Pindling thwarts critics with landslide victory

SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNER — Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling makes a nationwide campaign address prior to last week's election. Obviously it worked. Pindling's Progressive Liberal Party won its greatest victory last week.

NASSAU, Bahamas — Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling, who has made a career of confounding his critics, did it again last week.

He led his Progressive Liberal Party to its greatest victory in the Bahamas' elections.

The PLP took its third election in 10 years in a massive landslide, capturing at least a record 30 seats in the 38-seat House of Assembly, according to the returns.

The PLP polled 55 per cent of the more than 65,000 votes cast. Election board officials estimated that at least 92 per cent of the nation's 72,000 registered voters turned out.

It also was a victory in a more personal sense for the 47-year-old Prime Minister. He had been assailed by political critics for alleged mismanagement of the Bahamas' economy and for failing to stamp out alleged corruption in his party.

His party slogan was "We can handle it," a reference to the problems this nation of 700 islands may face while he is in office over the next five years.

Anti-PLP campaigners tried in vain to convince voters that things were going from bad to worse.

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Unemployment is soaring, corruption is rampant and foreign investors are frightened, the opposition said.

The government, meanwhile, accused the two main opposition parties of selling out to a group of white businessmen, known as the Bay Street Boys, who dominated Bahamian life in colonial days.

Indeed, there are problems. With population growth at more than four per cent and the ever-increasing number of immigrants from the West Indies, the labor force is overwhelming the sluggish job market.

It is estimated that 10,000 new jobs must be created by 1985 to whittle unemployment down to five per cent and that would take yearly investments of $200 million from public and private sectors.

Here, the opposition said, was where Pindling's government was falling down on the job.

(UPI Telephoto)

VIETNAM DISCUSSION — Elisio Figueiredo (C) Angola's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, listens during UN discussions last week on admitting Vietnam to the world body.

Black bickering in R'desia worse

SALISBURY, Rhodesia — Fears that a civil war among black nationalists — even while victory against racist white-minority rule is a long way off — were expressed here last week.

Nationalist leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa told 100,000 cheering supporters that the rival Patriotic Front has "already started a civil war" against him and his followers.

The Patriotic Front is a loose alliance between Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU) and Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). Nkomos guerrillas operate from Zambia and Mugabe's are based in Mozambique.

Zimbabwe is what nationalists have renamed Rhodesia.

During his tour, the Bishop Muzorewa failed to prevent the Organization of African Unity meeting in Libreville, Gabon, from recognizing the Front as the legitimate representative of black Rhodesians.

The United Methodist churchman said ZAPU guerrillas have launched a campaign of "blood- intimidation" with bombings and automatic rifle attacks on black businesses in Bulawayo, Rhodesia's second largest city.

He said ZAPU is "desperate for tribal hegemony" based in domination by the minority Ndebele tribal grouping over the majority Shonas.

But while the squabbling among blacks has worsened, victory against the segregationist government still has not been won. And Prime Minister Ian Smith, who broke from Britain in 1965 rather than yield to eventual black rule, moved to solidify his position last week.

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He unveiled plans to dismiss Parliament and hold new elections Aug. 31, two years ahead of schedule.

In a near fatal blow to the joint British-American effort to bring majority rule to Rhodesia in 1978, Smith said the next government will draft a new constitution that will have the recognition of both white and black Rhodesians — his so-called "internal" settlement.

An internal settlement — an idea Britain and the U.S. have rejected as a passport to continued civil war— would exclude militant nationalist leaders, however.

The white regime faces an escalating five-year-old guerrilla war that has left the economy in a nearshambles and spurred a steady exodus of whites.

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Savannah State College, in conjunction with Henningtion yearbook company in Atlanta has scheduled a three day yearbook workshop at the College August 1-2. The consultant for the educational experience will be Mr. Bill Baker, a publications specialist for that company. Students and advisors are required to pay a $5 dollar registration fee.

Ghana promises vote in 2 years

ACCRA, Ghana — Ghana's five-year-old military government, beset by famine, economic and political turmoil and a month-long strike by professional workers, has promised free elections in two years, according to government sources.

Doctors, lawyers, pharamacists and other professionals went on strike last month to support student protests against food, power and fuel shortages and an annual inflation rate of more than 100 per cent.

Representatives of nine professional bodies met for three days recently with government representatives and were expected to call off their strike last week, sources said. (Whether they did was not immediately known).

There have been reports of a disastrous famine in some parts of this nation of 10 million persons, which in 1957 became the first colony in West Africa to achieve independence. Many problems have beset Ghana in its quest to become a major developed nation.

The regime led by Gen. Ignatius K. Acheampong set July 19, 1979, for a return to "constitutional government" and said it would allow an international body to supervise elections to a new parliament.

It was the first time Acheampong had set a date for a return to civilian rule since leading a coup which ousted Prime Minister Kofi A.Busia on Jan. 13, 1972. The announcement follwed nationwide unrest, including an attempted coup in May.

Under Ghana's first President, Kwame Nkrumah, the nation became the spiritual leader of black nationalism on the continent but piled up huge foreign debts.

Its once thriving cocoa-based agricultural economy now is "on the verge of collapse," according to western economic experts.

Western aid officals have said "Many families in the affected areas are reduced to having one meal every two days and the number of deaths among the aged and the young attributable to malnutrition is rising."

Students who protested the agricultural situation recently were forced to work on farms.

The Sunday Times in London reported "a savage campaign by Ghana's military rulers to crush opposition groups of professional people."

The newspaper quoted reports by 118 persons who flew to Britain in the last week to leave Accras Kotoka Airport "before it was abruptly closed" July 13. The exiles said tanks rumbled through the main streets of the capital and air force jets screamed only 100 feet above the central Makola market.

A representative of an American firm called the AFPO last week and said it had some equipment that it did not know how to deliver to Ghana, now that its communications with Ghana "mysteriously" went cut off without explanation.

The representative declined to elaborate and asked that the firm not be identified.

Trinidad: oil dollars and political stability

By Peter Van Bennekom
UPI Correspondent

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad — A funny thing happened to Trinidad just when the country seemed hopelessly mired in poverty and racial and social problems like so many other Caribbean Isles.

It got rich.

It all happened when crude oil prices started tripling and quadrupling in the early 1970s because Trinidad is the only oil-producing and exporting country in the Caribbean.

The oil fields along the south shore and the offshore natural gas deposits are netting the government an estimated $1 billion this year and optimum oil production levels won't even be reached until the 1980's.

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All of the oil money has attracted a foreign investment boom which saw the net inflow of capital skyrocket from $3.7 million in 1975 to $52.6 million in fiscal 1978.

New industry is pouring into the country and employment and wages are up so much that the island has become something of a magical attraction for residents of less-endowed smaller Islands in the Caribbean like Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia or Dominica. Many of them try to get in as illegal immigrants.

A foreign diplomat said that when the Trinidad-Tobago government whispers invitations for another development project, the next day 50 international bankers or construction tycoons flood into Port-of-Spain offering financing and technical knowhow.

The government has found the money for a series of ambitious social schemes, including a national training fund, a road improvement fund, a health care fund, a food development fund and a massive home construction program.

All of this didn't come any too soon because rioting among Port-of-Spain's slum dwellers in 1970 had served as a stark warning that a fast developing army of urban poor was getting restless.

But suddenly, everyone seems to have found the money to buy a car and to run it on gasoline that costs only 40 cents a gallon. There is now one automobile for every seven inhabitants of the 2,000-square-mile island of 1 million-plus population. Per capita income of $1,417 is the highest in Latin America with the exception of Puerto Rico.

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The manager of a radio station says advertising is so heavy that he recently decided to increase the rates, hoping to scare some of it off because there wasn't sufficient air time for all the commercials. "But it didn't have any effect at all, it just kept coming in", he said.

Big freighters laden with the latest consumer goods from abroad wait for a berth on the Port of Spain docks to unload their cargos. More and more ramshackle old houses in Port-of-Spain are making way for shiny new air conditioned office buildings.

The newfound riches have even been able to assuage some of the old racial antagonism in Trinidad, a multi-racial country made up of 43 per cent blacks, 36 per cent Indians and a smattering of Chinese, Portuguese and expatriate British white.

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Traditionally, the blacks wield the political power and hand out the patronage jobs of the civil service, the police and the army to their own kind. The Indians are the farmers, the professionals like lawyers and doctors and some of the more successful businessmen.

Birth control has been more readily accepted by the blacks than by the Indians. And the Indians would be a threat to gain a numerical majority in Trinidad if it were not for the continuing immigration of blacks from the lesser Caribbean Islands.

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Many Indians say they are resigned to the fact that they will never gain political power because of the way the electoral district boundaries are gerrymandered. In the most recent parliamentary elections last year, the ruling black-based Peoples National Movement won 24 seats while the Indian-based United Labor Front won 12.

But the Indians apparently aren't too unhappy. "The blacks have the political freedom to run the country. And we have the economic freedom to make money. That's the way it'll always be," one says.

Whatever the reasons, Trinidad has remarkable political stability and the most durable leader in the Caribbean, Prime Minister Eric Williams, who led the PNM to power in 1956 and is now on his fifth straight five-year term. He does not have to call another election until 1981.

Now 66, Williams led his country through independence from Great Britain in 1962 and through the transition to a republic.

Although Williams' health is a subject of much speculation, heirs-apparent to the leadership of the ruling PNM must play their cards close to the chest. An all-too-open candidacy to succeed Williams cost Attorney General Karl Hudson-Phillips his job recently. (UPI)

Biggest solar power plant's in Mali

By Jean-Pierre Khouly
PARIS — The world's biggest solar power plant is now nearing completion at the town of Dire on the banks of the Niger River in Mali.

Once the initial $1 million capital cost of building the plant has been met, when it goes into operaiton next year, the energy it supplies will be coming entirely free from the sun.

Ten thousand people will get drinking water, a vast area of land will be irrigated... a tourist hotel will get electricity and an agricultural co-operative will get power to run a refrigeration unit.

But the imnlications behind the building of the plant are immense for other African countries and the entire developing world.

For this particular type of installation is intended primarily for use in remote places. The location at Dire was specially selected because it is one of the remotest townships in the world, being accessible by riverboat for only four months of the year, there are no roads.

The apparatus at the core of the power plant uses the sun's heat to produce electricty. The first stage is to have large collecting plates underneath which are jackets containing water. The water heats up to a temperature of about 80 degrees Fahrenheit and then circulates down to storage tanks, which are really large chambers scooped into the ground and lined with plastic.

The hot water is passed round containers of a gas such as butane. Getting hot, the captive gas expends and drives an engine. The gas then cools and circulates back to the heat-exchanger, where it heats up again and repeats the cycle.

The solar plant also can operate at night because the store of hot water is sufficient to last for 10 hours.

This particular plant is being financed by the French government and is being made by Sofretes, a small firm situated near Paris. Head of the firm is Jean-Pierre Girardier. His interest in solar energy was awakened in 1960 when he taught physics at the University of Dakar in Senegal.

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The solar power plant that the firm has constructed at Dire has 3,200 square metres of heat collectors. That area is split up so that five of the flat