

Puerto Rico in Bitter Fight Over Status

One of the most bitter political issues in Puerto Rico, which now enjoys commonwealth status bestowed by the U.S. Congress, is whether the island possession should become the 51st state of the Union. The following dispatch is by a native Puerto Rican who recently toured the island to sound out sentiment toward statehood.

By ARNALDO OTERO

WASHINGTON — Puerto Rico, with its major economic problems finally under control, is today torn between political forces trying to erase the colonial blot from its image.

Pulling at one end in the bitter tug of war is Gov. Luis Munoz Marin. He wants to redefine the island's status and remove any tinge of colonialism that critics claim it retains.

Opposing him is a growing statehood movement that

points at making Puerto Rico the 51st state of the Union. There has been a strong wave of pro-statehood sentiment since Hawaii and Alaska joined the Union.

Caught in the middle of what would be a strictly internal political matter if Puerto Rico were self-governing, is the U.S. Congress. After 63 years of erratic control of Puerto Rico's fate, the U.S. Congress still regulates many of its insular affairs.

No longer an important element in internal Puerto Rican politics, and contrary to Communist and Puerto Rican nationalist propaganda, is the militantly anti-American Independence Party.

New agitation over the status issue, which has been a dominant factor in island politics for nearly a century, was touched off by Gov. Munoz himself when he raised

the matter last year in a letter to President Kennedy.

The governor, who once called for Puerto Rico's complete separation from the Union, is now the staunchest opponent of statehood. He asserts that statehood would wreck the island's economy which was built through "Operation Bootstrap."

He and the President now appear in agreement that the time has come to redefine the present "commonwealth" status of the island which has been under U.S. jurisdiction since the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898.

A congressional subcommittee has called for a 15-man mixed commission to study the island's future political status. And any discussion of Puerto Rico's status, whether in Congress or the United Nations, raises tough questions in view of worldwide reaction against

all forms of colonialism.

Puerto Rico is no longer a colony, Communist arguments to the contrary. But neither can it claim to be an independent state or a state of the Union.

When Congress paved the way through Public Law 600 to set up the "commonwealth" and let Puerto Ricans draft their own constitution, Gov. Munoz and his strong Popular Democratic Party proclaimed that the last vestige of colonialism had been swept away.

But now the governor feels differently. As he told Congress recently: "Doubt prevails that Public Law 600, under which the present status of Puerto Rico was established, did away with colonialism."

Statehood backers claim that the governor himself has been responsible for the colonial blot which they claim still soils Puerto Rico's image

abroad. And it is generally accepted that if the voting sector of Puerto Rico's 2.5 million persons could vote for statehood or independence, more than 90 per cent would favor statehood.

But in an island where political choices do not come in two, such as statehood or independence, the present commonwealth status has given the insular government enough flexibility to deal effectively with the island's economic problems.

Puerto Rico's per capita income now is higher than that of most Latin American countries (with the possible exception of oil-rich Venezuela) but it is still half that of Mississippi, the lowest in the nation.

Gov. Munoz once argued that Puerto Rico could possibly start thinking in terms of statehood when its economic standards reached those of the poorest state of the Union. At the same time he has found wide support for his argument that the island's present rate of economic growth would not have been possible if Puerto Rico had been a state.

Complicating the problem is the fact that the U.S. Constitution has no provision for giving "permanency" to the island's present status. The Constitution merely says:

"Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States."

Congress has jealously guarded ultimate federal control over the island's military, legal, postal, security,

shipping and external matters.

Despite these withheld powers, the present commonwealth status has given the insular government enough flexibility to deal effectively with the island's economic problems.

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Yugoslav 'Storybook Figures' Greet Nikita During Visit
... Lulliana children welcome touring Russian premier

Problem Solved, Says Nik

VELENJE, Yugoslavia — (UPI) — Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev proclaimed major Yugoslav - Russian differences at an end Friday.

In a speech climaxing his current tour - the - hatchet visit to Yugoslavia, Khrushchev told a massive town square meeting here that "the basic questions between our parties and our people have been solved."

The Kremlin leader said both nations "are for joining our efforts to fight against capitalism..."

The officially estimated crowd of 50,000 persons thundered their approval. They cheered, "Khrushchev... Khrushchev..." in rhythmic chants while Yugoslav President Tito stood by smiling.

Khrushchev dropped his prepared text to announce the agreement pounded out in talks between Tito and himself.

Waving his arms and jamming a pointed finger in the air, the Kremlin leader also told into his Communist Chinese and Albanian opponents.

Directing off-the-cuff remarks at Peking, Khrushchev stuck out his chin and said, "Some people who call themselves revolutionaries are like a priest who says that by working harder on earth, he will get to the heavenly kingdom."

"We working people are already creating a heavenly kingdom with all its blessings, spiritual and material. Those who want to go to heaven, let them go non-stop," Khrushchev said of the Communist Chinese, who accuse him of growing soft on capitalism and shying from revolution.

Then he turned his Khrushchevian scorn on Albania, Yugoslavia's neighbor and tiny satellite of Communist China.

Legendary Venezuela City Becomes Reality

By REECE SMITH

Conley News Service

SANTO TOMÉ DE GUAYANA, Venezuela — Sir Walter Raleigh passed this way looking for his legendary rich El Dorado about four centuries early.

Santo Tomé de Guayana didn't exist in 1595 and, in fact, it is still mostly in the planning stage.

But the government of Venezuela is moving to broaden the base of the country's economy which long has depended, profitably but practically exclusively, on petroleum.

And when projects like the one under way here are completed, any future Raleighs happening by might think they had found that wealthy land where people bathe in gold dust.

Venezuelan economic diversification is both necessary and timely.

In 1960, some 92 per cent of the country's exports consisted of crude or refined petroleum. The oil bonanza has given the Venezuelan economy an average growth rate of seven per cent per year for 25 years, a figure believed unmatched around the world.

The government's answer to the prospect of diminishing oil revenues is the extension and diversification of Venezuela's manufacturing industry, with a consequent drop in the percentage of the gross national product spent on imports.

Nowhere is the boldness of these plans more evident than at this remote site at the junction of the Orinoco and Caroni rivers.

Ten years ago the site of this city-to-be was occupied

by the sleepy Spanish colonial river town of San Felix, population 4,000, and the Caroni Falls.

Today San Felix and the falls have been joined by a steel mill and two ore-loading docks. From these docks the iron ore, 60 per cent pure, from Cerro Bolivar and the El Pao deposits, is loaded aboard ocean-going vessels which sail off 160 miles down the Orinoco to the sea and then on to the U.S. The settlement around these new installations was christened Puerto Ordaz.

By 1975, revolutions and nuclear war permitting, San Felix and Puerto Ordaz and even the Caroni Falls will have been absorbed by Santo Tomé de Guayana, population 400,000, an industrial city with a yearly output then including:

1. 700 million dollars in the production and fabrication of metals.

2. 230 million in heavy machinery production from iron and steel foundries, forges, machine shops, metal fabricating shops and assembly shops for heavy machinery for the mining, petroleum, construction, transport and manufacturing industries.

3. 90 million in beverages.

4. 50 million in elemental phosphorus and ammonia for export, as well as nitric acid, ammonium nitrate and chlorine and caustic soda for Guayana industry.

5. 28 million in pulp and paper for the Venezuelan market.

6. 14 million in footwear, textiles and clothing.

All told, 1975 will find this city and its surrounding area producing one-fifth of Venezuela's gross industrial product and one-fifth by value of its exports, including petroleum. This is quite a step for an area which at the 1961 census contained only three per cent of the country's population, though represent-

ing about one-quarter of its land area.

Spectacular though the figures appear for a country whose population today is around eight million, the population explosion has Venezuela running hard to stay in the same place. The island blot which they claim still soils Puerto Rico's image

To maintain a seven per cent annual growth rate for such a fast-burgeoning population, Venezuela will have to quadruple its output of goods and services in the next 20 years.

The Corporacion Venezolana de Guayana, an autonomous agency of the Venezuelan government, is charged with developing the Guayana region as a key factor in this expansion. The corporation owns the Italian-built steel mill.

A measure of the importance of the area is that 10 per cent of the national investment for the next five years has been assigned to Guayana.

Sir Walter Raleigh was a little early when he passed this way looking for El Dorado.

Soviets to Shoot Rabbis-Supplior

MOSCOW — (AP) — A rabbi has been convicted by a Soviet court of currency speculation and ordered shot, it was announced Friday.

The official newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya (Soviet Russia) identified the accused as B. Gavrilov, of Pskov.

Two other defendants, A. Kazarov and A. Zhavoronkov, were also ordered shot.

Six other defendants were sentenced to prison terms of undisclosed length. Gavrilov was the only one identified as Jewish.

'Faith in the People' Pope Paul Urges Viet Nam Harmony

'Must Be Ready for Battles'

SEATTLE — (AP) — The new commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars said Friday the U.S. "must be ready to fight big wars and little wars."

Joseph J. Lombardo of Brooklyn, N.Y., spoke after his installation at a concluding session of the group's week-long convention here.

He said Russia "is engaged in aggression on the doorstep of the United States in Cuba" and "all talk of a non-aggression pact is just nonsense."

"It is no longer a question of the enemy at the gates," he said. "The enemy is within the gates."

Lombardo was unopposed for commander-in-chief. He succeeds Byron Gentry of Pasadena, Calif.

Other officers elected, also without opposition, included John A. Jenkins, Birmingham, Ala., senior vice commander-in-chief.

Andy L. Borg, Superior, Wis., junior vice commander-in-chief. Paul A. Harman, Omaha, Neb., judge advocate general.

J. A. Cheatham, Kansas City, re-elected quartermaster general.

Dr. James W. Reid, South St. Paul, Minn., surgeon general.

The Rev. Robert J. McCoy, Salisbury, Pa., chaplain.

Two Latin beauties sued Sheriff T. A. Buchanan Friday.

Marita Lorenz, 26, sued him for \$300,000 for letting out of jail ex-dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez.

Elvira Sanchez, 22, sued him for putting her in jail on a bolita raid. Vice raiders, she said, had the wrong address.

Both suits were filed in Dade Circuit Court. Buchanan is in Texas on vacation.

"Miss Lorenz couldn't get support money from Perez Jimenez while he was here — so now she'll try to get it from the sheriff," said Montague Rosenberg, her attorney.

The sheriff, under advice of county attorneys, turned Jimenez over to U.S. marshals for extradition after a long and bitter federal court fight.

The other suit by the other Latin beauty against Buchanan Friday also named Metro Officers Joseph Fernandez, R. C. Mullis and C. Russell.

Elvira Sanchez, of 2380 NW Ninth St., a kindergarten teacher, said the sheriff's men broke into her home June 8 during a bolita raid and threw her to the floor.

"But they had the wrong person and the wrong address," said her attorney, Hugh L. Wood.

"They seized a book which they said contained the records of bolita sales," said Wood. "But it actually contained the records of her husband's tax tips. She never took or placed a bet in her life."

"The police knew they'd made a mistake when they took her before a justice of the peace. That's malicious prosecution."

A JP threw out the bolita charge against her.

She sued the sheriff, his three men, and the county for an undesignated sum "in excess of \$5,000."



T. A. Buchanan ... he's in Texas
Marita Lorenz ... sues sheriff

2 Latin Beauties Sue Dade Sheriff

By GENE MILLER

Staff Writer

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Vatican Message Is Sent

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy — (UPI) — Pope Paul VI, expressing "painful preoccupation" over the persecution of Buddhists in South Viet Nam, addressed a message to the Vietnamese people Friday, calling on them to "re-establish mutual, fraternal harmony."

"Our hope is yet alive because we have faith in the sentiments of goodness and solidarity of the Vietnamese people," the Pope said.

Vatican sources said the Pope's message was sent to the Vietnamese people through the apostolic delegates in that country.

On Aug. 17 the Pope was reported to have sent a letter to the Catholic center of Viet Nam, Ngo Dinh Diem, urging tolerance for the Buddhist people.

Earlier, speaking to Vietnamese students Aug. 3, Pope Paul had called on the Viet Nam government "not to ignore the rights" of its people.

The text of the Pope's message Friday said:

"We feel we must manifest our painful preoccupation for the sad events that afflict the beloved people of Viet Nam. The anguish is every day more profound and tormenting, and the bishops have expressed it well in their faithful declaration."

"Our hope is yet alive because we have faith in the sentiments of goodness and solidarity of the Vietnamese people, who have given many undoubted proofs of strong love for their country, showing that they have decided that they want to preserve its high moral and spiritual values and all that which serves the common good."

"We express therefore the wish that all in noble contest, and with reciprocal respect for legitimate freedom, want to contribute to re-establish mutual, fraternal harmony."

"While elevating prayers to the most high, we invoke divine help on the entire people and their free institutions."

The Pope's message was in French.

Tito Appoints Woman Envoy

BELGRADE — (AP) — Communist Yugoslavia has appointed its first lady ambassador, naming 42-year-old Sana Tomasevic as new envoy to the Soviet Union.

Miss Tomasevic, who fought with Tito's partisans against the Nazis in World War II, has served as minister plenipotentiary in the foreign ministry.

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