes. Things are bad now, and they will get worse - because the government is paralyzed. It cannot find consensus even among ministers, let alone within the Party, and so we drift along, a boat without a rudder, trusting on Providence to keep us off the rocks.

The second reason why the government has no plans to remedy our crisis economic condition: The Ministry of Finance is hopelessly unable to deal with problems of the magnitude we now face. The problems begin with the Minister, who after more than 20 years on the job still does not understand what economics is all about. We can see from the way he manages his own private life that he could never hope to manage a nation's finances. The state of the Prime Minister's mansion on Pickstock Street is an exact model of the state of our economy, and the Prime Minister's plans for both are the same: do nothing and pray it can stay standing. In fact, the entire structure of the Ministry of Finance is in such a sad state that the U.S. government has insisted that before it can give Belize any financial aid under the CBI it must send in a carpenter to re-build the ministry. That is, the U.S. has put a man in the Belize Ministry of Finance to tell them how to do their job. What a disgrace that after 20 years of self-government and one year of independence our government has to be told it doesn't know what it is doing. This government has been told it can't be trusted to handle the country's economy, so they must employ a foreign expert to straighten this out. This to me is one of the most explicit condemnations of government in recent times.

And let them not try to pass the blame unto the Public Officers. To understand why they cannot get away with that tactic, we must look at reason no. 3 for the government's failure to solve our economic problems: Over the years they have with increasing boldness and recklessness so crushed good, intelligent and capable Public Officers that they are now hard-pressed to find qualified people in the top positions. Instead, many top posts are occupied by the party faithful whose main, if not only, qualification is loyalty to the P.U.P. The result of the Public Service have become so demoralized, so frustrated, that they soon arrive at the sad conclusion that it is useless to try to do a good job. So we have the qualified who leave as soon as they can, who are forced to mark time while they wait for retirement. We have party faithful in positions they can't cope with, and we have ministers who don't know what they are doing and usually don't care. Is it any wonder we are in such a mess?

And what is true in the Ministry of Finance is true of all the other ministries. We need not mention the Ministry of Energy - responsible for electricity, water telephones. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has exposed that Ministry so that we are all aware of what is going on there. Last week's Reporter has confirmed what we have known all along, but look at the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Health and Housing.

-AMANDALA will finish publication of this speech next week-

## Part 2

Belize City AMANDALA in English 25 Feb 83 pages unnumbered

[Text] I often hear people comment that at least these two ministers are hard workers. Hard workers at what? Is it their hard work that has brought basketball, football, horse racing, and body-building to the brink of destruction? Is it their hard work that has caused teachers to miss their pay-days? Is it their hard work that has caused an almost total collapse of the Belize

Teachers College, where last year's teacher's examinations showed disastrous results? Is it their hard work why there are no doctors in many areas of Belize where there is a crying need? Or is it hard work that has run the Belize City Hospital into the ground? Everybody knows that it is usually safer to stay as far away from the Hospital as possible when you are seriously ill or injured, because to go there for help is to invite death to your door. Is it their hard work that has so many people in Belize living in sub-housing conditions? Is it their hard work that built those still empty houses, "independence houses", at mile 3 on the northern highway? Because if all these things are examples of the hard work of these ministers, then we should consider ourselves lucky that the other ministers don't do any work. But everyone who stops to think about it can see that these so-called "hard-working" ministers are hard at work on only one thing: spreading their ideology, working to take over the P.U.P., securing their positions in their dreamed of "progressive revolution." And in the meantime people suffer, the poor get poorer, and homeless grow in numbers, the jobless grow in numbers, the victimized run away, preventable diseases spread, and the quality of education declines. This is why I said earlier that we want action, not speeches, and it is clear that the P.U.P. are experts at deluging us with speeches, seminars, ideology and slogans, but they are very short on the action we need to rescue our situation.

Is there hope for Belize? Can the U.D.P. do better? It is easy to criticize, but we stand here before you not as the Opposition Party--we are here to present our Party to you as the alternative to the P.U.P.--we stand here at the beginning of a struggle to become the next government of Belize. So what do we represent, why should you support us, what have we got to offer Belize that will bring about a change for the better? I cannot in one speech unfold the entire plan of action of a U.D.P. government but as we carry on this fight together we will deal with each and every aspect of UDP policy and plans. But for tonight let me just point the direction in which we are going, so that together we can travel to victory.

It is clear that a new government, a U.D.P. government, must revise the priorities that have been set by the P.U.P. It is clear that we must adopt new policies in all areas, and particularly in the areas of agriculture, tourism, and public works. The cold fact of life is that small poor countries who depend on agriculture as their main source of foreign income remain forever poor, and in fact get poorer every year. Our government must know this--they are frequently heard to lament that the price we get for our sugar, rice, beans, or corn on the world market is too low and unfair. So it is, but we have no say in setting prices, so we can cry foul all we want, but it won't make us any richer. It is time we recognize that the real value of agriculture efforts in Belize is to be found in producing to feed ourselves. Don't export rice to import chicken. We lose on a deal like that every time. But if a policy of producing food sufficient for ourselves is to work, we need a Marketing Board that is that in fact as well as in name. Right now the Marketing Board is in the milk import business, sugar business, grain business, and it is bankrupt. We want a Marketing Board that is in the planning business, the storage business, and the distribution business. We need farmers that are successful and secure--even well off. If the farmer is one

of the most important people in Belize, how come he is among the poorest, most neglected, most cheated members of our society? We can't feed ourselves because we keep our farmers poor and we expect them to clear, plant, harvest, transport, store, and sell what they produce with no help from government. The government has for some time been creating a myth that Belize lacks farmers, that we don't have people interested in agriculture because of colonialism and slavery. And some people believe this myth. The fact is we have about 12,000 farmers in Belize--1/5 of the total adult population, almost 1/2 the total adult male population. We don't lack for farmers--we need better planning and better marketing for our farmers. This must be our policy. Lack of planning has up to now led to disaster and even bankruptcy for many farmers. In Toledo the poor farmers plant corn because the government says plant more corn--then they find the Marketing Board has no money to buy corn and no place to store it--so the farmers is left empty-handed. The government says plant more rice, so the farmers plant more rice--and the same thing happens--sorry, no money. Plant more beans--same story. In Cayo--plant peanuts--now the farmers are stuck with tons of peanuts; they have to try to hustle on the streets of Belize City because the government had no plan for the peanuts. Cattle, pig, and poultry producers have been ruined over and over due to lack of government planning. Farmers have been stuck with rotting tomatoes, cabbages, pappers, while we foolishly continue to import these items--and we will continue with this madness so long as we do not have a proper planning system, and a proper distribution system. In the meantime our farmers grow poor, lose their farms, and are pushed by government into giving up farming altogether. The U.D.P. government will provide the farmer with the encouragement and security he must have to produce. Government and the private sector working as a team will solve the marketing and distribution problem. The U.D.P. will make Belize self-sufficient in basic food-stuffs. That is a clear commitment and we intend to live up to it.

On a list of 10 the P.U.P. have placed tourism in number 7 position. Because they fear tourism, they rightly do not trust their own ability to develop the tourist industry to the benefit of Belize and Belizeans. It is true that without honest planning tourism can destroy a people's culture and make them second class citizens in their own country. Because of our government's neglect, this is happening right now in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye--our major tourist spot. But it need not happen. The United States has one of the largest tourist industries in the world, but it is an industry run by Americans, for Americans. They are certainly not second class citizens. The same can be said for Mexico and the European countries. A well run tourist industry that protects Belize and Belizeans can easily outstrip the sugar industry in a matter of a few years. As a short term money earner, job maker, nothing beats tourism. We must shake off our feelings of inferiority and be bold in establishing a tourism industry that will work for the good of all Belizeans.

But agriculture is hampered, tourism is hampered by a misguided government that has for too long failed to give the proper priority to our road system, our electricity system, our water system, our telephone system, our transportation system. No matter how well managed and well planned any growth industry may be in Belize, everything comes to a screeching halt because of our

backwardness in these things. The smallest business is put out of action because there is no electricity, or no water, or the telephone doesn't work, or you can't go from here to there in a reasonable time or over a desert road. But that is a topic too big for tonight. We will save those things for later. But rest assured that your Party, the UDP, is planning, building, organizing--we will not come to ask you to vote for us just because you love us. Our people deserve better than that, they need better than that, they are now demanding better than that. You want to know that we of the U.D.P. really are the real alternative, you want to know we can do better not only because we promise to do better, but because we have the down to earth concrete, workable solutions.

While others fight over ideology and try to woo you with nice sounding words like social justice, equality, solidarity, words, words, words--know one thing. The U.D.P., is Belizean, for Belizeans. Our care and our concern for the poor, the oppressed, the victimized, the voiceless is not defined by theories in a book. We believe in action, and as I leave you tonight, that is our pledge. The U.D.P. is fighting back--we believe in results, and we will get you those results. Together, we will win this long fight for a better Belize. Join hands with us, let us not mourn the past to curse the present. The future is ours--let us unite to create a better future--let us plan, let us discuss, let us work, let us win.

CSO: 3298/534

## CHURCH MAKES BROAD PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SOCIAL ACTIONS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 13 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

The AME Church has produced a hard hitting report making far-reaching recommendations on political and social life in Bermuda.

The documents, tabled at last week's Bermuda Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, included recommendations that:

- Government make public a detailed account of the events surrounding the recall of former Governor of Bermuda, Sir Richard Posnett, and his subsequent resignation. If it did not, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London should make the facts public;

- Every Bermuda church establish a voter registration committee to ensure every church member is registered — a recommendation prompted by concern over the February election which was called "at short notice";

- The AME church petition Government to revoke liquor licences held by anyone found guilty of serving alcohol to minors;

- Government increase the minimum car purchasing age from 18 to 21;

- Government pay less attention to building luxury condominiums and concentrate on filling the housing needs of a greater percentage of the population;

- Youngsters be encouraged to train as tradesmen as well as in academic fields;

- All future housing developments should be multi-storey and open spaces should be protected from any future development.

On the subject of drug abuse, the conference recommended that:

- A drug rehabilitation centre with trained personnel be set up;

- A bi-partisan Drug Abuse Education Committee be established to provide advice on ways to fight drug abuse;

- The public give its full support to Police in their effort to bring those involved in drugs to justice;

- Pastors and lay workers in each church be trained to deal with drug abusers;

Government's education system was praised in the report and members were urged to make use of recently established Government community schools.

It criticised people who "professed" to be Christians, yet who drank socially and who smoked.

The conference's State of the Country report expressed concern at traffic congestion and recommended that all populated parts of the Island be provided with a regular bus or ferry service. In particular, a "park and ride" ferry service should be established at the West End as well as a frequent mini-bus service from St. David's to Cut Road, St. George's.

Its recommendation that the car ownership age be raised to 21 was made, the report said, to encourage youth to devote more time to developing a career and to dissuade them from leaving home as soon as possible to buy a car.

The retirement of the Rev. Dr. Cyril S. Butterfield, the Presiding Elder of the Bermuda District of the AME Church, was announced at last week's conference. Bishop the Right Rev. Richard Allen Hildebrand appointed him Presiding Elder Emeritus.

The Rev. Conway Simmons is now Presiding Elder of the east-west district of the Bermuda Annual Conference. The Rev. Lawrence White is acting pastor.

## BRIEFS

INFLATION LOW--The annual rate of inflation dropped to 6.4 percent at the end of February--the lowest since 1978. Inflation had remained unchanged at 7.2 percent for the three previous 12-month periods. The monthly increase in February was 0.2 percent as the index rose to 163.5. The Government Statistical Department said mid-February pricing did not show changes resulting from the February 25 Budget. Increases in alcohol, tobacco and gasoline would be reflected in the March Retail Price Index. In the main sectors of the index, fuel and power fell 2.2 percent in response to fuel adjustment changes between January and February. Food and education, recreation and reading showed no change for the month. Increases were recorded in tobacco and liquor (2.7 percent), rent (0.4 percent), clothing and footwear (0.4 percent) household appliances and services (0.2 percent), transport and vehicles (0.4 percent) and health and personal care (0.3 percent). [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 Apr 83 p 1]

PLP YOUTH GROUP--The Progressive Labour Party youth wing has started up again and will be holding the first of a series of forums on today at 7 p.m. at the Bermuda Public Services Association headquarters. Speakers will be: school counsellor Dr. Eva Hodgson, PLP Senator Jennifer Smith, environmentalist Mr. Stuart Hayward and headmaster Mr. Dale Butler. A spokesman said Dr. Hodgson would be talking about the history of Bermuda's political development and Senator Smith would discuss the parliamentary process. Mr. Hayward's talk would centre on how the man in the street could be heard. Mr Butler will talk about political education and the importance of having national heroes. The spokesman said the youth wing had been "reactivated" as a result of the party's drubbing at the February election. "A lot of young people realised that they had not taken a more active part in the political process," she said. Some 50 people have expressed an interest in joining the group, which will operate independently of the Opposition party. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 13 Apr 83 p 5]

SWAN IN CANADA--Premier the Hon. John Swan left Bermuda yesterday for surprise talks in Ottawa with Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. The Premier's hush-hush trip also includes formal meetings with the Governor General of Canada the Hon. Edward R. Schreyer; Mr. Mark MacGuigan, the Secretary of State for External Affairs; Mr. Lloyd Axworthy, the Minister of Employment and Immigration and Mr. Gilles LaMontagne, Minister of National Defence. A Government spokeswoman said that the purpose of the visit was to establish

"personal contact with those ministers who are involved in various ways with assisting the Bermuda Government". Mr. Swan will also be discussing housing arrangements for the dependants of Canadian forces personnel in Bermuda. The spokeswoman added that Government has built up a good relationship with the Canadian public services commission, which has arranged to second to Bermuda a chief statistician and a manpower services and training officer. The Canadian public services commission has also assisted with the reorganisation of the Customs Department. Unusually for such a major trip, Mr. Swan's visit was not officially announced by Government until yesterday. Travelling with the Premier was Cabinet Secretary Mr. James Williams. Government officials did not know whether Mr. Swan was accompanied by his personal aide Mr. Raj Nadarajah. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 18 Apr 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/544

## MAJORITY SUPPORT MONGE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 27 Mar 83 p 4-A

[Article by Eduardo Amador H.]

/Text/ Strong support for President of the Republic Luis Alberto Monge's performance in office is shown by the latest poll carried out by the independent firm Inter-disciplinary Consultants in Development (CID).

The majority of Costa Ricans approve of the way in which the Chief Executive has dealt with the cost of living problem and with the problems of relations with Nicaragua and the Communists.

Nevertheless, it is generally believed that there is little coordination between Monge and either his ministers or his deputies.

The poll was carried out between 6 and 15 March and is the 13th that CID has conducted. All told, 1,065 people 18 years of age or older were interviewed. Of these, 535 live in the metropolitan area and 530 in the rest of the country.

The former includes the area from Paraiso and El Tejar in the east to Alajuela in the west and Aserri in the south, as well as the cantons of Heredia Province in the north. The report contains both nationwide data and data relating to each of the two large geographic areas mentioned.

The poll was carried out using the method of combining samples by strata with samples by phase. It is estimated that there is a margin of error of 4.5 percentage points in the results. This means that any figure cited could be too high or too low to that extent, as compared with the results if all Costa Ricans had been interviewed.

This margin takes into account only errors in the sample, not other difficulties that might have arisen in the preparation and development of the poll.

CID is a firm associated with the international firm of Gallup. The inquiry was coordinated by Dr Carlos Denton and Olda Maria Acuna.

## Favorable

Some 53 percent of the people interviewed consider that President Monge's government, which was elected on 7 February 1982, is doing a good or very good job of discharging its responsibilities after 9 months in office.

In July 1982, only 24 percent of those interviewed at that time praised the work done by the then new head of state.

Already last November, 46 percent expressed a favorable opinion of the president's conduct of affairs, and in March the percentage of statements favorable to Monge rose by seven points.

The first CID poll was carried out in March 1979. It covered only the metropolitan area. At that time, the government of Rodrigo Carazo had been in office only 9 months.

When people were asked on that occasion to comment on the job done by Carazo, 31 percent considered it as positive.

Already at that time, 25 percent of those interviewed considered Carazo's conduct in office as bad or very bad. Today, only 8 percent have such an opinion of Carazo's work.

## Cost of Living

With regard to management of the cost of living problem, the present administration has gained 4 points, as compared with the last previous poll.

In all, some 42 percent of those interviewed believe that the government has done a good job in this field, as against some 12 percent who think it has done badly or very badly. Some 41 percent consider its work average.

In the March 1979 poll, only 13 percent thought that the Carazo government was managing the cost of living problem well, and some 55 percent thought it was doing badly or very badly.

## Coordination

As shown by both the March and December polls, the weakest point in the present administration's conduct of affairs has to do with coordination between Monge and his ministers and deputies.

Whereas last November 37 percent of the people polled said that there was a lot of coordination, now only 24 percent think so.

On the same occasion, 52 percent believed that there was little coordination. In the last poll, 21 percent held this opinion.

Also at that time, it was determined that 25 percent of those interviewed thought there was no coordination at all, and a few made no comment because they did not know enough about the subject.

During the election campaign, as will be recalled, the then candidate Luis Alberto Monge appealed strongly to the electorate to elect the maximum number of deputies from his party in order to facilitate team work.

Costa Ricans heeded his appeal and elected 33 National Liberation Party deputies. Nevertheless, after they had been installed in office, problems arose within the group, and subsequently the government revealed differences of opinion between the executive and legislative branches.

Similarly, differences developed among ministers on such important matters as foreign affairs and economic questions.

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POPULARITY

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Opinion	R. Carazo	L. A. Monge
	March 79	March 83
Total	100	100
Very good	7	11
Good	24	42
Average	36	36
Bad	14	6
Very bad	11	2

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COST OF LIVING

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Opinion	R. Carazo	L. A. Monge
	March 79	March 83
Total	100	100
Very good	1	9
Good	12	34
Average	26	42
Bad	28	8
Very bad	27	3

The above table compares the opinions of those interviewed on the work of the Carazo and Monge governments during their respective first 9 months in office, as well as on the way the two governments managed the cost of living problem.

## POSSIBLE MARXIST INFILTRATION SEEN IN 'OPEN'

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 30 Mar 83 p 4-A

Excerpt Vice Minister for Public Security Johnny Campos yesterday denounced the possible infiltration of the Organization for National Emergencies (OPEN) by Marxist elements. Given this situation, he explained, an investigation of the organization, which was created under the present administration to provide civilian support for police units, has been initiated. The official said that the group had been doing good work, but, unfortunately, problems had recently arisen that justified a review of the situation. Campos warned that, if the suspicions were confirmed, a restructuring of the organization would be carried out without delay, since those who belonged to OPEN understood the purposes for which it was created. OPEN currently has approximately 10,000 members in the whole country, among them professionals, workers, craftsmen and young students. Campos singled out for praise the work that the group did during the visits of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II in the preceding months of December and March, respectively. "We do not want people of either the extreme Right or the extreme Left," the vice minister said, "because otherwise the organization might be concluded next week and that at that time he could give a more detailed report. Finally, he revealed that approximately 300 men from the southern and northern commands would guard the borders in cooperation with the Rural Guard.

12336

CSO: 3248/665

## BRIEFS

MONGE'S STAND ON REELECTION REITERATED--In Quesada City yesterday, President of the Republic Luis Alberto Monge reiterated that he does not accept the idea of changing Article 132 of the Constitution to permit reelection of the president. The chief executive stressed the arguments that he had made last September when a bill to this end was presented to the Legislative Assembly: the rule is recent and more time is needed to determine whether or not it should be maintained in effect. The statements by the head of state were made only a few days before the scheduled opening in this capital of an office to promote the aforesaid constitutional change. Several government deputies, including Guido Granados (San Jose), will be working in this office, which will coordinate activity throughout the country. The objective is to collect supporters' signatures so that the National Liberation Party's political leadership will be pressured into backing the change. The proposal lacks sufficient votes for adoption by the congress. Opposed to it are the Communists, Unity Party lawmakers and seven members of the Liberation Party, who have said publicly that they are not in agreement with it. If the opposition persists, the initiative cannot prosper. For his part, Bernal Jimenez (San Jose), leader of the National Liberation Party's Parliamentary contingent, has said that "he supports President Monge with regard to all activity that might prejudice the political future. No internal action should be taken before 1985," he declared. /Text/ /San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 20 Mar 83 p 2-A/ 12336

RADIO PATROL VEHICLES DONATED--The Government of South Korea has given Costa Rica 10 new radio patrol vehicles, 40 farm tractors and two scholarships for studies in rural community development. In making the announcement, Foreign Minister Fernando Volio publicly expressed his thanks for the donation and said that he would look for the best way to distribute the tractors among rural communities, especially among rural settlements, agricultural cooperatives and schools of agriculture and stockraising. At the beginning of the present administration, Korea had donated an additional 20 radio patrol vehicles. /Text/ /San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 21 Mar 83 p 6-A/ 12336

CSO: 3248/665

## ISLE OF YOUTH FIRST SECRETARY DISCUSSES ACHIEVEMENTS

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 1 Apr 83, No 13, pp 44-49

[Interview with Armando Manresa Gonzalez, first secretary of the party in Isle of Youth, by Urbano Fernandez: "Fruits of Today"; date and place not specified]

[Text] "Instead of interviewing me, why don't you tour the region and talk to the people? They themselves can tell you what has been done and what is being done." Those were the words with which Armando Manresa Gonzalez, alternate member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party in the special municipality of Isle of Youth, welcomed us when we met with him for the first time.

We came from Havana with the journalistic mission of reflecting the changes made on the island which in 1978 took the well deserved name Isle of Youth. We reached an agreement 15 minutes later: we would do the interview and the tour.

We did not talk much about what used to be the Isle of Pines before the revolutionary victory. Its history is well known to all. This territory of 2,200 square kilometers had 95 percent of its tillable area lying fallow and only produced about 600 hectares of citrus and very small quantities of other fresh fruits and vegetables, basically for the U.S. market. Its only industrial production came from the marble quarries where the prisoners were forced to work.

The stagnation of the region which had some 11,000 inhabitants was more evident, if possible, than that of the rest of Cuba and control by U.S. owners was proportionally greater. One of them, Mr Davis, owned a third of the island--all the south from coast to coast.

[Question] Comrade Manresa, do you believe that all the objectives pursued which made the region deserving of its new name in 1978 because of the work deployed are already fulfilled?

[Answer] To say that all the objectives are fulfilled would be denying all that is left for us to do. Naturally, giving the name Isle of Youth to the region was recognition of this task of the youth, the effort and self-denial of our youths who came here unconditionally to give their all to achieve those

objectives. The name meant a still greater commitment. The fact that we can achieve much better results than planned is due to the people here.

It is necessary to say that the main objective in transforming this territory was to develop a great citrus production plan--mainly grapefruit--to change the geography of the island and convert it into a productive territory of our country. It was necessary to start practically from zero because there was nothing here.

Manresa then explained that, in order to achieve this citrus development plan, it was necessary to build dams, roads, highways and services of every type. Such an unpopulated region did not have the necessary work force either. He recalled how these tasks began to be carried out in 1966 "with the mobilization of the Youth Columns of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] which were a decisive force that guaranteed the creation of the bases for all the future development.

"The construction program for intermediate schools in the countryside consolidated this agricultural-livestock development with a minimal work force and made it possible to develop a program of internationalist aid in our territory later. Some 12,200 students, basically from Africa and Nicaragua, have already come.

"Also attracted by the task and with the ever present participation of our people in all the projects of the revolution, some citizens came to live on the island to participate in its economic development. Settlement of all those people, including the students who are practically permanent residents since they live here all year, brought other problems: a housing construction program, the development of food services, public health, transportation and recreational installations....In other words, in order to achieve the initial development program, we have had to work on all fronts. We cannot say that all the problems are resolved but we have really worked to achieve the objectives presented, the plans outlined. There have already been positive results from the consolidation itself of those programs.

"Returning to the initial question, I believe that in one aspect the island has exceeded the original framework by becoming an internationalist Isle of Youth where students from other countries receive education with magnificent results in education and work. We never imagined such a beautiful and massive result when the possibility of changing the name of this region was announced."

[Question] We would like to go into the subject of the schools in the countryside a little. How many students come to the island now and how do they behave in school and work?

[Answer] Education has really taken a leap on the island. Discipline and the rates of promotion have improved. Last school year was very positive and this year we began a better year. We now have 54 schools in the countryside for intermediate education with some 15,000 national students, mainly from the eastern provinces, and 12,200 foreigners from 10 countries.

We really feel very satisfied and proud of our students' work in the citrus harvest. Some years ago it was necessary to mobilize the population and the harvests were half what they are now. Now our students completely guarantee the harvest. This does not mean all the students, only the best; the best brigades in each school go to the harvest. That has permitted something very important that will yield great results in the future. It has been possible for another large group of students to give simultaneous attention to the citrus fields. That did not happen years ago. In 1982, we ended the harvest in December with all the fields clean and fertilized and for the first time we began the irrigation campaign in the middle of November. We had January left to improve our work. The students have made a tremendous response and we feel very proud of them.

[Question] What has been achieved until now in the basic production of the island, citrus, and what are the prospects?

[Answer] Very serious work was done in 1980 to determine what citrus areas we had. Some were in very poor condition because of inadequate soil, shallow soil or insufficient irrigation. We worked to see if we could recover those fields but reality demonstrated that the best thing was not to spend one centavo more on them because they were not going to yield anything. This was influenced by the fact that when the plan began, there were no technical and scientific soil studies and some unsuitable areas were sown.

Now we have 13,000 hectares sown with 7,500 under irrigation. In the last 3 years, the policy we have followed is, first, to give better attention to the fields we have, give them optimum cultivation. We work not to sow more areas but to replant what we have and guarantee this work. We might have a hectare that can contain so many plants but how many does it really have? Very serious work has been done. They have gone from field to field and counted plant by plant. This has taken a year. In 1981 we resowed so many plants that it was as if we had sown more than 1,100 new hectares. The majority were in places that already have irrigation systems, highways, wind-breaks, schools and guaranteed work forces. We think that the right thing now is to continue in this direction: to take good care of the fields we have. Instead of 5 tons per hectare, they will yield 15 or 20 tons. Last year we obtained more than 14 tons per hectare compared to 5.5 in 1979. Now we do much more with much less.

Naturally, we plan to continue developing and to have some 26,800 hectares sown by 1990 or 1995. This figure is based on a study made by a committee of Soviet and Cuban specialists to determine all suitable land. They also drew up new technology that guarantees citrus production through an antierosion agricultural technology that makes it possible to recover eroded land as we use it.

The first secretary of the party in that region then gave figures and talked to us about the 1980 harvest when more than 1 million quintals (more than 54,000 tons) were produced for the first time. He talked about the 2 million quintals produced in 1981 and the present harvest. Although it is lower than last year, it is still large. Exports are close to the record harvest of 1981

in spite of the extensive drought of the past 2 years that dried up the dams. It was necessary to suspend irrigation in April 1981 during full flower. "We think now, with the dams full again and considering the condition of our plants after the harvest--it seems as if they inject life into them--1983 will be a record year for fruit, better than 1981. We say this optimistically." Manresa emphasized that not only the increased production volumes but the increased quality of the fruit have been important since, in recent years, 90 percent has been of exportable quality.

We asked about that vital problem, water. We learned that there are now 16 dams--large, medium and small--on the island with a capacity of more than 200 million cubic meters. They continue working to reach the 300 million cubic meters needed to meet all the needs. We then asked about the citrus industry.

"Naturally, citrus requires industry to process the fruit, in our case with a large percentage used for exports. Industry is also needed to use what is not good enough for fresh fruit to produce juice, candy and essential oils.... An adequate infrastructure is also needed: highways, roads, cold storage and ports for shipment. In 1981 we faced problems with packaging, breakdowns and interruptions that affected the flow of the harvest. Our technicians took on the task of constructing the equipment right here with a technology that has yielded very good results. The packaging was changed, production lines have been expanded and working conditions have improved. You should see how efficiently they function now.

"But experience has demonstrated to us that it is not just a problem of equipment but also the men who operate that equipment, their awareness and their enthusiasm. Through a million movement, they have achieved high increases in productivity. It is a mass emulation that has caught on extraordinarily well among the workers and the students. Everyone participates and knows his part in this million movement. I think the success lies precisely in this. Production records have been achieved that are real labor feats."

[Question] How is the island progressing in other agricultural and livestock production?

[Answer] Far from being a burden for the country as it was in the past, the island today is a territory that supplies its own basic products like milk, beef, poultry, pork, vegetables and produce....In our local industries we produced and offered to the public through the parallel market top quality meat by-products, canned meat and fruit, tomato paste and other food products as well as kitchen utensils, etc. We have achieved significant progress in our local industries.

Manresa briefly explained the prospects in cattle raising due to the breed quality achieved with high milk producers. The best example is our world champion Ubre Blanca. He stated that a milk complex will open this year to produce by-products. We also learned of the increase in pork--doubled in 3 years--and the fattening center for 14,000 pigs. They are slaughtered with an average weight of 93 kilograms. We heard about the success achieved in covering the complete life cycle of poultry on the island from the day the

chick is born and about future aspirations of incubating the eggs here. He talked about the large increases achieved in the production of vegetables and produce and the efforts made as well as about the creation of four cooperatives and the good economic results obtained by them.

[Question] What could you tell us now about ceramics which we know has great development in the region?

[Answer] Ceramics is a new industry based on our potential. It has a great future since we have large reserves of the basic components and we have a nucleus of experienced comrades who want to work. There are now 10 large and small factories. They are constructed in different towns in order to create a source of jobs for women and also guarantee that work force. At II Congreso in Gerona which was constructed with the collaboration of the GDR, we produced china for national consumption to reduce imports. This modern factory, opened in 1980, should begin to expand its production capacity this year to 1,500 tons with the installation of tunnel ovens. With technology from the GDR, we will begin construction in 1984 of another china factory to produce 3,000 tons. Through a cooperation agreement with Czechoslovakia, the existing one in La Fe will be expanded to produce some 1,000 tons of china there. By the end of this 5-year period or by 1986, we will increase ceramic production to some 5,500 tons of china per year--that is, 10 times the present amount.

[Question] You said at the beginning that the development of the island's plans, notable in different productions, also brought other problems: construction, services....Could you go into this?

[Answer] This development of agricultural and livestock production and, especially, education, this massive explosion of accelerated development, made it necessary to create minimal conditions to assimilate and settle thousands of technicians for the agricultural-livestock program and the skilled personnel who take care of school activities and other sectors. Now the population of Gerona is about 35,000 inhabitants, more than three times the population of the entire island before 1959. There are more than 60,000 permanent inhabitants in Isle of Youth, not counting the students who spend the entire year here.

More than 6,000 housing units have been constructed. That has made it possible to house this personnel although this does not mean that the housing problem has been solved. In 1982 we built 600 units; we have some successes in this activity. We have used a system in which the microbrigades prepare the foundation, the state brigades assemble the building and the microbrigades finish it. Using this method, we finished a four-story building with 16 apartments in 57 days--our record. Assembly of the parts of a Gran Panel 4 building only requires 20 days. However, it is not just a matter of housing; it is necessary to build installations, schools, dairies, highways....We now have some 5,500 construction workers in all sectors on the island. This gives an idea of the work done.

We have also had to develop a health program, build polyclinics and expand the new hospital in Gerona. There were 3 doctors at the time of the revolutionary victory; now there are more than 100.

All this personnel--agricultural-livestock, education and health technicians--needs to be transported and that means shops, more technicians, leaders, drivers....In other words, all this development generates new needs and the solution of these needs makes it possible for us to continue developing. For example, a year ago our newspaper was published twice a week; now it is published daily. Some said: "There might not be news for a newspaper every day." Well, that has not happened to us; everyone wants to publish his achievements, his things....

[Question] What are the greatest difficulties that the island faces now?

[Answer] There are difficulties but I think one very important thing has been achieved--the development of an increasing awareness among all the leadership cadres and workers that we must solve our own problems. Each time we need a mechanic, a teacher, a journalist, an engineer or a doctor, we must not think that we must bring him in from Havana but select among our youths and send them to train or prepare themselves right here. We must solve everything--new production, a part--we are capable of doing. We must produce and work without provincialism but for the country. Only those problems that objective realities determine to be out of our hands should be presented to the leadership of the country. We work along that path. In recent years, there has been a new awareness and the results are already seen today.

He then mentioned existing difficulties with transportation to the rest of the country and the search for solutions for total recreation for the youths. Operation of the Kometas shows problems and an adequate terminal is needed in Batabano. On the other hand, internal transportation has had successes with the support of the Havana terminals and by completely reconstructing discarded buses in the shops here. He also spoke to us about the installation of lights at the airport this year and its expansion to receive night flights and increase service. A shop to repair Kometas was constructed. "We also have difficulties with the quality of some services offered to the people but this is being worked on seriously. We already have a group of units declared model service units."

Concerning recreation, he explained that cultural activities have increased with the celebration of cultural Saturdays, for example, and sports. There have been important victories in kayaking and wrestling. He also spoke about the new installations placed at the service of recreation and the increase in hiking and camping. "However, it is still necessary to continue working in this direction, seeking new solutions and initiatives to fully satisfy this situation."

[Question] Before ending, I would like you to tell us about the work of the party during these years.

[Answer] The work of the party has been very important. There has been a leap in quality. Its ranks have doubled in recent years. We already have more

than 3,000 members in the party and 4,000 in the UJC; there is especially an increase among workers. The methods and work style have improved. Each time our role and influence are greater on the results of the island. We can state that the work of the party is present in the achievements and problems. Where it was not foresighted, demanding or did not point out the necessary measures, the result can be seen. Where it played its role appropriately, the results can be seen. The direct tie with the masses through mass organizations has improved. The union movement has been strengthened and the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women] and ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] have improved. The UJC has done better stable work. The people's government has been strengthened and the mechanisms to solve the problems of the people have improved. There is no task in which we have not had the enthusiastic and combative response of the workers and all the people to the call of the party. We can state that our people are more revolutionary each time. That is the opinion we have of the people of the island.

The day after the interview, we took the promised tour. It was a long trip that lasted from morning until evening. We were accompanied by the young first secretary (39 years old), former leader of the UJC and the party in Havana Province, who recently completed his third year on the island. We visited the citrus complex, the II Congreso china factory, the citrus fields, the port, the fishing complex, dairies, fattening centers, supermarkets, the new residential districts, the hospital in Gerona, dams and construction projects.

We saw the green citrus fields cleared of weeds and well cared for, full of life. The harvest which yielded 50 tons per hectare in some fields had just ended. We saw the students working in the fields, joking and singing. We saw the new buildings several stories high, finished or under construction, and the new town of 100 houses in the Dos Rios district. We saw the beautiful F-2 herd on the island and we met Ubre Blanca, its very similar daughter, Reina Amalia, and the new calf on which so many reproduction hopes are based.

Everywhere we found signs of work: earth movement, excavations, foundations and walls. Time and again we heard similar exclamations: "Manresa, we need the crane to place the roofs." "You have to come Saturday to the activity we are having for overfulfilling the plan." "We do not have a cement mixer but it does not matter; we turn the cement by hand here when necessary." We talked with Felix Salerno, the first million packer, who did not stop working while he talked and amazed us by his quick movements. We talked with the young hospital director to whom the concept of islander means not only when one is born here but when one comes to the region. We talked with firer Enrique Pou whom everyone calls "Quique." In his oven No. 5, the technical-economic plan for the year of 906,200 pesos at II Congreso was fulfilled on 7 December. We talked with the Nicaraguan students at Carlos Fonseca Amador. Cuba and the island seemed "very good" to them. They said they were best at work, which they find easy, and study. We talked with the workers of the microbrigade to whom it seems natural to finish a four-story building in 57 days: "Why not? When you want to, you can!"

We verified the justice of words spoken by Armando Manresa who came to the island for the first time in 1966 to work on "reconstructing what was lost and progressing much more." "In these years, there has been a new awareness; today the results can already be seen."

## LEFTIST DLM CRITICIZES PROPOSED LABOR CONTRACT ACT

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 Apr 83 p 7

[Text]

ROSEAU, Dominica — The small left-leaning Dominica Liberation Movement (DLM) on Tuesday criticised a proposed Labour Contract Act which government recently introduced in parliament, saying that it was geared toward weakening the trade union movement.

Under the proposed Act, a non-unionised worker would be able to enter into a contract with his employer, setting out the details of employment which must be prepared in writing by the employer not later than 14 days after the employee starts work.

The DLM comments on the Act, which will receive its second reading at this month's session of parliament, follow an announcement that government and trade union officials were meeting to discuss it.

In a statement the DLM said: "This proposed Labour Contract Act is geared toward weakening the trade union movement

in Dominica."

It warned that, given the unemployment situation in the country, a worker, if he wants to keep his job, will be forced to sign a contract which does not really serve his interest.

The National Workers Union (NWU) has criticised the Contract Act, labelling it as counter-productive.

The DLM said that under the proposed Act it would be much easier for management to "set one worker against the other and in a short time there will be no trade union representation."

"The proposed Act is therefore geared to make Dominica a place where cheap labour or slave labour and an atmosphere of industrial peace are used by the government as the basic incentive for attracting foreign investment", the DLM added.

The movement said that it was appealing to all workers to view the Labour Contract Act seriously "and to see it as a threat to the existence and development of the democratic trade union movement. . . ." (CANA)

## BRIEFS

REVOCATION OF UNIONIST'S POST--Roseau, Dominica, Thursday, (CANA)--The Dominica Government, citing conflict of interest has revoked the appointment of a senior trade union official on the Roseau City Council, less than two months after his union had called a strike among council staffers. Interior Minister Brian Alleyne, in a letter to councillor and trade union organiser of the Waterfront and Allied Workers' Union (WAWU) Alick Gage said, that the revocation became effective today. Mr. Alleyne had earlier on written Mr. Gage seeking his resignation from the council, on the grounds that his membership in the union--bragaining agent for daily paid council workers--constituted a conflict of interest. The Roseau City Council, now in the process of laying off workers because of financial difficulties, is responsible for the maintenance of the city and areas one mile on either side of the capital. Mr. Alleyne said he had been forced to seek the resignation of Mr. Gage after reviewing the matters surrounding the industrial dispute between the council and the union and noted that the Mayor, Gonsalves Peltier, "pointed out the obvious conflict of interest existing in that situation". But in a letter to the minister Mr. Gage faltly refused to step down, saying that he had not violated any of the provisqons of the City Council Act. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Apr 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/545

## GOVERNMENT SET TO BUY CANADIAN HOLIDAY INN HOTEL

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 10 Apr 83 p 3

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Saturday, (CANA)--The Grenada Government says it has reached agreement with the management of Holiday Inns of Canada to buy their 184-room hotel at Grande Anse beach here.

A government statement quoted Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Lyden Ramdhanny as saying that the government intends to reopen the island's largest hotel by August this year with some 64 rooms.

However, it said that by June 1984, the government hopes to have the entire complex of the hotel, which was severely damaged by fire in 1981, fully operational.

Speaking of the Government's plans for tourism development, the Minister said on radio and television, that the completion of the controversial new international airport being built with Cuban assistance at Point Salines was vital to the expansion of the industry.

Referring to American suggestions that there was no need for an international airport in Grenada because of the limited number of hotel rooms, the Minister said: "Investors have told us they will pour not a bucket of concrete for any hotel construction until Grenada gets an international airport."

He said that a number of local and foreign investors had approached the government about the construction of new hotels and the expansion of existing buildings.

The Minister said the state had a role to play in tourism expansion, adding that two 150-room hotels are to be built by the state and managed by private operators.

He spoke of some aspects of the tourism code which is being developed. Under this code, hotel buildings will not be higher than two storeys and must not exceed 150 rooms; the use of natural ventilation must be considered during construction to limit the amount of energy used, he said.

The Minister also said that the Government was looking at legislation to curb the introduction of possible "negative influences" of the industry into the country.

Mr. Ramdhanny disclosed that tourism offices were soon to be set up in Trinidad and Tobago as well as Venezuela. The Trinidad market, he said, was vital, while the office in Venezuela would service South America. So far offices have been set up in London, to service Europe and in the United States.

## 'MIRROR' EDITORIAL ASSAILS PNC, GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF ECONOMY

Georgetown MIRROR in English 10 Apr 83 p 2

[Editorial: "The Parallel Economy"]

[Text] The PNC regime is busily trying to smash the parallel economy which is a phenomenon of its own making. This phenomenon is actually a manifestation of the expanding bourgeoisie inside Guyana despite the socialist rhetoric declaimed from the roof tops by the regime's ideologues. A glaring contradiction between the economic base and the politico-ideological superstructure is thus apparent.

How can a professed "pro-socialist" "non-capitalist" "revolutionary" "anti-imperialist" regime nourish and beef-up the ranks of capitalists? Including imperialists and the pro-imperialist comprador bourgeoisie? Isn't the regime aware that by increasing the ranks of these capitalists and petty capitalists, it is simultaneously strengthening reactionary bourgeois ideology, bourgeois forces, and pro-imperialist tendencies? In other words, it is creating an anti-socialist force which if mobilised and orchestrated will be a perfect tool in the hands of US imperialism! Isn't the regime aware that this is exactly what is happening right now?

The PNC regime is responsible for the dual economy and its attendant dual market which now obtains in Guyana. While the official economy stagnates however, the parallel economy is growing by leaps and bounds. The same applies to the official and parallel markets. This duality did not exist prior to 1965. It has been built up over 18 tortuous years by: Short sighted PNC policies, import bans, large scale sackings of workers, economic crises, endemic corruption, smuggling, narcotics trade, currency blackmarket, arbitrary price controls, rackets, political deals, swindles, graft, scandalous super salaries, discrimination and favouritism.

The prime causes however are 3-fold:

- 1) Large scale sackings of workers many of whom resort to legal and illegal trading rather than to agriculture as the regime desires.
- 2) The import-ban policy with its short-circuited import-substitution programme, which generates and sustains the popular demand for items removed by the regime from the official market.

3) Corruption in the official distribution system which results in commodities being improperly siphoned off the official market, and into the unofficial parallel market where prices and profits are considerably higher.

There is a direct link between the sacking over the recent years of some 20,000 workers in the public service alone (many of whom failed to be rehired anywhere) and the bustling parallel market which is breeding petty bourgeoisie like flies. This parallel market supplies banned items like:

Sardines, onions, garlic, split peas, blackeye peas, cereals, baby foods, tomato paste, butter, margarine, Lactogen, Ovaltine, Milo, channa, cooking oil, tinned meats, flour, cheese, apples and grapes, saltfish, smoked herring, pig tails, saltbeef, potatoes, ghee, confectioneries. The stupid ban on wheat flour has virtually negated essential supplies of bread, cakes, chow-mein, vermicelli, and macaroni. Items like bakes, roti, mohanbhog, duffs for metem, duplings for soups, etc., have all been hit for six!

Consumer durables affected by either import-ban, short-ordering or licensing and foreign exchange controls, but which are available nevertheless on the parallel economy include:

Stoves, batteries, spare parts, cloth, domestic appliances, electronic and electrical equipment including video sets and cassettes, tyres and tubes, cosmetics, haberdashery, books, stationery, foot-wear, paint, watches, toilet soap, fire-arms and ammunition.

Since there is a big and growing demand for these items, the traders, smugglers and their shadowy financiers are in good business. They are not only conspicuously opulent, but are able to absorb heavy losses in customs-police swoops with a shrug. They can hire top-flight lawyers and are not unduly fazed by stiff fines or jail sentences.

The combined oppressive impact on consumers of the official market with its ever rising taxation, and the parallel market with its shocking prices is devastating. Living standards plummet as a consequence, malnutrition rises, and the miserable official wage of \$12.71 per day designed to be spent solely on the official market is woefully inadequate. This wage is often spent on the parallel market where prices are double or treble and where price controls are a joke.

The IMF in a Staff Report on Guyana (Oct., 1982) said.

"The parallel market which is not recognized by government is financed by illegal exports of gold and diamonds to an estimated amount of \$5 million per week at an exchange rate ranging from G\$5 per US\$ to G\$8 per US\$. Measures are being taken to reduce the flow of illegal exports that finance the unofficial exchange market."

Besides the illegal export of gold and diamonds, there are other tricks to the trade, which will not be dealt with here. However, mention should be made of the booming barter system across the 3 frontiers in which possibly an

equal amount in exports are involved. Huge amounts of rice, sugar, rum, cattle and marijuana are exchanged for cash, credits, flour, peas, other foods, durables and spares. Substantial payment balances remain safely on the other side of the frontiers in banks. The Guyana regime in all of this, gets not one cent as revenue mainly because of the illegality of the business.

The official price control system is in shambles, having been wrecked by certain distributors, wholesalers and retailers on both markets. Government is also culpable owing to its neglect and to its failure to end corruption in the distribution system. To get around state price controls and thus earn bigger profits, clever profiteers switch commodities allocated to them by government, into the parallel market. Of course they grease a palm here and a palm there, and pull a few political strings to make the authorities look the other way while the consumers suffer.

CSO: 3298/547

## IMF PROPOSALS FOR DEVALUATION RESISTED BY GOVERNMENT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

Guyana is resisting a proposal from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to devalue its dollar by 40 per cent as a prerequisite for obtaining new balance of payments support from the Washington based lending agency, "Latin America Regional Reports," a British publication, has reported.

An IMF team, which was expected to be accompanied by an official of the World Bank, was due to arrive in Georgetown Tuesday for what the weekly newsletter described as the toughest-ever negotiations between the Guyana Government and the IMF.

Guyana's decision to re-enter negotiations with the IMF, after its failure to meet economic performance targets set under three previous agreements, follows a worsening of the country's economic problems in 1982.

According to "Latin America Regional Reports," Guyana ended 1982 with an increased trade deficit of G\$407 million (G\$1.33 cents US) compared with the previous year's figure of G\$302.4 million.

A new agreement with the IMF, the newsletter says, will allow Guyana to reschedule payment of its debt to foreign aid agencies. The South American state's gross ex-

ternal debt is estimated at US\$1.35 billion, or some US\$1 700 per capita.

- Vice-President for Economic Planning and Finance Desmond Hoyte, said Guyana's last standby arrangement with the IMF fell through last July because of the country's inability to meet specific performance targets.

As a result, foreign lending agencies, which seek consultancy services from the IMF, were reluctant to lend Guyana additional funds.

Guyana's severe foreign exchange shortage, rooted in declining revenues from key exports rice, sugar and bauxite, has forced the Forbes Burnham Government to introduce a series of austerity measures, including import restrictions, to keep the economy afloat.

The Burnham Government has so far made no public announcement on its latest round of talks with the IMF

CSO: 3298/548

## BANK ISSUES STATEMENT ON CARICOM CLEARING FACILITY

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 3 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

**THE Bank of Guyana** yesterday issued a statement concerning the operations of the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility.

The following is the statement in full:

"Arising out of consultations among Governors of Caricom Central Banks and the Managing-Director of the East Caribbean Currency Authority, transactions through the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) have been suspended temporarily."

"The Bank of Guyana has confirmed bilateral arrangements with all Caricom trading partners, and the Central Bank, of Trinidad and Tobago, as operating agent of the Facility, has advised that all participants have arranged bilateral accommodation for transactions from April 1, 1983. These

arrangements are intended to ensure that Caricom trading arrangements are not disrupted.

"The CMCF was established in June 1977 as the mechanism to be used by Caricom monetary authorities for settling trading transactions. Its temporary suspension arises from the current imbalance in trade among the participants. The Facility with its current problems is scheduled for discussion at a meeting to be held in St. Kitts on April 15, 1983, among the directors of the C.M.C.F. The directors are the Governors of the Caricom central banks and the Managing Director of the East Caribbean Currency Authority. The chairman of the C.M.C.F. is the Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago."

CSO: 3298/548

## OFFICIALS PLUG GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION

Hoyte Address

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

**GOVERNMENT, and the business community, in a war for survival and development, will have to continually refine their strategy and concentrate their forces by emphasising their points of contact and agreement and by constantly expanding and multiplying them.**

While making this point yesterday, Vice-President for Economic Planning and Finance, Desmond Hoyte, told the annual luncheon of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) that the establishment of institutional relationships between government and the business community was a necessary characteristic of a modern state and was vital to its proper functioning.

In a packed ballroom of the Hotel Tower, Cde. Hoyte said there were now well-established monthly meetings and consultation between government and the business community, allowing for joint action in resolving problems and helping to devise appropriate strategies and policies.

As a result of such forums, Government removed the eight per cent consumption tax on raw material imports which go into the manufacture of goods for export.

A decision was also taken to constitute a joint government-business community committee to work on the establishment of an Export Promotion Council and an Industrial Development Council.

A scheme was identified in the national budget for exporters to use a portion of their export earnings to purchase spare parts and other inputs.

Cde. Hoyte was replying to an address given by Cde. Ernest Christiani, who, until yesterday, was president of the City Chamber for four consecutive years.

Cde. Wainright McKenzie, who was senior vice-president, was elected the new president of the Chamber at its annual general meeting yesterday morning.

Vice-President Hoyte said there had been vigorous and continuing

debate between government and the business community as businessmen sought to pursue and protect their legitimate interests and activities in industry and commerce.

The government, he added, sought to manage conflicts and harmonise the interests of all competing forces within the wider society.

"But," Cde. Hoyte told the luncheon, "both the government and business community accept, as the ultimate overriding objective of their activities, the security, well-being and prosperity of our country."

Referring to the involvement of the business sector in the preparation of the budget, the Vice-President said it was a momentous development in the history of Guyana, with profound implications for our decision-making processes and the management of our economy.

He urged Guyanese to do their own thinking, utilise their historical experiences and build upon their strengths to

fashion a society and its supporting institutions agreeably with their objective realities.

A toast was proposed to the luncheon guests by the new Chamber

president, while Chancellor of the Judiciary, Victor Crane, in replying said the private sector could assist greatly in Guyana's economic recovery.

### Intersector Discussions

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

**REPRESENTATIVES** of the Private and Public Sectors met at the Bank of Guyana boardroom yesterday and discussed a number of government's fiscal proposals contained in this year's National Budget.

A similar meeting will be held today with representatives of the Guyana Trades Union Congress (TUC).

In a statement, yesterday afternoon, the State Planning Secretariat said the proposals outlined in the budget were discussed to help the government representatives "to test and be advised on their likely adequacy."

Leading yesterday's discussions were officials from the State Planning Secretariat, the Bank of

Guyana and the Ministry of Finance.

The other participants were from the commercial banks, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Guyana Manufacturers' Association, the Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry, the Insurance Association of Guyana, the Mortgage Finance Bank, the New Building Society and Guystac.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss government's draft proposals with respect to the establishment of foreign exchange accounts for some exporters and the introduction of schemes designed to stimulate savings.

In the case of the latter, the savings

schemes fall in the categories of individual retirement income, house building or home acquisition, and savings based on deferred incomes.

In his Budget statement to the National Assembly on February 15, Vice-President Hoyte had set the end of March as the target date for the introduction of the new procedures and initiatives.

The discussions, the State Planning Secretariat said yesterday afternoon, should be seen as a 'continuation of the pre-budget consultations which are likely to be formalised later this year'. (GNA)

CSO: 3298/547

## PPP STATEMENT HITS U.S.-BACKED 'INVASION' OF NICARAGUA

Georgetown MIRROR in English 27 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The People's Progressive Party notes with grave disquiet that the long-planned invasion of Nicaragua by mercenaries orchestrated, engineered and financed by US imperialism working in collaboration with the reactionary Honduran regime. Honduras in fact has also hired itself out for Central America, like Israel in the Middle East and South Africa in Southern Africa, as a mercenary and gendarme to US imperialism in its aggressive war against Nicaragua. The USA has not reconciled itself to the ouster and execution of its Nicaraguan puppet, Anastasio Somoza. So said the Party in a week-end press statement which continues:--

The invasion forces are actively seeking to establish a base zone on Nicaraguan territory, and are some 50 miles from the capital, Managua. The core of this counter-revolutionary force consists of bands of CIA-trained former Somoza cut-throats, reactionary rightwing elements, and new butchers of the revolutionary Nicaraguan people.

Honduras has willingly given its territory to the USA for the training of counter-revolutionary bandit forces, and has placed thousands of its own regular troops along the frontier which in itself is an act of direct hostility to the Nicaraguan government. These troops are a manace, in that they serve to prevent hot pursuit of Nicaraguan counter-revolutionary bandit gangs by Nicaraguan government forces and also serve to pin down large numbers of Nicaraguan regular troops, thus preventing them from being used against the counter-revolutionaries.

#### Counter-Revolution Intensified

The PPP rejects the assertions by the US government and the Honduran government that they are not planning to overthrow the Nicaraguan government by military means, and deems those denials as sheer hypocrisy. Since Ronald Reagan came to power in 1980, he has considerably intensified the US imperialist campaign of exporting counter-revolution. He has already pronounced savagely against people's revolutions, national liberation struggles and Marxism.

On February 24, 1982 in an address to the Organisation of American States, he had pointed out that Nicaragua and Grenada were under the "tightening grip

"of the totalitarian left." On a visit to Barbados later last year, he charged that "Grenada was spreading the Marxist virus". The notorious Symms Amendment was passed by the US Reagan-controlled Senate in mid-1982, empowering the US government to use all means available including troops to "defeat the Cuban threat" and "contain Marxist-Leninist subversion in the Region."

#### Military Aid

In the case of Nicaragua, the gendarme Honduras was given US\$65 million in military aid. The USA is constructing 2 naval bases in Honduras near the Nicaraguan frontier, while 3 military air-strips and a powerful radar station are also being speeded up. Cuban and Somoza exiles are being trained at Camps in Florida for some 10 para-military bandit outfits. In 1981 the CIA presented an 8-point plan for the destabilisation of Nicaragua to the US National Security Sub-Committee. US\$19 million were allocated for the building of a 500-man interventionist shock force to be used against Nicaragua.

The USA also vigorously fought against Nicaragua receiving a seat on the UN Security Council, but lost. This victory was seen as a slap in the face to US imperialism. In an address to the American Legion Convention on February 22, 1983 Ronald Reagan declared:

"We face a special threat in Central America where our own national security is at risk. Central America is too close to us, and our strategic stake in the Caribbean Sea lanes and the Panama Canal is too great for us to ignore reality.

"The spectre of Marxist-Leninist controlled governments in Central America with ideological and political loyalties to Cuba and the Soviet Union poses a direct challenge to which we must respond.

#### Marxist Guerillas

"We must ensure that the governments of El Salvador and other Central American countries can defend themselves against the Marxist guerillas who receive guns, training and money through Cuba and Nicaragua. The United States cannot and will not allow Marxist terrorism and subversion to prevail in Central America."

The PPP states categorically that Reagan's vicious imperialist plan amounts to propping up unpopular regimes in the Region and to toppling popular governments. This is supreme arrogance on the part of the USA. Nicaragua, Grenada and Suriname are on the firing line.

The PPP says: Hands off Nicaragua! No more Somoza regimes in this hemisphere! People's Nicaragua is there forever! Nicaragua wants peaceful relations with Honduras! It is US imperialism which is generating tensions and frictions all over the world!

CSO: 3298/547

## PPP'S JAGAN CRITICIZES IMPLEMENTATION OF CO-OP SYSTEM

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

THE concept of co-operative socialism is unsound in theory and practice, Dr. Cheddi Jagan stated yesterday during a symposium on Co-operativism in Guyana at the Kuru Kuru Co-operative College.

He made an analytic review of co-operative development in Guyana since 1970, and declared that after a decade of theory, it can be said that the idea is a failure. He referred to Lenin's labelling of co-operative pioneers, Robert Owen, and others, as 'Utopians' and accused the PNC Government of being in pursuit of such an illusory dream.

The Minority Leader was among three panellists making presentations to students of the college. The

others were College Principal Henry Jeffrey and W. Wallaceton of the Office of the President.

The PPP head likened the first co-operative, set up by Robert Owen in France, to the efforts by ex-slaves here to own and control the estate on which they lived. He said that these moves were doomed to failure because they operated within a capitalist society.

Further, he said that the attempt by the PNC to make the co-operative sector the dominant sector of the economy was incorrect. Dr. Jagan quoted Lenin to support his premise that the co-operative sector should be complementary to the dominant sector, but predominant in certain areas, one such being agriculture.

Cde Henry Jeffrey, who voiced disagreement with Dr. Jagan on many issues, claimed that co-operativism meant people must be free to control their lives in all situations and this is possible only through the merging of theory and practice.

He charged that what is done in Guyana to push co-operativism is done only at the institutional and theoretical levels. But it would be wrong to say that those responsible are not serious about this concept, he said. He added that this seriousness is evidenced by many things, including the insertion of articles relating to co-operative development in the New Constitution, and the fact that Kuru Kuru College exists.

[Editor's Note: A Brief report on Jagan's remarks covering the same major points also appeared in the PPP organ Georgetown MIRROR of 27 March 1983, p 4]

CSO: 3298/547

## AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL DIES; 'MIRROR' RAISES QUESTIONS

## Report of Death

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

GUYANA'S ambassador to Brazil Lionel Samuels died suddenly early yesterday morning at his residence in Brasilia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs which received news of Cde Samuels' death, said the report reaching Georgetown did not state the cause of death.

Until late yesterday afternoon, the Foreign Affairs Ministry had received no further news

of the circumstances of the diplomat's death.

Cde. Samuels who was expected home in April, had been Guyana's Ambassador to Brazil since 1978. Prior to taking up that appointment, he had served at Guyana's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, and at Guyana's Mission in Zambia and the United Kingdom.

(GNA)

## Burial in Brazil

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Apr 83 p 8

[Text]

CDE Lionel D. Samuels, Guyana's Ambassador to Brazil since 1978 who died at his residence at Brasilia on March 31, was at his widow's request buried in Brasilia on Good Friday, April 1 last. Military honours were accorded by the Brazilian authorities.

Present at the

ceremony were the late Ambassador's immediate family with members of staff of the Guyana Embassy in Brasilia.

Also attending were representatives and the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Sr. Joao Baptista deOliviera Figueiredo, and of the Brazilian

Ministry of External Relations.

A mass in memory of the late Ambassador was held in Brasilia yesterday Wednesday April 6.

A book of condolence was opened at the Guyana Embassy in Brasilia on Tuesday last (April 5).

'MIRROR' Suspicions

Georgetown MIRROR in English 10 Apr 83 p 4

[Text]

It must appear strange that even after a week following the burial in Brasilia of the late Guyanese Ambassador to Brazil, Lionel Samuels, neither local foreign ministry sources nor the Brazilian Embassy in Guyana could comment on the cause of death of the diplomat.

Mr. Samuels died on March 31 last and was buried the following day. He has been Ambassador to Brazil since 1978.

Early last year it was reported in the Brazilian press that Mr. Samuels was robbed of his diplomatic passport, documents and a large sum of money while overnighting in Boa Vista. The thieves, on whose heads a reward of between 20,000 and 50,000 cruzeiros had been placed, made off with U.S.\$3,000; G\$800, TT\$550 and an unspecified sum of Bolivars.

The Guyanese envoy had been expected to return home during this month.

CSO: 3298/548

NEW POLISH AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO HOYTE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

MR. Mieczyslaw Woldarek yesterday morning presented his letters of credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Poland, to Vice-President Desmond Hoyte.

In his brief address the Polish ambassador spoke of the friendly relations between the two countries, adding that there exist possibilities for economic collaboration, as well as cultural and scientific exchange. He pledged his intention to "tighten and strengthen" relations for the "reciprocal benefit" of the two countries, having first affirmed his country's commitment to peaceful co-existence and collaboration among states, as pursued in its foreign policy.

In his reply, Vice-President Hoyte concurred with the

Ambassador on the point of promoting international peace and cooperation in accordance with the United Nations Charter, urging the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Vice-President voiced the country's appreciation for recent offers of technical cooperation made by the Association of Marine Engineering and Shipbuilding Enterprises of Poland and the agency POLSERVICE.

He explained that Guyana is committed to a national policy of cooperative socialism and as such is committed to the "establishment and consolidation of fraternal relations with all Socialist and peace-loving states."

The Vice-President pledged full governmental support to the Ambassador and welcomed him to Guyana.

CSO: 3298/548

## CANADA PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO MANUFACTURERS, FISHERMEN

## Financial Agreement

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Mar 83 p 8

[Text]

LOCAL manufacturers and wholesalers will benefit from a \$14.8 (Canada) (G\$35.8 million) financial agreement signed between the Governments of Guyana and Canada yesterday morning.

The agreement, which takes the form of a \$14 million (C) (\$33.6 million (G)) loan and a memorandum of understanding for a grant of \$850,000 (C) (G\$2.2M).

It was signed by Vice President for Economic Planning and Finance Desmond Hoyte and Canadian High Commissioner to Guyana Julian Payne.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance states that the loan will be used by local manufacturers and wholesalers to purchase intermediate goods, forestry spare parts, inputs for the agricultural industry and a limited amount of medical supplies from Canada.

## LEADERSHIP

The grant is intended to provide short-term economic assistance to

the local manufacturing sector through the financing of Associated Canadian Procurement Services.

Canadian High Commissioner, Julian Payne, said the loan represents a first step in his country's short-term economic assistance programme to Guyana.

He pointed out that the agreement represents "one way in which Canada can take a leadership role in assisting Guyana," and acknowledged that the loan agreement is a recognition of this country's potential for economic recovery.

And in an invited comment, Vice President Hoyte said: "The Canadian Government has been one of the most consistent supporters of Guyana's economic recovery programme."

Mr Hoyte described the financial agreement as unique, noting that most aid donors tie in their arrangements with countries after provisions have been set out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The present agreement has been made prior to Guyana finalising any economic agreement with the IMF. The basic purpose of the financial project is to provide exchange and to support the economic action programme agreed to by the Guyana Government and the World Bank.

The loan will be distributed in three tranches or issues.

The release of funds for disbursement under each tranche is subject to the Guyana Government making satisfactory progress towards implementing its economic action programme and in achieving the conditions established under the loan agreement, explained the release.

The agreement stipulates that goods and materials to be procured from Canada under the loan will be paid for by Guyanese importers in Guyana dollars which will "constitute counterpart funds to finance the local costs of high priority development projects." These funds will be maintained in an

interest-bearing account in Gaibank.

Priority will be given to local costs of projects financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The loan, according to the release, will be quick disbursing with purchases scheduled in 1983 and 1984.

#### PROJECTS

A steering committee composed of representatives from Guyanese agencies and ministries, as well as the Canadian High Commission, will recommend commodities from an agreed list for purchase after approval has been granted by the Guyana Government and CIDA.

In addition to this short-term economic assistance programme, Canada is currently financing the purchase of goods, equipment and technical assistance in the Forestry and Fisheries section. Canada also finances on-going projects in the aviation sector as well as having recently completed a major water supply project in Linden.

(GNA)

#### Outboard Engines

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Apr 83 p 8

[Text]

GUYANA'S fishing industry received a further boost on Tuesday when some 40 outboard engines were handed over to the Upper West Demerara Fishermen's Co-operative Society at Hague, West Coast, Demerara.

The engines which are part of a second and last consignment to Guyana under a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) line of credit, were handed over to the society by First Secretary in the Canadian High Commission, Mr. Ron Hughes.

The two million-dollar line of credit provides for the supply of the 600 engines along with spares, rope and twine for the manufacture of nets.

The total CIDA assistance to the fishing industry embodies the two million-dollar line of credit, putting on-shore infrastructure which includes providing ramps, freezing units, fuel dumps and insulated trucks and a by-catch study.

Chief Fisheries Officer, Cde. Reuben Charles, at the handing-over ceremony said that

arrangements within the plan have been going smoothly except for a few cases.

He said the Ministry has instituted a system to ensure that fishermen utilise the engines for the required purposes. He said that a few fishermen who benefited from last year's consignment of engines sold the machines to outsiders at great profit.

He said each fisherman will now have to sign a contract which will prevent him from selling the engine before three years from the date of purchase.

—(GNA)

CSO: 3298/549

## TEACHERS ASSOCIATION PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR SOCIALIST SOCIETY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

THE Guyana Teachers Association has pledged "unqualified support for government efforts to develop a socialist society."

But both the GTA and a Caricom education executive levelled criticisms at the institution of education as it functions in the country today.

William Mc Donald, Chief of the Education and Cultural Section of the Caribbean Common Market Secretariat based in Georgetown, cautioned however against uninformed criticism, noting that it was much more easy to gain a pass in secondary education examinations 30 years ago than it is to gain acceptable grades at the GCE or CXC examinations of today.

GTA opened its 99th annual conference yesterday at its hall on Woolford Avenue. Among invited dignitaries were Prime

Minister Ptolemy Reid and Education Minister Ranji Chandisingh.

Mr. Mc Donald called for the prevention or arrest of teacher exodus from the country.

"We must take positive steps to correct what is wrong and to create the conditions which they (teachers) seek," he said.

He also called on trained teachers to inculcate "moral responsibility" to serve the nation which he said wholly or in part subsidises their education.

Observing that "there is today much that is unsatisfactory in education in Guyana," the former Deputy Chief Education Officer recommended that the GTA collaborate with relevant agencies of the Ministry of Education to undertake a "scientific investigation" of whether the best use is being made of available human, financial and material resources.

## BRIEFS

DEATH OF MP--Cde Abel Dorrick, Amerindian Captain, Member of the Regional Democratic Council of Region 9 and Member of the National Assembly, died in an accident last week. He was in his forties. The Ministry of Regional Development received a report yesterday that the accident occurred three days ago and that Cde Dorrick has since been buried. An official said Cde Dorrick, his wife and other members of his family were travelling in a bullock cart from Yupukari to Lethem when the vehicle turned turtle on the way down a steep hill, pinning Cde Dorrick. First reports said other members of the party received injuries. Cde Dorrick entered the National Assembly after the 1980 elections as a representative of the Regional Democratic Council of Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo. His death leaves a vacant seat among the People's National Congress benches in Parliament. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 3 Apr 83 p 24]

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS--Four senior public officers who have been acting in different positions for various periods of time up to now, have been confirmed in the posts. Cde C. A. L. Robinson has been appointed Chief Electrical Inspector with effect from May 2, 1979. Cde. D. Damdar has been made Chief Auditor in the Auditor General's Department retroactive to January 1, 1982. Cde P. P. Balbahadur has been named Chief Works Officer effective May 1, 1982 and Cde. J. D. Simmons has been appointed Deputy Secretary to the Treasury from March 1, 1983. Acting appointments published in the Official Gazette includes those of Cde. G. Da Silva, Assistant Secretary (Transport), Cde. L. Benjamin, Deputy Chief Statistician and Cde. J. Joseph, Principal Assistant Secretary (General), the last two being in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 6 Apr 83 p 1]

REGION 10 DEFENSE COMMITTEE--Members of the Regional Civil Defence Committee of Region Ten were Friday night told that they must ensure that people with a willingness to serve and representing as many organisations as possible within the region are coopted to serve on area committees. This charge was given by Vice-President for Party and State Matters, Cammie Ramsaroop, following the formal installation of the body at the St. Aidan's Primary School. The committee which was set up late last year comprises representatives of the community and various organisations including the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, the Guyana People's Militia and Government agencies within the region. Plans to install an area committee were abandoned apparently because of late planning and most of the members were not present. At the meeting

attended by a wide cross-section of the town, a number of issues including question of land titles for residents of the condemned Victory Valley area, and the disparity in the electricity tariff between the two banks of the river were dealt with. Cde. Ramsaroop told the gathering that civil defence was everybody's business. He appealed to them to become fully involved. At this stage of our development, he noted, civil defence committees were very useful since they were expected to "fight to consolidate the gains of the revolution. (G.M.N.A.) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Apr 83 pp 4-5]

CSO: 3298/549

## NINE YEARS OF JAMAICA'S TRADE WITH CARICOM REVIEWED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Apr 83 Export Week Supplement p 10

[Article by Raymond Forrest]

[Excerpt]

In 1982, CARICOM accounted for only a low percentage of Jamaica's visible trade (i.e. exports and imports), as the total value of CARICOM imports were roughly 8% of total imports and the total value of CARICOM exports a little above 7% of total exports.

Nevertheless, CARICOM remains the country's most important outlet for "non-traditional exports" as the vast bulk of such products end up in CARICOM markets. The jobs these factories provided through such exports are of vital importance to Jamaica, given its high unemployment rate of 27%, and this explains the concern being voiced over recent developments interfering with intra-trade.

But more of this later on. Let us first trace the tremendous growth of Jamaica/CARICOM trade over the period. In the nine years for which adequate statistical data is available, the value of CARICOM imports into Jamaica has risen from J \$64.97 million in 1974 to J \$219.9 million in 1981 (or J \$120.5 million for the first nine months of 1982).

Over the same time frame, the value of Jamaica's exports to the region has risen from J \$28.5 million to J \$124.7 million (or J \$99.1 million for the first nine months of 1982). It's not a growth that has been continuous, however, as there have been several interruptions.

AT THE START of 1977, Jamaica imposed a serious of quantitative restrictions on imports, which also interfered with regional trade. Jamaica's actions were in response to a weakening of its balance-of-payments position due to significant outflows of capital from the island, a decline in the level of foreign investments and a low level of earnings from both visible and service exports.

As a consequence, net foreign reserves declined by J \$238.1 million, which pushed the country's net reserves into a negative position of J \$181.4 million at the end of 1976. (Incidentally, Jamaica has not returned to a surplus position since that year).

The Jamaican Government of the time reacted by imposing an import ceiling of J \$600 million,

with approximately J \$200 million of this allocated for petroleum products. Eventually this ceiling proved to be too low to sustain economic activity and in order to avoid large-scale unemployment in the manufacturing sector this ceiling was raised to J \$800 million.

At the end of 1977, these measures brought Jamaica an overall positive trade balance, for the first time in its CARICOM trade history, of J \$5.68 million. Imports from CARICOM declined by J \$19.5 million (a 33% fall from 1976's figure) while exports rose by J \$4.7 million (a 12% increase over 1976's figure).

The surplus was not achieved without creating resentment from Jamaica's trade partners, as the import restriction policy drastically affected imports of consumer goods, and, as CARICOM trade comprises a high proportion of such consumer goods, this meant that many of their exports were restricted from entering the Jamaican market. Only Guyana and Dominica maintained a visible trade surplus with Jamaica mainly because Guyana was the principal rice supplier while Domin-

ica sold a lot of fats, oils and food items.

In 1978, the visible trade balance returned to its usual deficit, but only a low J \$6.4 million. The value of exports increased by 48% but imports rose by 85%, reflecting the devaluations of the Jamaican dollar that occurred during the year and the relaxation of some of the restrictions on CARICOM trade.

The deficit with Guyana "worsened" as food imports, particularly rice, increased substantially. Moreover, Guyana also adopted stringent import policies which led to a fall in Guyanese imports from Jamaica by 18%.

A POSITIVE TRADE balance of J \$91. million was restored by Jamaica in 1979, as even though imports rose by 42% Jamaica's exports grew by 67%, due to a vigorous export thrust. As a consequence, Jamaica removed its quantitative restrictions on CARICOM imports on July 1 of that year.

The year 1980 turned out to be disastrous for Jamaica. With foreign exchange remaining critically low and amidst the tension of political warfare that preceded the General Elections, Jamaica ended up with a CARICOM trade deficit of J \$56.7 million. Exports fell by 7.4% and imports rose by 52%.

In 1981, the newly-elected Government put in place a series of programmes and incentives designed to encourage exports. At the same time, greater inflows of foreign exchange facilitated a more liberal import policy. These measures expanded CARICOM trade. Imports went up by J \$67.8 million or 45%, while exports rose by J \$23.3 million or 23%. It however widened Jamaica's trade deficit to a record J \$95.1 million.

Available figures for the first nine months of 1982 showed a sharp cut in this trade deficit to J \$21.3 million, mainly due to a reduction in imports of the food and mineral fuel categories. Projections indicate a very modest rise

in CARICOM exports for 1982, over 1981.

The formalization of the parallel market in the Jamaican economy since January 10 this year has thrown up another serious obstacle to CARICOM trade. Barbados reacted by floating its currency against the Jamaican dollar, while Trinidad and Tobago, as of March 18, placed a large number of CARICOM imports on its "negative list" to be subjected to licensing procedures.

As Barbados and Trinidad are Jamaica's biggest trading partners, this has led to a significant slowdown in inter-regional trade.

Attempts are presently being made by all concerned to resolve this impasse, both at the Ministerial and at the business level. Until then, it seems that CARICOM will have to overcome yet another economic rift in addition to the political rifts that have affected it over its ten years of existence.

CARICOM-JAMAICA trade over the years (J\$'000)

YEAR	IMPORTS	TOTAL EXPORTS	BALANCE ON VISIBLE TRADE
1974	64,983	29,362	-35,621
1975	85,818	31,280	-54,538
1976	57,950	39,313	-18,637
1977	38,416	44,084	+ 5,668
1978	70,911	64,445	-6,466
1979	100,376	109,505	+ 9,129
1980	152,142	101,468	-56,674
1981	219,923	124,761	-95,162
1982 (Jan.-Sept.)	120,514	99,168	-21,346

## PARLIAMENT OPENS IN JOINT SESSION; NEW BUDGET PRESENTED

## Text of Throne Speech

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Apr 83 p 20

[Text]

Following is the text of the 1983-84 Throne Speech delivered in Parliament yesterday by the Governor-General, the Most Hon. Sir Florizel Glasspole:

Mr. President and Honourable members of the Senate Mr. Speaker and members of the Honourable House of Representatives:

1981/82 was the second year of our recovery Programme under which Government undertook to introduce policies to restore the economy to a path of growth, to rehabilitate basic services and bring them back to acceptable levels of operation, to create a climate for new investment, to restore financial health to the ailing public utilities and enterprises, to revitalise and release the productive energies of the society, so that we could begin to lay the foundations for a healthy and well-managed economy, renew hope in the future, and tackle the deep seated problem of unemployment.

The performance of the past year must be assessed in the context of the most devastating recession the world has experienced in 50 years, a recession which began to take effect on the Jamaican economy. This will put into proper perspective both the achievements and the setbacks of 1982/83; and it should sharpen our grasp of the realities of our situation in 1983/84, realities which place clear responsibilities on us all for discipline, for restraint and for increased productivity.

It is not possible to overstate the danger this recession presents. Last year,

world trade declined for the first time in 20 years, with adverse effects on worldwide investment flows. The current account deficits of oil-importing developing countries have doubled in three years. Commodity prices have collapsed and many countries are facing bankruptcy. The currencies of many much larger economies than our own have suffered major devaluations - countries like France, Mexico and Venezuela. Against this background the world recession continues to pose severe obstacles to our efforts to increase trade, production and employment. For example, the decline of the British pound against the dollar has meant lower prices for our bananas, citrus and sugar, since Britain is our major trading partner for these commodities; it is estimated that Jamaica lost \$22 million last year in trade in these products because of this one fact.

**RECESSION**

In 1982/83 Jamaica felt the full impact of the severe downturn in the bauxite alumina industry as a consequence of the world recession, with a resulting reduction in revenues available from the Capital Development Fund. The sharp contraction of bauxite and alumina products of over 30 per cent depressed the growth of the economy. It is noteworthy that if the bauxite alumina industry had maintained even the same level as in 1981/82 the projected growth of 4 per cent for the past year would have been within our grasp.

Nevertheless, we must make note of the fact that we are still one of the very few countries in this region to show any

growth at all during the past year and that, overall, the economy has continued to move ahead - although at a slower pace than we had targeted. Inflation has again, for a second year, been contained to single digit figures, investment flows have remained strong and capital formation has increased significantly.

Thus 1982/83 was the second consecutive year in which the economy maintained forward movement in almost every important sector, continuing to reverse the negative pattern of the previous eight years.

These gains in the face of the most adverse world economic environment in over fifty years have tested and vindicated the soundness of the Government's economic policies. But there have been adverse consequences arising from the reduced momentum in our targeted growth rate as a result of the world recession.

### **SLOWDOWN IN EMPLOYMENT**

One of these has been slowdown in the generation of new employment opportunities. Although more persons were employed there was still a small increase in the rate of unemployment.

The disappointment with which we must regard this result has nevertheless to be tempered with an understanding of the degree to which Jamaica has been spared the devastation being wrought by the international recession on the workforce of the world. Many countries - industrial and developing alike, have seen unemployment soar to levels not experienced since the 1930s; in the United States, unemployment has now reached 11.3 million persons, nearly doubling over the past five years. In some cities in the United States where unemployment averaged 3-5 per cent before the recession, the number of jobless jumped to over 20 per cent last year, the highest unemployment level since the 1930s. In Western Europe, Canada and Japan a total of 20 million persons were unemployed in 1982; and unemployment is rising steeply in Latin America in the wake of the unprecedented debt crisis in the region, which has brought several countries to the brink of economic collapse.

That Jamaica has so far escaped some of the more frightening features of the recession, and the accompanying cost in human suffering - has been due to the careful and deliberate structuring

of financial strategies which have so far successfully sheltered our country from the worst of the economic storms raging around us. The Government, knowing well that Jamaica had already endured a severe depression in the seventies, believed that it would not be possible for the long-suffering Jamaican people and the already battered Jamaican economy to endure severe additional economic constraints. It therefore accepted the challenge to continue to build, to plan and to forge ahead in spite of the negative world trends now forcing so many countries to the wall.

It is the Government's policy to seek to continue to meet the economic pressures of the world depression in a manner which will not destroy the renewed hope in the future, the beginning of economic recovery, or the consolidation of the stability which have so far been achieved.

This policy obviously has not been effected without great difficulty. It has been an exercise in walking on a razor's edge, knowing that if the country slips back it will slip back into an abyss from which there can be no foreseeable recovery in this decade.

It is in the interest of all Jamaica to ensure, therefore, that we can maintain our forward thrust while fighting off the economic pressures that are likely to remain with us for some time to come.

### **ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT**

The Jamaican economy has been undergoing a programme of adjustment to correct serious imbalances in its structure. The Government found it necessary in January last to incorporate into this process of adjustment the formalisation of parallel market trading in foreign currency which had been going on for a number of years. This policy has become a point of controversy with our CARICOM trading partners, and we hope the measures taken will be understood against the background of the difficult economic struggle Jamaica faces and will continue to face in its efforts to rebuild its economy.

Tourism was one of the most buoyant sectors of the economy last year, handsomely fulfilling its performance targets. Visitor arrivals grew by 21.4 per cent in 1982, establishing a best ever arrival-figure of 670,000. Projections are that arrivals will reach 800,000 by 1984.

There was also buoyant recovery in

exchange on a sounder basis through the introduction of quotas. The quota system, which is now settling in, will allow the entire import and foreign exchange allocation process to operate more smoothly than had been the case under the now discarded licensing system of the old Trade Administrator's Department.

### **PARALLEL MARKET**

The Government considers that the key to the successful performance of the manufacturing sector in this fiscal year lies in the success of the parallel market and its ability to generate the resources to meet the demands of the sector. In this regard, it is to be noted that certain ugly features of our national life still prevail among those whose principal objective is to abuse rather than to use the opportunities of the new market.

To this end the establishment of the post of Contractor-General, the drafting of which was recently completed, is now before the Cabinet and will provide a new and effective instrument in the war against improper and corrupt practices, fulfilling one more undertaking by the Government.

It is the Mining sector, as has been indicated earlier, that presented the most critical problem for the economy in the past year. It has slipped to its lowest level ever - the world recession having taken its toll on the sales of aluminium, alumina and bauxite. Most of the alumina producing companies operating in Jamaica are down to less than 60 per cent of capacity, and have shut down production plants overseas, laying off thousands of workers there as a consequence.

Here in Jamaica we have also experienced layoffs in the mining sector in significant numbers; two plants have suffered partial closure and in fact would have been completely closed if Government had not successfully negotiated transactions to enable continued operation of these factories. This condition may persist throughout this year, inasmuch as existing stockpiles of alumina and metal are still available for sale.

In the meantime, the Government has endeavoured to compensate for some of the losses by innovative barter and counter-trade arrangements, which include transactions with bauxite for the Strategic Mineral Stockpile of the Unit-

the construction industry. This industry has now overcome the long slide of the 1970s and has begun to regain the dominant role which it used to play in the 1960s. The vigorous resurgence of activity in the construction industry is itself an indication of the extent of real investment in the economy.

The impressive performance of the construction sector recorded last year is expected to be repeated during the current year, as overall investment activity within the economy should remain at high levels.

The efforts of the Government will be directed towards ensuring that the objectives in terms of housing as well as other areas of construction are realised. A number of steps were taken last year to lay the groundwork for the attainment of these objectives.

In October 1982, a Green Paper on a National Housing Plan was tabled in Parliament aimed at addressing the problems which have plagued the housing sector and affected the provision of housing particularly for the poor, and laying the foundation for the most massive housing programme in our history to commence this year.

### **REVIVAL OF CONSTRUCTION**

Since a revival in the construction sector is one of the main indicators of economic recovery, the Government is determined to take steps to consolidate the gains made over the past two years and to maintain the buoyancy of that sector. Consequently, Government is pursuing a number of initiatives on several fronts aimed at maintaining this momentum.

Government has also recognised the problem of excessive rentals in the society and particularly its impact on the poor. It has therefore enacted measures under the new Rent Act, which came into force on April 5, 1983, designed to create as equitable a balance as possible between landlord and tenant.

The manufacturing sector has endured the pitfalls of a groaning bureaucracy which sagged under the weight of the revival of new economic activity and a wave of new entrepreneurs in the small business sector - all seeking a share of scarce foreign exchange. Despite this, output of the sector grew by 3 per cent. The systems for dealing with the requirements of the private sector have now been reorganised to place the issuing of foreign

ed States Government. The Government has also succeeded in revising an alumina contract with the Soviet Union to a bauxite contract - to our mutual satisfaction.

## AGRICULTURE

The sleeping sector of the Jamaican economy over several decades has been agriculture. The Government has been addressing many of the fundamental causes which constrain the sector. Our immediate concern is the significantly reduced levels of domestic food crop production. It is expected that as a result of a new export marketing strategy, the wide range of new incentives, the revitalisation of the Peoples Co-operative Banks and formation of the Agricultural Credit Bank, domestic agriculture will show improvement in production in this financial year. It is to be noted that exports of domestic food crops have more than doubled between 1980-1982.

Among the non-traditional exports, Coffee, Cocoa, and Pimento continue to expand and attract premium prices. Traditional export agriculture halted its slide and is now poised for gains in both banana and sugar this year, which will reverse the downward trends of the past several years.

Last year saw the enactment of the new Praedial Larceny legislation, and the recruitment under the new Act of Agricultural Wardens, thus making it possible to offer better protection to the farmer from those who wish to reap what they have not sown.

The sale of land to small farmers who had been on land-lease programme is now in progress. Time was needed to straighten out the complicated requirements of the transfer of full ownership to those who qualify.

The Government recognises that agriculture is the remaining sector of the Jamaican economy which now must become fully involved in the new efforts to orient production to the requirements of a restructured economy and the imperatives for survival today. The Government will now be introducing measures to modernise agricultural technology in Jamaica so as to bring about expanded commercial operations with improved yields at better prices, and to use large acreages of idle land for both the domestic and export markets.

A bold new programme - AGRO 21 - more far-reaching in concept than

anything ever before designed, will be outlined in the forthcoming Budget Presentation. This will be the major new thrust of the Government's economic programme for the forthcoming year, and will incorporate plans for increasing small farm production.

## BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Substantial direct and indirect balance of payments assistance has come to Jamaica from bilateral and multilateral sources to support the recovery and investment programmes.

Over the past 2 years, the Venezuela/Mexico Accord helped to cushion the impact of increases in oil prices. It provided substantial credit related to the purchases of oil and allowed the use of these credits for specific public sector investment projects. This has up to now favourably affected the economy.

Present developments, however, concerning the price of oil and its impact on policies relating to Mexico and Venezuela will have implications for the continuation of this programme and its benefits during the current year, which will be addressed in the Budget Presentation.

The success of the 1983/84 programme depends upon sensible attitudes towards industrial relations, effective foreign exchange management, on-going manpower development, and continued generation of new investment.

In the last two years, the Government has emphasized the critical importance of stability on the industrial front, in order to maintain the momentum of economic growth and create jobs for the unemployed.

Wage adjustments which are in excess of an enterprise's ability to pay, result in the diversion of resources urgently required to expand plant and equipment, provide increased employment and earn additional foreign exchange.

The Government has repeatedly exhorted management and unions to pay heed to the implications for employment creation, improvement in living standards and growth and development of the economy generally, of wage settlements which do not violate the 'ability to pay' principle.

## INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE

The need for strict observance of this principle is even more urgent now,

having regard to the impact of the world recession on the domestic economy. Thus there is urgent need for the pooling of our human and financial resources and the joining of hands on the part of labour and management to ensure that there is no waste of these resources. The chances of surviving the devastations of the world recession are minimal if efforts to achieve this national consensus fail.

The Government wishes to emphasize that observance of the basic principles in the industrial relations process is crucial to the continued development of a climate suitable for industrial growth and expansion. Otherwise, there can be no reinforcement of confidence in the future of the economy. Nor will the investment process accelerate if these basic principles are ignored, as an unsettled industrial environment would be a serious obstacle to new investment.

These principles are: freely conducted collective bargaining having due regard to the public interest; settlement of disputes speedily through peaceful negotiation, conciliation or arbitration; the development and maintenance of good personnel management techniques to secure co-operation between workers and employers and protection of workers against unfair labour practices.

Therefore the Government continues to invite all participants in the industrial relations process to make the fullest use of the conciliation and arbitration mechanisms available when disputes cannot be settled otherwise on mutually acceptable terms. Furthermore, parties to disputes are urged to bear constantly in mind the implications of a good industrial relations climate for the success of the country's development programme, upon which all of us depend.

To guide the industrial relations process, the Government will table shortly the report on "Work Attitudes" prepared by a Task Force commissioned by the Prime Minister last year.

The Government recognises the need for a meaningful regrading of public sector employees and is committed to effecting this within the resources that are available. It is also committed to the development of strategies that will improve the ability of the public sector to keep and recruit professionally skilled staff, and to improve incrementally and effectively their levels of remuneration. This is the only means by which the public sector can maintain its ability to manage the projects on which substantial areas of productivity depend.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Greater efficiency in the management of foreign exchange is also critical to the success of the 1983/84 economic programme. The basic infrastructure for improving the management of the programme was put in place by the Government in January of this year, and a full range of measures was set out in Ministry Paper No. 1 of 1983. This financial year will see the fine-tuning of the new system and much effort will go into monitoring its functioning and ensuring its smooth operation.

The Government recognises that an effective manpower development programme is essential to economic recovery. The importance and urgency of such a programme arises from the significant gap between the skills required for the development programmes and the shortfall in their supply.

In recognition of the need for a viable manpower programme, the H.E.A.R.T. Trust was launched in September, 1982, to deal with the immediate training and placement of a wide category of basic skills. The H.E.A.R.T. programme will be substantially expanded during this year.

## EDUCATION

The Government's overall education and training programme during the current year will be geared to ensure, over time, the adequacy of school places in primary and secondary institutions, the expansion of compulsory education with attendant nutritional school feeding programmes and revised curricula for education. The objective is to place in school for every child through primary and secondary age groups. We are now well underway to meeting the first objective of a place in primary school for every child, after which the gap in secondary school places will be tackled.

In the two parishes - St. Thomas and Trelawny - in which compulsory education was launched last year, enrolment and attendance have dramatically increased and Friday attendance has doubled. It is proposed to expand the compulsory education programme to six new parishes during this year.

Note should be taken of the opening in January of the Agricultural College at Passley Gardens with the enrolment of 120 students and 100 more are to be enrolled in the new academic year. A new Teachers' College will also commence operations at Passley Gardens this year and other Teacher Colleges are being upgraded.

## YOUTH PLAN

The Government's policy to revitalise and expand Youth programmes is fully on stream. Community Centres throughout the island are being rehabilitated so that they can function as handicraft training centres as well as being the focus of community life. Fifty-nine centres were refurbished and upgraded last year, bringing the total now functional to 115. Over 4,000 persons received instruction in craft skills in these centres last year, and nearly 6,000 more are to be trained this year when refurbishment of 65 additional community centres will be completed.

An integral part of the Community Development Programme is the Village Sports Programme. First conceived in 1964, it has now been re-activated, providing increased opportunities for friendly competition between youths in various sporting activities at the village, parish and national levels. Through the Social Development Commission and Insports, a calendar of events has been published covering all major sporting events.

## INVESTMENT

The Government will continue to upgrade 87 already established playing fields in urban and rural communities islandwide; \$1.4 million has been provided in the 1983/84 Estimates for this purpose.

The Government recognises that the investment programme would be greatly assisted if the requisite economic infrastructure for aiding investment activities were in place. For this reason, two development banks have been established: the National Development Bank which was incorporated during the 1981/82 fiscal year, started operating during the latter part of 1982. Steps are being taken to make it fully operational during the current fiscal year. The Agricultural Credit Bank is already fully on stream.

The National Development Bank will provide funding for the manufacturing, tourism and small business sectors, while the Agricultural Credit Bank will be pivotal to the new programmes to be put in place for agriculture.

In both the Agricultural Credit Bank and the National Development Bank lending will take place through the Commercial Banks, and what is more noteworthy through People's Co-operative Banks and credit unions which will serve to strengthen these small financial institutions.

The investment promotion activities of the Government will be further streamlined during the current year as an important part of the effort to maintain the buoyancy of investment activities.

The success of the Jamaica National Investment Promotion Limited in the promotion of new investments has been considerable: 131 new investment starts have been made in the 1½ years of its operations, no small achievement in the midst of a recession in which savagely high interest rates have inhibited investment growth worldwide.

An important thrust of the programme of development in the public sector continues to be the restoration of services in the public utilities, transportation, communication, education and health and in improving efficiency in the total area of national security and justice.

This is the process which goes beyond a single fiscal year, and will be continued during the current year. In many cases -- such as in the refurbishment of hospitals and police stations and many rural schools -- the programmes are nearly completed. The basic components of this programme are clearly reflected in the estimates of expenditure for 1983/84.

## UTILITIES

The Government recognises that integral to the development of economic activity and the success of the economic recovery programme, is the provision of such critical infrastructure as access roads, domestic and irrigation water, drainage systems and facilities for rural electrification. The efforts to provide these basic requisites for the fulfilment of targeted goals in economic and social development will therefore be intensified during the current financial year.

It is realised that the provision of these facilities addresses both directly and indirectly, the basic issues of social stability, the creation of income and employment, and the improvement in the quality of life of the people.

The Government has therefore embarked on a public sector investment programme of infrastructural development designed to restore, refurbish and expand the economic and social infrastructure. The level of expenditure on roads is greater than ever before in our history for the many years of neglected maintenance has made the need greater than ever before in our history. The basis has now been laid for a National Road Plan based on the establishment of a single Road Authority.

This will follow on the presentation of a National Housing Plan last year and will be in turn followed by the preparation of a National Water Plan this year, in keeping with the Government's strategy to deal with each of the problem-sectors methodically on an orderly basis of specific plans. In this connection, the National Energy Plan will be tabled in this Budget session.

With regard to the critical element of power supplies in the productive process, the Jamaica Public Service Company with the support of the World Bank has embarked on a three-year capital investment programme costing \$313.8 million over the period to 1985. This will provide major improvements to the distribution and transmission system of the public electricity supply which has been subject to frequent power outages and service disruptions recently. Corrective work in this area will reinforce the programme of rehabilitation of the generating units which was effectively carried out in 1982 and will be completed in 1983.

The final leg of the rehabilitation of the entire Jamaica Public Service system is the implementation of the Management Audit carried out during last year, which is now being put into operation.

### **RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY**

Steps are being taken to provide a more suitable and reliable domestic water supply system in the Corporate Area by implementing the Yallahs River option of the Blue Mountain Water Supply Scheme which is expected to provide the city with an additional 15 million gallons per day in 1984. In the short-term every possible additional well is being put into operation, in order to alleviate the critical water supply problems of the Corporate Area resulting from the severe drought, the worst in 55 years. An engineering appraisal of water supplies over the dry southern region of the country is now being conducted as part of the preparation of the National Water Plan.

### **JOS TO BE DIVESTED**

The Government has taken a decision to divest itself of the operations of the Jamaica Omnibus Services and to lease packages of routes to private-sector transport entities capable of operating an efficient transport system. It is proposed to reduce to 16, the present route-structure comprising 44 overlapping routes on the Liguanea Plains in order to allow for greater profitability. The current J.O.S. organisation will be

in charge of the leasing operations and will be responsible for the supervision of the new transport system. It is expected that this arrangement will provide a modern and effective urban transport system for the Kingston Metropolitan Area, and will lay the foundation for a similar project for Montego Bay.

In line with this, the rural transportation network is being assessed to determine as a second phase, the steps to be taken to provide an orderly rural transport system.

Following upon the requirement that a number of public utilities should become financially viable and consequently reduce their dependence on budgetary support to finance their recurrent expenses, the national airline, Air Jamaica, has begun a process of fleet modernisation, and phasing out of its fuel-inefficient aircraft. Concurrently on a timely basis, it will cease to operate certain non-profitable routes.

### **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Government will continue to build upon the success which it has had in the field of international relations. This entails the consolidation of efforts relating to those areas in which it has so far been successful.

Among these are, participation in the development of an international convention relating to the exploration and utilization of the resources of the sea through the establishment of the International Seabed Authority; the Caribbean Basin Initiative, the Trade and Investment aspects of which are expected to be approved by the United States Legislature this year; and the wide range of bilateral and multilateral understandings which have been reached over the last year. They have set the stage for Jamaica to secure, on the one hand, the requirements for the development of its social and economic programmes and, on the other, to make a valuable contribution to the development of the international community.

### **LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION**

The last year has seen the history-making conclusion in Montego Bay to the Third Conference of the Law of the Sea Convention and the completion of the Interim Headquarters for the International Seabed Authority, thus putting Jamaica at centre stage of a new theatre of international diplomacy.

As regards the Caribbean Basin Plan, it is expected that with the passage of the Trade and Investment portion of the

Bill, a whole new world of market potential which this arrangement holds for Jamaica will be realised. Jamaica has played a central role in the formation of the C.B.I. and expects to profit to an equal degree in the opportunities which this far-reaching and historic legislation will endow on the Caribbean.

In dealing with the conditions which affect the social environment, there can be no gainsaying the fact that a whole new climate has settled on the country, reflecting a greater peace and stability in our internal relationships.

Crime has been reduced significantly, and for this much credit is due to the security forces for bringing one of the most pernicious and destructive social problems under control.

The Government intends to sustain and, indeed, intensify its efforts to deal with the pockets of violent criminality which still persist. Some recent incidents have raised concern as to the possible motives for these acts. These are now the subject of the most intense investigations and the country can be assured that every effort will be made to preserve and consolidate the achievements of the recent past.

Jamaica has been honoured during the past year by visits from several Heads of State and Heads of Government. We were especially pleased to be host in February to Her Majesty the Queen, who addressed this Honourable House on that occasion.

### ROYAL VISIT

The Royal Visit was one of the first tributes to Jamaica as we began the celebrations to mark our 21st Anniversary of Independence. These celebrations will gather momentum in each

corner of our country and reach full expression on Independence Day, Monday, August 1, 1983.

But the real tribute to the Nation in this 21st year of our Independence can only be given by each of us in the manner in which each individual makes a commitment to this country.

The pursuit of narrow self-interest will defeat, in the long run, all the ideals of those who struggled and fought for an Independent Jamaica, and mock the efforts and example of our National Heroes.

Let us remember that this year of attainment of our majority is also one in which we face serious challenges. In spite of the punishing world recession our recovery programme continues but it needs the solidarity of the nation to pull it through.

The groundwork has been laid for building a stable and prosperous country but only the effort of each individual, in conscious determination to work for the collective good of the country, will bring about the benefits -- and the better life -- we each so ardently desire.

Let the Nation consider well, therefore, that either together we work to rebuild or we will slip backwards into a fragmented society, and that way lies chaos.

Let us then rally to the challenge. Let us work to re-build, coming together with no illusions as to our choices in the obligation we have as a nation to fulfil the promise of our maturity.

May God Bless your counsels. This country has much to thank God for.

The Estimates for the year 1983/84 will be laid before you.

## Budget Highlights

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

# BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Departments/Portfolios	Recurrent	Capital	Totals
Governor-General .....	\$420,480	—	\$420,480
Parliament .....	6,257,266	—	6,257,266
Ombudsman .....	465,270	—	465,270
Audit .....	2,042,620	—	2,042,620
Services Commissions .....	1,902,630	—	1,902,630

Prime Minister's Office.....	13,869,290	\$4,325,000	18,194,290
Agriculture.....	52,529,000	76,080,600	128,609,600
Foreign Affairs and Trade.....	24,255,000	4,600,000	28,855,000
Finance and Planning.....	674,546,130	669,794,500	1,344,340,630
Labour and Public Service.....	190,676,130	5,600,000	196,276,130
Mining and Energy.....	5,161,660	10,800,600	15,962,260
Industry and Commerce.....	13,479,680	4,040,000	17,519,680
Public Utilities and Transport.....	45,484,970	53,449,000	98,933,970
Works.....	34,651,880	75,901,300	110,553,180
Housing.....	9,884,400	35,200,100	45,084,500
Education.....	383,000,000	39,510,000	422,510,000
Youth and Community.....	33,346,320	17,260,710	50,607,030
Health.....	208,874,967	22,300,100	231,175,067
Social Security.....	20,202,000	4,200,000	24,402,000
Natural Security and Justice.....	244,142,120	15,397,000	259,539,120
Local Government.....	178,990,120	18,700,000	197,690,120
Tourism.....	8,075,000	45,000,200	53,075,200
<b>TOTALS.....</b>	<b>\$2,152,256,933</b>	<b>\$1,102,159,110</b>	<b>\$3,254,416,043</b>

#### Budget Expenditures

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Apr 83 pp 1, 15

[Text]

### **EXPENDITURE OF \$3.2 billion is provided for in the 1983/84 Budget, tabled in the House of Representatives yesterday by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga.**

The Estimates call for gross expenditures of \$2,152,256,933 (Recurrent) and \$1,102,159,110 (Capital). There was a subtraction of \$27,891,397 in Appropriations-in-Aid from the gross Recurrent expenditure, reducing that figure to \$2,124,365,536. The total net expenditure, including both Capital and Recurrent estimates, was \$3,226,524,646.

The figures showed estimated increased spending over the 1982/83 Estimates of some \$500 million. Net Recurrent estimates rose from \$1.8 billion in 1982/83 to \$2.1 billion in 1983/84, and net Capital estimates climbed from \$875 million in 1982/83 to \$1.1 billion in 1983/84.

The largest allocation, as is normally the case, went to the Ministry of Finance, whose estimates stood at \$1.3 billion for 1983/84 compared to \$1 billion last year. Next, in order, were the Ministry of Education with \$422.5 million, the Ministry of National Security and Justice with \$259.5 million, the Ministry of Health with \$231 million, the Ministry of Local Government with \$197.6 million, the Ministry of Labour

and the Public Service with \$196.2 million, and the Ministry of Agriculture with \$128.6 million.

The figures on the Capital side showed following:

Under the Ministry of Finance, a new agricultural programme named 'Agro 21' is to be financed to the tune of \$62.5 million. The funds have been provided under the Caribbean Basin Initiative Supplemental Balance of Payments Loan to assist in the development of commercial projects with significant foreign exchange potential in the agricultural sector.

In the same Ministry, a total of \$16.2 million has been allocated for the Special Employment Project; and the funds for Human Employment and Resource

Training (H.E.A.R.T) project have been increased from \$9 million last year to \$16 million.

IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY, a sum of \$3.8 million has been allocated for the construction of the Golden Age Home to replace the present Eventide Home which is administered by the Ministry of Local Government.

A sum of \$4.3 million has been allocated to the Ministry of Construction (Works) for the dredging of silt and debris from the Rio Cobre River and the Sandy Gully outfalls and depositing the silt at Soapberry in St. Catherine. Some \$5.7 million was allocated to this project last year in the Second Supplementary Estimates and the figure has now been boosted to \$10 million.

A provision of \$10 million, increased from \$½ million last year, has been allocated to the Ministry of Education for the construction and replacement of 22 Primary Schools islandwide, and forms part of the Government's programme for the construction of 50 new Primary Schools. The project will be funded by the Jamaican Government and the Inter-American Development Bank.

A sum of \$2 million has been allocated to the same Ministry for the establishment of three additional School Feeding Programme production plants in rural parishes, so as to enable Primary School children islandwide to benefit from the Ministry's effort to improve the health and nutritional status of the children through the provision of nutribun/milk lunch. The funds allocated this year will be utilised in commencing the construction of the plants and the provision of basic machinery.

There is also the provision of \$3.6 million for the expansion and improvement of Berthelem, Moneague, Sam Sharpe, St. Joseph's, Shortwood and Mico Teachers' Colleges.

Secondary Schools are to get an increase of \$2 million in their allocations for the completion of a library at Clan Carthy in Kingston, the first phase of refurbishing new Secondary Schools island-wide and the purchasing and re-cassing of iron safes for security measures.

IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, \$300,000 more has been allocated for livestock research; \$6.9 million, an increase of \$2.4 million over last year, for production incentives (formerly Subsidy Assistance Programme) to

continue the programme of incentives for small farmers, to enable them to expand food crops and obtain socially desirable amenities; \$5 million, an increase of \$2 million over last year, for infrastructure works on Land Settlements and Land Lease properties, involving preliminary surveys, construction and maintenance of roads and provision of water supplies; and \$1.6 million, \$300,000 more than last year, to encourage community efforts by farmers for the improvement of amenities such as roads and water supplies under the Aided Self-Help Scheme.

In the Ministry of Tourism, the grant to the Jamaica Tourist Board to finance the costs of development of tourism in the country has been increased from last year's \$28.1 million to \$39.6 million this year. The money will be used for promotion and advertising, securing increased shipping and airline facilities, developing and undertaking projects to provide more amenities for tourists, to encourage the highest standards among the hotels, and to inspect and recommend hotels for licensing.

In the Ministry of Youth and Community Development, a sum of \$1.8 million has been allocated to complete improvements to the Copse Place of Safety, refurbishing the Homestead Place of Safety and the construction of one boys' home to accommodate 100 boys as well as to build one girls' home.

The Institute of Sports is to receive \$3.6 million, an increase of \$1.1 million over last year, for improvements to Independence Park where the National Stadium and Arena are located, and for the development of a number of playing fields.

Also in this Ministry, a sum of \$5 million, an increase from \$2.6 million last year, has been allocated for the expansion of the Vocational Training Development Institute and construction of two industrial production centres in Kingston and Montego Bay over a 4-year period under a Jamaica/ World Bank Third Education Project.

IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, \$1.4 million have been allocated for the construction of a new block at the Lionel Town Hospital to replace the existing Female Ward. A new casualty block which is being erected at the Spanish Town Hospital with funds from that town's Kiwanis Club is to receive \$100,000 for the purchase of equipment. A sum of \$3.1 million has been allocated to meet the cost of a new

health centre in Port Antonio and the upgrading of the present comprehensive health centre there.

In the Ministry of National Security and Justice, \$9 million has been allocated, which is in fact a decrease of \$1 million over last year's allocation, for the building of police stations, as well as improvements to existing stations.

In the Ministry of Local Government, funds for financing mainly on-going road and drainage improvement works to be undertaken this year, shows an \$½ million increase over last year's \$6.1 million.

ON THE RECURRENT SIDE, the Estimates show:

In the Office of the Prime Minister, a sum of \$790,640 has been allocated to the Jamaica National Heritage Trust for various projects, and \$1 million to the National Library of Jamaica.

In the Ministry of Agriculture, an extra \$138,000 has been allocated for the maintenance of public gardens and zoos including Hope, Fern Gully, Bath, Bamboo Grove, Castleton and Cinchona, and the Hope Zoo. A sum of \$1 million has been allocated for expenses in the operation of the Agricultural Wardens service.

The grant to the Revenue Board under the Ministry of Finance has been increased by \$938,000 under a newly-reorganised system. A sum of \$335,000 has been allocated to the Estate Board, while the subsidy for the Basic Needs Basket has been reduced by \$3 million from \$12 million last year.

In the Ministry of Education, an extra \$4.5 million have been provided for financing the cost of Primary Education. Funds are included to address the needs of schools in socially-depressed urban areas namely, Trench Town Primary, Jones Town Primary and Maverley All-Age.

The allocations to Secondary and High Schools have been increased by \$3 million and \$1.6 million, respectively. The Agricultural College's budget has been increased from last year's \$750,000 to \$1.1 million this year. Boarding grants have been increased by \$3 million, and the scholarship and tuition fees for students of the University of the West Indies have been increased by \$½ million.

### Thrust in Agriculture

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Apr 83 pp 1, 15

[Text] A "BOLD NEW PROGRAMME - AGRO 21 - more far-reaching in concept than anything ever before designed" will be the major new thrust of the Government's economic programme for the forthcoming year, and will incorporate plans for increasing small farm production.

This was the principal announcement in the Throne Speech, read by the Governor-General, the Most Hon. Sir Florizel Glasspole, to Parliament at the State Opening yesterday.

Details of the new programme would be outlined in the Budget presentation, the Throne Speech said.

On a more general note, the Speech dealt with the necessity, for the solidarity of the nation, to pull through the economic recovery programme in view of the punishing world recession.

The Throne Speech, which lasted just over an hour, marked the ceremonial opening of the 1983/84 session of the Jamaican Parliament. Prior to delivering

the speech to a joint sitting of both Houses--the Senate and the House of Representatives--Sir Florizel inspected a Guard-of-Honour formed by the 2nd, Battalion, Jamaica Regiment, just outside Gordon House.

The Governor General was dressed in his yellow and green ceremonial uniform with a red sash. He was accompanied by Lady Glasspole. The public gallery was three-quarters full and there was a large turn-out of Members of both Houses, with notable absentees being the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Michael Manley and the Leader of the Government Business in the Senate, the Hon. Dr. Ronald Irvine.

Sir Florizel said the real tribute to the nation, in this its 21st year of Independence could only be given by each of its citizens in the manner in which each individual made a commitment to the country.

The pursuit of narrow self-interest would defeat, in the long run, all the ideals of those who struggled and fought for an Independent Jamaica and mock the efforts and example of our National Heroes.

"Let us remember that this year of attainment of our majority is also one in which we face serious challenges," Sir Florizel said. "In spite of the punishing world recession our recovery programmes continues, but it needs the solidarity of the nation to pull it through."

He said that the groundwork has been laid for building a stable and prosperous country, but only the effort of each individual, in conscious determination to work for the collective good of the country, "will bring about the benefits and the better life we each so ardently desire".

"Let the nation consider well, therefore, that either together we work to rebuild or we will slip backwards into a fragmented society, and that way lies chaos," he said.

"Let us rally to the challenge. Let us work to rebuilding together with no illusions as to our choices in the obligation we have as a nation to fulfil the promise of our maturity."

Speaking on Agriculture, Sir Florizel spoke of "a bold new programme-AGRO 21" which will be outlined in this year's Budget.

He said that the programme will be more far-reaching in concept than anything ever before designed. It will be the major new thrust of the Government's economic programme for the forthcoming year, and will incorporate plans for increasing small farm production.

HE SAID that the Government will be introducing measures to modernise agricultural technology in Jamaica, so as to bring about expanded commercial operations with improved yields at better prices, and to use large acreages of idle land for both domestic and export markets.

He said that the most massive housing programme in the country's history would commence this year and that Government was pursuing a number of initiatives

on several fronts aimed at maintaining the momentum in the construction industry.

He said that the Government intends to sustain and intensify its efforts to deal with the pockets of violent criminality which still persisted.

Some recent incidents have raised concern as to the possible motives for criminal acts, he said, and they were now the subject of the most intense investigations and the country could be assured that every effort will be made to preserve and consolidate the achievements of the recent past.

In the area of international relations, he said that the Government would continue to build upon the success which it has had in that field, which entailed the consolidation of efforts relating to those areas in which it has so far been successful.

Speaking on the public utilities, he said that the Government has decided to divest itself of the Jamaica Omnibus Service and to lease packages of routes to private sector transport entities capable of operating an efficient transport system.

He said that it is proposed to reduce to 16, the present route structure comprising 44 overlapping

routes on the Liguanea Plains, in order to allow for greater profitability. The current J.O.S. organization will be in charge of the leasing operations and will be responsible for the supervision of the new transport system.

He said that it is expected that this arrangement will provide a modern and effective urban transport system for the Kingston Metropolitan Area, and will lay the foundation for a similar project in Montego Bay. In line with this, the rural transportation network is being assessed to determine as a second phase the steps to be taken to provide an orderly rural transport system.

ON WATER, he said that steps are being taken to provide a more suitable and reliable domestic water supply system in the Corporate Area, by implementing the Yallahs River option of the Blue Mountain Water Supply Scheme which is expected to provide 15 million gallons per day in 1984.

He said that the rehabilitation of the Jamaica Public Service Company will be completed this year and the implementation of the Management Audit, which is the final leg of the rehabilitation programme, is now being put into operation.

He said that the basis has now been laid for a National Road Plan based on the establishment of a single Road Authority. This will be followed by the preparation of a National Water Plan this year and a National Energy Plan which will be tabled during this session of the House.

He said that the investment promotion activities of the Government will be further streamlined this year as an important part of the effort to maintain the buoyancy of investment activities.

The Government's policy to revitalise and expand Youth programmes was fully on stream, Sir Florizel said. He said that 59 community centres were refurbished and upgraded last year bringing the total of functional centres to 115.

An integral part of the programme is the Village Sports Programme, first conceived in 1964 and now re-activated. The Government is to spend \$1.4 million this year to upgrade 87 playing fields in urban and rural communities islandwide as part of this programme.

THE COMPULSORY EDUCATION programme is to be expanded from two to six parishes during this year and the Government's plan to provide a place for every child in a primary school was well underway, he said.

To guide the industrial relations process, the Government will table shortly the report on "Work Attitudes" prepared by a task force commissioned by the Prime Minister last year.

Speaking on the public sector wage negotiations, he said that the Government recognised the need for meaningful regrading and is committed to effecting this within the resources that are available, as well as the development of strategies that will improve the ability of the public sector to keep and recruit professionally skilled staff, and to improve incrementally and effectively their levels of remuneration.

He said that the establishment of the post of Contractor General, the drafting of which was recently completed, is now before the Cabinet and will provide a new and effective instrument in the war against improper and corrupt practices, fulfilling one more undertaking of the Government.

POLL SHOWS PNP HOLDS SLIGHT BUT DIMINISHED LEAD OVER JLP

Forty-one Percent for PNP

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 17 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] Note: The March 1983 Stone poll was carried out over the period March 3rd, to 7th, 1983 in 15 Corporate communities and 35 communities in the other parishes. 922 persons were interviewed over the period. The sample used is estimated to be accurate within a 3% margin of error with a 3% overrepresentation of 1983 JLP voters; and the Poll results have been adjusted statistically to correct for this error.

The March 1983 Stone poll found that the PNP was still ahead of the JLP but by a slightly smaller margin compared to the October 1982 poll.

JLP support remained at 38% while PNP support declined by 2% from 43% to 41%. WPJ support stood at 1%

The continued economic crisis, absence of vital signs convincing the man in the street that the economy is improving added to the gathering storm of inflation being felt throughout the economy and growing anxiety and uncertainty about the future of the economy have all weakened the JLP's credibility for sound economic management.

Among persons who did not vote in 1980, but were likely to vote in the next elections the

PNP commanded 58% of that group. Additionally among 1980 voters 28% of current PNP support consists of JLP voters who have switched back to the PNP because of disillusionment with the JLP.

If we ignore the uncommitted, the overall balance between the parties is as follows.

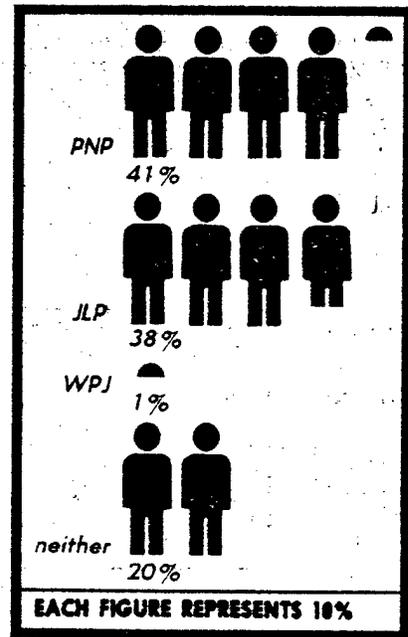
PNP .....51% ...JLP ...48%  
 .....WPJ .....1%

In October 1982 the Stone poll found a 53% level of PNP popular support.

**QUESTION:**

**If an election were called now, which party would you vote for?**

**ANSWER:**



Comparison with earlier polls

	PNP	WPJ	JLP	Un committed
October 1980	37%	*	50%	13%
February 1981	29%	*	46%	25%
May 1981	20%	*	48%	30%
July 1981	32%	*	36%	31%
November 1981	30%	2%	36%	31%
May 1982	34%	0.6%	41%	24%
October 1982	43%	0.3%	38%	19%
March 1983	41%	1%	38%	20%

\* WPJ Combined with PNP

Analysis of Parties' Liabilities

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 17 Apr 83 pp 5, 20

[Article by Margaret Morris]

[Text] Barring an economic miracle, the most the JLP can hope for is that the PNP will continue to be so schizophrenic, so indisciplined, so ideologically intemperate as to foul their own next...

f Jamaican politics that no Government wins an election, but it can lose it. This applies also to parties — the other side loses it. Already we are anticipating the next election, and wondering who is going to win the Donkey Race i.e., who is going to lose. In my view, the two major parties are running, or rather going backwards, neck and neck.

The Opposition always has the advantage because everything that goes wrong, can be presented as the government's fault. Thus, the economic crunch, unemployment, the cost of living, and problems such as

the water crisis can all be attributed to the administration and are, potentially, nails in the JLP coffin.

As the March Stone Poll demonstrated the majority of those who had views disapproved of the recent economic measures, though few bothered to study or evaluate them. The average voter is not an economic analyst he only knows that he is hurting. To the man with hungry belly, statistics about marginal economic growth are of no interest.

It's a moot point which situation is more detrimental for the incumbent administration: an electorate with plenty of funny money and nothing to spend it on, or an electorate unable to afford the many goodies now available. Currently, our consumer-oriented philosophy (an inevitable concomitant of the free market ideology) is exacerbating the voter's frustration. Manley had the wit to preach the value of austerity; when we

could not get rice, or soap, or car parts, we could at least comfort ourselves by feeling virtuous and patriotic. Nowadays we just feel poor and deprived. It is becoming apparent that, conceptually, the PNP has an edge: during hardtimes the idealism of democratic socialism must seem doubly alluring, whereas "capitalism" when it doesn't work, is likely to be perceived as cruel materialism.

### Starts with a handicap

So the JLP starts with a handicap, and one that is seriously aggravated by the fact that their Public Relations are so appalling. It seems as if the government is making no effort to sell itself and its performances to us, although they are spending plenty of money to sell these to the U.S.A. To judge from re-prints in the local press, Ann Sabo of a. A. Sabo Associates, is performing the latter function efficiently. (It is interesting to reflect that, as a source claims, when employed by the PNP she was not nearly so successful, but then selling Michael to the multi-nationals would require supernatural powers). However, there is no local public relations livewire selling us the JLP. This is not only remiss, it is incomprehensible — especially when you reflect that the government still owns and or controls the bulk of the media.

Although there have been attempts to manipulate or suppress news, the JLP government can never be accused of using their radio and TV stations and newspapers for **blatancy in the island and wining and-d-somely**. Ed Bartlett is also making a positive impression. Even the merciless microscope of inept TV cannot distort Dr. Baugh, he comes across **unfailingly as a decent and intelligent person** — though the Junior doctors and NAJ seem to remain strangely unimpressed by these qualities. On the other hand, Dr. Broderick comes across more often than not as a buffoon — he is a good example of someone desperately in need of professional public relations assistance.

### Not crucial

The impressions of the public at large are important but not crucial. The critical factor is the perception of constituents concerning their own M.P.'s performance. On this score, many incumbents are slated, currently, to lose their seats. Take for instance our small corner in St. Ann: Bobby Marsh of N.E. St. Ann is

riding high. His appointment as Junior Minister in Construction may have something to do with it, but Marsh has proved himself an achiever and has initiated considerable development and employment in his constituency. He is tipped to win again.

On the other hand, his JLP colleagues are reportedly in worried tant propaganda. At the same time they are throwing away a legitimate opportunity to project a positive image of their performance. A case in Point: a low key item appearing in the **Gleaner** of Friday April 8 said:

"News has reached the **Gleaner** that but for the efforts of the Prime Minister and Minister of Mining the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga the Alpart Bauxite/Alumina Plant would be closed. A bauxite spokesman says that the country should know this". Certainly we should. If Mr. Seaga has persuaded Alpart to stay open, this is something to shout about, not something to be buried on Page Nine. Can you imagine the banner headlines and fulsome eoniums that a similar coup by Michael would have rated from his captive press?

### A workaholic

Mr. Seaga is a workaholic who is knocking his brains out for this country, but he has no flair for publicity. Consequently it is necessary to employ someone to keep on selling Seaga and his party to those of us who live outside of Tivoli.

There are some members of the government who are making a determined effort to project themselves — with varying degrees of success. Thanks to his "Savvy" charisma, and energy, Pearnel Charles could probably run in any constitu-

These two constituencies have been deeply affected by the attrition of Kaiser. Dr. Gallimore, of S.W. has become 'the man a foreign' no longer the 'man a yard'. He is charged with neglect, and observers predict that a strong PNP challenger could pocket this hereditary fief. Princess Lawes of N.W. St. Ann illustrates the fact that press coverage does not necessarily reflect approval at home in the constituency. Miss Lawes is articulate and photogenic, and as an ex-journalist, no slouch about Public Relations. Scarcely a week passes without her picture in the paper or the report of some speech she has made.

## No significant development

But at home, in her constituency, her stock is low and falling rapidly. There has been no significant development in N.W. St. Ann, in fact no development of any kind unless you count road work, and Lawes has alienated some of her most influential supporters. North West, traditionally a PNP strong hold is tipped to revert.

Seymour Mullings, maintaining his image as a decent moderate, and reaping all the benefits of being in opposition is a certainty to restrain S.W. St. Ann for the PNP - unless the phenomenal Wally Goldsmith can be persuaded to stand again as JLP challenger.

This political microcosm of St. Ann is — I am sure — replicated all over the island: the ingredients of poor government, public relations, economic crunch, non-performing M.P.s and neglect of constituents are not confined to St. Ann alone. Thus, although elections are still far away, the prospects for the JLP are not encouraging.

Barring an economic miracle, the most they can hope for is that the

PNP will continue to be so schizophrenic, so indisciplined, and so ideologically intemperate as to foul their own nest, cut their own throats, and nullify all the advantages of being a "hard times" opposition.

Cheer up, JLP, it looks as if this is exactly what will happen. As witness Mr. Manley's recent catharsis in New York when he declared, "If I had to do it all over again, let me say unapologetically there is not one strategic thrust which we needed which I would ever retreat from". Then there was the PNP's naive attack on the U.S. on behalf of Grenada, and, even more naive, their refusal to acknowledge the Communist influence there.

Votes decide elections, but it takes a lot of money to woo and mobilize the voters. In Jamaica, nobody with any money or any hope of making money is going to subsidize the PNP campaign as long as the party is suspected of harbouring some with Communist tendencies. And that means as long as Michael Manley is head of the party. Michael Manley remains the JLP's secret weapon. The establishment will never trust him again. That is the bottom line.

## Anti-JLP Tide

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Apr 83 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text] Political activity in Jamaica has been at a rather low level since October, 1980 when the JLP won its landslide victory.

The JLP has been concentrating on administration and economic management and has virtually dismantled its party machinery that in the peak period of the 1980 campaign had one organiser for every 2 voters in many areas.

The PNP has kept the lowest of profiles, issuing only occasional press releases, but mainly staying out of the public view to allow memories of its past to fade and acquire the image of a responsible opposition which is allowing the new government to function without harassment.

In the meantime, an enormous build-up of grumbling, alienation, frustration and disaffection has altered the balance of political support in the country although the opposition party remains quite inactive.

The last two Stone Polls have recorded PNP majorities of 5% and 3% with 19% and 20% of the voters favouring neither party.

It is the first occasion since these polls have been conducted in which a governing party has been shown to have minority support before the end of its first term in office.

In 1976 the JLP closed the gap on the PNP by moving from 29% to 34% between August, 1976 and October, 1976 while PNP support remained at 36%. The narrow 2% lead by the PNP in October was rapidly expanded after the PNP stepped up its campaign. The JLP had stolen a march on the PNP by beginning its campaign much earlier. But by November the PNP had pulled ahead with 46% while the JLP had peaked at 34%.

#### Sheer Fantasy

The situation today is quite different as both parties remain organisationally inactive. But the tide of opinion is swinging against the JLP because of the economic hardships being experienced right across the country. The idea some JLP leaders have that they will be re-elected on the basis of memories of PNP policy failures is sheer fantasy.

The JLP has several liabilities. Many who voted JLP in 1980 were traditional PNP voters and quite a few have since defected. Seaga has never been a popular political figure. In late 1979 when the polls were showing a substantial JLP lead over the PNP, Michael Manley and Hugh Shearer came out ahead of Seaga as political leaders that were more liked by the voters.

The only leadership polls in which Seaga emerged on top in that 1979-80 period were polls asking about the most qualified leader to run the government.

When we asked that question in September, 1980 which leader would do the best job of running the government, Seaga earned 40% of the preferences and Manley 36%.

Perhaps the most significant result from the recent poll was the views expressed on which party leaders were preferred as persons to be given responsibility for running the country. Manley got 43% and Seaga 37% almost exactly reversing the September, 1980 result.

Seaga's image as an efficient manager and economic wizard has clearly been muddled by high unemployment, depressed markets for small farmers, lay-offs in bauxite, sugar and public enterprises, the high cost of living or low purchasing power, a feeling of hopelessness on the part of large sections of the poorer classes, limited public spending and acute shortage of cash in most households.

That fact rather than strong attraction to the PNP and its leaders accounts for the JLP minority position.

The hostile economic climate linked to the U.S. recession and the drastic fall in bauxite earnings have shattered the JLP's credibility as effective managers of the economy able to succeed where the PNP failed.

### Leadership Crisis

The PNP survived for a long time after the people became aware that their economic situation was getting worse because, up to late 1977, the PNP had a popular political message and had generated tremendous grassroots enthusiasm. The JLP has no such asset. On the contrary the JLP has to perform even more than the PNP did to retain credibility because the JLP attracted support on the premise that the party could show positive results where the PNP had merely mismanaged.

Many middle class persons and business people are shocked that a majority of voters could be saying that their situation is now worse off than it was under the PNP. Class experiences however, are not uniform, nor are perceptions across the classes similar. The poorer classes evaluate governments by results and not by statistical indicators.

More importantly, the poorer people are becoming impatient with all politicians who promise great things and deliver little. In this respect there is a crisis of leadership credibility which underlies the rapid decline of the JLP 1980 majority, which will affect both PNP and JLP leaders in the future. That fact is obscured by the poll results.

The margin of difference separating the PNP and JLP is quite small but the PNP has not yet hit the road. If the PNP is serious when it does hit the road the JLP is going to be in deep trouble in terms of having a reasonable chance to a second term.

The WPJ's Munroe came third after Manley and Seaga as the more preferred of the two minor party leaders mentioned in the poll. H. Charles Johnson's 0.5% rating was mistakenly reported in the poll publication as 5%. Munroe's 2.5% might seem trivially small, but in an electorate with over one million voters Munroe clearly has some 30,000 voters in Jamaica who are impressed with his leadership.

### A Different WPJ

Munroe and the WPJ have more impact on the political system than these numbers suggest. His party through its myriad promotional groups has played no small part in successfully tagging the JLP with a 'big man' image which represents yet another of the political liabilities the JLP has as regards credibility with many voters.

The WPJ has quite sensibly shifted from being ideological missionaries promoting communism in an anti-communist country to projecting themselves as activists fighting for poor people's causes on a variety of fronts through a network of vocal organisations.

If the Jamaican economy continues to slide between now and the next elections, the JLP is not even going to have a fighting chance to get that muchdesired second term. The build-up of alienation in the society among young people and the poor could well move beyond even the PNP's ability to contain and absorb it as it did in the 1968-72 period when the country was ripe for political upheaval. That reality might be more important than who wins the next election.

CSO: 3298/551

## SEAGA PROPOSES NEW BAUXITE BARTER ARRANGEMENTS

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 17 Apr 83 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt]

Prime Minister Edward Seaga disclosed on Friday night that present proposals could lead to the exportation to overseas markets of some two million tons of bauxite and its equivalent in alumina through barter arrangements.

These proposals were looking to extend the barter system to include any surplus Jamaican commodity, the Prime Minister told guests at the Chrysler/Motor Sales reception at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston. The proposals aimed at increased traffic in tourism, establishment of factories and agricultural products, all through the bartering process.

### Two-way trade

The reception was marking the recent arrival of motor vehicles obtained through the counter trade agreement between Chrysler Corporation and the Bauxite and Alumina Trading Company of Jamaica Limited (BATCO) and the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company (JCTC). Some of the trucks were put on exhibition.

Mr. Seaga praised Chrysler for the expeditious manner in which the transaction was carried out. He remarked that the negotiations with Chrysler started after a much larger order with another organization, yet those vehicles had not yet arrived.

As a precaution, he said, the government had ordered the second set of vehicles. The importation of commercial vehicles was essential to replenish the depleted stock available to the commercial and agricultural sectors, he said.

Mr. Seaga said ten years ago 15,000 vehicles were imported annually; however the figures got as low as between 2,000 and 3,000.

He said last year 11,000 motor vehicles were imported and although it was not possible to import as many this year, steps were being taken to have a flow of vehicles so as to replace those which had fallen out of use and to satisfy the needs of industry and commerce and the motoring public.

The Prime Minister said besides the barter agreement vehicles would also be obtained under the two-way trade agreement with the Soviet Union, and these were especially passenger vehicles, and this was likely to be extended to include heavy duty trucks.

The public sector which was equally starved, would also be getting passenger vehicles, the Prime Minister said. He said that the importation of these vehicles would be made through the JCTC as far as it was practical and distributed through dealers' representatives.

CSO: 3298/550

## WATER SHORTAGE PROBLEM NOW EXTENDS TO MONTEGO BAY AREA

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Apr 83 p 2

[Text]

Gleaner Western Bureau  
Continuation of the harsh drought conditions could pose a serious problem for the National Water Commission in its distribution of water throughout the city of Montego Bay and sections of Trelawny.

The Queen of Spain Valley scheme which normally provides seven to eight million gallons of water daily, is down to an average of four million gallons daily.

NWC's regional engineer, Mr. Arnold Edwards told the Gleaner in an interview that as a direct result of the drought, storage in the reservoirs attached to the Queen of Spain Valley scheme was extremely low.

As a consequence, residents in high sloping areas would experience reduced supplies, mostly in the days. The NWC has had to be working "round the clock" to maintain the supply and, according to Mr. Edwards, "we are trying to see that everybody is served."

Meanwhile four hotels in the Red Hills area of Montego Bay, the Racquet Club, Royal Court, Vernie House

and Blue Harbour have been experiencing acute water problems over the past four weeks.

The owner/operator of Royal Court Hotel, Mrs. Dorothy Vendryes, said the hotel has not had a proper water supply for the past four weeks and at times has been without any at all for up to two days.

Mrs. Vendryes said the situation had reached a point where guests were checking out. Earlier this week six guests approached her with bath towels, threatening to cut them up as they argued that there was no sense in having towels when they could not have their baths.

Mrs. Vendryes said she had been making efforts to contact the chairman of the National Water Commission, Mr. Cecil Charlton, the Minister of Tourism, Mr. Eric Abrahams, and Director of Tourism, Mr. John Gentles, in the hope of getting some action but had not succeeded.

"We are desperate and we are asking for help" said Mrs. Vendryes, "we cannot continue anymore like this."

The Vernie House also reported "lots of

water problems." However, at that hotel guests were cooperating to the extent of bathing in the swimming pool and making a joke of it.

The Racquet Club has been having water "on and off".

The story is about the same at the Blue Harbour Hotel: "We have just about two guests left in the hotel" said the owner, Mr. Robert Garth. He said the situation was "extremely difficult as guests have left very displeased".

Mr. Garth said that "for the most part there is no water day or night and when it does come, it is very sporadic."

He described the situation as "very serious as the hotel has been getting calls from travel agents in the US regarding the water problem."

The situation facing the hotels is considered grave to the point where the hoteliers on Wednesday sought the intervention of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister was unavailable but the problem was discussed with someone in his office. The hoteliers say they are waiting on a response from the Prime Minister's Office.

## EXPORTED FURNITURE, CANNED GOODS RETURNED AS SUBSTANDARD

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

Some Jamaican manufacturers of furniture and canned foods have had their orders returned from North American and United Kingdom markets because their products did not meet required standards.

This was disclosed by Dr. Arnel Henry, Director of the Jamaica Bureau of Standards, on Thursday at an open-day function at the Bureau's headquarters at Winchester Road, Kingston, as he answered questions from media representatives.

Dr. Henry said that, in the case of canned foods, it was found that the containers interacted with the contents, because of bad packaging.

Mr. Lloyd Davis, of the Bureau, spoke of wicker furniture in particular which was returned. He said the items of furniture were faulted because of shrinkage and poor finishing. One manufacturer, he said, lost more than \$150,000 on one shipment of dining tables to the United Kingdom.

He had seen a set of wicker furniture which went to the United States and every item was broken, Mr. Davis said. It was a case of bad construction with all

the frames broken down. It was unfortunate that this firm had recently sent another shipment, he said.

Mr. Davis said the Bureau had offered its assistance but the companies were not responding. It was only after they had run into problems that they sought the Bureau's assistance and that was too late.

Dr. Henry said the Bureau, which has a staff of 204, 97 of whom were university graduates in specialist areas, was not been used by manufacturers as much as he would like.

It was important for manufacturers to realize that production should be monitored from the stage of raw material through to the finished good, he said, adding that the inspection of finished goods should be the very last segment.

The Bureau was willing to work with producers to bring their products up to standard, Dr. Henry said. The footwear industry was one in which the standards were not satisfactory, he said. However, there had been an improvement and the Bureau had made an expert available to shoe manufacturers.

CSO: 3298/550

## OYSTER INDUSTRY PLANNED OVER NEXT YEAR FOR WESTERN JAMAICA

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Apr 83 p 12

[Text]

A \$100,000 programme to cultivate oysters as a high-income-yielding exotic aquacultural industry in the western part of Jamaica, is to be embarked upon by the Ministry of Agriculture over the next year. Three projects are to be established in Hanover, St. James and Westmoreland during the next twelve months at a cost of nearly \$100,000.

Two projects have already been established at Belmont and Cave in Westmoreland and a third project was scheduled to be launched this week at Green Island, Hanover, as a co-operative scheme, by four youngsters. Estimated cost of that project is \$33,000.

Details of the project were given last week by the Regional Scientific Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Len Bromfield, when he addressed a group of youngsters and Social Development Commission personnel in Green Island. He told them of

the plans to establish the oyster-culture project in that parish.

Information coming out of the Ministry, said Mr. Bromfield told them that one such project would be launched this week at Green Island, at a cost of \$33,000, as a co-operative among four youngsters. The project, he said, would be managed by his Ministry, but supervised by the Social Development Commission.

The projects are being financed jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the International Development Research Council, a Canadian entity.

Mr. Bromfield said research had shown that the projects were financially viable and that local demand for oysters was way above production level.

He added that the Ministry of Agriculture would be the sole marketing agent and that as soon as the project had earned enough to repay the capital investment, it would be handed over to the co-operative.

CSO: 3298/551

## DIFFERING VIEWS ON ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE RESULTS

## Dutch Commentator on Results

Amsterdam ELSEVIERS MAGAZINE in Dutch 19 Mar 83 p 59

[Article by Dr F.A. Hoogendijk: "Die is Cast"]

[Text] During an entire week a round table conference was held in the Hague between the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles about independence of these islands in 1996. The most difficult impediment in this process of decolonization is Aruba, the island which wants a separate status. Five minutes before the end of the conference the Aruban leader Bettico Croes asked Premier Lubbers: "What happens if I reject your proposal?" Lubbers' answer came immediately: "If this conference fails, we are prepared to set the date of your independence as of tomorrow."

Bettico Croes realized then that he had gotten all he could get. It was a matter of swallowing or choking. Croes was forced to grant concessions in the Hague, but his island of 65,000 people will already occupy a separate status in the realm at the beginning of 1986, 10 years before the Antilles become independent. The Arubans are very satisfied. In November of last year Bettico Croes had still be furious at Biesheuvel, chairman of the committee of advice on Aruba's departure out of the Antillian structure of government. The Biesheuvel committee believes that if Aruba cannot live in harmony with the other islands it should step out of the realm as soon as possible. Premier Lubbers shared this opinion when he gave Croes his answer to the question what would happen if Aruba says "no".

The Biesheuvel committee proposed that the Arubans maintain a solid system of financial, economic, and monetary cooperation with the remaining five islands. Aruba is actually out at all in favor but the Dutch government forced Croes to accept the economic and monetary union he does not want. Croes won a cosmetic success when Aruba received the right to create its own monetary system (the croesero?), but this monetary unit may not disrupt the Antillian economic order.

How this can be prevented in actual practice is a riddle to us. Aruba is economically the strongest island and it will certainly assert itself. To Aruba the net cost of independence will be about 30 million guilders per

year. The development of its own governmental services will require an additional amount of 100,000 million guilders. When Aruba receives its own status it steps out of the Antillian legal system and will have its own constitution, legislation and government.

The financial credit balance of the Netherlands Antilles, on the other hand, will deteriorate by about 30 million guilders per year as the result of Aruba's independence. However, the round table conference demonstrated once again how little cohesion there is between Curacao and Aruba. This will become a real problem when the assets are going to be divided. The Arubans are up against the fact that Curacao, the biggest island of the Netherlands Antilles with the densest population, has 12 representatives in the parliament which has a total of 22 seats. Aruba has eight representatives. This means that Curacao can always outvote Aruba, Aruba, on the other hand, is economically much stronger than Curacao. It would not want to subsidize the predominant island of Curacao.

Aruba's separate status would in an economic sense be an important financial handicap for the other islands. Aruba is not only drawing more tourists than the other Antillian islands (it is therefore an important source of income) but it has also important offshore oilwells. To what extent they can be profitably exploited with declining oil prices remains to be seen but it must be a reassuring feeling to the Arubans to know that their island is surrounded by a wealth of oil.

On 29 April the Antilles will hold elections for local parliaments. The champion for Aruban independence was forced to make quite a few concessions as regards the economic union. But Croes, a born politician, will certainly be able to sell the idea of independence for his islands with convincing oratory. Eight years ago we had the privilege of witnessing a speech of Betico Croes in the stadium of Aruba and we got to know him as a born demagogue. Betico Croes was then still considered a "revolutionary" in the Netherlands. His ideas about Aruban independence were then still characterized as "ludicrous" by the Hague.

Betico Croes gave us last weekend in the Amsterdam merchant's exchange a small idea of how he is going to sell Aruban independence in 1996 at home. Croes: "Companeros, now there is peace in the realm of the Netherlands." Premier Lubbers who led the conference with great expertise said it more soberly. He observed that the "die was cast" and that there is at last political agreement on the form of independence as desired by Aruba. Our prime minister was justified in pointing out that there are still some important questions to be settled. This is an understatement. Persons familiar with the problems in the Caribbean who also recognize the great differences between the islands realize that in Mr. Lubbers' opinion the die is cast but on the Antillian islands everybody will come with a different interpretation of what this means.

Rebuttal by Antillian Commentator

Willemstad AMIGOE in Dutch 23 Mar 83 p 2

[Article by R. Snow: "In the Margin"]

[Text] The round table conference held in the Hague between the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles on independence for the islands in 1996 lasted an entire week." Editor-in-chief Dr F.A. Hoogendijk starts his commentary in ELSEVIERS MAGAZINE of 19 March with the above mentioned statement, which is undoubtedly baffling to Antillians who are not Arubans. Who might have thought that he was reading an inadvertently badly worded statement was soon brought back to his senses when Hoogendijk remarked a few sentences later: "Croes was forced make concessions in the Hague, but at the beginning of 1986, 10 years before the Antilles become independent, his island will be granted a separate status within the realm.: To persons in the Antilles these statements sound curious to say the least, but no matter how they are interpreted, one thing is certain: an important segment of the Dutch people is now counting on the fact that the Antilles, all six islands therefore, will be independent in 1996. Is not ELSEVIER the biggest and one of the most influential magazines in the Netherlands?

It would be interesting to find out how Hoogendijk arrived at his conclusion. A first impression could be that he failed to understand what happened. This is possible but not very probable. The great Ferry may have his critics but he is definitely not stupid. However, let us just assume for one moment that that is what happened; we would be left with only one conclusion. Nobody in the Netherlands is obviously seriously interested in the Antilles. As a result media reporting is confusing and seriously misleading, at any rate in the famous ELSEVIER... Who cares?

Definitely not the Dutch people. In the case of Ambon they only woke up when a train was hijacked in Assen and only after 15 persons were killed in Suriname did they begin to understand that that country is not the same as the Bijlmermeer. But what about all those round table delegates who returned to the Antilles in the past few days? Would not it be natural to assume that they kept themselves well informed of the commentaries in the Dutch press? ELSEVIERS MAGAZINE has been in the KLM newsstands for almost a week! We have not heard a word of protest against this distortion of the facts. Neither has there been an attempt at rectification and better information to the Dutch public.

Mr Hoogendijk may not be stupid at all but perhaps only badly misinformed. That now raises the question of how well Antillian public relations are managed. Aruba is clearly no longer included in the word "Antillian." The leaders of the Aruba House expertly manipulated the Dutch politicians and media. Hoogendijk is also right on target as regards the Aruban affair. However, from that point on we are stuck with a bag full of question marks. That does not appear to be a good point of departure for the remaining five islands. Dutch public opinion has got to be an important factor. No matter in which direction one wants to go nobody will be satisfied with less than maximum results (as regards the relation with the Netherlands). It is clear that a thorough job of public relations will have to be accomplished.

That last point is certainly as true as the fact that Ferry Hoogendijk is neither stupid nor ignorant. Because the latest--and many will find this undoubtedly improbable--possibly is that he knows more than can be gleaned from the enthusiastic stories of delegates who returned from the round table conference. Behind closed doors the decision may have been reached to reserve the date in 1996 not just for Aruba alone. Anyhow, not in the Hague. With a view to the antics of the Dutch decolonization policies of the past this sounds less improbable than can be surmised after a first inspection. No matter what may be at stake Hoogendijk's commentary in the yellow format pages of ELSEVIERS MAGAZINE gives the five Antillian islands ample cause for alarm.

10319

CSO: 3214/29

## DECLINE IN EXPORTS PROMPTS TRADE VISITS TO TRINIDAD, JAMAICA

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

SAINT LUCIA is likely to send a trade team mission to Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica to counter what could be a big decline in exports to the two neighbours, Trade Minister George Mallet has said.

The remark came in the wake of complaints from Saint Lucia's exporters, who say Jamaica's new two-tiered currency exchange system and Trinidad and Tobago's retaliatory action would damage their business.

Mr. Mallet said: "From among the options under consideration, we have not ruled out official trade missions to the islands whether or not with other Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) members.

"This is sufficiently vital for us to take prompt action to ensure that trading with Trinidad is not jeopardised, bearing in mind that trade with Jamaica has already been lost."

In January this year Jamaica introduced a tiered exchange system under which the Jamaica dollar is fixed to the U.S. currency at the official rate of \$1.78 to US \$1.00 for special imports and at a higher rate for other purchases.

The move has made regional goods more expensive on the Jamaica market. As a result, Trinidad and Tobago announced on March 18 that all goods imported from Caricom sources which are on its negative list will be placed under licence.

Saint Lucia export a substantial amount of garments to Trinidad and Jamaica.

"Since the bulk of Saint Lucia's exports to Trinidad is likely to be affected, I immediately sent a message to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, seeking official clarifi-

CASTRIES, Wed., (Cana):  
cation of the nature and scope of the measures with particular reference to goods of Saint Lucia origin, but to date there has been no response to that enquiry," the Trade Minister told Cana.

## SECOND MESSAGE

Mr. Mallet said that a second message was sent to Trinidad's Industry Minister calling attention to the adverse effects the import restrictions will have on the Lesser Developed Countries (LDCs) trade with Trinidad and requesting that pending discussions which were scheduled to be held in Antigua on April 9 on the licensing system, all goods exported to Trinidad from Saint Lucia and the other LDCs in the 12-nation Caribbean Community (Caricom) be granted licences.

Mr. Mallet said: "Saint Lucia supported a proposed special council meeting which would address not only the Trinidad and Tobago question but also the dual exchange rate arrangement and associated import regime of Jamaica.

"We are of the view that this matter is contrary to the purpose and spirit of the multi-lateral Treaty of Chaguramas (under which Caricom was set up) and is in essence a problem for the whole of Caricom and to be tackled as a regional rather than a bi-lateral one."

The Trade Minister said that Saint Lucia watched with dismay "the efforts by some interests — which finally proved successful to abort the meeting of the Council."

## GOVERNMENT CALLS UNION PAY DEMANDS BEYOND NATION'S CAPABILITY

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, Friday (CANA) — Three trade unions seeking pay increases ranging from 50 to 75 per cent for public workers have been told by a government negotiating team that their demands are clearly beyond the capacity of the country's public finances.

Instead, the unions, representing teachers, civil servants and daily paid government employees have been asked for a moratorium on wage and salary increases during the 1983-84 fiscal year.

The National Workers Union, Civil Service Association and St. Lucia Teachers' Union are currently considering the government's request.

According to the government's negotiating team, the public sector can sustain a new round of wage demands only under two circumstances: one, that taxation is increased which, it said, meant that what was gained in salaries would be lost in increased taxes, and two, that there were phased redundancies corresponding with the proposed increases in emoluments.

The team, in its response to the unions, said in a statement that in the case of the latter, layoffs would begin with those people who were not on the establishment.

The team noted that the current world economic recession had had a devastating effect on St. Lucia's economy resulting in decline over the last three years in the major sectors: tourism, agriculture, manufacturing and construction.

The government's finances were in a very precarious position despite major efforts to contain expenditure. According to the statement, revenues still lag behind expenditures.

It expected that the 1982-83 fiscal year, like the one before would show a deficit with revenues at EC\$102 million and expenditure at EC\$110 million.

It noted that public sector workers comprised 19 per cent of the country's labour force receiving in 1982-83, a total of \$55.5 million or 51 per cent of the Government's recurrent expenditure. And while the per capita income for St. Lucia was 1 562 dollars on average, the per capita wage in the public sector was \$7 685.

Asserting that the demands by the public sector unions were beyond the capacity of St. Lucia's public finances, the team added that this was indicated by the fact that the government had had to resort to external borrowings to meet its commitments to public sector workers.

Added to that, it said, the last government-public sector settlement had to be paid in cash and in bonds, which was tacit agreement by both sides that the government would not be in a position to meet new pay demands until the economy had had a chance to recover.

The government team also said that the rise in the cost of living could not be a natural argument in favour of an increase in wages and salaries at this time, since the retail price index had risen by a mere 4.6 per cent in 1982 compared with 15 per cent in 1981 and 19 per cent in 1980.

Computed on a fiscal year basis, the increase was only 2.9 per cent in March 1983 as against 12.2 per cent at the end of March 1982.

Proposing the moratorium, the team said that at the end of the next fiscal year negotiations could begin on wage and salary increases.

It said it was willing to discuss "any feasible alternative suggestions" put forward by the unions which was consistent with the economic and welfare of the country as a whole.

But it said, the unions' claims for between 50 and 75 per cent pay increases bore no relationship to the economic situation facing the country.

## BRIEFS

CANE-FIRE DESTRUCTION--Kingstown, St. Vincent, Thursday (CANA)--A cane fire in St. Vincent's sugar belt, has destroyed some 22 acres of sugar canes, sugar industry officials have reported. Minister of Trade and Agriculture Vincent Beache said the cause of the fire was still unknown. The fire, at San Souci, was the second for the year, and follows one shortly before the start of grinding operations at the lone Mt. Bentinck sugar factory in early February, when eight acres of canes went up in smoke. Last year about 140 acres of canes were lost to cane fires. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Apr 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/540

## AGREEMENT NEARS BETWEEN OWTU, TEXACO ON RETIREMENT ISSUE

Mahabir Report to House

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

**THE OILFIELDS Workers' Trade Union has agreed to Texaco's early retirement plan — and 700 refinery workers are to go immediately.**

Another 400 will be retrenched over the next 12 to 18 months, Labour Minister Errol Mahabir told the House of Representatives yesterday.

Texaco and the OWTU had reached a deadlock over the company's proposal to reduce the retirement age from 65 to 60 years, the minister said.

The agreement followed consultations involving the Minister, the company, and the union. It was described by the Minister as "the best thing that could happen" because the alternative "would be more people going, 400 now, another 400, a 200 or so" each month until over the next two years or so many more than 1,100 now slated to go under early retirement provisions would have had to leave.

The Minister, before making a formal statement to the House, told reporters that Texaco employed 6,500 persons — 3,500 in the refinery installation and 401 in the laboratory and other supportive systems.

In his statement to the House, the Minister said: "Texaco is prepared to enter into a joint venture to own and operate the refinery. Amoco, our largest crude oil producer, was involved in discussions as to the role of that company could play in the establishment of a restructured and rationalised refinery industry."

The Minister's statement: Mr. Speaker, in his 1983 Budget Speech, the Hon. Prime Minister

and Minister of Finance stated as follows:-

"It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that the National interest demands that there be a rationalisation of the refining operations in Trinidad and Tobago and that in formulating a new refining structure, discussions must encompass all of the oil companies operating locally."

I quote further from the Budget Speech: "Meanwhile, in order to permit negotiations and discussions to proceed to determine the future of our refining operations, the following interim arrangements have been proposed to Texaco to cover the period January to March, 1983."

After giving details of the interim arrangements, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance went on to say:-

"These temporary arrangements will provide the slate of products required for the domestic market and some regional requirements."

"It is our hope that the discussions on refinery rationalisation will be concluded long before the end of the interim period so that a normal

state of operations can be established."

Mr. Speaker, the Ministerial Committee appointed by the Prime Minister to hold discussions with Texaco on the future role which the company may be expected to play in Trinidad and Tobago has continued its meetings with the company, and there is now a clear indication that Texaco is prepared to enter into a joint venture to own and operate the refinery.

**TRINTOC READY**

Meanwhile in pursuance of the policy statement of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance regarding the formulation of a new refining structure, discussions have been held with Amoco, our largest crude oil producer, as to the role which that Company could play in the establishment of a restructured and rationalised refining industry.

Amoco submitted and has received replies to a lengthy questionnaire concerning the operations of both the Pointe-a-Pierre and Point

Fortin refineries. The Company has also appointed a Task Force under Mr. Jack Parker, Vice President in charge of Operations and Planning.

The Task Force has visited the refineries at Pointe-a-Pierre and Point Fortin and has held discussions with management personnel. It is expected that Amoco will advise the Government of Trinidad and Tobago of its position by July 1, 1983.

The Board of Trintoc has also been kept informed of the progress of the discussions and Trintoc stands ready to play a pivotal role in the

new refining structure.

Trinidad Tesoro has not been approached on the matter because of the offer of the Tesoro Corporation to sell its 'B' shares in the Company to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

The discussions to which I have referred are by their very nature, delicate and time consuming and have consequently taken more time than was originally anticipated.

The period during which the interim arrangements between Trintoc and Texaco, referred to in the Budget Speech, were to be in force has now come to an end.

In order to facilitate the conclusion of the discussions on the future of the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery, Trintoc has been authorised to enter a temporary month-to-month agreement with Texaco for the processing of 37,000 barrels per day of crude oil on the same terms and conditions as applied during the interim period January to March, 1983. Trintoc has been directed to conclude to its satisfaction any additional conditions which may arise as a result of this extension.

### Mahabir Clarification

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 10 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

LABOUR Minister Errol Mahabir, yesterday denied that agreement has been reached between the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) and Texaco on the company's early retirement plan.

Mr. Mahabir said that the story in yesterday's "Guardian", headlined "OWTU bows to Texaco," was inaccurate.

He said: "There is no question of one side bowing to the other. Both the OWTU and Texaco have a responsibility. And each side has fought to advance its individual position.

"In the case of OWTU, it has strenuously sought to protect the interest of the workers without abandoning a principled position which it has always taken on the question of retrenchment.

"When I made my statement in the House of Representatives on Friday, it had to do with the refinery operations, and absolutely

no reference was made, as can be seen from the copy of my statement that was circulated to all Members of Parliament and the media, to the question of retirement age, or retrenchment.

"I left the House as soon as I had made the statement and returned to my ministry where I presided over a meeting between the OWTU and the company, which lasted approximately four hours.

"At the end of that meeting I discussed with the two parties the question of a Press release since representatives of the media were waiting in the hall for a report on the latest development.

"The OWTU and Texaco authorised me to give a general statement indicating that resolution of the matter appeared to be very close in sight. And because of the delicate nature of the negotiations I should not give any details of the final proposals which I had made at the meeting.

"This is exactly what I did. I called in the media and indicated to them that we had detailed discussions on the cash retirement benefits as well as on matters relating to the medical plan and hospitalisation plan for the retirees; the question of the treatment of outstanding housing loans and insurance policies for these loans; also the question of loans which had been obtained by retirees for major medical treatment abroad.

"All these and other matters were discussed. And it was indicated that the OWTU would need to go back to its general council which would meet on Monday afternoon before giving a final answer on the situation.

"In the circumstances the meeting was adjourned to 10 a.m. On Tuesday.

"It is unfortunate that agreement by either side is being described as bowing since the national interest is really what we are concerned about."

### Agreement 'In Principle'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Mickey Mahabir

[Text]

**AGREEMENT** "has been reached" in principle in negotiations between the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) and Texaco Trinidad Incorporated concerning the company's demand for a reduction in the retirement age from 65 to 60 years.

Mr. Errol Mahabir Labour Minister, made the announcement last night at the Beaumont Hill Centre, Pointe-a-Pierre, where the company and union discussed the matter.

Mr. Mahabir said that since after lunch yesterday they had been working out the details of the agreement and actual wording of the document.

He said that the issues by their very nature were extremely delicate and the parties were exercising great care about the wording of the agreement.

According to the Minister, they now have a basis for the final draft but the union decided that before it concluded discussions on the matter, it should obtain legal advice.

The company, during discussion, consulted its legal advisers.

Up to late last night the union was still awaiting the arrival of its legal adviser.

It is understood that when the matter is formally settled and the agreement signed, the company will withdraw the retrenchment notices served three weeks ago on 412 workers.

Those notices are due to expire tomorrow. Full agreement was expected to be reached late last night.

#### LONG SESSIONS

It is understood that upon settlement some 700 workers aged 60 to 65 would be affected.

Questioned on the union's stand that there should be no further retrenchment by Texaco, Mr. Mahabir said he would personally look into that matter.

Mr. George Weekes, OWTU President General, said as far as he was concerned, there was no agreement until the "dotting of the I's and crossing of the T's" were completed and all the legalities gone through.

The parties met for about three hours yesterday morning and about five hours in the evening.

During the afternoon session, scores of oilworkers staged a demonstration from Texaco's administration building and walked on the company's road to Beaumont Hill singing union songs to give support to their negotiating team.

The demonstration was peaceful.

Mr. Lloyd Austin, General Manager, headed the Texaco team while Mr. Weekes led the OWTU side with Mr. Mahabir presiding.

The OWTU has called a Press conference to be held at its Paramount Building headquarters at 10 a.m. today to discuss yesterday's meeting.

PRC INDICATES INTEREST IN BUYING LOCAL IRON, STEEL

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Apr 83 p 4

[Text]

**THE People's Republic of China is turning towards Trinidad and Tobago and Brazil for imports of basic raw materials and agricultural products to boost its production of iron steel and food.**

A trade mission led by Mr. Ye Yi, deputy director of Import and Exports, made a whirlwind tour of Trinidad last week visiting teak fields, asphalt, iron and steel and urea plants.

Mr. Yi said his country will be interested in buying iron and steel if the price is right.

The delegation was interested in buying wood for the furniture industry and iron and steel and petrochemicals for the heavy industries.

Mr Yi said that teak will hold a ready market in his country and he had a first hand look of Tanteak, a production company.

The Chinese were in high praise of the iron and steel mills which were

described as the most modern in the world.

Trinidad and Tobago is an important trading partner in the Caribbean and the delegation leader expressed his concern for improving a two-way trade.

But shipping was the main hurdle in getting more goods from each others country, Mr. Yi said.

Trinidad and Tobago business with mainland China deals with textiles, hand tools and handicraft items.

Mr. Yi said small agricultural tools and farm machinery suitable for small holdings such as those planned for this country could be had from his country.

The delegation held talks with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Mr. Yi is confident that China can supply quality light industrial products.

Before arriving here the delegation spent a few days in Brazil evaluating the possibilities of expanding trade.

At the moment, China buys a small quantity of asphalt from Trinidad.

CSO: 3298/553

EDITORIAL SAYS ROBINSON PLAYS DANGEROUS GAME IN TOBAGO

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Apr 83 p 8

[Editorial: "Dangerous Game in THA"]

[Text] Whatever merits of risible melodrama the saga of the Tobago House of Assembly might have contained for the amusement of us all, the whole affair is now taking a rather disturbing turn.

The House of Assembly has misused the constitutional privileges in possesses to pass by majority vote a formal and arguably seditious resolution seeking "full independence of Tobago with secure territorial boundaries."

What would happen to the unitary State if the Government were now to sit by and let various borough and county councils take it into their head to issue such ultimatums?

This country is one unit comprising two islands tied by a single Constitution imposing unitary statehood. Neither of the two islands can consider itself an independent unit competent to act unilaterally, without any right on the part of the other to express its view about any measures that would radically change the present Constitutional arrangement.

Resolution

The whole trouble seems to have arisen over wording of the resolution debated by the House of Representatives in 1977. It referred to the taking of necessary steps to "accord to the people of Tobago internal self-government." This was, we believe, a most unfortunate turn of phrase since it has tended to obscure the conditional words following it.

The House of Assembly now pretends that this gives it some right to preach secession.

We think that the Prime Minister in his reply to the audacious letter sent to him by the chairman of the Assembly A. N. R. Robinson was unduly courteous and restrained to point out that the House of Assembly would be acting ultra vires to "take all proper and necessary steps to terminate the present unjust union of Tobago with Trinidad"

Mr. Chambers noted that he does not have any electoral mandate authorising him to terminate the union, and he could have pointed out to Mr. Robinson that neither he nor any of his colleagues in the Tobago House of Assembly has any mandate so to do.

In the history of the West Indies the attainment of self-government has always been a stepping stone to independence and Mr. Robinson, both as a lawyer and as a practising politician, is well aware of this.

We must remind him of the Statement to the House of Representatives by the Leader of the House on 23rd November 1979 which Mr. Robinson himself has quoted for the Prime Minister: that statement in rejecting the Seemungal Draft Constitution for Tobago commented that "the changes proposed do not seem to take into account their impact on other parts of Trinidad and Tobago."

The same thing is even more true of the ultimatum which Mr. Robinson has impertinently forwarded to the Prime Minister.

We can only hope now that the Prime Minister's personal prayer that "given goodwill and reasonableness a resolution of any outstanding differences should not prove impossible" will be answered.

We think, above all, it is high time that Mr. Robinson and his DAC colleagues in the Tobago House of Assembly stop playing silly and dangerous games with the unity and stability of our country. We advise them to find some other way of easing the agony of thwarted ambition and broken dreams and their fraudulent sense of grievance.

CSO: 3298/553

## OWTU ACCUSES CHAMBERS OF GIVING IT 'COLD SHOULDER'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Apr 83 p 19

[Text]

**THE OILFIELDS Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) has questioned Prime Minister George Chambers meeting with a representative of the Caribbean/Central American Action organisation while he has turned down a request by the union to meet with its representatives to discuss the Texaco issue.**

In a release, the OWTU pointed out that the Prime Minister did not respond to its letter dated March 28 asking that he meet with the union but instead referred the letter to the Minister of Labour Errol Mahabir.

The union said: "This is not the first occasion that the Prime Minister has refused to meet with labour leaders on matters of urgent con-

cern. In October last year, leaders of the Council of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU) and the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress jointly wrote to Prime Minister Chambers requesting a meeting to discuss retrenchment. That request was similarly cold-shouldered."

The union said to date it was unable to get a firm position from the Labour Minister on what was the Government's policy on retrenchment in the oil industry.

In noting that the Prime Minister met with a representative of an American organisation, the union said that it appeared the priorities of the Government was to appease the multi-nationals and leave nationals at the mercy of retrenchment and unemployment.

The OWTU further noted that a letter dated June 16, 1982 was sent by Mr Ward K. Savage, then Chairman

of Texaco Trinidad Incorporated, to Mr Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and National Resources, requesting Government support on its proposal to reduce the retirement age of Texaco employees to 60 years.

The union said that this letter was copied to President Ellis Clarke.

According to the union, the letter, headed "Excess Manpower", reads: "Under today's conditions and conditions anticipated for the future the current employment levels at the refinery exceed needs by several thousand. As a minimum initial step, Texaco requests full and prompt Government support for its proposals to the OWTU for mandatory retirement at the age of 60. As noted it will be necessary to reduce the work force further."

The union questioned what was Government's position as regards Texaco's letter.

The union added that since it submitted its memorandum calling for localisation of the oil industry in September 1982 to the Cabinet-appointed inter-ministerial team on the oil industry, the committee had not called the union to discuss the issue.

"Instead they have taken the line to side with Texaco in negotiating the removal of some 800 workers who are now over 60 years," said the union.

CSO: 3298/553

## WORKERS FACE FIRING AS CARONI CLOSES TWO SUGAR PLANTS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Apr 83 p 4

[Text]

**SAN FERNANDO:**

**ABOUT 500 sugar workers will be thrown on the breadline by the end of this year's crop with the closure of two of Caroni's factories.**

The company announced it closed down the Reform factory on Thursday. The other factory — Woodford Lodge did not operate this year and both factories, it is understood, would not be re-opened again.

The company said that total number of workers affected is about 500.

Mr Russel Wotherspoon, acting general manager of the state-owned company, in announcing the closure of the Reform factory said that it was due to a "fall off" in the supply of cane both from the company's fields and from canefarmers.

He said that the Ste Madeleine factory had overcome the problems experienced following the carnival shutdown and is now fully operational.

As the company is not receiving much canes as was anticipated, it has become necessary to send canes harvested in the south to Ste Madeleine to keep that factory operating economically, he stated.

However, Mr Wotherspoon said that all employees at Reform would be kept on until the end of the crop. That he said, was in accordance with the agreement with the union.

Mr Wotherspoon said that the company's production was still being affected adversely by unplanned fires. Up to April 1, there has been 1,217 unplanned fires which burnt 246,959 tonnes of canes.

He said since Easter there has been a noticeable increase in these fires. For example, he pointed out, at one time there were six fires burning in the Esperanza section and 1,804 tonnes of cane were destroyed.

He said that despite that setback up to April 6, the company ground 770,325 tonnes of canes and produced 60,705 tonnes of sugar. Target sugar production is 102,000 tonnes.

From total sugar production, 7,340 tonnes of granulated sugar were made and 14,336 tonnes of washed grey.

With respect to the Woodford Lodge factory, those workers were also kept on, although the factory is not operating. It is understood that all workers involved have already been served with individual termination notices.

Commenting on the closure of the factories, Mr Sam Maharaj, general secretary of All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union, said his organisation was "saddened" over the fact that a training programme had not been implemented to take care of the retrenched workers.