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# Latin America Report

(FOUO 17/81)



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# LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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## CONTENTS

### COUNTRY SECTION

#### INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Briefs		
	Suriname Detains Venezuelan Boats	1

#### BRAZIL

	Policy Dispute Seen in Golbery Resignation (Herbert Zschech; LATIN AMERICAN DAILY POST, 8 Aug 81) .....	2
--	---	---

Briefs		
	PLO Office in Brasilia	4

#### CUBA

	'PRELA' on Israel's Nuclear Threat (Mirta Balea; PRELA, 4 Jul 81) .....	5
--	--	---

	U.S. Seen Withholding Loans for Grenada, Nicaragua (Manuel Somoza; PRELA, 29 Jun 81) .....	7
--	---	---

	Improvements in Moa Communications Noted (BOHEMLIA, 29 May 81) .....	9
--	---	---

	Preparations for Provincial, Municipal Assemblies Noted (BOHEMLIA, 5 Jun 81) .....	10
--	---	----

	Improvements in National Railroad Discussed (Concepcion Duchesne; BOHEMLIA, 5 Jun 81) .....	12
--	--	----

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[III - LA - 144 FOUO]

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Financial, Economic, Accounting Terms Defined (BOHEMIA, various dates) .....	18
Capital Assets, Equipment, by Alexis Codina Depreciation, Amortization, by Alexis Codina Turnover Resources, by Alexis Cordina	
Importance of Data Processing to Development Noted (Fermin A. Bernasconi Interview; BOHEMIA, 29 May 81) ....	21
Nuclear Power Plant Construction Continues (Ramon Lobaina Consuegra; BOHEMIA, 5 Jun 81) .....	28
Need for Quality in Emulations Stressed (Gloria Marsan Sanchez; BOHEMIA, 5 Jun 81) .....	32
Increase in Havana Supermarkets Explained (Janet Salva; BOHEMIA, 19 Jun 81) .....	34
Higher Prices in Free Markets Explained (Adalberto Gonzalez Interview; BOHEMIA, 29 May 81) .....	36
Improvements in Havana Food Service (Arsenio Torres Interview; BOHEMIA, 12 Jun 81) .....	38
GUATEMALA	
Organization in Mexico Denounces Repression of Church (ANSA, 10 Aug 81) .....	45
HONDURAS	
Briefs Nonintervention in El Salvador	46
NICARAGUA	
Wheelock Denounces CIA Plans Against Latin America (PRELA, 4 Aug 81) .....	47
PANAMA	
Briefs Sandinist Anniversary Celebration	48

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COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

SURINAME DETAINS VENEZUELAN BOATS--Caracas, 26 Jun (PL)--According to the official news agency VENPRES, acting Foreign Minister Oswaldo Paez Pumar has confirmed here the arrest of several Venezuelan fisherman by Suriname authorities for fishing in Suriname's territorial waters. "This is not the first time a case like this has arisen," the foreign minister admitted, adding that "we are currently making efforts to conclude a fishing agreement with Suriname in order to solve all these problems under an overall framework." VENPRES added that Paez "denied having any knowledge of a Guyanese boat that was detained in Venezuelan waters." The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry has begun efforts to obtain the release of the fishermen but the foreign minister did not say how many there are. According to press reports, 6 boats with a crew of 12 each are being held in Paramaribo. [Text] [PA280051 Caracas PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 1435 GMT 26 Jun 81]

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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

POLICY DISPUTE SEEN IN GOLBERY RESIGNATION

PY092322 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 8 Aug 81 p 1

[Article by Herbert Zschech]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--In the first half of the past week, the resignation of Minister of Planning Antonio Delfim Netto, was rumored as virtually certain. But he emerged with a smile, quipping "my hour still has not arrived."

Then on Thursday night, the nation was stunned by the announcement that Gen Golbery Do Couto E Silva, the political, mentor of the Ernesto Geisel and Joao Figueiredo administrations, the man who virtually "made" the two presidents and was considered the all-powerful political strategist of the two governments, was leaving.

Golbery's decision to quit his post as chief of Figueiredo's civil office--similar to White House chief of staff and a title which does not express at all the real importance of his activities as the "man behind the throne"--first provoked shock in political and economic circles in the capital. Sen. Tancredo Neves, the head of the moderate opposition party, PP [Popular Party], and one of the coolest heads and keenest observers in Brazilian politics, exclaimed, "We are all lost," on hearing the news on the telephone.

Later, he said that Golbery's departure from the government certainly signals a serious crisis in the regime.

And ex-President Geisel stated on hearing the news: "I feared that this would happen: things were rolling since Monday."

Golbery's main historical role in Brazil's recent political development was his participation in the political opening which, while assumed by Figueiredo, is generally believed to be his idea. Having taken an active part in the military conspiracy which in 1964 toppled the Joao Goulart regime and elevated Marshal Castello Branco to the presidency, he patiently and persistently tried in the following decades to restore the original ideology of the "revolution" of 1964 after Castello Branco's successors had slipped into outright arbitrary dictatorship. He was not a fanatic liberal but he wanted a strong democracy.

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In the last few days, the two most acute problems facing the government--electoral reform and the financial collapse of the Social Security (INPS) system--seem to have provoked within the innermost circles of the regime a new flaring of the debate on whether political opening and democracy are compatible at all with economic crisis calling for drastic solutions, and if these solutions should be political or technical.

Delfim Netto advocated technical solutions; the politicians, evidently, wanted political ones.

Golbery is said to have opposed Delfim Netto, insisting on large popular participation in the tackling of problems concerning the people. Now it seems that he lost the battle, for the time being. His resignation is expected to drag along other government ministers, marking the start of a general shakeup within the regime, the consequences at the present moment are difficult to foresee.

Anyway, it might be significant that Figueiredo's first conversations behind closed doors after Golbery's decision were with the military ministers.

The days and hours prior to Golbery's surprising decision were spent with public and confidential debates on the two burning problems of electoral reform and social security crisis. The latter seems to have precipitated Golbery's departure, a possibility which had never been conceived of outside the innermost circles of government. Despite the gravity of the problems, especially the social security crisis, everything still looked like normal government business.

Now, however, this impression could change. Until Thursday, the situation was handled in ways of political routine, by more or less traditional methods.

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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

PLO OFFICE IN BRASILIA--Sao Paulo (DAILY POST)--In Brasilia this week, Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro said that Brazil was willing to allow the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to open an office of representation in this country similar to the ones that exist in several European countries. Guerreiro made it clear that the PLO would not have diplomatic status for the Brazilian Government considers the organization as a "liberation movement" and not a sovereign nation. He added that the Foreign Ministry would begin contacting Arab ambassador in order to negotiate the conditions that are needed for the establishment of a PLO office of representation. (Farid Sawan), the PLO's representative in Brazil expressed his satisfaction over Brazil's decision and said that the fact that the office which he will head will not enjoy diplomatic status will not affect his work "since the PLO is mainly interested in informing the government and the Brazilian people about the problems faced by the Palestinian people who were thrown out of their lands and are constantly being persecuted by the Israelis." [Excerpt] [PY040350 Rio De Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 2/3 Aug 81 (p ?)]

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

'PRELA' ON ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR THREAT

PA092203 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1813 GMT 4 Jul 81

[Article by Mirta Balea: "Israel: The Unlimited Option"]

[Text] Israel looks like a thumb, long and narrow in the north where the land is fertile and desert-like in the south. In international politics, however, it is more than a point on the map.

The state that was created at the end of World War II "to give shelter to the Jews scattered throughout the world" on the access route to the Mediterranean Sea now has the potential to create its own nuclear weapons.

The Israeli attack on a nuclear reactor at the Tammuz Research Center in Iraq poses questions regarding the control of these weapons and the positions that the United States has adopted in such a serious matter.

The justification for the bombing was that the plant was endangering Israel's "security." Israel used the argument of an alleged fabrication of bombs to destroy targets in that territory.

This is the first time since the invention of the nuclear weapon that one country has used such pretexts to claim the right to destroy nuclear installations in another country.

This incident resulted in a general repudiation of Israel, especially by the Arabs who see this attack against one of their states as an insult to their sovereignty.

The government of Baghdad took its complaint to the United Nations and the Security Council was summoned to an emergency meeting. A resolution condemning Israel was approved on 19 June.

By then, U.S. President Ronald Reagan had met with several Arab ambassadors in Washington in order to dissociate his government from the Israeli attack. However, reality sheds new light on the incidents.

A few hours after these meetings, the Zionist press reported that U.S. officials secretly visited Israel several times last year and that the Tel Aviv regime used data supplied by these officials to carry out the attack.

Caught in its own trap, Washington still tried to appear distant from this operation and temporarily suspended, on 12 June, the delivery of four Phantom 16 planes to the Zionist regime. But...the people were not convinced.

Amid debates in the Security Council, Reagan calmed down the Israeli ambassador in Washington and told him that he would not carry out a basic review of his relations with Tel Aviv or would change the essence of them.

The new U.S. administration, as is well-known, is not troubled by the world rejection because of its ties with and support for reactionary regimes. It must be recalled that the United States is doing the same thing with South Africa.

To the U.S. television network "ABC," the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said that Israel "is the main danger" and that Washington has the great responsibility of building the nuclear arsenal of the Zionists.

As is known, the Israeli nuclear research program, including the military aspects, was drafted within the secret cooperation existing between Washington and Tel Aviv.

The nuclear reactors of Dimona and Neve Rup Pin in Israeli territory, both have particle accelerators, and the thick security that covers this process--the international press has stressed--forces specialized sectors to speculate that the Zionists have the nuclear weapon.

At the same time, the regime has refused to sign the treaty for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and rejected any international control over this matter in its territory.

NATO circles have disclosed that Israel has enough nuclear fission material to make some 20 nuclear bombs and it is devoting special attention to programs to develop missile systems capable of carrying nuclear nose cones.

An FRG ship that was carrying 200 tons of enriched uranium from the United States disappeared mysteriously in 1968. Weeks later, the ship appeared carrying a different flag, name and crew and without the shipment which according to the U.S. press, ended up in Israeli hands.

Another known fact is the "disappearance" of 100 kg of uranium from the U.S. factory "nuclear materials and equipment," which according to official reports were transferred to Dimona.

An impartial analysis with the known facts allows to the conclusion that Israel is threatening the world, particularly the Arab countries, with the same weapon that it is trying to prevent others to develop for peaceful purposes.

Time is telling now where the true danger lies.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

U.S. SEEN WITHHOLDING LOANS FOR GRENADA, NICARAGUA

PA300015 Havana PRELA in English 2015 GMT 29 Jun 81

[Article by Manuel Somoza]

[Text] [No dateline as received] Washington's decision to suspend another economic assignment to Nicaragua and to refuse Grenada a \$4 million loan brings into the open the true objectives of the new U.S. "cooperation plan" for Central America and the Caribbean.

Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the national reconstruction government junta of Nicaragua, revealed that the U.S. House of Representative's foreign relations subcommittee has suspended a \$20 million assignment to that Central American country.

This measure is added to another two similar ones adopted by the United States up to now this year. At the same time that denunciations of preparations for a military invasion of Nicaragua, in training bases situated in territories of the United States and Honduras, are growing.

Very recently, the government of Grenada also condemned the U.S. position of trying to deprive it of a \$4 million loan, through the Caribbean Development Bank.

In the case of Grenada that decision also follows a markedly aggressive line of conduct, to which is added the pressures exercised by the United States on some West European allies, for the purpose of blocking the financing of an international airport of that Caribbean island.

The construction of the air terminal has strategic importance for the economic life of Grenada, which depends on tourism as main source of foreign currency.

What is the United States aiming at with its so-called foreign aid plan for the Caribbean basin, some analysts ask, and the answer is quite clear.

The United States plans are aimed at "granting economic preferences to the countries which guarantee United States investments and policies."

Which is the same as saying that this region is on the borderline of a new escalation in the already tense situation created by the United States, aimed at surrounding and destabilizing the progressive countries and movements of the Caribbean and Central America.

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Nevertheless, neither does the plan escape the difficulties which the same internal contradictions in the United States and the positions of several countries of the zone are creating.

According to the daily the WASHINGTON POST, the infighting within the ranks of the republican administration is blocking the application of the new interventionist maneuver.

Countries such as Mexico have expressed officially their rejection of the planned foreign aid program which conceals a form of pressure against states not akin to the United States.

However, the republican administration [is] going ahead with its maneuvers, and the recent economic measures against Nicaragua and Grenada are further proof of the dangers which are hanging over the region.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

IMPROVEMENTS IN MOA COMMUNICATIONS NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 29 May 81 pp 32-33

[Text] The recent last visit of Minister of Communications Pedro Guelmes, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, has yielded substantial improvements for the municipality of Moa. Let us see what the newspaper EL NIQUEL, organ of the Pedro Sotro Alba plant, says.

"Throughout this year, facilities for long-distance service in Moa have been expanded, with the installation of equipment permitting 60 simultaneous conversations with other places in the country. At the present time, only 24 can be made. In addition, the minister of communications reported that there are plans for the installation of two long-distance stations for international service this year, making it possible to speak directly from Moa with the Soviet Union and other countries.

"The prospective plans of the Ministry of Communications for the development of the mining area include: the installation of a new radio retransmitter for Radio Reloj or Radio Liberacion; the installation of a telephone cable to provide facilities for the Las Coloradas zone; and expansion of the Moa plant with 200 new lines. At the present time, the plant's capacity is 1,000 lines.

"It was learned that with the help of the People's Government, an apartment in Las Coloradas and another in Rolo Monterrey will be renovated and later turned into postal, telegraph and press offices. A new building will be put up in Moa to be used for the central post offices with all the proper facilities.

"A shed will be built near the radio retransmitting plants this year for the installation of auxiliary electrical plants. Electric power will also be taken to the Miraflores Hills, providing better service from the television broadcasting equipment. This work will be done by the linemen from the Pedro Sotro Alba plant using materials supplied by the electrical industry."

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

PREPARATIONS FOR PROVINCIAL, MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLIES NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 5 Jun 81 p 54

[Text] At the end of 1981 the Municipal and Provincial Assemblies of the Peoples Government will be reelected, as stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic. Its Article 111 states: "The Assemblies shall be reelected every 2½ years, which is the length of the delegates' term." Article 70 states that the National Assembly shall be elected for a term of 5 years. This time, then, the reelection of local organs and that of the National Assembly coincide, because it is at precisely that time, December 1981, when the deputies elected in 1976 finish their 5-year terms.

Ordinarily, elections must be called for the second and third Sundays in October. At that time, district delegates are to be elected, and they become members of the Municipal Assemblies in their own right.

The current Electoral Law provides that at 0900 hours on the second day after the election, in a previously chosen place, the delegates, led by the oldest among them, shall take the oath of office, form the Assembly and elect the Executive Committee.

At that same session, the Municipal Assembly is to elect its delegates to the Provincial Assemblies. The chairmen of the Municipal Executive Committee are in their own right delegates to the corresponding Provincial Assemblies.

Then, at 0900 hours on the Sunday following their election, the provincial delegates are to meet to form their Assembly and elect their Executive Committee.

On the date designated by the Council of State, the Municipal Assemblies meet to elect their deputies to the National Assembly. Thirty days afterwards, the deputies meet in their own right, bearing their respective certificates of election, at the time and place previously designated by the Council of State, under the chairmanship of the oldest deputy, who is to be assisted by the two youngest deputies as secretaries.

The deputies to the National Peoples Government Assembly are to be elected at a ratio of one for every 20,000 inhabitants, or fraction greater than 10,000. If the number of inhabitants in a municipality is less than that, a deputy will be elected anyway.

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Immediate Term

We have learned that several municipalities and provinces are working to form Electoral Commissions made up of representatives of the Party and the grass-roots organizations of the corresponding unit. These commissions will be charged with directing each assembly process, as well as popular voting in each referendum. A National Commission, 14 Provincial Commissions and 169 Municipal Commissions are to be established, in addition to the special commissions the national body deems necessary.

The Municipal Electoral Commissions will draw up the list of voters, consisting of the names of all Cuban citizens who are registered in the address directory and who are not ineligible to vote due to mental disability or legal problems.

No citizen with the right to vote may be excluded from the corresponding voter list.

The candidates for the assemblies are nominated, as has been done on other occasions, at general voter assemblies in each district. Several areas of a district can nominate the same candidate, but naturally more than one candidate must be nominated to be elected in each district.

All the voters that participate in the assemblies have the right to propose candidates. Among those proposed, the candidate who obtains the majority of the votes, in direct and public balloting, will be nominated.

According to Article 2 of the Electoral Law, "all Cuban citizens with the right to vote and who also enjoy full political rights, have the right to be elected as candidates for delegates."

To begin this process, it is essential that the provisions of Article 55 of that Law be carried out: "Every election shall be preceded by the convocation issued by the Council of State. Said convocation shall indicate the day when the election is to be held. The convocation shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic no less than 90 days before the date when the elections are to be held."

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

IMPROVEMENTS IN NATIONAL RAILROAD DISCUSSED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 5 Jun 81 pp 8-11

[Article by Concepcion Duchesne]

[Text] This report, written by the journalist as a retrospective, places us in the center of the birth of the Cuban railroad, whose main purpose -- it could be no other -- was to respond to the requirements of the economic development pursued from the early decades of the 19th century by the native landowners and merchants, who felt the need to establish their economic presence in the area of the management of the industrial and financial processes, although within the framework of the colonial government, which could guarantee them social stability in the face of the "black danger" -- that is, the desire for liberation of the ever larger masses of slaves and working sectors of the country.

An obvious sign was the presence, from the very beginning, of English capital and American technology, through which the new domination that would be gradually established could be seen. Spain was the bureaucratic-military oppressive power; the United States would be the economic power seeking the maturation of the desired fruit.

The railroad is thus an obvious example that the country was initiating growing development, which had to interrelate the different areas of production, marketing and shipping in order to do away with the secular isolation of a rapacious colonial domination with little capacity for development, which would respond to the needs of the native landowners and hungry American customers.

The iron road was the most innovative path of communication, the most efficient, the most profitable: Sugar and tobacco, Oriente's mining, urgently needed it.

And yet, from the very beginning, the sign of underdevelopment was visible: The technical personnel and industrial equipment would be imported. Cuba would have to depend upon both and substantially, in the case of the former: the men who knew how to plan, build, operate, maintain and master the technology.

Logically enough, the highly skilled training of these technicians was inconceivable in the mediatized republic because in Cuba, a railroad pioneer, there were no engineers nationally trained for the task.



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Furthermore, the investment process was centered around the sugar mill areas and virtually came to a close in the 1920's. The interimperialist contradictions allowed the central freight and passenger railroad to be in the hands of English capital, while the sugar railroad, naturally enough, was owned by the Americans.

The railroads therefore had to experience stagnation, a state of affairs that was "inherited" by the Revolution, both with respect to equipment as well as the scarce technical personnel.

Consequently, designing the lines of railroad development implied combining the process of investment and replacement of equipment with the training of personnel capable of its startup, maintenance and profitable operation. In other words, there had to be a strong link between training and production both in economic strategy as well as the training and productive situation.

This was the framework for the training of specialists, with particular intensity and priority, for the development of rail communications. During the 1976-1980 period, the following results were achieved: "Rail freight transport increased 26 percent. Passenger traffic totaled 20 million in 1980, an increase of 82 percent over 1975. Some 102 heavy locomotives and 1,860 freight and passenger cars joined the rolling stock. Over 750 kilometers of the central railroad were rebuilt." (Fidel Castro: Central Report to the Second Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba)

During the current 5-year period, as the Report states, there are plans for the construction of railroad passenger cars and an improvement in passenger transportation by rail. Completion of the central railroad and initiation of construction of the railroad junctions are scheduled, along with stations and basic secondary railroads.

How has higher education responded to these requirements?

This was the initial question that the reporter took to the School of Transportation of the Jose Antonio Echeverria Polytechnical Institute (ISPJAE), where comrades specializing in railroad transportation awaited her.

Dean Antonio Romillo immediately replied:

"For the time being, the School of Transportation of the ISPJAE is the only one where this area of special study is available, one which results from the reorganization of areas of specialization in higher education by branches of the economy in 1976-1977. To date, we have not yet had a graduating class; the first will be this year, 1980-1981. We shall have the first 19 engineers graduating in our country. I emphasize that this constitutes a praiseworthy effort on the part of our professors."

"Naturally, Dean Romillo, you would tell us about the graduating class and your enrollment."

"At the present time, we have 140 students divided into the 5 years of the special training. Of them, 19 are in their last year. They are the ones I was talking about when I mentioned our first graduating class."

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"Concerning promotion, I can tell you that it has gradually improved from the low initial levels to what we have now. The increase has jumped considerably, from 10 percent to approximately 68 percent. We hope that by 1981-1982, we shall achieve a 70-percent promotion rate."

"Sarria, in our early talks before this, let us say, formal one, we understood that you were among the pioneers in the field. What can you tell us?"

"I remember that it was a rather difficult situation because the task fell upon three comrades who had recently graduated from the Automotive Transport training. Naturally, we practically knew nothing about railroad transport.

"You must realize that the affection, if I may express it that way, which we began to feel was born in comrades who in fact knew only that railroads had iron wheels. New horizons then opened up before us because the field includes mechanics, electricity (for example, the locomotive is a kind of miniature electrical power plant). In short, it is one of the broadest field of action in engineering as a whole. In conclusion, I assure you that the work we took up was well worth the trouble."

"I think that the reader, especially a student who might enter the field, would like to hear about the program of study."

Juan Rodriguez answered: "Since we are dividing up the questions, I think it is my turn to answer and I do so with great pleasure. The field, which takes 5 years, has basic subjects of study (physics, chemistry, mathematics, and so on) during the first cycle. In the second, we find the basics of mechanics, although, as Sarria said, the locomotive is a complex that has a large electrical part with a whole series of automatic circuits, which are also studied in electrical engineering and electronics.

"Concerning the first aspect, the student acquires knowledge of mechanical theory, the resistance of materials, machinery design.

"Beginning in the third year, normally, the student begins to work in the field, where the disciplines he receives -- in our plan there are 15 -- give him his final area of specialization either in railroad cars or locomotives.

"I would like to clarify something else. The student learns the elements needed to build railroad cars and receives knowledge about locomotive systems, which enable him to determine what systems of operations are to be used in both cases. In addition, he learns what methods of repair will be used. He studies aspects of economics in order to be able to evaluate the most rational solutions from the technical-economic standpoint.

"In recent years, students have completed a series of projects which, as you know, are actually on-the-job training where they combine theory with practice in solving specific problems which the country faces.

"Finally, during the last semester of the fifth year, the student devotes himself entirely to his graduate project, an independent technical project of an advanced nature on which he must demonstrate what he has learned in four and a half years of study. This project is discussed before a committee named for the purpose,

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and once it is approved, the student receives the degree of mechanical engineer in the specific field of railroad transportation."

"Comrade, I would like to add something here that we consider to be of great importance," the dean interrupted. "We must emphasize the role played by Soviet advisers in developing our field. At all times, we have had help in the preparation of classes, the material studies base, in literature and the training of our teachers.

"At the present time, we have an agreement with the Railroad Institute of Moscow, in addition to the cooperation of Soviet specialists in the Ministry of Transport."

"Precisely, this leads us to inquire about the cooperation of the Ministry of Transport in training in this area."

"Although Comrade Molina may speak about this aspect," engineer Sarria said, "I should like to note, first of all -- I have already spoken about the initial difficulties -- that our comrades in the Vice Ministry of Rail Transport (at that time, the Railroad Union did not yet exist) helped us decisively in drawing up the plan of study because from their suggestions came the subject matters given in the early years, for example, description of the railroad, which gave us a general idea of everything which railroad transport took in."

"We are on the right track and it is necessary to speak about the occupational profile, for how else can one know what and why one is going to study?"

"That is true," engineer Dimas Hernandez agreed, "and this field is very good, at least we all believe it is. The occupational profile can be divided into two main areas: the repair of locomotives and railroad cars and their technical operation.

"With regard to the former, the specialist can work in the repair of plants, workshops or their sections or plan the way and manner in which the different pieces of equipment are repaired. He can organize the different operations for that repair. Or he may plan, organize and supervise the assembly and dismantling of the entire units, supervise the quality of the pieces that have been repaired and the testing of complete units that have been repaired.

"With regard to technical operation of locomotives and railroad cars, he plans the workshops where they are maintained and the technical inspections of such equipment. He selects the materials needed for the proper operation of equipment and oversees the quality of maintenance work. He supervises the choice of the different types of locomotives and their principal characteristics, for which purpose he works out the traction calculations, determines the weight of trains and the speed at which they can operate. He also works with the air conditioning of cars, which is an essential aspect of the transport of refrigerated freight such as meat, vegetables, and so on."

"This means that the specialist has a very wide range of possibilities of work and professional advancement. Is this not correct?"

"Exactly," Hernandez immediately replies, "because he can work as an engineer, section head, department head or senior engineer in the repair shops and the operation of locomotives and cars, shops such as the Jose Rodriguez Casamayor (Cienaga),

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the Revolucion de Octubre, the Candido Gonzalez (Camaguey), in San Luis, and so on. He can also work in the Railroad Union, in the Ministry of the Sugar Industry, which transports great volumes of cane by rail, in SIME [Steelworking Industry], where the cars are now built, in the Transport Research Institute, in teaching, and so on."

"I am sorry, but I believe engineer Molina understands that this is a summary description...."

"Very good, because I think that it is up to us to present our urgent needs. We must remember that it was in 1973-1974 that the general development of the railroad and its consistent modernization began. This presumed an immediate demand for technicians (naturally, I am lucky enough to be among the first graduates from the socialist countries).

"At the present time, we have a national network of shops from Havana to Oriente, where a veritable rail center is going to be set up with a very large shop for locomotives, cars and track repair equipment of the most advanced nature.

"In the closing years of the 1976-1980 period, the equipment was modernized. The locomotives have more horsepower and their technology is much more complex, with more electronic and automatic mechanical parts. We have very good cars that have a diesel system to generate electricity, which is used in air conditioning and other areas.

"Furthermore, the development of the workshops planned for this 5-year period is fundamental. Our workshops were designed to use old techniques and it was necessary to remodel them to take on the new and complex technology that has entered the country. This is what is happening in Cienaga and Luyano, which has grown 100 percent.

"To date, this work was directed by skilled workers with great practical experience, who were already approaching retirement. In other words, we urgently need an injection of highly skilled technicians."

"How many specialists will be needed in this 5-year period and the coming years?"

Engineer Molina unhesitatingly gave the figure: "In our calculations, we came to about 200 for the 5-year period, at least to meet the needs of the workshops and higher-level management.

"Remember this: At the present time, we have four large repair shops: Luyano, Camaguey, Sagua la Grande, Guantanamo-San Luis. We plan to expand the one at Camaguey, which from 200 repairs will go to 3,000. At the San Luis combine, there will be a large repair shop for locomotives, cars and track repair equipment. We are going to modernize the shops at Guantanamo, Sagua and Luyano, where we are in the final phase. Modernization cannot be conceived of without highly skilled personnel, without engineers specializing in rail transport."

"As you can see," the dean explained, "the number of comrades we have in the school is far below the country's needs. Both in studies done by JUCEPLAN [Central Planning Board] as well as by the Ministry of Transport, one sees the need to raise the number of students enrolled. Engineers now working in the field have either

graduated in the socialist countries, as in the case of Molina, or are comrades from other fields. Our school, as I said in the beginning, will turn out 19 engineers this year, but the figure is insufficient in every way. In other words, the prospects and realities are there: Young people must analyze the future in that light."

"I would like to add something very important to what the dean has said," Hernandez interjected. "Those interested in entering our field, which is now studied at the ISPJAE, should know that they have priority for requesting scholarships, even from other provinces, which is a great incentive and stimulus."

"Finally, I should like to bring in the subject of the incorporation of women into this field, especially since we have one student with us."

"I can tell you this," Coralia Bernal emphasizes, "women have no limitations in this field, especially given the progress being made by the Revolution in all areas. I just completed my practical work at the Cienaga cable shop. I was just another worker there. I learned a great deal and at no time did I feel that I could not learn something because I was a woman. We have the same skills as the men, although there are things in heavy equipment that I could not do, but that does not totally exclude us. In my class, the second year, there are two women, but I believe that if there are not more, it is because of a lack of information."

"What comrade Bernal says is completely true," Molina says, "because there are even areas where it is better to have a woman. This is shown by statistics done by our Soviet comrades, which state that women are more observant. There are no objective limitations, especially with progress in automation, and this is the direction being taken by the railroad."

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC, ACCOUNTING TERMS DEFINED

Capital Assets, Equipment

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 5 Jun 81 pp 32-33

[Article by Alexis Codina]

[Text] Capital consists of the machinery, equipment, buildings or installations an enterprise has for production, service activities or complementary activities of production, management, or social needs such as housing, day care, etc.

Sometimes the term "capital assets" is used to express the monetary aspect, while "capital goods" is used in the material sense. However, in economic practice both terms are used interchangeably. With respect to other productive resources, such as raw materials, supplies, etc., capital goods conserve their material form throughout the productive process. They transmit their value to the product partially through the estimate of their deterioration, which is included in the Cost of Production in the form of depreciation costs. In addition, capital goods play a role in production over a long period of time, while materials are consumed totally in the production of an item.

The socialist economy is interested in meeting the needs of production and popular consumption as much as possible with the least possible investment of capital, since that allows it to have more resources for the economic-social development of the country. For the socialist enterprise, to have more capital assets than is absolutely necessary causes economic damage, because it increases the Cost of Production, reducing earnings and therefore the possibility of accumulating funds for economic stimulation.

Bearing this in mind, the General Regulations for state enterprises that is now in force in Cuba enables enterprises to sell the capital assets that are definitely idle, with prior authorization from the agency in charge. The enterprise, without the need for prior authorization from above, can also rent out the capital assets that are temporarily idle. It thus receives monetary income that allows it to increase its earnings. . .

The principal ways to achieve the greatest utilization of resources invested in capital assets are the reduction of the equipment that must be installed, increased utilization of that which is already installed through appropriate maintenance policy, adherence to technical operation norms, increased production on each shift, and more shifts.

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Depreciation, Amortization

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 12 Jun 81 pp 32-33

[Article by Alexis Codina]

[Text] Depreciation means a loss of value. Amortization is used to express the liquidation of a debt, the elimination of a plant, etc., but also "the periodic devaluation of goods through their use."

In economic practice, the two terms are used interchangeably to express the loss of value of equipment, machinery, buildings or installations as a result of their use or through the action of natural elements such as corrosion, rain, etc. Capital goods also lose their value through what Marx called "moral obsolescence," which is what happens when a new machine that meets the same needs as those that are already functioning, but with greater yield, better quality or lower expenses, comes on the market.

Then the existing equipment becomes "old," antiquated, in comparison with the new machine. It can be more economical to replace it than to continue using it, although it is still capable of producing with a certain efficiency. But this decision does not depend only on that, but also on the possibility of acquiring the new equipment. It also depends on whether the technological complexity of the new equipment can be assimilated by the labor force at hand, on the availability of raw materials, etc.

The deterioration of capital assets is incorporated into the Cost of Production by means of the application of a percentage of the initial value of those assets. A machine with a value of 100,000 pesos and an amortization rate of 10 percent a year adds 10,000 pesos to the enterprise's costs each year. These expenses are independent of the equipment's yield. For that reason, the enterprise is interested in using its capital assets as efficiently as possible, because otherwise its costs would rise and its earnings drop.

A capital asset is not replaced every year; only when its "useful life" has ended. At that time it is necessary to have the financial resources to buy the new equipment. For this purpose, a fund is created with the resources the enterprises incorporate in its costs for this item; the enterprise sends it to the State Budget for the financing of investments and other social expenses. After 1981, a group of selected enterprises in Cuba will be able to keep these resources for financing their own investments.

Turnover Resources

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 19 Jun 81 pp 32-33

[Article by Alexis Codina]

[Text] Turnover means all the material and monetary resources an enterprise has at its disposal to carry out its planned tasks, except for capital assets. It includes stocks of raw material, supplies, fuel, production in progress, finished goods, cash in hand and money in the bank, and others.

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Unlike capital assets, turnover experiences a material transformation during the productive process; its value is incorporated totally in the product as part of the cost of production, and it is consumed completely when it contributes to the production of a good. For practical reasons, turnover also includes some means of production with a value of less than 100 pesos or a duration of less than 1 year, such as small tools, for example.

Turnover is involved in all phases of the cycle of production, in different forms. In the first phase, the enterprise buys raw materials and supplies with the cash it has in the bank. During the second phase, the enterprise consumes the raw materials and supplies in production, and the turnover adopts the form of products in the process of transformation. When this phase is finished, it becomes finished goods. During the third phase, the enterprise sells its finished goods and obtains monetary resources, with which it once more buys raw materials and supplies, beginning the cycle of production again.

In the second phase of this cycle, man's work creates new values. Thus, the money the enterprise receives through the sale of its products allows it not only to replace the materials it consumed and pay wages and other costs, but also to earn a profit.

In sum, turnover is constantly moving, changing from the form of money to that of raw materials and supplies, products in the process of being made, finished goods, and once again money, as the process is begun again. It is constantly "turning over," hence its name.

The fact that turnover participates in the entire productive cycle means that by establishing efficient control over turnover, the enterprise can in practice control the entire productive process.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

IMPORTANCE OF DATA PROCESSING TO DEVELOPMENT NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 29 May 81 pp 28-31

[Report on interview with Prof Fermin A. Bernasconi, general director of the Intergovernmental Office for the Development of Data Processing (IBI), by Pedro Rioseco: "Data Processing: A Basic Element of Development"]

[Text] I learned of his presence one afternoon at the Palace. I confess that I had the idea that he would be one of those venerable academicians that inspire such distant respect in us, as if we were standing before a veritable mountain of wisdom admiring its height. And yet, the man who came to greet us did not fit the image. Former professor of operations research at the Catholic University of Buenos Aires who now holds the highest post in the Intergovernmental Office for the Development of Data Processing (IBI), he was relatively young, in addition to being a passionate defender of his theories which he converts into his own work, and an enthusiastic conversationalist. Olive-skinned and with greying hair, he could easily pass for Cuban if it were not for his unmistakable Argentine accent. His presence in Cuba on the occasion of the meeting of the most well-known economists in the Third World has very specific objectives which he combines with his duties as a guest at the event. Furthermore, the very *raison d'etre* of the organization he heads is to contribute to the development of most of the countries represented here, consistent with his position that data processing is one of the *sine qua non* conditions of development.

After talking for a time with a man who is a recognized authority on the subject matter at hand, we could not fail to share with our readers his interesting ideas, motivating him with a topic that is precisely the very core of current problems of the underdeveloped countries in the world. It is none other than the relationship between technological progress and strategies for development, particularly the role played by data processing in this process.

"On this point, I am going to refer to my field of competence. The first observation to be made is the famous matter of the difference between computers and data processing. In the action which the IBI takes, more than once we have encountered people of good will, worried over the development of Third World countries, who say, when we talk about data processing: 'But gentlemen, whose idea is it to take such sophisticated equipment, with which even the advanced countries have problems, to countries struggling to meet their vital needs, countries that do not have enough to eat, that have no public health system and that have problems in education?'

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"Our answer in these cases is always that they are right, that it would be ridiculous to talk about computers and that consequently, we do not do so. Our subject is data processing. Defining data processing can take time, but there is an analogy that enables one to understand that concept rapidly. It is that data processing is to the computer what astronomy is to the telescope. We might add that the data processing discipline is a basic, unreplaceable element for development in which the computer is a tool.

"We maintain that there can be no development -- and I emphasize this strongly -- no development without data processing. It is a necessary, although inadequate, condition. Naturally, many other things are needed, but data processing is an a priori condition for any development process because one constant of underdevelopment is the lack of management and administrative infrastructures. This means that since data processing is in turn a tool for the establishment of infrastructures, it has an indispensable role in creating basic conditions leading to higher forms of organization.

"Here one should ask: Data processing, alright, but which data processing? The fact is that data processing has undergone changes in time. For 2 years, we at the IBI have been trying to promote what we call the 'new data processing.' Immediately after the SPIN-1 (Strategic and Politic for Informatics [sic]) conference in 1979, the entire 4-year period that followed, until 1982, had that concept as its frame of reference.

"The new data processing is that derived from the combination of two basic elements: on the one hand, the use of data transmission in order to link computers or computer peripheres and create systems of data transmission and processing. This, along with the microprocessors, is what we call microdata processing and it has a far-reaching effect because it totally changes the traditional focus of data processing.

"Previously, what we had was a technology that had been conceived, given dimensions and been structured based on the specific needs of the developed countries and with a degree of sophistication responding to the sophistication and problems of those countries. When the so-called 'transfer of technology' took place with developing countries, what happened was quite simply that the recipient country had to adapt its structures and problems to the computer and to the systems of imported data processing. Today, it is possible, on the basis of the new data processing, to structure the means and use of this discipline in such a way that it is adapted to the needs of the developing countries instead of the opposite, as was customary. That is the basic concept we wish to emphasize."

We knew that Professor Bernasconi was a student of the economic problems afflicting the world and particularly the underdeveloped countries and consequently, when he paused for a second, we could not resist the temptation to ask his opinion of the results of the last two decades for development -- postulated by the United Nations -- and of prospects for the third decade now beginning.

"Well, look," he said thoughtfully, "in order to answer your question, I am going to use the words of the secretary general of the United Nations himself. In Geneva not long ago, he admitted the failure of the last decade. I can assure you that he, or whoever replaces him in the future, will have to recognize a similar failure at the close of this decade. Unless he understands that the traditional paths being taken are indeed the right ones to follow, but that they must be preceded by

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the creation of management infrastructures in the developing countries. One constant of underdevelopment is that these structures do not exist. In these countries, aid to development encounters a rather static economic structure and a generally inadequate management and administrative infrastructure, one that manages only with great difficulty to head the socioeconomic system.

"We can illustrate this with an example. Any of the so-called 'lineal' systems has a subsystem for control. If we analyze man as a living system, he has a control subsystem governing the operation of everything. Society is also a living system and its control subsystem is the government with its whole administrative apparatus. Now then, if we analyze the case of the human being as a living system, how does its control system operate? Imagine a person putting his hand over the flame of a candle. There is a combination of sensors that determine a variation in temperature and that information passes to the processing centers -- which in this case are the brain -- which analyze the variation in temperature, determines that there is a danger to part of the living system and issues an order causing the hand to withdraw immediately before anything happens. But if, in place of the previous example, one puts one hand in an oven heated to 2,500°, by the time the information is processed and the order comes back, the hand is burned. The fact is that there is a basic condition for any living system and it is that the control subsystem has to have a speed of reaction compatible with the speed with which the environment changes. Otherwise, there will be deterioration and even the death of the living system.

"You may apply this to a society or a reduced socioeconomic system in which all the processes of information gathering, transmission and processing, decision-making and orders or execution are traditionally very slow. If the socioeconomic system is stimulated with new investments without any variation in the conditions under which information is gathered, transmitted and processed and decisions are adopted, then this has to imply a deterioration in that socioeconomic system.

"That is the reason for the failure noted by Kurt Waldheim, who did not analyze the reasons why, but simply noted that there was no development.

"In his opening speech before the Congress of Economists of the Third World that no one gave us the right to that conference, that we had to win it. Nor is anyone going to give us development; it will have to be won by the developing countries and the only way to do so is by creating economic infrastructures."

"In the development of the Third World, it is a well-known fact that there is no uniform level. Rather, there is a great diversity of levels of development and this is logically reflected in progress acquired by data processing in each country. How do you evaluate the possibilities that this intrinsic unevenness imposes on the development of data processing?"

"That is a good question and I am going to tell you why. The question implicitly contains one of the great defects in aid to development, which is always based on the transfer of models to developing countries that were fairly successful in the industrialized countries. That is a mistake. In my opinion, development is an endogenous matter in every country. If every country has a different technological level with its own characteristics, culture and different habits, it has to plan its future based on those facts. What then is the way to help those who have to develop things that are their own? Give them the tools to do so. Nothing more.

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"Here we have one of the great tasks of education, which is another necessary condition because obviously, it is necessary to train the upper-level personnel who will head up development. Nothing can be done with personnel if the infrastructure does not exist, but nor can the infrastructure function without trained personnel. The warning and at the same time the message of hope we transmit is that to date, these necessary conditions have not been properly taken into account.

"The difference of levels of development of data processing in the different countries is another component that must be taken into consideration. The understanding of the importance of this topic was the reason for the SPIN-1 conference. Its main message was that countries need data processing to be developed. We must create governmental data processing structures, define national policies and strategies as a preliminary condition for development. We repeat that message now with greater conviction and experience."

The warm, friendly room and a hot cup of coffee caused us to pause and talk of the intense schedule of our distinguished visitor to the city, his second visit to our country, where he says he feels as comfortable or more comfortable than the last time but not as comfortable as he expects to feel on the next occasion! With renewed enthusiasm, we then took up our topic again, asking Professor Bernasconi's opinion on a very controversial topic: the cost of data processing. Coinciding with his position on the role of data processing as a tool of development, we had to ask how the underdeveloped countries, the poorest on the planet, could acquire such an expensive instrument for which they generally do not have enough funds.

"There are two aspects to be considered: one specifically referring to the costs associated with data processing and the other the creation of an international current of thought resulting in the financing of these projects.

"Concerning the first point, one has to admit that data processing is indeed expensive, although not as expensive as it was. Today, microdata processing and the use of minicomputers makes it possible to build systems that once required extremely large computers and very large budgets. Today these things are much more accessible, although they are definitely expensive. We can give an example much used by commercial advertising, but it is a fact. It is said that if the automobile industry had achieved the progress of data processing, a Rolls Royce would cost \$3 and would go 3 million kilometers on a gallon of fuel, which is an eloquent example of the reduction in costs of data processing.

"Referring to the other aspect, the creation of a movement of opinion, I am going to quote the last line of a verse by Ruben Dario that goes as follows: 'Oh! Land of dreams and harmony, Still guarding the hope of Pandora's box!' In our civilization, man has opened Pandora's box in his thirst for progress and in particular, men in the developed countries have changed the self-regulating mechanisms of the world. Pollution is reaching intolerable limits, many natural resources are being exhausted and evil conditions continue to grow, such as disproportionate growth of metropolitan areas and their deterioration and the increase in population while living in subhuman conditions. On this point, after taking so many evils and crises out of Pandora's box, there emerges the hope still left in it and it is, to a certain extent, data processing.

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"Data processing is not only a necessary, basic condition for development, but for peace and balance in the world as well. It is a privileged instrument for the solution of some of the great problems of mankind, given the complex interdependency of the world in which we live."

"Professor, a number of authors have recently written on the subject, but perhaps with an exaggerated emphasis on the 'miraculous' role of data processing in solving all the afflictions besetting mankind. You have stated very well that it is part of the solution, but not the complete solution."

"That is very important to point out because nothing is worse than idealizing instruments that have their limitations. As we conceive of it and as so many authors say, data processing is proposing a form of life and society to us with one characteristic and it is that its uses are possible under any ideology and structure of economic thought."

"What is a fact that admits of no discussion," we emphasized, "is something that you yourself said, to the effect that data processing is politics."

"Without any doubt. Data processing is not only a technological phenomenon; it is also one of the most important political phenomena of the times in which we live. What was and what can be an instrument of domination must be transformed into a tool for planning and development."

"It is unfortunate that the greatest development of data processing has been for the war industry and not for peacetime industry."

"That is true, but it is in the hands of those of us who are more interested in peace and world balance, in the development of nations, to do everything necessary to see that the uses of data processing will be for the benefit of mankind."

"Professor, you have announced that our country will be the location of the next world data processing conference in 2 years. What was the fundamental balance sheet of the first SPIN-1 conference and what objectives will be pursued in calling SPIN-II?"

"The conclusions of SPIN-1 are those that enable us to view this new phase of data processing in terms of development, which is precisely the basis of SPIN-II. The SPIN-1 conference was a kind of warning to the world of the political nature of this discipline and its importance to all countries. Going against all the efforts of those who wanted to view it as a mere technological phenomenon and the buying and selling of equipment, the conference emphasized its political nature and recommended the establishment of structures in every country and the definition of national policies and strategies. The fulfillment of these recommendations is what has established the foundations so that now, in addition, we shall propose to turn data processing into an instrument of liberation and development. That is how we are planning SPIN-II. For our next conference, we are drafting a much broader program, because we are not only aspiring to approve recommendations that the IBI would later accept and implement, but we also intend to put in effect at the time of the conference a program for data processing in the Third World with the sum of \$1 billion which must have its financing assured at that time. Obviously, this is not only ambitious, but could be called pretentious, but we are convinced that it is necessary and feasible."

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"It is frequently said that to possess information is to possess power. In this context, what can you tell us about the role played by transnational companies, which use data processing as a tool of espionage and domination?"

"There is a great deal of talk now about the new superimposed forms of exercising power provided by the transnationals, above and beyond government or national structures. Obviously, in their thirst for profit, the transnationals will use all means within their reach and following a very broad code of ethics. If dominating in some way is a necessary condition for doing business, they will do so.

"It is up to every country and to all countries working together to prevent this from happening and to put relations with these enterprises in their rightful place. The transnational companies use all their economic might to do business and to earn more money. One can condemn their efforts to dominate, but the problem is even simpler: They are dominating. It is not then a matter of screaming protests, but rather, of setting up the structures to prop up the government."

"In practice, the transnationals have corroborated the extraordinary role of data processing and telecommunications in economic management."

"Here we get into the matter of the flow of information across borders. It is a very troublesome and interesting subject. There is a poem which talks of a flower that grows in the eye socket of a skull: 'Leaving you is sad and picking you is hard; One must take your life or leave you with death.' Here we have a very similar problem because on the one hand, the world in which we live requires as fluid a flow of information possible because we are indeed interrelated. On the other hand, the interrelation is such that strong information infrastructures have to exist, but it is in turn by using these infrastructures that the transnationals function. They often manipulate and take information from countries without their knowledge or control. This would not be so serious if the information were not often used to formulate policies that run counter to the interests of the country from which the information was taken."

"There is an actual example that is very characteristic. A given multinational oil company was doing research, with an official concession, in a given African country. The first phase of oil exploration is seismic exploration. Since in the country in question there was no way to process the research data, the multinational country sent all its technical information to its headquarters in the United States by satellite so that it could be processed as required by the research. The implication is that this enables the company, outside of the country in which it is working and beyond its control, to determine the true situation and if there should be oil, to decide at that time whether or not it is advantageous for the company to drill and extract it. The country does not know what is happening because it has no way of knowing. The information leaves its control, is processed abroad, and the decisions are also made abroad. That is a fact. It has been done and is being done."

"That will be one of the subjects of the next SPIN-II conference. We already have several work groups investigating the subject, expanding upon the documents debated at the world conference on the flow of data between countries, a conference sponsored by the IBI and held in Rome in the middle of last year. Some 350 persons from 55 countries participated and there were about 100 representatives of inter-governmental, transnational and other organizations.

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"The work of these groups will culminate in agreements that we shall adopt in Havana in 1983. In addition, we are putting all of this into a legal framework -- which at the time being does not exist for data processing on an international level -- and concerning which we believe some agreement will be signed at the coming conference."

Our conversation came to an end, and with it our incursion into that fascinating world so rightly defined as a radical revolution greater in magnitude than the industrial revolution. Professor Bernasconi will have to return to his occupations that demand his presence in different places and countries, but the interview is not over.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 5 Jun 81 pp 28-31

[Article by Ramon Lobaina Consuegra: "The Project of the Century"]

[Text] When it is stated that the first nuclear power plant will be the most complex project ever undertaken in the history of Cuba, in addition to the source of pride that this might represent for the Cuban people, we are moved by the awareness of the immense responsibility borne by the upper-level personnel and workers who in one way or another will participate in the gigantic venture.

The Revolution has completed major industrial projects throughout the national territory in recent years: fertilizer factories, textile mills, different types of food product plants and sugar mills, to mention but a few examples, and during the past 5-year period, the Punta Gorda nickel plant in Moa and the Karl Marx cement works in Cienfuegos are among the most important ones. However, in the opinion of specialists, the Nuclear Power Plant (CEN) that will be built in the Juragua area in the municipality of Cienfuegos, bordering on Abreus, will surpass all of them in size as well as complexity of construction. The amount of cement and pre-fabricated concrete, the steel used in reinforcement and the excavations are far greater than those of any of the projects previously undertaken.

For this year alone, earthwork costing 2 million pesos is planned. Civil construction will cost 2.18 million pesos and another 100,000 will go for assembly. When it reaches its peak, the project will require the presence of some 7,000 construction workers and the assembly will cost over 30 million pesos annually.

Considered to be the country's priority project, startup of the CEN will substantially increase the nation's electric power with the incorporation of 880 megawatts during the initial phase. At the same time it increases the country's energy capacity, it will help save oil. Consequently, progress according to the schedule drawn up is essential to the development of our economy.

Related Projects

Reynol Duarte, delegate from Industrial Projects Construction Enterprise No 6 at the nuclear power plant, and engineer Nestor Fernandez, who heads work, explained that in order to complete a project such as the CEN, a group of additional facilities has to be built to provide the technical support to guarantee the construction process.



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Among these are the construction yard, the heavy machinery dock, social facilities, the CEN compound, a polytechnical school and road repair and construction, each of which has various component parts on which work is underway.

The construction yard, with an area of 50 hectares and costing approximately 20 million pesos, will provide the nuclear power plant with large automotive, civil engineering, machine and welding shops. It will also have warehouses with complete staffing, national and inflammable products and an industrial gas plant.

Near what will be the nuclear power plant, the construction yard is currently in the earthwork phase for one of the sections. At the same time, work is staggered on the other five, meaning that sometime this year, the remaining sections will be opened.

The roar of the bulldozers, the ceaseless movement of the loaders and the coming and going of the trucks, among them the magnificent Belaz, with a capacity of 15 cubic meters, show what progress is being made, thanks to skillful operators. Equipment earmarked for this and other areas will be complemented by more trucks, bulldozers and high-powered excavators supplied by the Soviet Union.

The loading dock (in the planning stage) where supplies will arrive should be completed by the end of 1983 and will require the construction of an accessway 1.5 kilometers long. Some 300,000 cubic meters of fill will be needed and will come from the other excavations for the plant.

With respect to the social facilities, the administrative buildings of the construction and investment enterprise will have to be built and in the first phase, a camp for 1,000 workers will be constructed, with its sociocultural facilities.

A tour of the areas shows how work is progressing. At the administrative base, we met Julio Niebla, head of the project and an experienced builder with 36 years in the field. Niebla proudly told us about work on the nuclear power plant and about the spirit among workers at the base, which now involves some 50 men. As Niebla talked, he pointed out different areas where work is underway.

Organized into special teams and paid based on an agreement, the men at the administrative base are putting up the buildings using the Sandino system. The walls of some are already up; others are having the foundations laid.

#### Housing for 1,000 Construction Workers

Accompanied by Nestor Fernandez on a tour of several kilometers, we arrived at the area where the rest of the social facilities are going up. Situated on the summit of a hill some 300 meters above sea level, looking toward the Hotel Pasacaballos, with Cienfuegos Bay on one side and the vast fields of henequen characterizing the region on the other, the site where the construction workers will live looks like a tiny city in the building.

First one sees the eight dormitories, each with a capacity of 140 persons, built according to the two-storey Sandino system. One is already finished. Alongside them is the brightly colored building that includes the central kitchen, dining room and cafeteria. The civil construction is completed and the building awaits the modern equipment that will be installed.

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Close-by are other buildings that will, in the months ahead, become a medical dispensary, communications center (postal and telegraph office), barber shop, beauty shop, recreation room with different games, and an amphitheater.

The polytechnical school where skilled workers and intermediate-level technicians who will work at the nuclear power plant will be trained is being set up and completed at the end of the esplanade. It will have modern equipment and will be able to receive 60 students. It should go into operation in September.

Also part of the whole is the first housing to be turned over to the Soviet specialists who will work on construction of the nuclear power plant. Some of this housing is near completion.

Among the related facilities is the nuclear power plant compound, where earthwork began in January. It is estimated that in this 5-year period, 1,800 housing units will be completed with their accompanying sociocultural facilities. Their complete construction is indispensable in order to be able to house the specialists, builders and workers who will operate the plant.

Construction work also involves the rebuilding of the section of highway from Abreus to the nuclear power plant area, about 30 kilometers. The constant motion of equipment, graders, levelers and trucks results in new paved sections of road. New road systems will also be built, as in the case of the road from the loading dock to the nuclear power plant and accessways leading to other facilities.

Fieldwork is now underway as part of the geological studies of the zone that will be the location of the special building, the reactors and the machine room. Work is proceeding according to schedule.

**Another Gigantic Undertaking**

At the present time, some 400 construction workers are at the site, some of them living there. Many participated in construction of the Karl Marx cement works and they recall when Commander in Chief Fidel Castro summoned them to the new project, when he officially opened the Guabairo industry. Responding to the challenge were men like Juan Manuel Jauregui, Bernardo Iznaga, Hector Naranjo and Jose Florin, who we learned are from different parts of the country.

Juan Manuel Jauregui is 60 years old. He is a carpenter and has been in construction for 22 years. "We finished up at Guabairo and are now here, as Fidel asked. This is a source of pride for us because just look, there you have the cement plant, which is a great project, but we know this will be even greater, but we are not afraid."

During the break, Jauregui is surrounded by the younger workers, to whom he transmits his experience. His jovial nature and discipline on the job earn him the respect of those who attentively listen to his opinions. He tells them of the extremely difficult conditions under which construction workers toiled under capitalism and of the concern that now exists for the men. The young men listen to the anecdotes and nod their heads in agreement, as if to corroborate every word of the fluent language of the old builder and learn the lessons emanating from living history, from this participant in another undertaking of giants.

Construction of the nuclear power plant with the cooperation of the USSR will take place through an intensive investment program representing a high percentage of the national plan for this 5-year period and double the amount undertaken by the province in the 5 previous years.

The program scheduled for Cienfuegos includes other economic objectives of great importance to the nation, such as the oil refinery and 31 other industrial projects, 119 agricultural programs, major water project for irrigation and industrial and social uses, other projects devoted to health, education and recreation, and an extraordinary housing construction plan providing for an increase four times greater than what existed in the preceding 5-year period.

In order to undertake this gigantic construction program, the Ministry of Construction has worked out a wide-ranging plan to prepare the labor forces. The plan includes the retraining, in Cuba and abroad, of a large part of existing workers and the admission to schools for training as assemblers or civil construction specialists another 4,000 new workers, a large share of whom will be from Cienfuegos.

Training in the USSR will be 326 workers from all over the country. In alternate groups, they will receive suitable training for construction work on Cuba's first nuclear power plant. ECOI [presumably Industrial Construction Enterprise] No 6 in Cienfuegos, the main enterprise involved in current industrial projects for the nuclear power plant, has already chosen the first 45 engineers, intermediate-level technicians, foremen and skilled workers who will go to the Soviet Union, which represents 50 percent of the total of the first group.

Conscious of the volume of creative work planned for the 5-year period and independently of the help they will receive from other provinces, the Cienfuego people are getting ready to put their organizational and mobilizing abilities to the test in order to successfully wage these new battles.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

NEED FOR QUALITY IN EMULATIONS STRESSED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 5 Jun 81 p 34

[Article by Gloria Marsan Sanchez: "Emulate, but With Quality"]

[Text] In the construction branch, special emulations have generally caught on: industrial works, salt mines, railways, tile, cement, projects, etc. Nevertheless, there are still weak points which are, of course, correctable. Everyone knows that emulation is the password to economic development. It plays an important role in the fight for production efficiency and quality since it helps achieve better work organization and the fullest use of the potential of each labor center.

When it functions correctly, emulation influences production in the main organism as well as in the enterprises, industries, shops and projects under construction. Projects under construction mean work done in a definite cycle which, at any given moment, requires many workers who then disperse to other construction. Therefore, it is necessary that this emulation catch fire at the beginning to be a true motivating force.

It is vital that the emulation maintain an even, steady rhythm the whole time instead of "quickenning the pace" at critical moments with classic surges. When this happens, it unquestionably endangers the production quality and, therefore, the reliability of the project.

It is also indispensable that the emulation achieve enough organization to permit adjustments in the methodology to avoid indicators that, at a given moment, would permit surges and let those who have not maintained a consistent work rate come in first. This would depreciate the awards and the emulation would lose quality.

One example or warning was presented in "La Puesta en Marcha" in JUVENTUD REBELDE. Colleague Pedro Rodriguez stated that, inexplicably harking back to past agreements, an indicator that reflects cost and profit was eliminated in the preevaluation of the last annual industrial works evaluation. Some collectives lost their leads and those who did not show these vital aspects in the reflection of the profits or losses of an entity won.

To fight for quality in emulation means: to exploit all the possibilities to increase work productivity, achieving better use of time; to more fully use the basic production funds, increasing the coefficient of equipment use; to achieve rational use of labor and material and financial resources; and to strengthen the system to save raw materials, fuel, energy, etc. in order precisely to decrease production costs.

It is important to fight for development in emulation at the different levels throughout the country. It is especially necessary that all the participants in each evaluation feel that they win or lose by well-defined, stable indicators which truly reflect a daily, sustained struggle, not an accumulation achieved over a period of major efforts to overcome lack of fulfillment in previous stages.

Also there must be care that the worker maintain continuity in his labor relations with his center. The value of the moral and material stimuli should be equal but the worker should feel real pride in individual and group awards as well as in belonging to his collective.

To the degree that each person is more demanding in the fulfillment of the different emulation parameters and as these accurately reflect the individual and collective efforts, the emulation flame will burn brighter and better quality will be achieved in construction projects. These projects will also be finished within the initially planned deadlines.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

INCREASE IN HAVANA SUPERMARKETS EXPLAINED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 19 Jun 81 pp 46-49

[Article by Janet Salva: "Modernity Is Imposed"]

[Text] "How can I not be sad if I am going to be demolished! I have lived in this same place for more than 70 years and now they want to get rid of me to make a supermarket."

Poor, dear grocery store. I will try to console you.

"My dear, you have been very useful, that is true, but the city is growing. Look at how many large buildings have been built and you--well, look at yourself. It looks like you are going to burst with so many articles crammed in. Don't you want to be more convenient and to help modernize and beautify the city?"

"Of course, but it is hard to accept the idea that one is trash. I am still useful. Look at how many people visit me daily."

"That is true, but we must also go to the butcher shop, the produce market, the bakery, the dairy and the poultry market. In other words, modern life demands establishments where one can buy as much food products as he wants at one single place without having to visit five or six places. Do you understand?"

"That part, yes. I am not that stupid. However, it will not be as convenient for everyone since some will have to walk many blocks to reach the...I do not want to name it."

"The supermarket. You are wrong. These are built so that they are only 500 or 600 meters away at most. Look, I am going to tell you something. There are 2,361 grocery stores, 1,220 butcher shops, 412 produce markets, 217 poultry stores, 283 dairies and 252 fish stores in Havana City. I do not even know how many bakeries there are. A plan has been drawn up to have 425 supermarkets which will offer the services that these more than 4,745 establishments mentioned above do now."

"Now I understand! The distribution of the wholesale enterprises will be easier, too, with fewer places to supply. However, there will be more lines in the supermarkets since many people will shop there."

"That can be fixed. To give better facilities to the working woman, the supermarkets remain open for 13 hours--that is, from 0800 hours to 2100 hours. If at a

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certain time there are more people, it is a problem of habit since the majority of the people who do not work go shopping early in the morning. When they realize that they can shop more easily from 1100 hours to 1600 hours or after 1900 hours, for example, crowds will be avoided. It is all a question of getting used to this new convenient schedule."

"Why aren't we open 13 hours?"

"It is not possible to extend the uninterrupted schedule of the entire retail network; the increase in workers makes it unfeasible."

"You have convinced me. What will become of me, then?"

"You will no longer be old but will become a beautiful, modern establishment with many products that will fill your shelves. You will look like any of the 98 supermarkets that we already have."

"And the rest of my colleagues?"

"Well, they will stop being grocery stores and maybe become parks where children can play. You can be sure that the spaces that they occupy will always be used."

Some Time Later

"Good afternoon. How lovely you look! How do you feel, dear friend?"

"More respect, comrade. What do you mean by lovely and friend? Don't you see that I am a supermarket?"

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

HIGHER PRICES IN FREE MARKETS EXPLAINED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 29 May 81 p 35

[Interview with Adalberto Gonzalez, member of the 10 de Octubre Cooperative in Sancti Spiritus Province, by Magda Martinez]

[Text] On more than one occasion, Cuban humorists have used the topic of the farmers free market in order to make a few points and put them into the very Cuban context of laughter. Later comes the necessary meditation.

For example, in order to make a criticism, the Los Compadres duo appears executing their well-known phrase "Get down; get down!" And there are many others that escape one's memory, but the message as such remains.

For our part, we have provided our own touches and wish to do so now from the angle of the interview.

The BOHEMIA reporters were making a working visit to Cabalguan in Sancti Spiritus Province and took advantage of the opportunity to see the 10 de Octubre cooperative. The first person interviewed was Adalberto Gonzalez, member of the cooperative.

[Question] Why do the cooperatives participate so little in the farmers free market?

[Answer] When the market began in 1980, we only had plans to turn our production over to the storage facilities and there was little surplus. The case of the small farmer is different. He has always planted in order to sell for storage and then transfer to the market.

[Question] But what prospects do the cooperatives have then?

[Answer] We can plant for both. We have to plant more and the price decided upon will help the cooperative.

[Question] If the cooperatives all go to the market, what will happen to current prices?

[Answer] For us, selling *malangas* at any price is business. We will never stop selling them. For the individual producer, it is not the same.



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With our participation, prices will definitely have to take a more reasonable turn.

[Question] What do you think of the prices that now prevail on the market?

[Answer] I personally do not believe they are right. A bunch of bananas has never cost so much and why should it cost 10 pesos? Let us take an example: If you plant 1,000, get 800 and then a bunch sells for 3 pesos, you have a good price.

[Question] Can the cooperatives create healthy competition in this area?

[Answer] Yes, and in addition, our participation will have a double function. On the one hand, the products will drop in value and on the other, we will make a profit and our production will be cheaper than that of the private farmer for reasons that are well known. We have the equipment: irrigation, quality seed, fertilizer. Consequently, our costs logically have to be lower. They have the solution in their hands.

However, we cannot analyze the situation in an isolated manner. It is not only the cooperatives that must put pressure on the market. State enterprises should bring continuous, systematic pressure to bear. They should become a kind of detonator that will help achieve a balance.

When we come to the town square, we can afford the luxury of lower prices and without a doubt, everything is going to sell.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

IMPROVEMENTS IN HAVANA FOOD SERVICE

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 12 Jun 81 pp 4-7

[Report on interview with Arsenio Torres, member of Executive Committee of Havana People's Government Assembly, by Susana Tesoro; date and place not specified]

[Text] The city of Havana has proposed new lines in food service, trade and services in general this year. This includes recovering centers, traditions and mechanisms that seemed to have been lost when the local government was being organized and structured, to the detriment of the good service that our people demand and deserve.

Comrade Arsenio Torres, a member of the Havana Executive Committee, is in charge of the /services/ [in boldface] sector. We imagine that that is not easy but he himself feels that the worst is over. Now they must maintain what they have achieved. According to what he told BOHEMIA, the basic conditions for considerable improvement have been created.

Food Service

When the people's government was organized, the city of Havana inherited structures from several entities: the Enterprise INIT-Habana, worker dining rooms and units of the past local government.

[Question] What did the young provincial government do?

The first thing was to organize the food service directorate with 7 provincial enterprises and 15 municipal enterprises devoted basically to the popular network. Two other specialized restaurant enterprises were established: food service support; and maintenance, repairs and transportation.

Arsenio Torres explained: "The greatest effort was made to form and start up new structures. This was the task at the beginning when we tried to improve the mechanisms. Although we are still making adjustments, we have already found effective methods in some branches."

He added: "We feel that, during this time, important steps have been taken in food service, especially in organization. However, there are still many subjective problems left from before the creation of the people's government which we have not been able to overcome."

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### Basic Problems

Torres stated: "Existing limitations made us commit many errors. I mean that when we began, it was hard to be demanding, primarily for lack of effective labor laws that gave authority to the administration. That has been partially resolved today. For an administrator to be strict with his employees, he has to begin by being strict. One of the basic problems in food service is the constant change in administrators which leads to a shortage of personnel and stable leadership. Why is there constant change? It is almost always due to the fact that the administrator loses authority in front of the workers because he tries to 'reason' and then does not have the basis to make demands."

[Question] It was explained that that problem is partially solved by the present laws but there is still lack of hygiene, poor service....

He answered: "The problems of hygiene are a constant that we have not been able to solve. There have been improvements but they are not solved; this is a basic food service area. This problem is caused at times by lack of administrative demand and worker initiative because they have not yet understood that this is part of their job.

"The poor treatment of the public is another problem that exists but I do not believe that it will last much longer. The new payment mechanisms and the fact that supply is increasing over demand, especially with restaurants, will force the food service personnel to provide better service because, otherwise, they will lose patrons and will earn less."

[Question] Have the applied systems of payment yielded good results?

[Answer] We are not going to be absolute; the present systems of payment are not perfect. We have not arrived at definitive forms that are adapted to food service. We began with the collective tie which gave us experience but not many results because the unit was tied. If one person sold a lot and another a little, they earned the same. Now we are applying the individual tie.

[Question] What does that consist of?

[Answer] Whoever sells more, earns more. Anyone who sells less than an established norm loses wages. I will give you an example in trade. A wage of 100 pesos was paid. Now 60 pesos are paid; it is necessary to earn the rest by selling. The present average is already 132 pesos; therefore, it has positive results.

[Question] What is needed, in your opinion, to perfect it?

[Answer] I think that until "pure piecework" is achieved, there will not be an adequate mechanism. This would benefit the unit and the worker. Under this system, you would earn a percentage of each product or article that you sell, in addition to your basic wage.

There is another element. There is a difficult situation with food service supplies. At times, there is a shortage of attractive products and, therefore, a decrease in sales.

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Supplies

Torres said: "We have had serious problems with supplies, especially with 'meat' products, not only in quantity but in the lack of systematization. There are times when certain basic products are lacking and the offer of food must be changed. Of course, a good cook can sometimes create meals with other components.

"Instability in raw materials and not having reserves make us give priority to the first-class units so the second-class units and the popular network are affected the most. Therefore, we are making every effort to guarantee supply to the popular network in order to solve this problem."

He explained: "It is not only a shortage of products. At times, the lack of mechanisms for distribution and administrative management conspires against us. We are working on the idea of creating a wholesale distribution enterprise with the idea that there be a warehouse in each municipality that distributes to retail food enterprises as well as food service centers. In that way, if potatoes are not sold in retail establishments, for example, they will be sent to the food service sector or the processing centers. We will not let them be thrown out.

"Another aspect that affects the good use of supplies is lack of fulfillment of consumption norms. It is true that, at times, scales and weights are needed but it is easier and more 'profitable' not to be measuring so much."

[Question] What concretely has been done to eliminate these problems?

[Answer] One method that has helped is the "Meetings on Food Service Technique." They not only improve technique but improve service to the public and permit the worker to get more involved in what he does. The worker begins to like his work more. Since these meetings are held from the municipal to the national level, it is necessary to work the entire year to compete in the finals. First there are training classes which unquestionably improve quality. Although there is a small number of winners, this means recognition of an activity that, at times, is underestimated; it demonstrates that food service is a complex and difficult art even if it does not seem to be.

[Question] I thought the meetings were a temporary measure. There is conscientious attention during them but then it fades.

He stated: "I can assure you that it is a systematic task because the training at the meetings is valid at the municipal level. It is necessary to improve in technique. We believe that, sooner rather than later, this will improve attention and service.

"A system that we feel is very good is the continual inspections of the units. There has been progress here and we believe that we must insist on this method which has eliminated some problems like the so-called 'Indian line.' That is when the food service worker stands in one place and the consumers have to go look for the product. This was a way to organize service for the benefit of the employee instead of the consumer who is the one who pays."

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He stated: "For the policy we want to develop this year to strengthen the popular network and redeem the best traditions in restaurants, it is necessary to have skilled personnel.

"There was an advisory department planned in the initial structure; it has been established permanently. Food service workers are trained for bars, restaurants and cooking. In this way, the new personnel have been trained and those who have worked for years without receiving technical orientation have been retrained. Today there are vocational schools for young people who do not think it is degrading to serve. They see the work as an art. Now we are also going to have a school for the cadres who will graduate with a degree as intermediate technicians; that is, we will demand this level from the leaders.

#### Year of the Popular Network

The popular network includes "popular centers": coffee shops, kiosks, dining rooms and other places where snacks are sold. This food service sector was almost abandoned in the first years under the people's government. While all the attention was being given to the grand and not so grand restaurants, the places where you could "eat and run" at moderate prices deteriorated and, in some cases, disappeared.

This year there will be a turn toward the popular network. A provincial committee has been created to solve the primary problems: organization, remodeling and the incorporation of services that were lost like the so-called "deli stands." There are already 76 stands of this type and there should be 300 by the end of this year.

Arsenio Torres said: "Experience has shown us that these 'carts' not only offer a solution but another possibility, another option." (Our primary concern was supplies.)

"We have called these carts 'delis,' precisely in order not to bind them to a certain product. We offer what is on the market. If there are potatoes, they sell potatoes. The same is true about croquettes, hamburgers, etc.; they sell whatever there is. This is a fast way of receiving service without having to go into a coffee shop, sit down, wait for the waiter, the menu, the bill and lose an hour or more."

[Question] In addition to the raw materials, I was interested in the great demand for preprocessed products that 300 carts in the city would cause.

He reported: "We already have an enterprise devoted to mass food processing but we are also working to have at least one processing center in each municipality so that sales will not be stopped for lack of products. We also want to try to maintain the greatest variety possible."

#### Dining Rooms

Also in the popular network are the worker and school dining rooms which have been the source of innumerable complaints, almost all justified. Now there is a committee to study this problem. A new system is being tried in 16 dining rooms in the city. With an optional menu, the worker can ask for his food the day before.

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"This experiment has had very positive results. In the first place, there has been a physical savings of food that was thrown away before. There are also improvements in quality because it is not the same to make 100 scrambled eggs as to make 20 omelets, 20 fried eggs, 20 boiled eggs and 20 scrambled eggs. With this system, the cook works more but the consumer is more satisfied."

#### Rescue of Centers

Under the policy of strengthening the popular network, centers practically lost for years due to lack of repairs have been restored. There was almost no place in the outlying municipalities "to get a glass of water"; everything was in downtown Havana, Old Havana, Plaza and Playa. To develop food service in the distant municipalities, for example, El Terry, a second-class restaurant in San Miguel del Padron was remodeled and a recreation center that will have a restaurant, swimming pool and dance area has been begun. In Cotorro, a luxury restaurant was started where there was no first-class center; now there is the recently opened Bello Palmar.

[Question] This will be done only in the periphery? I am concerned about three establishments right here: the Wakamba, Marakas and Karabali.

[Answer] These units have been neglected for many years but we will "rescue" them. We will change them back to the way they were--nice, pleasant coffee shops. We will use the magnificent installations that they have. We have also remodeled the Payret Coffee Shop and Bar next to the movie theater that is now being repaired. There will be a bar-coffee shop-movie complex like there used to be--a trio of outstanding centers in the popular network.

#### Beverage Kiosks and Outdoor Stands

[Question] After the fairs, some installations became permanent at the demand of the people. However, the indispensable sanitary conditions of water, etc., were missing. We have seen some disappear and others appear.

[Answer] We will not close these centers but move them to better places with permanent installations. We feel that these units cannot disappear because even if they are rejected by part of the population, they are accepted with pleasure by another. The best thing is to reconcile both interests. We will not put a bar next to a school or downstairs in a building or near a hospital or nursery school but, in the city, there are more than enough areas for these centers.

Look, if we closed all these places, we would eliminate freedom of choice for a certain clientele that prefers them by habit, by economy or by choice. It is not a matter of speculating whether this is good or bad but that this is one more recreation. Beer production is increasing by bulk and not by bottle so we have to take advantage of these centers.

On this same subject, I am going to tell you that the famous pilot projects were closed in some places because the people complained at their neighborhood assemblies. Certainly, bars where people had to stand and use metal pitchers were not very pleasant. Now we will put in little tables and chairs and use glass pitchers. We are improving them but not too much because if we put in air conditioning and fancy waiters, they will be luxury bars with higher prices. We believe that these

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popular centers should not disappear because there is a demand for them; they are filled daily.

#### Inns and Nightclubs

"Inns" or hotels that rent rooms by the hour have been a forbidden topic because of well-rooted social prejudices remaining in our society. This matter does not come up in an accounting assembly. They were in the hands of the municipalities and these could not even repair schools, grocery stores and parks, much less inns.

Torres stated: "It is undeniable that the people demand this service; therefore, it must be improved. There are those who believe that they should be converted into housing or simply eliminated. This sector which has been in the hands of the municipalities without allocated resources just became worse and, at this time, they are in a situation of alarming deterioration. What did we do? We formed an enterprise that only takes care of inns, an integral maintenance establishment. First, we will undertake general repairs; then we will evaluate the units with minimal conditions of hygiene and good treatment. By the second half of this year, about 10 of these centers will be repaired.

"The same thing happened to the nightclubs that were also initially under the municipalities. Now there is an enterprise that takes care of them and all have been remodeled."

[Question] Is maintenance guaranteed?

[Answer] Our best enterprise is for food service construction maintenance. A system of specialized maintenance with small brigades has been adopted. There have been considerable transformations like, for example, Kasalta--a coffee shop and restaurant in Playa which was ruined. They made it look like new again. They even made the lights. In the routine maintenance, only 1.1 percent of the refrigerators in the food service sector are broken. Commerce comes under another enterprise and has 28 percent unrepaired refrigerators. I think this enterprise is the heart of the food service sector; if it functions, there are no major problems.

Where Is the Key?

[Question] After hearing the problems that remain, are the objective conditions there to eliminate them?

Arsenio Torres answered: "They are; the only thing that is out of our hands is supply. If we meet technical norms and the products are not wasted, we will achieve something even there. The rest is to maintain the restaurants and increase the popular network so that we can offer the greatest quantity of alternatives to the 2 million inhabitants in the capital."

1. To fulfill technical consumption norms.
2. To improve hygiene and cleanliness.
3. To insist on administrative demand.
4. To achieve stability in supplies.
5. To increase the technical knowledge of the food service personnel.
6. To select new personnel.

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7. To improve payment systems.
8. To do more effective work in socialist emulation.
9. To demand better treatment for the public.
10. To help the consumer defend his rights and fulfill his duties.

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COUNTRY SECTION

GUATEMALA

ORGANIZATION IN MEXICO DENOUNCES REPRESSION OF CHURCH

PA102150 Mexico City ANSA in Spanish to Buenos Aires ANSA 1610 GMT 10 Aug 81

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Aug (ANSA)--The repression of the church in Guatemala follows the government's decision to exterminate not only the most active and committed priests and laymen but also those who maintain a conservative and pacifist line.

The Ecumenical Christian Coordinating Committee of Solidarity with Guatemala [Coordinadora Cristiana Ecumenica de Solidaridad con Guatemala] (CCESG) made the charge here today, adding that the Guatemalan Government follows "the methods of Argentina and Chile, eliminating whole families."

Priests Juan Hernandez and Cirilo Sanchez, spokesmen of the CCESG, said that from January 1980 to June 1981, five priests were killed, three kidnapped and 63 active Catholics had to leave Guatemala due to repression, which included death threats.

They said that in June, two priests were killed and two others were kidnapped and are missing. The attacks against the church are directed not only against the most committed priests but also the conservatives and pacifists, the CCESG spokesmen added.

They said that since Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia took office in 1978, 10 priests have been killed: two Guatemalans, three Spaniards, two U.S. citizens, one Philippino, one Belgian and an Italian.

The priests indicated that "in Guatemala, the priestly ministry has been reduced to its minimum expression and the cases of persecution of Catechists and committed laymen are literally countless, while in many peasant communities the observation of religion is watched, made difficult or prohibited and many Catholic militants have been kidnapped and killed after their homes were raided for bibles, a book now considered dead in our country."

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COUNTRY SECTION

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

NONINTERVENTION IN EL SALVADOR--Mexico City, 8 Aug (ANSA)--Honduran Ambassador Humberto Lopez Villamil has said here that Honduras is not allied with any government to interfere in El Salvador and it is not keeping Salvadoran refugees imprisoned in its territory. The diplomat talked to the press after approximately 1,000 people gathered in front of his embassy in this capital to protest the alleged Honduran intervention in the Salvadoran conflict. He said that the accusations against his government "are false" and that "they are part of a campaign to discredit the country which is being carried out in Mexico with increasing force." He noted that this campaign is aimed at injecting an element of tension to provoke a confrontation, and he recalled that on 28 July, Honduras lodged a formal protest with El Salvador over the actions of the Salvadoran Army on the border. The rally was organized by the Permanent National Forum of Solidarity with the Salvadoran Revolution and was held without any incidents. [Text] [PA090029 Mexico City ANSA in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 1625 GMT 8 Aug 81]

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COUNTRY SECTION

NICARAGUA

WHEELOCK DENOUNCES CIA PLANS AGAINST LATIN AMERICA

PA050337 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2220 GMT 4 Aug 81

[Text] Managua, 4 Aug (PL)--Commander Jaime Wheelock Roman today denounced an overall plan headed by the CIA and the Pentagon's reactionary sectors to turn Latin America into a completely fascist sector.

The Nicaraguan agricultural development and agrarian reform minister analyzed a number of events which have occurred on the continent, in a speech opening a seminar for ministry officials.

Wheelock, who is also member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front's National Directorate, labeled as suspicious the airplane accidents in which Gen Arturo Hoyos, Peruvian Army chief of staff; Ecuadorean President Jaime Roldos; and now Gen Omar Torrijos, commander of the Panamanian National Guard, have lost their lives.

He said, "We have no doubt that the CIA has participated in many political murders and crimes against revolutionary leaders."

He said that as progressive and democratic trends advance in Latin America, criminal sectors within the U.S. Government are even more intent in forging all types of actions against those processes in the continent.

He cited the examples of the overthrow of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala, Salvador Allende in Chile, and Joao Goulart in Brazil.

He said, "When U.S. reactionary administrations come across progressive, independent, sovereign processes which affect their geopolitical interests and cannot be curbed with their economic and financial aggression...then they resort to political murder."

The Sandinist leader also noted the destabilizing and aggressive activities against Nicaragua, the arms shipments to El Salvador and Guatemala "and the abetting of counterrevolutionary (former Somozist guards) in Miami."

Wheelock said that the Reagan administration is determined to destroy Nicaragua.

He said that the United States has not made its destructive plans more apparent because there are important forces in the world which will not tolerate military aggression to that Central American country.

He said, "For them (the United States) Nicaragua is lost, that is why they seek to speedily disband or destroy us."

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COUNTRY SECTION

PANAMA

BRIEFS

SANDINIST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION--Panama City, 10 Jul (PL)--Activities of solidarity with Nicaragua will be held here beginning 14 July to greet the second anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinist revolution. A spokesman of the Panamanian Committee of Solidarity With Nicaragua, the organization sponsoring the activities, told PRELA that they will be held under the slogan "Sandinist Nicaragua, Panama Is Always With You." The activities include a news conference to be held on Tuesday which will include labor, student and peasant leaders who will express their rejection of U.S. maneuvers against the Sandinist revolution, he noted. A political and cultural meeting of the masses will be held on 17 July with the participation of Edgar Parrales, Nicaraguan social welfare minister, as special guest and other local speakers. Representatives of the popular organizations will also visit the graves of the Panamanian combatants who fell in the struggle to oust the Somozist tyranny. [Text] [PA120201 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1327 GMT 10 Jul 81]

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