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Latin America Report

(FOUO 21/81)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

COUNTRY SECTION

COSTA RICA

PVP Leader: Revolutionary Situation Exists Here (Eduardo Mora Valverde Interview; BOHEMIA, 3 Jul 81).....	1
--	---

CUBA

Malmierca Visit Ends; Mongolian Communique (PRELA, 19 Aug 81).....	5
Castro Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi (PRELA, 22 Aug 81).....	6
Purpose of Rendering of Accounts Meetings Redefined (Susana Tesoro; BOHEMIA, 26 Jun 81).....	7
Commentary Scores Repression in Uruguay (Sara Arias; BOHEMIA, 26 Jun 81).....	9
Increase in Advanced Science Degrees Noted (H. Nunez Lemus; BOHEMIA, 26 Jun 81).....	15
Research Done on Sugarcane Rust Problems (Andres Rodriguez; BOHEMIA, 5 Jun 81).....	24

SURINAME

'Anti-Imperialist Front' Supports Grenada (PRELA, 25 Aug 81).....	25
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COUNTRY SECTION

COSTA RICA

PVP LEADER: REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION EXISTS HERE

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 3 Jul 81 pp 72-73

[Interview with Eduardo Mora Valverde, assistant secretary general of the Popular Vanguard Party, by Mario G. del Cueto, in Havana, date not given]

[Text] It was not difficult to obtain an exclusive interview for BOHEMIA with Eduardo Mora Valverde, assistant secretary general of the Popular Vanguard Party of Costa Rica, the party of the Costa Rican communists. We had heard him in Havana on 16 June on the occasion of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the PVP when he spoke on the origins of the organization, its indefatigable struggle against the imperialists and their domestic lackeys, its reiterated and constant support of the Cuban Revolution, the Nicaraguan and Grenadian revolution, and the liberation processes that are setting the peoples of El Salvador and Guatemala free in a heroic gesture. Now he is with us, following a previously arranged appointment, to speak about his country, which is undergoing an acute economic and social crisis as a result of its growing dependence on Yankee influence.

"We have a very complicated political situation," was his answer to our first question, "because Costa Rica is located in a region of great revolutionary activity. The revolutionary process has moved to the Caribbean area and particularly to Central America, and the Costa Rican bourgeoisie is extremely concerned, or rather tormented, and the reactionary sectors are getting ready to adopt repressive measures against the democratic movement. We are facing up to all these plans and are doing everything possible to prevent a bourgeois group headed by the chambers of industries and businessmen and by old Costa Rican fascist cliques from taking power. The reactionaries in Costa Rica lack important personalities; there are old freebooters who serve the imperialists. They have seized control of extreme rightist groups who are pushing others towards arbitrary positions; such is the case of former president Mario Echandi, who broke with Cuba in 1980 and is now trying to obtain the Presidential seat in the February 1982 elections.

But the most serious problem is foreign intervention in Costa Rica, U.S. capital interfering quite directly through its police and intelligence bodies, namely, the CIA. The revolutionary process developing throughout Central America frightens them out of their wits. The economic and social crisis Costa Rica is experiencing in this context is the most dramatic in its history.

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[Question] How would you describe it?

[Answer] Well, 50 percent of our exports remain abroad to pay interest charges and principal on our foreign debt. That means that we have a deficit of 50 percent in our exports to begin with. We cannot pay for what we buy and the budget must be balanced with inflated currency. Inflation in Costa Rica is such that it is now close to 40 percent. The government cannot even cover one-third of the budget. This situation becomes worse each year and thus the crisis is extremely serious. The reform parties that have alternated in power--the National Liberation Party of Figueres and the one Luis Alberto Monge hopes to lead and the Unity Party--have nothing to offer our people. Ours is the only solution, the United People's Coalition composed of the Costa Rican Socialist Party, the People's Revolutionary Movement, and the Popular Vanguard Party, with our profound revolutionary changes. The bourgeoisie is in serious trouble. And that is the situation we meant, one that is developing the subjective conditions for revolution. The people are organizing; the United Workers' Central is being created; the peasants are occupying lands; they are creating their own labor union; the students are fighting in their campuses and are taking over student organizations; they are taking the initiative; the towns, communities, the neighborhoods are organizing; they are blocking streets; they are demanding housing; demanding water; demanding better living conditions; the workers and government employees are demanding wage increases; farmworkers are going on strike, supported by the peasants; worker-peasant unity is being created; the leftist political parties are growing, they unite, and form the United People's Coalition. The most interesting thing in this phenomenon is that other sectors not involved with the Left are drawing close to the United People; they are anti-imperialists who do not want socialism but a process similar to Nicaragua's; they want an independent and sovereign nation and they hope to strengthen the democratic system, to give it deeper roots, to make it materialize.... I would say there is a revolutionary situation in Costa Rica."

With regards to the recent agreements with the International Monetary Fund, which constitute humiliating submission to foreign capital, Mora said that the Costa Rican crisis is so serious that the U.S. House of Representatives, without waiting for a request from the Government of Costa Rica, resolved to offer \$35 million in "aid" to the domestic bourgeoisie. "This aid was offered to neutralize what they term the beginning of terrorist actions. In other words, if Costa Rica previously represented for them a stable system, now, according to them, it has lost that tranquility. And what has happened is that the people have raised their level of organization and prospects are increasingly better for the incorporation of new sectors in the anti-imperialist struggle. Now imperialism is turning to its instruments of economic repression, and the International Monetary Fund has come to the aid of the local bourgeoisie."

Let us see how the IMF operates:

As is known," Mora continued, "according to IMF statutes no more than 125 percent of a country's quota in the Fund can be loaned to it. Costa Rica has a quota of \$30 million and the most it could expect would be \$41 million. The IMF has always been very strict in this, very stingy; it gives much less than a country has a right to request; on the other hand, it demands humiliating conditions. Well then, now it appears, for some reason, that the IMF is offering us not \$41 million but \$350 million. Why has it been so 'generous?' In addition, it gives us a guarantee so

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"that we can obtain from its sister bank, the Reconstruction and Development Bank, a like sum and the chance to obtain more from other similar institutions. All this could total a billion dollars. We discovered and charged that among the commitments entered into by the government with the IMF was one of such despicable character that even certain sectors of the bourgeoisie protested: that of breaking relations with Cuba. There was an indignant outcry because relations between Cuba and Costa Rica have always been normal, friendly. The conditions imposed by the IMF affect the basic services of the country: education, public health, and other important elements of social and economic welfare because the budget items devoted to them have been drastically cut back."

For Mora there is something worse in the economic sphere.

"A mini Marshall Plan has been announced for Central America," he says. "Actually, conditions in Europe at the time of the Marshall Plan, as a result of the Second World War, are not comparable to Latin America at present. This plan should really be called the Mini-Alliance for Progress, which we know failed because it was aimed at isolating Cuba from the rest of Latin America. It was all, I repeat, a complete failure. They were not even able to invest the \$20 billion they offered. They could not stop the revolutionary process and the Alliance for Progress was halted. And now that revolutionary process has grown, how it has grown! Besides Cuba--the beacon and guide, led by Fidel and the party, we have revolutionary Nicaragua, a free Grenada, and the people of El Salvador and the people of Guatemala who fight heroically to gain full independence from genocidal governments."

We spoke about repression.

"It is obvious," Mora emphasized, "that the policy is to increase repression. The repressive organizations are improving their techniques. Something is happening now in Costa Rica that never happened before. When there are strikes, especially against U.S. businesses, people are injured and even killed. Peasants are killed during land seizures. This alarms us. We are struggling, denouncing, mobilizing. Now, just before I came to Cuba, a bill was presented proposing the mobilization of watchmen who guard foreign and domestic companies and their incorporation into the Civil Guard for the purpose of training them and leading them to kill. Fortunately, the bill encountered strong resistance in the Legislative Assembly which we headed as the United People, and it failed. The minister of security limited himself to requesting a higher budget to strengthen the Civil Guard; but the intent is to augment and train the repressive organizations."

With regard to election prospects Mora believes it would be perhaps too early to make predictions. He believes that the most reactionary candidates will be defeated to judge from the polls that have been taken

"The important thing," he says, "is not that the United People will win--although naturally that would be welcome--but what should be emphasized is that the United People, through the election process, will bring about a deep political consciousness that will allow it to adopt new forms of struggle and gather around itself broader sectors of the population, which will in turn strengthen it. Whoever wins will have to face a much more serious economic and social crisis. United People is prepared for this.... As a party, we believe that we must use the political forms

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"of struggle while they are still possible; but when it is necessary to turn to armed struggle, we are ready to do so. The FVP will not betray its people. Back in 1948, during the civil war, we used it. At present armed struggle in Central America and the Caribbean is an incontestable fact. Each day the moment is growing closer when it will be necessary to resort to arms to expel the imperialists from this part of the continent. We have always foreseen it. The problem is to have the right conditions. The forms of struggle are employed in accordance with prevailing conditions. We must not forget the principle established by Marx in his discourse on political action by the working class. Marx said that when it is possible to take action against bourgeois governments in a peaceful manner, that is what should be done, but when it becomes necessary, one must take up arms."

A fraternal embrace concludes the meeting along with a greeting to his brother, Manuel Mora Valverde, secretary general and founder of the Popular Vanguard Party.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

MALMIERCA VISIT ENDS; MONGOLIAN COMMUNIQUE

PA192354 Havana PRELA in English 1930 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Ulan Bator, Aug 29 (PL)--Cuba and Mongolia rated Washington's decision to produce neutron weapons and NATO's plan to deploy middle-range missiles in Western Europe as an extremely dangerous step for world peace.

In a joint communique on the official and friendly visit the Cuban foreign minister made to Mongolia, both parties coincided in their assessment of the international situation and underlined their full support to the peace initiatives undertaken by the Soviet Union.

The document states that the political and military rapprochement between the United States and China increases the threat to world peace and the security of the national independence of the peoples of Asia, Latin America and other regions of the world.

The two parties stated that the situation has sharpened following the U.S. Government decision to provide Beijing with offensive weapons.

Cuba and Mongolia are in favor of the stepping up of the coordinated efforts and actions by all the socialist countries and all peace-loving forces aimed at strengthening the process of detente and the peaceful cooperation among the states.

The document also stressed the need to carry out continuous efforts so as to assure the restructuration of the international economic relations upon fair and democratic bases.

In this regard, Cuba and Mongolia highlighted the importance of the speech delivered by the president of the Councils of State and ministers of Cuba, Fidel Castro, at the 34 session of the United Nations General Assembly as president of the movement of nonalignment.

In the communique the two countries expressed their satisfaction for the steadfast development of their friendly and cooperation relations based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and internationalism.

During the talks Isidoro Malmierca held with the foreign relations minister of the People's Republic of Mongolia, Manglyn Dugersuren, a collaboration program was signed by the two countries in the field of culture, science and education for the 1981-85 Five Year Plan.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

CASTRO RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM AL-QADHDHAFI

PA222000 Havana PRELA in English 1805 GMT 22 Aug 81

[Text] Havana, 22 Aug (PL)--The leader of the Libyan revolution, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, denounces the aggressive attitude of the United States against that Arab nation, in a message sent to the president of the nonaligned movement, Fidel Castro.

The text, published in the front page of the GRANMA daily, stresses that the military manoeuvres of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean are carried out within the framework of the campaign of terrorism and provocations of the United States.

This constitutes, it says, a step which evidently announced hostile intentions against the Libyan people, for confirmed reports indicate that these exercises are taking place in two regions which belong to the territorial waters of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahirya.

It explains that these areas of manoeuvres are in the region of the Gulf of Sidra and part of them are taking place within the forbidden zones, specifically destined to the instruction of the Arab Libyan Air Forces.

The message also denounces that on the day 19 a U.S. air squadron of the Sixth Fleet interfered two Libyan planes and shot down one of them, while they were in their routine reconnaissance flight over the Libyan territorial waters and air space.

This aggressive attitude of the U.S. administration against the Libyan people, is considered as an act of terrorism and provocation headed to destabilize the region and put in danger world peace and security.

The text underlines that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahirya reserves itself the right to adopt "all the necessary measures to preserve the legitimate rights of their territorial waters and air space."

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi expressed his wish that this memorandum would be considered as one of the official documents of the nonaligned movement and to have it be generalized to all its members.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

PURPOSE OF RENDERING OF ACCOUNTS MEETINGS REDEFINED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 26 Jun 81 pp 56-57

[Article by Susana Tesoro: "Rendering of Accounts Meetings"]

[Text] We quickly became used to the meetings that began one day, after the voting and presentations in the district. At the first meetings, we hardly knew how to act. Then we started learning the method until we learned what to present and what to demand. I am referring to the rendering of accounts meetings which are rarely mentioned but exist and continue to be the gauge of the good or bad functioning of an area.

What has conspired against these important meetings? First, attendance. If the elector does not go, he does not participate or understand. Second, the delegate. Does he take care of his electors? Does he try to find solutions to the problems? Does he give a pleasant, interesting and brief report and not bore his listeners from the beginning of the meeting? If so, he is a good delegate. If not, this can be one of the things that weaken the intention of a neighborhood assembly.

Last February, the last rendering of accounts meeting ended and Havana City, the most populated province in the country, was careful to issue an agreement by the Executive Committee. It explained the steps to follow to prevent stagnant and repetitious presentations when there are subjective problems that can be solved.

Two undeniable realities occur in the capital. One, in successive rendering of accounts meetings the electors have repeatedly shown their disagreement with certain services or specific problems that affect them, in spite of the fact that the basic causes for these situations frequently obey subjective factors. The other is that the administrative directorates that should satisfactorily solve those problems have not yet achieved results that can be considered acceptable. This leads to the repetitions.

In the February meeting, the sector that received the largest percentage of complaints was water and sewerage. It was followed by commerce, community services, housing, electric power industry, transportation, construction, education and public health. This was more or less the story last October with the inclusion of complaints on problems that still exist: in the water sector, fixing leaks, problems with water supply and the construction and maintenance of sewers and drains; in housing, the repair and maintenance of multiple housing units and the poor distribution of materials; in commerce, poor treatment of the public and lack of

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hygiene; and in construction, problems in construction and street repairs. They continue from one meeting to another and increase the lack of interest in the meeting since the elector has to go and say the same thing over and over.

That situation was analyzed--as we already said--by the Provincial Executive Committee which agreed that the administrative directorates subordinate to the province and involved in these repetitions must make an in-depth analysis of the causes of that situation, review the methods used and adopt new procedures that include, when necessary, the aid of political and mass organizations, the elaboration of plans and concrete measures to eliminate all the problems of subjective origin and establishment of forms of systematic control and analysis.

With respect to the enterprises and organizations not under the people's government, the Provincial Executive Committee requested that they take the necessary measures to overcome the problems that most affect the people. The agreement added that these administrations must have corresponding solutions and responses for each assembly process within the time indicated and also must present a report to the standing committee about the work in question so the level of efficiency can be analyzed. The provincial and municipal standing committees were asked to maintain strict control over the results achieved by those administrative directorates.

The provincial government's decision seems correct to us because what does the repetition of a problem mean? There are matters unsolved; certain directorates are not working well because of lack of organization or resources or whatever. We are not going to go into detailed evaluations but unquestionably something is not working. The objective is that, with these joint analyses, the problems can be defined, the elector can be pleased and the progress and development of a certain area, whether a district or province, will improve.

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CUBA

COMMENTARY SCORES REPRESSION IN URUGUAY

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 26 Jun 81 pp 64-66

[Article by Sara Arias: "Pressure on the Dictatorship"]

[Text] "The 'no' victory clearly reveals the gigantic forces within the country, surrounded by the even more vast international solidarity, rising up to save the fatherland from fascism." (Rodney Arismendi, secretary general of the PCU [Communist Party of Uruguay])

The Uruguayan regime met resounding failure in the plebiscite last November, rejected by a large vote which showed the Uruguayan people's repudiation of a repressive policy that has given Uruguay sad notoriety as one of the South American champions of torture and murder. This is complemented by its economic policy to bankrupt the country and reduce the standard of living of the working masses to hunger, poverty and unemployment. All this has placed the military--the real government behind whichever puppet is on duty--at a difficult crossroads.

With the people's rejection which is impossible to hide now--the regime fell into its own trap--the military has had to discard its famous "timetable" for the alleged opening. It is now forced to find new formulas facing growing internal unrest in all the political and labor sectors and the agricultural and industrial bourgeoisie which has been seriously affected by the official economic policy directed by the minister of economy and finance, Valentin Arismendi, following the IMF dictates.

Also international condemnation and isolation have increased. This has even been recognized in a recent editorial in the newspaper EL PAIS.

Repercussion of Plebiscite; Search for New "Timetable"

After the results of the plebiscite were learned, there was an immediate reaction from the military to this new, and inexplicably surprising, situation. While some "interpreted" the results of the popular referendum as the majority's desire to maintain the present status, others saw the need to recognize the rejection and seek new formulas to legalize their stay in power.

In the communique issued immediately after the plebiscite, the commanders in chief of the three branches announced that the basic political plan of 1977 "aimed at constitutional normalization" (read institutionalization of the anticonstitutional

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laws implemented by the dictatorship) remained unaffected and that the "process of democratic institutionalization" (sic) will continue irreversibly to its culmination under the existing regime.

The commander in chief of the army, Gen Luis Queirolo--who has known presidential aspirations--emphasized that national security itself is in danger and the effective presence of the army is required to protect the nation. Gen Abdon Raimundez, chief of the IV Army Division and chairman of COMASPO [Political Affairs Committee] of the FFAA [Armed Forces], was in charge of "dialoguing" with the traditional political parties--the Blanco and the Colorado--before the plebiscite; he was unsuccessful. He said that there are political, economic and social reasons for the results and that there had been "errors committed" mostly from lack of political experience or a self-confidence that did not respond to reality. He pointed out the expediency of renewing the dialogue with those parties although, he stated, "the problem is we do not know who their leaders are."

Shortly after, the military apparently learned who those leaders were in the interior of the country and the Junta of General Officers commissioned Raimundez to initiate contacts with the appointed Blanco and Colorado leaders.

The internal division in the army (more due to form than content and to personal ambitions) that came out again as a result of the failure of the plebiscite was apparently reconciled with one of the first official decisions--the end of the mandate of "President" Aparicio Mendez and his replacement next 1 September. This announcement was made by General Queirolo who quickly emphasized that the change in the presidency will not mean a substantial change in the political and economic conduct of the country which, according to him, has had very good results in the past 8 years (!).

Although the appointment will be made by the Junta of General Officers and then be ratified by the Council of the Nation (made up by the legislative body appointed to replace the parliamentarians elected in 1971 and the general officers of the FFAA), Queirolo indicated that the date of that council meeting to elect a new president has not been set yet. In other words, the military still has not come to an agreement.

Referring to the new program of "political opening," the army chief continued to state that "it is still very general, without specific definition." Raimundez admitted that a new plan is being studied but without a definite timetable. Although the result of the talks and consultations between the head of COMASPO and the leaders of the traditional parties has not been officially revealed, it was learned that they presented bases for beginning an opening to Raimundez. These must be submitted to the consideration of the generals, admirals and brigadiers in the Junta of General Officers in order to draw up a new political plan.

The points presented by the Blancos and Colorados included the need to restore freedom of information, the convocation of a constitutional assembly, the reestablishment of union and political activities and the end of political bans.

As to the new presidential candidate, speculations abound since there are several aspirants for that position, including Queirolo himself. The names of some civilians and active and retired military have been tossed around, including one of the Zubia brothers who would be looked at favorably by Brazil.

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Until now, the retirements from the FFAA announced by the minister of defense, Walter Ravena, have been according to plan: in April the commander in chief of the navy, Vice Adm Hugo Marquez, replaced by Vice Adm Rodolfo Invidio; and in May Lt Gen Raul Bendahan, commander of the air force, replaced by Brig Gen Jose D. Cardoso. There were other unforeseen changes that showed that the fights and division within the FFAA have not disappeared but continue to flourish. One example was the dismissal of General Ballestrino from his position as director of the Army School of Arms and Services; he was retired and is now accused of questionably actions. A Court of Military Honor has been formed to try him. Captain Nader was arrested, not for being a known torturer but for participating in an operation to turn over the command of the navy to another officer. Seven police chiefs, including the one in the capital, were retired. Diplomatic duties were taken away from Julio Cesar Vadora, former commander in chief of the army and then ambassador to Paraguay, and Brigadier Perez Caldas, former commander of the air force and then ambassador to the United States, among others.

This political cadre is directly involved in the unity of the groups, organizations and representatives of the Uruguayan political parties abroad and their greater effectiveness, due to that unity, in instigating the concrete action of international solidarity. It pressures the Uruguayan dictatorship to carry out its touted opening, end the repression and torture and release all political and union prisoners. This action has been reinforced by the devastating defeat of the regime in the November plebiscite in which more than 54 percent of the people rejected the military's timetable.

Another thing that pressures the regime is the disastrous economic situation and the discontent it generates.

Shocking Situation; "Leave Their Souls in the Earth"

The conflicts with the rural organizations that pushed out Juan Carlos Cassou, minister of agriculture and fishing, in January 1981 worsened with the last Ruralist Assembly where it was stated that the beneficiaries of the critical situation in agriculture are mainly the large banks mostly tied to foreign capital which collect interest of up to 80 percent. Criticism increased at subsequent livestock meetings because of the increasing indebtedness of the sector and the lack of government measures facing the recorded low in the price of farms. The fishing sector is still affected by a market depression aggravated by Brazil's suspension of imports and the stagnation of purchases by European countries. Meat and wool are the two principal sectors that bring in foreign currency.

The Uruguayan Farmers Confederation's disagreement with an official economic policy that does not permit them to meet production costs in spite of abundant crops and that caused the peasant exodus to the urban belts of poverty also came to light. The small farmers are hurt the most, of course, so their representative stated that it was urgent to prevent that "after leaving their souls in the earth, they end up leaving their bones in the cities." Other industries like the grape and wine industry are mortally threatened because of the treaty with Argentina. All farm production is threatened by the invasion of products from abroad. Footwear and leather articles are threatened by the massive closing of factories and tanneries with the subsequent unemployment of thousands of workers. The latest and most serious confrontation with the Rural Federation is approaching with this year's congress of that organization which includes the main producers in the country.

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The seething of the working masses who suffer the blows of the incessant and endemic increases in the cost of living which, according to the always conservative official statistics, reached 42.82 percent in 1980 with food and housing affected most, can be added to the mobilization of these sectors.

The astronomic increase in rent at the end of 1980--78.61 percent--greatly surpassed the general rate of price increases and created a shocking situation for thousands of Uruguayan families when evictions began in the middle of last February. According to the Ministry of Economy and Finance, 33,000 families have been evicted.

Inflation continues to rise with increases in all public services, transportation rates, fuels--including kerosene used by the poor to cook--and medical insurance. The 11-percent wage increase meant only a new decrease in the real wage, reabsorbed by increased prices of essential goods. It suffices to say that the estimated minimum living wage for a typical family (couple with two children) is 7,500 pesos but the fixed minimum wage is 1,385 pesos a month, five times lower.

Meanwhile, the denationalization process of all state industrial and commercial enterprises accelerates under the pretext that they need to be subsidized. The policy of freedom of imports worsened the deficit in the trade balance which is almost triple that of the past fiscal year.

Nevertheless, General Queirolo stated clearly that the Uruguayan military regime has no intention of changing its economic policy which is, without doubt, another "time bomb" for the dictatorship.

Its continuation is directly related to the labor repression that has not managed to paralyze the action of the workers in spite of its brutality. A delegation of the ILO came to Montevideo at the beginning of the year to learn about the situation. It met with Carlos Alberto Maesso, minister of labor, with the government CGTU [General Confederation of Uruguayan Workers] which the regime futilely used to try to replace the outlawed CNT [National Convention of Workers], the true representative of the Uruguayan workers, and with leaders of other organizations. On that occasion, Maesso stated that the bill on professional associations written by his ministry would be submitted to the Council of State. Its known provisions were strongly criticized as an attack against union freedom.

Actually, that law only legalizes the repression by the government and the management which fire en masse the workers elected by the masses to represent them in the enterprise parity committees or those who merely agree to be part of the union movement.

The ILO has had the Uruguayan case on its agenda since the 1973 coup d'etat because of the flagrant violation of international labor legislation. Uruguayan communist leader Enrique Rodriguez indicated recently that as the annual meeting of that organization in Geneva approaches, the regime has hurried to vote in the union law, after eliminating the seven most reactionary and antiworker articles. It wants to present it there and try to demonstrate that it is answering worker demands. Nevertheless, the ILO made important stipulations: it demanded the release of union prisoners, denounced the lack of guarantees in trials and demanded the return of the locals to the unions and the recognition of the legal personage of the Uruguayan Bankers Association.

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Carry Out the Popular Will

In this context, the Group of the CDU [Democratic Convergence in Uruguay] met in Mexico City to discuss the results of the November plebiscite and adopt decisions based on that event which it called the most important victory of the Uruguayan people in its 7 years of struggle against the dictatorship. This victory aroused the support of all the political groups from the traditional to the militant left.

The CDU was formed in April 1980 by a group of important people from different Uruguayan democratic groups--political, social and religious--to work with all the democratic governments, organizations and forces in the world that have solidarity with the efforts of the Uruguayan people to regain their freedom. It has redoubled its international work since the plebiscite in order to pressure the Uruguayan dictatorship to recognize the popular will expressed by a majority at the ballot boxes.

As a result of the meeting in Mexico, the CDU issued a pronouncement called "Carry Out the Popular Will." In this, it analyzed the meaning of the national and popular rejection of the Uruguayan military's plans which ended the regime's attempts to build a facade of institutionalization to overcome the crisis of their internal and international loss of prestige.

Five concrete proposals complement the pronouncement: the immediate dismissal of Aparicio Mendez; reestablishment of individual freedoms, union freedom, freedom to meet, freedom of association, freedom of expression and freedom of thought as well as greater economic and social justice; immediate release of all political and union prisoners, especially Gen Liber Seregni, and abolition of all bans; complete freedom of operation for political parties; and convocation of elections for a constitutional assembly or some other suitable action which implies the dominating participation of the people, the original and essential holders of national sovereignty.

A few days later, Juan Ferreira, president of the CDU, declared in Washington that one of the decisions at the meeting was to launch a diplomatic offensive against the continuation of the military government in Uruguay when the UN Human Rights Commission met in Geneva--where the dictatorship was again condemned. Delegates would be sent to Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, the United Kingdom, the FRG and France. This offensive began with a successful tour through the European countries where the main democratic political forces agreed to help reestablish democracy in Uruguay. This support was confirmed at the first anniversary of the CDU, celebrated a few days ago in Mexico, which an impressive number of distinguished celebrities from Europe, Latin America and the United States attended.

International Solidarity; Human Rights

The isolation of the Uruguayan dictatorship has intensified. There are important international events that show solidarity with the cause of the Uruguayan people, a solidarity that challenges the regime and has saved valuable lives, pulling them out of the underworld of jails and concentration camps, persecution, torture and slow annihilation or death.

The many acts and statements by the international community in the last months included: the formation in Washington of the Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in Uruguay which unites different groups and celebrities from Mexico, Panama,

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Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, the United States, Costa Rica, Brazil, COPPAL [Conference of Latin American Political Parties] and Bolivia (represented by its constitutional vice president, Jaime Paz Zamora). An Italian delegation visited Montevideo: Gen Nino Pasti, senator and former chief of staff of the Italian Air Force; Gilberto Bonalumi, deputy of the Christian Democrat Party and vice president of the Chamber of Deputies; and Pietro Lezzi, vice president of the Social Democratic Group of the European Parliament. They relayed to the Uruguayan authorities the concern of all the Italian and European political forces for the fate of the political prisoners, especially: Gen Liber Seregni, president of the Broad Front; mathematician Jose Luis Massera; Jaime Perez, former deputy and distinguished communist leader; and Lilian Celiberto (kidnaped by a Uruguayan commando in Brazil). They told them that there would be no "change in image" abroad unless effective measures to restore human rights and release all political prisoners are adopted.

There are also campaigns to obtain the freedom of the hostages of the regime, the Tupamaro prisoners with Raul Sendic at the head, pressuring the dictatorship to at least carry out its "threat" to put them on public trial and thus be able to protect them. They also demand the freedom of Gerardo Gatti of the Party for the Victory of the People (missing), Hector Rodriguez of the GAU [Groups for Unified Action] and Rodriguez Beletti of the 26 March Movement.

At a time when the military dictatorship, cornered by its own contradictions, is studying new formulas but also increasing repression, ending more lives with torture, the campaign of international solidarity with the fight of the Uruguayan people becomes even more important.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

INCREASE IN ADVANCED SCIENCE DEGREES NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 26 Jun 81 pp 90-93

[Report on interview with engineer Fernando Vecino Alegret, minister of higher education and chairman of National Committee for Scientific Degrees, and Carlos Peniche Covas, secretary, by H. Nunez Lemus in Havana; date not specified]

[Text] It was not easy to get an interview with engineer Fernando Vecino Alegret, chairman of the CNGC [National Committee for Scientific Degrees] and minister of higher education. When we arrived at his office on Calle 23, he was not alone. A young man about 30 years old was with him, looking at some documents. The minister introduced him to us and then asked us to wait a minute.

The young man was Carlos Peniche Covas, candidate for doctor of science and secretary of the committee. The objective of the interview was to explain certain details about the work of the committee, especially the 135 professionals who were recently granted doctor of science degrees, skipping the established step of candidate.

We met when they were through with the documents.

The minister asked us: "Is there any reason Peniche can't participate in the interview? He has worked hard on all the work of the committee and he is sure he can contribute."

We did not have any reason so we asked the first question.

"Engineer, can the degrees granted recently to the 135 professionals be considered 'honorary' degrees?"

Vecino Alegret stared at us as if he were trying to find some disparaging tone in the question. He seemed to convince himself that there was not.

However, we felt obliged to explain ourselves. Although our public does not know much about the matter, it is, nevertheless, a little confusing that all the conventional steps have not been fulfilled. It is inevitable that the public is inclined to believe that the degrees were merely given to honor a growing number of citizens. There is the much better known precedent of granting academic distinctions to people merely because of their distinguished positions in public life, even to semi-illiterate officials as happened in the past.

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The minister listened to us carefully. He answered:

"It would be very easy to give a negative answer to your question but this would not solve the problem. Why don't we start at the beginning?"

"At the beginning?" we asked.

"Yes, the creation of the committee and everything related to the careful selection work carried out over a long period of time before granting those 135 doctorates of science."

Scientific Degrees, National Education System

He began: "Before getting into this topic, it would be appropriate to explain the place of scientific degrees and their objectives within the National Education System.

"The process of construction of socialism in our country is carried out within the framework of a scientific-technical revolution which demands increased skill from our university professionals and the continual improvement and up-dating of their knowledge of their areas. That is the reason for the two-sided development of post-graduate education: professional education systems and the scientific degree system.

"The first is massive and is aimed at all professionals; it is done through courses, studies and postgraduate training as well as specialization programs. The scientific degree system is directed basically at the cadres that are going to carry out research, development or scientific-pedagogical activities, thus assuring the training of higher level cadres."

"Do all university graduates benefit from this system?"

"No, not all. The scientific degree system is selective; it not only looks at professional and academic abilities but also the political and ideological conditions of the graduate."

"A very important clarification," we noted.

"The system, established by Law 1281 of 2 December 1974, establishes two degrees: candidate for doctor of science and doctor of science. The first is granted to university graduates who satisfy the requirements and evaluations of the established program and defend, before an appropriate board, a thesis that shows theoretical and practical mastery of a certain field and contributes to its development. The second degree is given to the candidates who later do highly specialized work; it requires a thesis, and its defense, which contributes to that particular branch of knowledge."

We insisted: "This last step has not been carried out in the case of the 135 new doctors of science."

"Don't jump ahead," suggested engineer Vecino Alegret. "We will come to that."
He continued:

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"The law created the CNGC, an autonomous entity which Decree Law 37 of 7 April 1980 authorizes to determine and empower qualified institutions and boards to issue the corresponding degrees, direct the validation procedures and validate the scientific degrees of postgraduates who have received degrees abroad or in Cuba from foreign institutions. The minister of higher education, the position that I presently hold, heads this committee."

"What is the make-up of the committee?"

"The CNGC is composed of professionals of recognized prestige in their spheres grouped in the following branches: natural science, social and humanistic science, technical science, agricultural science, biomedical science, economic science, pedagogic science and military science. They study the theses, form the boards and submit their conclusions to the executive council of the committee.

"The executive council consists of the chairman of the committee--in this case, me--the vice chairman--Dr Jose A. Presno Albarran, a distinguished scientist who recently died in the exercise of his duties--and the secretary, Peniche. The council, in addition to the directors of the sections, is the superior organ of the CNGC. According to the provisional regulation in effect, the mentioned committee, the authorized institutions, the scientific degree committees of those institutions and the degree boards participate in granting the degrees."

"A sufficiently fine sieve," we again noted.

Ways to Obtain Degrees

The bill establishes three ways to become a candidate: fulltime, when the aspirant devotes all his time to the work plan with a maximum of 4 years' duration; parttime, when the aspirant does the work without giving up his regular occupations which can last up to 6 years; and the free system referring to people involved in production or services who do a scientific project that satisfies the requirements for the degree. In all cases, it is normally required to be a graduate of higher education for more than 2 years. There are exceptions for students who have brilliantly completed a priority specialty."

Peniche interrupted: "Other requirements are: to obtain an average grade in the pregraduate specialty of at least 4 points; be 35 or under for fulltime; be proposed by the organism where one works; know a foreign language--Russian, French, English or German; and pass an entrance examination. Also it is very important to have the political-ideological conditions demanded of a scientific cadre for the development of our revolution: prestige, feeling of responsibility toward work, honesty, political maturity, exemplariness, etc. All this is completed by an examination in three subjects: Marxist-Leninist philosophy, the foreign language and the corresponding specialty in the thesis, all before the thesis is defended....In order to defend the degree of doctor of science, it is an indispensable requirement to have the degree as candidate."

I insisted: "Which has been forgotten in the case of the 135 professionals recently granted that degree."

The minister-chairman intervened:

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"Let's get to that. In order to teach advanced stages in the training of higher-level specialists, it is necessary to have scientific personnel with the indispensable qualifications to promote the scientific degree system. This led to a process called direct grants in which the committee grants degrees to a group of famous professionals for their distinguished scientific work, innovations and discoveries or great contributions in training cadres. This process is done only once, as happened in other socialist countries, and is determined by two principal reasons: to recognize the work, dedication and results of a lifetime in a field of knowledge of those cadres whose contributions to the development of their specialties and professions and loyalty to the party and the government are unquestioned; and to create a critical mass capable of guaranteeing the subsequent development of all the work of granting scientific degrees in the country. This is the concrete case of the 135 new doctors of science. Does that take care of your question?"

"In general, yes," I admitted.

The minister added: "This means that they are not persons outside the scientific discipline in which they obtained their degree--as frequently happens with 'honorary' degrees--but real specialists with a well-earned right to bear the title. Their academic records were subjected to strict analysis before being proposed to the committee."

Equivalencies and Validations

There are two matters that should be explained in the system of validation of scientific degrees obtained by Cubans abroad. This has two sides: degrees obtained in socialist countries and those received from universities in countries outside CEMA.

We asked: "Are the scientific degrees granted by socialist countries equivalent?" Peniche answered:

"Not in all cases. We have, for example, the cases of the GDR, Poland and Romania which do not have candidates. The equivalent to our degree of candidate is a doctor in a branch of science in the GDR, a doctor of science in Hungary [as published] and a doctor in Romania. In the others, the nomenclature and level are the same. Your question is good because even the candidates themselves are sometimes ignorant of these equivalents. A little while ago, we had the case of a comrade who openly disagreed with the validation of his doctorate to a candidate."

"What about the capitalist universities?"

"Well, that is another thing. They have a degree that could be equivalent to a candidate but not in all cases. This is the Ph.D. (philosophical doctor [as published]) which in some universities is the same as our candidate, but not in others. There are no agreements on this; an aspirant for validation must pass examinations and submit his thesis to the CNGC. I am talking about something I know very well since I personally obtained a Ph.D. in England and had to do this before receiving revalidation as candidate."

I again took the offensive.

I stated: "One thing that is a little confusing to me is the nomenclature of candidate in many socialist countries, including Cuba. In general, a candidate is an aspirant to obtain or reach something...."

Peniche interrupted me: "Nevertheless, it is not an undefined intermediate step. A candidate, as understood within the system, is an accomplished scientist, whether or not he becomes a doctor."

Vecino Alegret interrupted: "All these questions about nomenclature are being studied by the committee in order to get rid of errors and false interpretations. When we offer technical aid to countries outside CEMA, we are even obliged on many occasions to explain the scientific level of our candidates."

Candidate Doctors?

One aspect of the mentioned nomenclature which also tends to confuse the public is the case of medical graduates when they become aspirants or candidates to become doctors.

The minister stated: "These doctors are a real exception. Along with veterinarians, they are the only university graduates who graduate with the title of doctor. Like the graduates of other professions at that level, they only have degrees, medical degrees in this case. The exception of the title of doctor has continued for them because it obeys an old tradition that identified the title with the practice of medicine. No graduate of our universities, including doctors, has a doctorate. I believe that, in the future, all the above must be carefully studied in order to eliminate mistakes and contradictions."

I formulated my last question:

"Minister, you said that the process of granting scientific degrees--in this case the doctorate--would be done only once. Is it possible that that decision will be reconsidered in the future?"

"I don't think so but it would be risky to say absolutely no. I can say that a number of records of cadres are being carefully studied with the objective of granting them the degree of candidate as was done with the doctors. As in the previous case, the selection will be very strict but will not exclude anyone with sufficient merit to receive that degree."

The interview ended. While engineer Vecino Alegret was saying goodbye to us, he had an amused and satisfied smile. He extended his hand and asked:

"Do you think it is possible that someone can now confuse the new doctor of science with the traditional 'honorary' doctors?"

We admitted: "No, obviously they are not 'honorary' doctors but distinguished scientists who have been academically granted a title that they already had by right which no one dare dispute."

New Doctors of Science

Agricultural Science
Carlos Puentes Garcia

Science in Art
Angeliers Leon Perez
Francisco Prat Puig

Biological Science
Dario Guitart Manday
Abelardo Moreno Bonilla
Salvador de la Torre Callejas

Economic Science
Carlos Rafael Rodriguez Rodriguez

Philological Science
Vicentina Antuna Tavio
Angel Augier Proenza
Roberto Fernandez Retamar
Nicolas Guillen Batista
Graziella Pogolotti Jacobson
Jose A. Portuondo Valdor

Philosophical Science
Gaspar Jorge Garcia Gallo

Geographic Science
Pedro E. Canas Abril
Sara E. Isalgue Isalgue
Antonio Nunez Jimenez

Historical Science
Sergio Aguirre Carreras
Jose Luciano Franco Ferran
Calixta R. Guiteras Holmes
Julio Le Riverend Brusone
Manuel Moreno Friginals
Hortensia Pichardo Vinals
Lionel Soto Prieto
Ernesto Tabio Palma
Pelegrin Torras de la Luz
Salvador Vilaseca Forne

Legal Science
Miguel A. D'Estefano Pisani
Blas Roca Calderio

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Medical Science

Jaime Alemany Martorel
Celestino Alvarez Lajonchere
Luis Alvarez Vallas
Leopoldo Araujo Bernal
Eladio Blanco Rabasa
Llaene Borbolla Vacher
Israel Borrajero Martinez
Abelardo Buch Lopez
Jose A. Bustamante O'Leary
Emilio Camayd Zogbe
Ramon Casanova Arzola
Daniel Cordoniu Pruna
Francisco Conde Otero
Armando Cordova Castro
Jose F. Corral Almonte
Raul Dorticos Torrado
Roberto Douglas Pedroso
Horacio Escobar Lopez
Jose Estrada Gonzalez
Ubaldo Farnot Cardoso
Guillermo Fernandez Hernandez-Baquero
Francisco Fernandez Soler
Helenio Ferrer Garcia
oscar Garcia Fernandez
Alejandro Garcia Gutierrez
Sergio Garcia-Marruz Badia
Arturo Garcia Mendoza
Jorge Eugenio Gabilondo Gonzalez
Armando Gomez Hechevarria
Alfredo Gomez Sampera
Noel Gonzalez Jimenez
Enrique Hechevarria Vaillant
Alberto Hernandez Canero
Abdo Hernandez Gonzalez
Fidel Ilizastegui Dupuy
Jose Jordan Rodriguez
Francisco Lancis Sanchez
Jose Lopez Sanchez
Raymundo Llanio Navarro
Ignacio Macias Castro
Oscar Mateo de Acosta Fernandez
Zoilo Marinello Vidaurreta
Wenceslao Martinez Garcia
Julio Martinez Paez
Jorge B. McCook Martinez
Vicente Osorio Acosta
Antonio Palacin Aranda
Gilberto Pardo Gomez
Joaquin Pascual Gispert
Rafael Pedraza Rodriguez
Rolando Pereiras Costa

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Medical Science (continued)

Cesar Perez Duany
Abdon Pires Rodriguez
Ricardo Portilla Sanchez
Eliseo Prado Gonzalez
Salvador del Rio Madueno
Adolfo Rodriguez de la Vega
Ruben Rodriguez Gavalda
Adalberto Rodriguez Lopez
Luis Rodriguez Rivera
Serafin Ruiz de Sarate
Bartolome Sagaro Delgado
Antonio San Martin Marichal
Eugenio Selman-Houssein Abdo
Federico Sotolongo Guerra
Arnaldo Tejeiro Fernandez
Ernesto de la Torre Montejo
Wilfredo Torres Yribar
Eugenio Torroella Martinez-Fortun
Eugenio Torroella Mata
Santiago Valdes Martin
Pedro Valdes Vivo
Orlando Valias Perez
Oscar Zanetti Vila

Pedagogical Science

Rosa M. Angulo Diaz-Canel
Adolfina Cossio Esturo
Max Figueroa Araujo
Julio Lopez Renduelles
Joaquin Melgarejo Rodriguez
Juan Mier Febles
Maria del Rosario Novoa Luis

Chemical Science

Ruth Dayal Henriquez Rodriguez

Sociological Science

Raul Gutierrez Serrano

Sociological [as published] Science

Raul Roa Garcia

Technical Science

Miguel A. Abalo Macias
Manuel Aguilera Barciela
Angel Alvarez Ponte
Faustino S. Esteva Sirven
Emilio Fernandez Conde
Mario O. Fleites Diaz
Manuel O. Garcia Fernandez
Edgardo Gonzalez Alonso
Mario Gonzalez Sedeno

Technical Science (continued)

Jorge Guerra Deben
Ventura Herrera Juver
Maximiliano Isoba Garcia
Pedro Luis Torres
Joaquin Marinello Marinello
Jose M. del Portillo Vazquez
Antonio L. Quintana Simonetti
Octavio Raices Vidal
Tirso V. Saenz Sanchez
Miguel A. Urrutia Alvarez
Jose A. Valladares Timoneda

Veterinarian Science

Ciro Perez Troncoso
Osvaldo N. Rodriguez Hernandez

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

RESEARCH DONE ON SUGARCANE RUST PROBLEMS

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 5 Jun 81 pp 34-35

[Article by Andres Rodriguez]

[Text] Ileana Sandoval, a young graduate in biological sciences, has specialized in the study of the rust disease in sugarcane. In this connection, we recently heard her present a report which aroused the interest of the participants in the meeting of high-level experts convoked by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries (GEPLACEA).

Many participants agreed on the rigorous standards of the report presented by this expert, who graduated in 1974 and has twice been awarded the Forgers of the Future Medal. She has also participated in training courses in India and Poland.

But it would seem that the final chapter has not been written on this fungus disease which has affected the phytosanitary picture on our continent. For example, there are some who believe that other methods of combating rust should be used instead of relying exclusively on the traditional procedure of introducing resistant varieties. What is the opinion of Ileana Sandoval about this?

"The best means of combating rust is replacement with varieties resistant to this disease. It is true that fungicides have been used, but in some cases they only partially control the effects, whereas in others, they have not done so in efficient fashion."

We spoke previously of the changes in the regional phytosanitary picture caused by rust. In the specific case of Cuba, what is the current reaction of our main commercial and precommercial varieties to the presence of this pathological factor?

"As is known," Ileana Sandoval answered, "the most vulnerable variety is Barbados 4362, which is now being destroyed throughout the country. We also have two other vulnerable varieties, Mayari 54129 and 5514. Where our two main varieties at present (Jaronu 60-5 and Cuba 87-51) are concerned, the former is moderately resistant while the latter has proven highly resistant."

And so for now we said farewell to this young graduate who has dedicated herself, with her youthful passion, to deciphering the secrets of rust.

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SURINAME

'ANTI-IMPERIALIST FRONT' SUPPORTS GRENADA

PA260222 Paramaribo PRELA in English to PRELA Havana 2230 GMT 25 Aug 81

[Text] Paramaribo, 25 August (PL)--A Grenada's Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman spent a day in Suriname to inform the government and the people here about the serious threat of a military invasion from the United States against Grenada. Purpose of his visit was seeking solidarity with the revolutionary government and the Grenadian people in their struggle against imperialism. At a press conference this afternoon Mr Whiteman gave information on Grenada and the possibilities of an American military invasion. At this conference Suriname's Minister of Police Laurence Neede read a statement from his government in which the concern and the possibilities of such an invasion was shared with the Grenada Government. The statement expressed Suriname's solidarity with the government and the people of Grenada and called any foreign interference in the internal affairs of Caribbean nations unacceptable. The statement ended with saying that superpowers must not threaten the Caribbean countries nor by their military nor by any other powers they possess. At the press conference were also present representatives from the different organisations who participate in the anti-imperialist front which is being formed in Suriname. This front gave out a statement 'in the name of the commander of the national army, leader of the Front in formation'.

Following is the text of the Front's statement:

1. Taking into account that the North American Government with the arrival of Reagan has stepped up its aggression against the revolutionary governments in the world and in particular in Latin America and the Caribbean;
2. Taking into account that they unmistakably have continuously uttered threats towards the revolutionary governments of Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada;
3. Taking into account the continuous reports with relation to military exercises in the Caribbean with the object to bring back to power the so-called legal regime which is said to be overthrown by "rebels";
4. Taking into account the continuous North American attempts to mobilize the contra-revolutionary elements with the purpose to create an atmosphere of terror, insecurity and destabilisation on the island;
5. Taking into account the cowardly economic boycott from the side of North American imperialism against the people of Grenada;

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6. Taking into account that the struggle of the Grenadian people for national liberation and elevation is a part of the worldwide struggle against imperialism;

7. Taking into account that the peoples of Suriname and Grenada are confronted by the same enemy;

We all forcefully condemn all attempts of Yankee imperialism to undermine with the help of aggression and military intervention the Grenadian revolution while completely overlooking the right of the Grenadian people to self-determination. We declare our solidarity with the struggle of the people and the government of Grenada to end once and for all the economic, political and cultural submission of their country to the North American imperialism.

Conclusions:

--We want to start a mass campaign for information and discussion about the revolutionary struggle in Grenada via television, radio, press and organisations of women, farmers, youth and students, etc.

--National, international as well as diplomatic objection to above mentioned attempts of North American side [as received].

--We want to stress the importance to the policy center and the government of Suriname of giving clear instructions to Suriname's minister of foreign affairs to express the aforesaid viewpoints, especially during his speech for the General Assembly of the United Nations.

CSO: 3025/1027

END

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