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21 May 1981

# Latin America Report

(FOUO 12/81)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- Success of LAIA Hinges on Harmonious Economic Policies  
(Estela Araujo; LA OPINION, 8 Mar 81)..... 1

BRAZIL

- Columnist Sees Bombings Threatening President's Power  
(Herbert Zschech; LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST, 9 May 81)..... 4
- Briefs
- Capital Goods Credit 7
- EEC Subsidy Warning 7

CUBA

- Activities of Western Mass Media in Caribbean Reported  
(Mario G. del Cueto; BOHEMIA, 3 Apr 81)..... 8
- Health, Culture Developments in Las Tunas Province  
(Andres Rodriguez; BOHEMIA, 3 Apr 81)..... 12
- New Wage Reform Effects in Construction Field Noted  
(Gloria Marsan; BOHEMIA, 27 Mar 81)..... 16
- Improvements in Living Conditions in Moa Noted  
(Alberto Pozo; BOHEMIA, 27 Mar 81)..... 18
- Success in Sugarcane Production in Villa Clara Noted  
(Andres Rodriguez; BOHEMIA, 27 Mar 81)..... 20

GRENADA

- Briefs
- Honduran Attack on Nicaragua 24

- a - [III - LA - 144 FOUO]

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COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

SUCCESS OF LAIA HINGES ON HARMONIOUS ECONOMIC POLICIES

Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 8 Mar 81 p 11

[Article by Estela Araujo: "Interconnection Within the LAIA"]

[Text] Within the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), it is believed that the conditions necessary for the 1980 Treaty of Montevideo to go into effect will be fulfilled by 18 March. These requirements consist of ratification by at least three of its member countries. Uruguay and Argentina submitted the respective document and Paraguay and Mexico subsequently made their decisions.

The remaining members (Brazil, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela) have not yet set any dates.

Whether within the framework of the LAIA's Andean subgroup or in the context of other agreements, such as the Amazon or Cuenca del Plata treaties, relations between Latin American countries constitute an interconnected system that is difficult to circumvent. Sometimes as a result of a similar economic doctrine (as was the case in recent years between Argentina and Uruguay with Economy Ministers Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz and Valentin Arismendi) or simply due to the reciprocal effect of geographic proximity and the attempted agreements between Argentina and Brazil, there is an unavoidable interplay in which one economy's movement toward a specific goal has a real effect on the economies of neighboring countries, which in turn leads to measures that may again affect the neighboring country's course of action.

The planned free trade zone between Argentina and Uruguay, even without being a reality, is having a reciprocal impact on the economic measures which are being adopted on both sides of the Plate River.

The 10 percent devaluation, perhaps the latest significant economic measure adopted by the outgoing minister, has provoked a series of commentaries in Uruguayan publications: EL MUNDO EMPRESARIO, a supplement to the Colorado [liberal political party] newspaper EL DIA, states: "The future situation appears difficult to predict. However, we personally believe that in general nothing harmful will happen in Uruguay's case. The quick position taken by our officials, establishing security for investors and setting exchange rates for the dollar during the month of July was skillful and effective, in our opinion."

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The newspaper EL PAIS took advantage of the exodus of Argentines at Punta del Este to interview economic analysts, who talked about the same thing: the devaluation.

In industrial circles, the Uruguayan Chamber of Industries reported that the exchange measures taken in Argentina are being studied, as well as the decision of Argentine buyers to suspend all textile deals for the next winter season.

Geopolitical publications, such as GEOSUR, are again doing studies of seaports and are being echoed by major newspapers such as EL DIA, which states: "A seaport, which is useful for regional development, is advisable for strengthening the work of American integration and establishing Uruguay's prestige among the free peoples of America." (6 February 1981)

The issue of inflation is hanging over all Latin American countries and having its effect on them. Uruguay is satisfied with having brought inflation down from 80 percent in 1979 to 42.8 percent in 1980. In Argentina, according to EL ECONOMISTA, "taken alone, devaluation only means more inflation, more pressure on public spending and consequently new transfers of earnings to sectors that do not produce goods." This is certainly and the aforementioned weekly newspaper thus recognizes that more than just the latest measure of the current economic team, this represents the preface to a new policy and will therefore be accompanied by a group of measures.

Inflation is also an obsession for the Brazilian minister of planning, Antonio Delfin Netto, who recently told MACHETE: "I would say that the beginning of the democratic process is making the fight against inflation harder," and added that "Brazil is not idle; we will continue to follow a policy which obviously has all the conditions we need to reduce inflation without substantially jeopardizing the rate of growth."

This policy is what Argentina hopes to have in its next period of development. It is confident that inflation is not reduced through a recessionary phase. One of Brazil's priorities continues to be a solution to the oil problem. It needs to find a substitute for the oil that it produces and which has risen in price from \$14 to \$38 a barrel between 1979 and 1980.

Thus it cannot halt the development of its hydroelectric plants, which means a marked disruption of its budget. The energy produced by the Itaipu Dam when it goes into operation will be equivalent to 500,000 barrels of oil daily. The Tucuruí Dam, in the Carajas project, is also of the utmost importance. Nor can Brazil stop the development of nuclear energy, which has caused it so many international problems, nor can it suspend the Proalcohol program, which is an inflationary program but one which will mean future reduction of the foreign debt when a substitute for oil is developed.

If Brazil plans to increase or at least maintain its growth rate of 8.5 percent and Argentina begins, as is expected, a new phase of regional development and moves to bolster national industry (Brazil producer 80 percent of what it consumes), then from an economic standpoint Uruguay, with a free trade zone with Argentina or gradual rapprochement with Brazil, which does not appear feasible, will have to reconsider an overall policy in which development based on national

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or binational projects will necessarily take precedence. Using real practical sense, Uruguay believes that there are two basic economic activities with a broad future: tourism and maritime industry. Efficient agricultural development and the selection of industries in which its specialization would be carried to completion are the appropriate features of an all-inclusive economic policy that is possible in the orderly context in which it exists.

The LAIA includes huge countries as well as smaller, key countries. The 5-day war between Peru and Ecuador demonstrates the importance, due to the highway system, of the latter country for Andean Group members and their necessary intercommunication.

For many reasons, Uruguay has a stabilizing effect on the fluid character of Plate River problems. The interconnection of Latin American countries is a reality which takes precedence over the formal establishment of integration through agreements or associations, but their necessary harmony depends on the latter, as does whether or not their peoples reap or forfeit the benefits.

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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

COLUMNIST SEES BOMBINGS THREATENING PRESIDENT'S POWER

PY101931 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 9 May 81 p 5

[Special to the DAILY POST by Herbert Zschech]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--The political climate in Brazil, most especially in Brasilia, in the last few days was the gloomiest possible, loaded with tensions, and recalling the atmosphere which preceded in 1968 the fifth institutional act imposing on the nation an authoritarian regime that lasted more than 10 years, burying the democratic aims and expectations linked to the revolution of 1964. These aims and expectations now revived by President Figueiredo's democratic opening became suddenly endangered last week, not so much by the explosion of two terrorist bombs in Rio but by the suspected background of these acts and the highly suspect circumstances involving them.

Acts of terrorism, starting shortly after the beginning of Figueiredo's political opening, reached a climax last year when a letter bomb addressed to the president of the Brazilian Bar Association in Rio exploded in the hands of an innocent secretary, killing her. Nationwide indignation apparently provoked an interruption of the series of terrorist acts, but in recent weeks, they have reappeared in various parts of Brazil. Bombs exploded at newsstands selling leftist publications, and at the homes of left-leaning politicians.

As all of these acts were directed against persons, newspapers and institutions professing liberal and in some cases pro-communist opinions, the conclusion was obvious: that they were perpetrated by right-wingers. Investigations by the police and national security services including the military have led to an arrest in only one of the bombings, that which exploded at the bar association. The suspect is awaiting trial.

Now, the problem is assuming an entirely new direction. An army captain, Wilson Machado, is so far surviving the explosion of a bomb in his car which killed an army sergeant, Guilherme Pereira, who was with him. Whatever the part played by these two military men, interrogation of the survivor in any case should provide clues never obtained in previous cases.

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The captain and sergeant involved in the last week's occurrences were carrying out what official military sources called a routine mission on behalf of military intelligence (DOI-CODI). They occupied a car with a fake license plate to make its identification difficult, outside the Riocentro where about 20,000 people watched a May Day festival organized by a group of popular artists, some noted for left-leaning tendencies.

One bomb exploded during the show in the power house of Riocentro, damaging the electric installations. Another bomb went off inside the car occupied by the two military men outside the building, killing the sergeant immediately and maiming the captain. The latter was rushed first to a nearby dispensary and then to Miguel Couto Hospital. Doctors resisted attempts to take him from there to the Central Army Hospital. The wrecked car was removed by military agents even before the arrival of a group of police technicians.

The situation was, and still is, utterly ambiguous and equivocal. In the first place, what routine mission, as it was called, had secret army agents to fulfill at a popular fete without major political connotations and mainly consisting of samba singing? Military authorities said the secret military services used to survey and watch whatever is going on within their region. This revelation surprised many people who had believed that with the restoration of democracy, even though within the still narrow limits so far allowed, the military had been sent back to the barracks, to take care of strictly professional duties, not participating any more in activities which at best should be restricted to the civil police, such as prevention of possible disorders or incidents always possible at a mass gathering.

Then, how come the bomb to be inside the car occupied by the two officers? Witnesses affirm that they had been in the car at least half an hour before the explosion occurred. It was evident from the first moment that the bomb exploded in the wrong place at the wrong moment. The first official military communique--from the commander of the first army Gen. Gentil Marcondes Filho, and the Rio security chief, Gen. Waldyr Muniz, said the two officers were victims of terrorism. This assertion, made even before the start, let alone any conclusion, of an inquiry was branded as "precipitous" in an emotional speech in the congress by the government leader in the senate, Nilo Coelho.

The senator, his face reddened with emotion, attacked the military authorities with unusual vehemence, quite unusual especially in the mouth of a government spokesman. Shortly after he made the speech, a Planalto functionary walked in and demanded a copy of the senator's speech. On this occasion he was heard saying, "You criticized the army commander and the security chief, two generals?" in a tone implying that this was an unheard of audacity and heresy. But the subaltern apparently misunderstood the purpose of his mission. Nilo Coelho had a conversation later in the Presidential Palace with presidential adviser General Golbery and came back affirming "If I am indignant, this is nothing in comparison with the indignation expressed in the Planalto Palace."

The inquiry into the bomb explosions was entrusted to the first army commander, General Marcondes, apparently as a demonstration of the Planalto's trust in his loyalty. This, too, elicited understandable criticism.

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In a general way, official declarations insisted that the armed forces as a national institution are not involved, their prestige is not questioned, whatever might eventually be the outcome of the inquiry.

So, officially, the captain and sergeant are innocent victims of terrorism. Various hypotheses are possible. They might have found the bomb inside the Riocentro and taken it to their car for defusing it. This would be a violation of instructions given in military manuals, and an offense to good sense. If they had found a bomb, they would have to isolate the spot immediately, also evacuating the hall as there could be more bombs there. Then they would have to alert security services and call technicians for defusing the device. They did not do any of this. Or the bomb might have been put into their car while they were momentarily absent. But according to witnesses, they did not leave the car during a considerable time prior to the explosion.

President Figueiredo stated the bombs were destined, as the previous explosions, to wreck the political opening. If this be true, and if the authors in this case, and presumably in previous ones, were military, this obviously could suggest the worst hypotheses about lack of military support to the redemocratization.

Figueiredo in an emotional outburst said not even 2,000 bombs would change his determination to go ahead with the political opening. No doubt he means it. The question remains, however, can he prevail against strong anti-liberal groups possibly situated within the armed forces? This is the reason for the gloomy atmosphere currently reigning in Brasilia and elsewhere, and for the obstinate silence now observed in all government offices where questions by newsmen on the problem are not even admitted and brusquely rejected.

Some congressmen speak more openly, sometimes to the amazement of their more cautious fellow lawmakers. One example was given Wednesday by Dep. Newton Cardoso (PP). At the weekly meeting of his moderate party of which he used to be one of the most [passage illegible] stated that Figueiredo should punish and fire the commanders of the first and second armies, Gen. Gentil Marcondes and Milton Tavares. If not, Figueiredo's regime would fall.

The deputy's speech caused almost a panic among the other deputies or, as reports put it, a state of "uneasiness." Reporters who were present were urged not to publish what the deputy had said, but this did not prevent reports appearing in the papers.

It is generally admitted now in many political circles that there exist only two alternatives: either Figueiredo smashes any opposition to his democratization program within the military, in which case the political opening then may advance faster as before. Or he cannot make prevail his will against the military groups, which mark the eventual end of liberalization.

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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

CAPITAL GOODS CREDIT--Sao Paulo (DAILY POST)--Brazil's capital goods industry will get a \$500 million credit line through the Planning Ministry. Not only that, the ministry has promised the sector--one of Brazil's most important--an exchange risk guarantee to allow producers to be sure that the exchange rate used at the time of closing an export contract will be the one utilized when merchandise is shipped. The credit is expected to play a big role in the ability of capital equipment manufacturers to meet export contract deadlines and specifications. [PY300143 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 29 Apr 81 p 7 PY]

EEC SUBSIDY WARNING--Brasilia (DAILY POST)--Brazil's new export subsidy policy could be found to be contravening the European Economic Community regulations, the Foreign Ministry has been warned. The EEC warning was made recently in regard to Brazilian exports of soybean oil and meal and cured leather, items which are shipped in sizeable quantities to EEC countries. The message was sent to Itamaraty, Brazil's Foreign Ministry, by Roy Denman, the EEC's chief foreign affairs official. In principal, the EEC does not see any major problems regarding the new Brazilian export subsidy program although Denman did specify that there could be claims made against these particular products. [Excerpt] [Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 29 Apr 81 p 7 PY]

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

ACTIVITIES OF WESTERN MASS MEDIA IN CARIBBEAN REPORTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 3 Apr 81 pp 80-81

[Article by Mario G. del Cueto: "The Multinationals of the Media in the Caribbean"]

[Text] The strategy employed by imperialism against the peoples of the area consists of lies, disinformation and cultural penetration of the English-speaking countries. The CIA is behind the destabilization campaigns. Assistance, and vigorous support, are necessary for these news media in the area which reflect the aspirations for freedom, decolonization and independence on the part of those peoples who are still under the dominion of colonialism or neocolonialism.

One of the instruments on which imperialism relies in its strategic campaign against the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean is the propaganda offensive currently under way on a large scale. In our approach to the subject we shall limit ourselves to the Caribbean theater, and within that framework devote the greater part of our report to the English-speaking Caribbean peoples.

We know that the multinational companies, the U.S. news agencies and the news agencies of various Western countries have been intensifying their propaganda which is designed, among other objectives, to "disinform" the peoples, as part of their plans for imperialist penetration. The importance which the United States, Great Britain and the FRG (to cite only a few of the principal countries playing this role) place on such activities is illustrated by the fact that approximately 40 radio stations throughout the world received more than \$500 million in 1980 to broadcast subversive propaganda.

According to data presented by a delegation from the Caribbean island of St Lucia to a Latin American Journalists' Seminar sponsored by the UPEC [Union of Cuban Journalists], it is anticipated that more than \$40 million will be distributed in 1981 among the Voice of America (official broadcasting station of the U.S. Government), Radio Free Europe, Radio Free Liberty, Deutsche Wellen, the BBC and even Radio Peking.

Everyone knows that the control of the broadcasting media on the Latin American continent has traditionally been in the hands of multinationals and U.S. news organizations; but in those territories where English, French and Dutch are spoken--and in the majority of which the ties of colonialist Europe with the Caribbean are

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still real--it is the BBC of London and other European corporations that are maintaining the information monopoly.

This of course does not exclude participation by the U.S. news agencies wherever the imperialist offensive requires it. The important thing to stress here, however, is the manner in which the propaganda of which we have spoken functions in the English-speaking areas of the Caribbean to which we have made reference. Let us take the example of the BBC. In most of the islands of the Caribbean people listen daily to the news transmitted from London by the BBC: there are commentaries on sports events taking place in Great Britain, reviews of the British press, and weekly programs (one of them broadcast daily [sic]). St Lucia affords proof of this intense radio effort directed from abroad for the purpose of imperialist penetration, be it cultural, economic, social or political penetration. The island has two radio stations which daily transmit six BBC newscasts which include commentaries following the news. These commentaries follow the official line of the British Government with respect to world events--a line which naturally does not always coincide with reality.

Ideologically, these commentaries are slanted toward a defense of the capitalist system, although the message is sometimes couched in expressions of a seemingly democratic or progressive content. The BBC's weekly programs always carry their anti-Soviet, antisocialist, anti-Cuban, pro-NATO and anti-Warsaw Pact poison between the lines, so to speak. In short, these programs customarily emphasize to the listener the allegedly negative aspects of the socialist countries and attempt to give the impression that it is the Soviet Union which is promoting world tensions, whereas the United States is portrayed as a country which is fighting for just causes.

The people are even being "disinformed" with respect to the potential dangers of U.S. military activity in the region--dangers which occasionally take on a threatening and even aggressive character. An attempt is being made to impose on the English-speaking peoples of the Caribbean a vision of the world's liberation movements which is entirely negative.

The combatants fighting the genocidal regimes of El Salvador and Guatemala (to cite only two territories near the Caribbean area) are called "terrorists" and fanatical elements pledged to subvert the system by violence--by drowning the two countries in blood.

Despite the access it enjoys to the local media in the English-speaking areas of the Caribbean, the BBC almost never reflects what is really happening in those areas. When something is heard about the region it usually concerns a natural disaster, a sensational event or an election. In the latter case, for example, the news coverage has been greatly at variance with reality. On the eve of the general election in St Lucia the London station said the proimperialist regime of Prime Minister Compton would be returned to power with a slight reduction in its parliamentary majority, whereas the result of the voting was precisely the opposite: Compton was defeated in a landslide.

It is not only the BBC, however, that has conducted imperialist propaganda in recent years. This growing activity has also been undertaken by REUTERS, the VOA, Deutsche Wellen and the United States Information Service, known today as the International Communications Agency (ICA).

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The principal channel through which the VOA, Deutsche Wellen and REUTERS operate is Radio Antillas, a powerful German corporation which transmits from another Caribbean island: Montserrat, a British colony. Radio Antillas uses a 250,000-watt transmitter and broadcasts in English, French and Spanish. It can be tuned in everywhere in the Caribbean, all along the entire island chain from Jamaica in the north to Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana in the south.

The news services of Radio Antillas have correspondents on all the islands and many of its news items are therefore of a regional character. In this connection there is also the significant fact that news can be heard on its frequencies before it is presented by the local radio stations and newspapers, with the result that Radio Antillas has a large radio audience in the area. It also happens that most of the correspondents who work for Radio Antillas locally are newsmen who describe themselves as "objective"--who are presumed to be "apolitical"--and the news they write up in the reports they send to Radio Antillas come from progressive sources only on very rare occasions.

A tremendous flow of news comes, on the other hand, from reactionary circles that are in tune with the imperialist message. The mechanism of the news operations, and of the commentaries, functions in the following way. REUTERS' articles, for example, are sent every day to Radio Antillas by Telex and are repeated several times a day over that station and other stations. An agreement signed with the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA) enables REUTERS to channel its news to all the newspapers on the English-speaking islands of the Caribbean. One should also emphasize at this juncture that it is not difficult to detect--behind this news apparatus which is designed to promote imperialist propaganda--the presence of the CIA.

Radio Antillas and the German corporation Deutsche Wellen; the VOA; and the BBC are on the payroll of the United States and are completely open to the manipulations of the Central Intelligence Agency, Washington's sinister instrument whose aim is to repress or obstruct--at any cost--the liberation movements of the peoples by giving support to the dictatorial regimes.

As for the CANA, it can be said that although it had its origin in concepts proposed at the governmental level by the member nations of CARICOM (an organization which incidentally is in a state of crisis) it has moved from the public sector to the private sector. The private entrepreneurs have always believed that the CANA should not be an official-type vehicle of coalition but rather an instrument in private hands. The stock shares of CANA are distributed in such a way that the private sector controls 56 percent and the public sector 44 percent, so that the entrepreneurs have greater decision-making powers. A majority of the shareholders are the owners of the most influential newspapers in the English-speaking part of the Caribbean, based respectively in Trinidad, Barbados and Jamaica: the TRINIDAD EXPRESS and TRINIDAD GUARDIAN; the ADVOCATE NEWS; and the DAILY GLEANER.

It is common knowledge that the DAILY GLEANER of Jamaica was a powerful propaganda factor in the election campaign that resulted in victory for the candidate of the opposition, Edward Seaga, over Manley.

Disinformation, lies and intrigue are prevalent in the news and commentaries appearing in the radio broadcasts and printed columns of a large segment of the news media which are under the control of the reactionary sectors of English-speaking countries

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of the Caribbean. In this respect they follow the line of TIME and NEWSWEEK, U.S. weeklies to which they are subservient. A good example of what has happened in the case of Time took place in St Lucia shortly after the election defeat of Compton. TIME published an article that described the Caribbean as "the fourth hot spot of the world." The same article stated that Cuba was fomenting revolution in the English-speaking part of the Caribbean. It also declared that there were "approximately a dozen" Cuban advisers in St Lucia and said the government which had just taken power was "Marxist." Forces of the defeated opposition used this as a slogan to allege that the government "was heading toward communism," but the people of St Lucia were soon able to verify that it was a deliberate lie. On another occasion, the editor of an influential U.S. naval publication--JANE'S FIGHTING SHIPS--said in an interview broadcast over Radio Antillas that there were "Cuban advisers and equipment" on St Lucia. The interviewee--a naval officer, Capt John Moore--declared that he had seen the Cubans and the equipment. No such equipment existed, of course, and the officials of the government of St Lucia themselves said they had never seen Captain Moore. Moreover, no evidence was discovered as to how he had arrived in, or departed from, the country. Captain Moore insisted that St Lucia and Barbados are strategic points which the U.S. Army has in the area, for the reason that they are very close to the Panama Canal and to the routes which the U.S. ships could use in any military exercise or maneuver.

The defeat of Manley in Jamaica--a geographic territory important because of its size and location in the Caribbean--has helped to create a climate propitious for intensifying the reactionary campaigns against peoples such as the people of Grenada, who took the path to a genuine people's democracy at the time of their victorious revolution of 13 March 1979. Cuba's fraternal aid to Grenada in the areas of construction and public health has reactivated the anticommunist routine. Grenada has been the object of repeated aggression on the part of the forces of reaction, resulting in savage attacks against the people and their leaders. The reactionary daily newspaper THE TORCHLIGHT was closed by the government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop because it had shamelessly been encouraging efforts to subvert the Grenada people's government. The broadcasting station installed in Barbados by the aforementioned FRG consortium is continuing its destabilization campaign against the government of the fraternal Caribbean people who are valiantly defending their conquests.

As we said at the outset of this brief approach to the subject, the St Lucian delegation at the Latin American Journalists' Seminar organized by the UPEC exposed the low level of professional competence in the region, and it was emphasized that the high level of imperialist penetration is quite apparent. There is no doubt that these peoples of the Caribbean need the help of the progressive press more and more each day, together with the strongest possible support for their publications, which today reflect the aspirations for freedom, decolonialization and independence on the part of those countries of the area which are still under the dominion of colonialism or neocolonialism.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

HEALTH, CULTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN LAS TUNAS PROVINCE

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 3 Apr 81 pp 8-11

[Article by Andres Rodriguez: "In What Order Are the Six Ranked?"]

[Text] Preliminaries

"We shall continue to systematize our tours; you can expect the third tour in the first quarter of this year," we said when we published the account of the second trip in the "Bohemia Economica" section on 6 February. This third tour of the six sugar municipalities of Las Tunas Province--the province that is striving to be the site of the celebration of 26 July 1981--has just been completed.

We are accordingly continuing this necessary and useful process of examining the socioeconomic conditions of a province whose cane growing potential is so great that its six sugar mills are capable of swallowing--without suffering indigestion--almost 5 million arrobas [1 arroba equals approximately 25 pounds] of sugarcane per day, which is the equivalent in Pinar del Rio of a little more than 3 days' production with all of the sugar mills in that province grinding at the limit of their installed capacity.

In the previous article we also said it was impossible at that time to establish--with the objectivity necessary for a comparative analysis--the order in which these six municipalities ranked from the standpoint of their current socioeconomic situation, although we did of course offer some opinions in this regard with a view to their subsequent corroboration.

The survey we made on this third trip--again, municipality by municipality but this time yielding more information--provided us, we believe, with the necessary elements to establish the order of rank.

Puerto Padre Is the "Teofilo Stevenson"

We mentioned it before, and we emphasize it now: the fact that Puerto Padre is the absolute monarch among the six municipalities. It is a kind of "Stevenson" whose fraternal adversaries are left rather far behind when the hour of confrontation arrives. Puerto Padre's current lead is so overwhelming that one can say--precisely with the intention of not overwhelming the reader--that it has more hotels than its five sister municipalities combined and that it has more centers for public service than Manati, Menendez and Jobabo, also combined.

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The reader can appreciate this situation if he will take a moment to look at the table entitled, "A Comparison of the Six. Public Health and Culture."

## A Comparison of the Six

## A. Public Health and Culture

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Infant mortality</u>	<u>Doctors per capita</u>	<u>Cinemas</u>	<u>Libraries</u>	<u>Houses of Culture</u>	<u>Book-stores</u>	<u>Art galleries</u>
Jobabo	20.6	1/5,000	1	1	1	1	None
Manati	25.9	1/2,200	2	None	None	1	None
J. Menendez	26.8	1/4,266	1	1	1	1	None
Amancio Rguez.	30.4	0.4/1,000	2	1	1	1	None
Colombia	32.7	1/2,414	1	1	1	1	None
Puerto Padre	14.5	1/1,585	5	3	2	3	1

B. The only municipalities that have radiobroadcasting stations are Puerto Padre and Amancio Rodriguez.

C. Have museums: Puerto Padre and Colombia.

D. Have stores that sell cultural goods: Puerto Padre and Manati.

Puerto Padre's supremacy must of course be viewed in the context of the province as a whole, and it should moreover not be idealized. Puerto Padre has a 170-bed hospital and is building others that will have 320 beds, but it has no funeral home, has lost several important medical specialties, and has come nowhere near exploiting the potential of its beaches on the north coast. Moreover, even though it has the most doctors per inhabitant, this specific indicator is nowhere near the national average.

## Intermediate Bracket

After Puerto Padre there follows a kind of intermediate bracket which is in practice shared by the municipalities of Colombia and Amancio Rodriguez.

"Did you say Amancio?" one might ask.

Yes, indeed. None other than Amancio.

It is time to lift from this municipality of southern Las Tunas Province the burden of its unhappy reputation and free it once and for all from the Macondo legend--a legend which was true in its day but which the municipality has gradually outgrown.

Amancio has by now rejuvenated its image in respect to communications, transportation, cultural activities, recreation, and an additional group of social activities which has for some time been stalled virtually on zero.

A case in point: of the six municipalities Amancio is the one with the most centers for public service. It has, for example, more barbershops than Manati, Menendez and Jobabo put together.



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As a result, the land where labor leader Amancio Rodriguez freely gave his blood has ceased to be the most backward in the province and has overtaken other municipalities which have now fallen behind it.

Although its image has been rejuvenated in respect to a number of activities, it naturally retains some old blemishes in other respects such as housing, to cite one concrete example. The climate is different, however; it is no longer the climate that prevailed in Macondo.

Colombia--the other municipality which we classified in the intermediate bracket (and which is engaged in a permanent contest with Guaimaro, of the neighboring province of Camaguey, in response to Guaimaro's challenge) is about at the same stage as Amancio although it is not moving forward at the same rate as Amancio has demonstrated, perhaps because the latter started virtually from scratch.

Some strange contrasts are still apparent in Colombia. For example, although it is second only to Puerto Padre in terms of hospital personnel per capita it has the highest infant mortality rate of the six municipalities.

A loud outcry can be heard in this southern municipality, however. "Open El Habanero!" is the entreaty you hear on all sides, and not just in the streets but responsibly, in the various electoral districts of the People's Government.

One elector in particular--Vicente Medina Egidio--explained the situation to us. El Habanero--Colombia's only beach--was in operation until the early 1970's, but since then it has been neglected to the extent that today it resembles a ghost town of the Old West, while the road leading to the beach has naturally also deteriorated to the point that it has become impassible.

The local population wants El Habanero to be opened again--that "place so much enjoyed by our people," as elector Edencio Casas Perez stated in his district. Many electors are requesting that the access road be repaired for them, after which they themselves would take care--with the necessary material assistance--of restoring the installations of the beach.

We shall continue to report on this matter, and let us hope the restoration will take place soon.

The Laggard Bracket

Next after Amancio and Colombia--and at a distance which has been increasing--come the three most "laggard" municipalities of the province: Manati, Jobabo and Jesus Menendez.

In our opinion, based on the information compiled and on our contact with reality, these three municipalities are virtually tied in respect to the prevailing economic conditions.

To put it succinctly, this triad is facing serious problems in the areas of housing, transportation, medical personnel, culture, recreation and community services. They have the fewest centers for public service, and none of them has a hotel.

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The foregoing does not mean that everything is a wasteland, nor anything like it. Sites are being rehabilitated, and new development has taken place, but it is here-- in this laggard bracket--where there has been the greatest accumulation of problems and where greater emphasis must be placed.

Conclusion of the Third Tour

We have concluded this third tour of the sugar municipalities of Las Tunas Province. We centered our attention on determining the position currently occupied by each of these municipalities in respect to their social and economic conditions--and especially the social conditions, because of their obvious repercussions on economic development.

We propose to carry out our fourth trip in the third quarter of this year, counting (as always) on the wonderful hospitality of Las Tunas. Au revoir, and may "everything flow on," as the Greek philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus would say.

In Closing

We received one complaint. The comrades of Majibacoa Municipality asked why BOHEMIA ECONOMICA had never visited them, although they too are sugar producers and already have a sugarcane enterprise which should be capable of supplying the new sugar mill that is scheduled for construction in the province--and specifically in Majibacoa.

Their complaint is fair and is legitimate. We have forgotten that Majibacoa is already a cane-growing municipality, and that within a specified period of time it will be producing sugar. We pledge, however, that our oversight will be corrected on the fourth tour.

Six Details Concerning the Six Municipalities

1. The smallest of the six municipalities (Jesus Menendez) is, however, the one which has the greatest population density (99.6 inhabitants per square kilometer), and also the one which has the greatest concentration of inhabitants in the rural areas.
2. In the six municipalities, the male population is greater than the female population.
3. Jobabo has a band that lacks instruments.
4. Amancio Rodriguez now has more barber shops than Manati, Menendez and Jobabo combined.
5. Manati is the most laggard of the six municipalities in respect to creation of the module of cultural installations.
6. Whereas three of the municipalities have a larger rural population than urban (Jobabo, Manati and Menendez), the situation is the reverse in the other three (Puerto Padre, Amancio Rodriguez and Colombia).

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

NEW WAGE REFORM EFFECTS IN CONSTRUCTION FIELD NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 27 Mar 81 p 32

[Article by Gloria Marsan: "In the Field of Labor and Wages"]

[Text] The organization of work is based on the principle of growth in work productivity indexes in relation to the increase in the average wage, the only economic possibility of expanding the wealth of society.

Consequently, the methods of organizing work and wages should lead to the development of production and productivity, reduced costs, guaranteed quality of products, work safety and hygiene and the participation of workers in the government's economic policy. They should also lead to the institution and consolidation of the strictest possible work discipline, an indispensable requirement for achieving these objectives.

The Ministry of Construction has been gradually working to achieve the basic organization of work which will realistically deploy the activity in keeping with the development of productive forces. For example, we see the following among the main guidelines to be followed by the Directorate of Labor and Wages:

Completing application of the General Wage Reform and continuing to establish forms of payment based on output and bonuses in the ministry's system; improving the organization of work in the enterprise system, placing special emphasis on the organization of the labor forces into specialized crews and the grouping of workers in construction and assembly; ensuring increased productivity and seeing that the productivity growth index is always higher than that of the average wage; and taking measures aimed at achieving full use of labor resources and their proper employment, evaluation and supervision.

In order to continue developing these aspects, the ministry has as one of its central tasks the expansion of the application and improvement of the different systems of payment based on output, especially the wage by agreement applied in the completion of projects, where the labor force is simultaneously organized into crews.

Payment based on output has already been applied to 114,000 workers, representing a rate of compliance of 103 percent in this branch last year and 46 percent of all workers under the ministry. Nevertheless, it is important that certain provinces

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make progress along these lines, among them Matanzas, which had a rate of only 38 percent; Sancti Spiritus, 39 percent; Ciego Avila (entire enterprise), 41 percent; and Guantanamo, 42 percent.

The wage by agreement has been applied to 67,500 workers and an average monthly growth rate of 8,100 workers incorporated has been maintained. However, Ciego de Avila, Matanzas, Sancti Spiritus, Cienfuegos, Pinar del Rio and Moa have poor application of the system.

At the end of last year, 114,000 workers were receiving the benefits of the General Wage Reform and another 28,000 were being approved by the provincial committees. Outstanding efforts were made by the provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Camaguey and Havana, which applied it to 100 percent of their workers, with the exception of the projects and supplies enterprises, not authorized to use it until next year.

Regarding productivity, we can see that last year, it rose 6 percent and compared with the plan, the average wage rose 2 percent.

Some 7,440 specialized crews have been organized with 80,300 workers, achieving a rate of 106 percent. Inexplicably, Matanzas is among the lagging provinces, a surprising observation because it was the Matanzas workers who were the pioneers in this work. It was precisely on the Jaguey Grande Bay of Pigs Victory citrus operation that the specialized crews were born. Furthermore, it was the Yumurinos who were the first to use them on engineering construction works.

We are confident that the Matanzas people will soon turn this situation around.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

IMPROVEMENTS IN LIVING CONDITIONS IN MOA NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 27 Mar 81 p 35

[Article by Alberto Pozo: "Ninth Reply"]

[Text] This "Opinions" column should actually be carried by our colleague Pablo Velazco, editor of EL NIQUEL, the Pedro Sotto Alba Plant newspaper in Moa, but inasmuch as it is actually the ninth reply concerning the campaign which both of our publications are waging to improve living conditions in the laterite belt of northern Holguin and inasmuch as it has always been published in this column so as to respect the readers' acquired habit, we yield our space to our fraternal colleague.

In a report from the Executive Committee of the People's Government in Moa to the voters -- we repeat, the person talking now is Pablo Velazco -- it is stated that work is underway to improve the supply of water, which is now a scarce commodity, especially in the new buildings. And yet, the problem will not be totally solved until 1985, with the startup of the new purification plants. It should be added that the hydrology crew is doing serious work to correct the breakdowns of recent years because the resources received are far below needs.

On the other hand, there has been an improvement in the garbage collection service. Several factors have played a role: the emulation of the CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution]; the integration of workers in the sector; the repair of vehicles and the arrival of a new one. In addition, the earthwork is already underway at the new dump in the Centeno area.

There is very good news from the culture sector: The nation's expanded budget has been received. Musical groups from the eastern provinces, even Camaguey, have begun to arrive. In recent weeks, the groups left because they were not paid their per diem allowance. In the case of the only party organized for Valentine's Day, it was cancelled because of insufficient funds. In the future, because of the new budget, no such economic reasons will be able to be alleged.

Actually, work in Moa's cultural sector has been systematically inadequate and there has been no concern for fostering local fans. The work of the Cultural Center specifically has been so poor that its director was replaced. Now, with the change in command, work is going better, but there is the logical difficulty that because of the lack of cultural habits, the public does not respond. The people's trust must be won over.

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Concerning sports, we could say that plans are being made, but in practice, the results do not compensate for the efforts made. In day-care centers, after two directors were replaced, work is going better.

Work is being done to improve the living conditions of teachers. Logically enough, they fall in love and marry within the group, but they have nowhere to live because the dormitories are filled to capacity. A solution is being sought.

Education has received specific orders not to accept centers that are not totally finished because in the past, this has caused logical deficiencies. Work on the Moa preuniversity is finished, a set of buildings that will benefit the educational system here. In Las Coloradas, one of our growing districts, six classrooms of the new ESBU (urban basic secondary school) are already finished. The initiation of another ESBU with 1,200 students had been postponed. The situation was reconsidered and work began this year.

Concerning public health, air conditioning units have been installed in the general medical clinic. In the Rolo Monterrey development, two houses have been air conditioned so that the blood bank and the microbiology laboratory may be installed. They will open their doors in April. The Moa hospital is receiving general repairs and new rooms will be built, adding another 40 beds to make a total of 140. Finally, construction of a new hospital will begin this year, in answer to the people's hopes. It will have a capacity of 300 beds and should be finished by 1986.

As the reader can see, we are making progress in Moa. We believe that just as we won the battle of productive emulation in Nicaro, we shall also be victorious in improving living conditions. What will our colleague Alexis Rojas of Nicaro's newspaper CARONI reply?

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

## SUCCESS IN SUGARCANE PRODUCTION IN VILLA CLARA NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 27 Mar 81 pp 36-39

[Article by Andres Rodriguez: "Like Espronceda's Sailboat?"]

[Text] It is not easy, in real life, to have "wind abaft and full sail," like the boat in the well-known "Cancion del Pirata" by Spanish poet Espronceda. Lyric imagination is one thing; objective reality another. And yet, after visiting at length the heavy black soil of two sugarcane enterprises (Hector Rodriguez and Antonio Finalet) on the northern coast of Villa Clara Province, the visitor comes to the conclusion that things are going well, independently of the fact that they could always go better.

It would appear that one natural factor: climate, has been a positive element in this already tangible sugarcane recovery, because the truth is that when it rains hard on those black soils, which are genetically labeled as *montmorilloniticos* -- even the pronunciation is difficult -- it is very difficult to work them. However it is equally true that the subjective factor very wisely abandoned the tactic of fighting it out with the mud and turned to other extremely rational tactics in order to face the difficulties of the soil and take advantage of its renowned fertility.

A rational tactic in this direction consists of the placing of seed in banks or nurseries, a technology for soil with poor drainage satisfactorily applied in other parts of the world and even in isolated instances in our country at one time. Naturally, we saw this method of planting on the two Villa Clara enterprises previously mentioned, which enterprises were chosen in the province for BOHEMIA's work on the cycle of work for the great spring planting already underway.

At one of the enterprises (Hector Rodriguez), we were told of the advantages of planting in nurseries, advantages well documented. Specifically, we were shown a comparative state of losses before the use of such technology.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Area Planted</u>	<u>Area Lost</u>
1977	165.6	50.4
1978	41.5	10.0
1979	169.9	38.1

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In 1980, when nursery planting was being applied, 171.4 caballerias [1 caballeria = 33.2 acres] were planted and none was lost. At the same time, the sugarcane population of the plantations increased, achieving an average of 85 to 90 percent.

We therefore go back to what we said: Things are going well, independently of the fact that they could always go better.

Cienfuegos

One of the DT-75 caterpillar tractor crews on the Antonio Finalet enterprise asked us to have lunch with them.

"No, please, take back part of it," we warned the cook when he served us our trays laden with food. Let it be said that it was a well-balanced meal.

We ate in the shade of a cart set up as a sleeping place so that the crew could rest after the long single shift.

Naturally, there was no mobile soup kitchen as we had seen on our previous visit to the two enterprises in the Camaguey municipality of Minas. But, it should be repeated, the men eat abundantly and well and they eat protein, not just starch.

"It is like this in all the plowing crews," we were told by the enterprise director who kindly conducted us on the tour.

We went to another crew, that of the powerful Komatsu tractors. Here, the first thing we noticed was the cook: a man completely dressed in white, just as if he were in a first-class restaurant, serving abundant rations to the operators, abundant rations containing protein.

"You are the perfect chef," we told him.

"Not really," he replied, "I left my hat in Cienfuegos."

After the melancholic observation about the forgotten hat came the hot coffee, also served abundantly.

24-Hour Shift

It would appear that the people are motivated and therefore, interested in the results of their work. Perhaps for that very reason, our observations are not uniform.

In the Komatsu crew on the Hector Rodriguez enterprise, one operator expressed his disagreement with the double 12-hour shift. For him, it is better to work a complete shift of 24 hours and rest the next 24, an opinion with which other operators on the same crew disagree because no one could stand such a work day.

"The problem is that my comrades live quite close," he argues, "but I live in Sagua and when I leave here, I have to make transfers and I can never rest like the others."



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The argument is a valid one but the solution does not necessarily lie in the marathonic 24-hour shift.

## Mechanized Cutting of Seed

On both sugarcane enterprises in northern Villa Clara, most planting is being done by students from the Rural School, who plant the seed previously cut by combines.

The seed for these students is naturally given to them but the innovation here is the mechanized cutting.

This is neither the time nor the place to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this practice, which requires a detailed analysis from the technical-economic standpoint.

For the time being, we shall simply note its existence. When we return in June of this year or during the following visit in the last quarter of 1981, we may be able to examine the results of the mechanized cutting of seed.

Concerning Seed (Excerpts from a Letter from Reader Francisco Santana, an Old Cane Cutter)

"...for some time now, I have been concerned by the amount of cane seed wasted per caballeria in the planting, both spring and fall. On 25 February, I went to the small farm of Juan Gil, located between Rincon and Bejucal, where he was watering cane just as he was shown by the cane plan, in a nursery.

"The owner and I measured 24 shoots in a furrow and took out the cane that was extra, leaving what was truly needed for planting. We picked up the leftover cane and weighed it just as they do in the storehouses and the result was 40 pounds. I did the figuring in my head and found that they were using 12,000 arrobas [1 arroba = 25 pounds] per caballeria when only 6,864 were needed. Wasting 6,000 arrobas per caballeria with sugar prices being what they are has to be seen to be believed. We always planted using 5,000 arrobas for every caballeria, placing the pieces of cane, with four buds, 13 inches apart."

Note: We are aware of the limitations involved regarding good-quality seed. That is why Santana's observation is totally valid. If we were to use 6,000 arrobas extra for every caballeria, this would represent, in a field of some 30,000 caballerias, 180 million arrobas of cane that would not be milled because they were used as seed.

Hector Rodriguez Antonio Finalet: Varieties Planted (in caballerias)

	H. Rodriguez	A. Finalet
Jaronu 60-5	141	161
Jaronu 64-19	-	1
Jaronu 64-20	12	-
Cuba 87-51	25	-
Cuba 819-67	6	6

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Cuba 334-64	-	10
Canal Point 52-43	-	2
Others being developed	6	-

What one notices immediately is the tremendous commitment both enterprises make to the Jaronu 60-5, our best variety to date. This situation is due to the lack of suitable seed from other varieties recommended as well as to the fact that some other varieties have been susceptible to dangerous diseases such as rust and blight.

We do not know, because we were not told, what varieties being developed Hector Rodriguez will plant.

Until June

We shall return in June to see the first results of the great spring planting. We shall return to the four cane enterprises studied in this series undertaken by BOHEMIA: two in Camaguey: Sierra de Cubitas and Noel Fernandez, and two in Villa Clara: Hector Rodriguez and Antonio Finalet.

Hector Rodriguez Antonio Finalet: Planting Plan (in caballerias)

	Jan-Apr	May-Jun	Total
Hector Rodriguez	155	25	190
Antonio Finalet	169	11	180

Fortunately, both enterprises propose to do most planting in the period between January and April, which should enable them to go into May and June without the spectre of marathon plantings. We hope this is the case!

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COUNTRY SECTION

GRENADA

BRIEFS

HONDURAN ATTACK ON NICARAGUA--St Georges, 9 May (PL)--Grenada has condemned the armed intervention by the Honduran army soldiers who entered Nicaraguan territory on 3 May. "We have learned with surprise and concern of the Honduran army's actions and the protection granted to criminals and counter-revolutionaries facing Sandinist forces," says a message from Prime Minister Maurice Bishop on behalf of the new Jewel movement, the government and the people of Grenada. "We strongly condemn this outrageous and unjustified provocation by the agents of imperialism," says the message sent to Commander Daniel Ortega, member of the National Reconstruction Government of Junta. [as printed] We are sure, the message notes, that the sons of Sandino will know how to defeat these acts of aggression against the sovereignty and territory of its people, as they did yesterday in the face of colonialism, dictatorial repression and imperialism. [Text] [PA111643 St Georges PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 0220 GMT 9 May 81]

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