

*Leave of Absence*

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

The House met at 1.35 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Prime Minister has been excused from today's sitting.

**PAPERS LAID**

1. Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited for the year ended December 31, 1986. [*The Minister of Finance (Hon. Selby Wilson)*]
  2. Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited for the year ended December 31, 1987. [*Hon. S. Wilson*]
  3. Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited for the year ended December 31, 1988. [*Hon. S. Wilson*]
  4. Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the Trinidad and Tobago Export Development Corporation for the year ended December 31, 1986. [*Hon. S. Wilson*]
  5. Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the Trinidad and Tobago Export Development Corporation for the year ended December 31, 1987. [*Hon. S. Wilson*]
- Papers 1 to 5 to be referred to the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee.*
6. Twenty-first Report of the Salaries Review Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. [*The Minister of Industry, Enterprise and Tourism (Hon. Bhoendradatt Tewarie)*]
  7. The Provisional Collection of Taxes Order, 1990. [*Hon. S. Wilson*].

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**La Romain Government Primary School**

**6. Mr. Trevor Sudama** (*Oropouche*) asked the Minister of Education:

Is the Minister aware that the access to the newly constructed La Romain Government Primary School via Church Street, La Romain is in an extremely deplorable condition and has been the reason for the low attendance at that school?

If she is so aware, could she state what steps the Government is taking to bring relief to the school children and teachers concerned?

**The Minister of Education (Hon. Gloria Henry):** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the access to the newly constructed La Romain Government Primary School, the Minister of Education is aware of its condition. The Victoria County Council has been informed of the need to upgrade the access in question, and has indicated its willingness to do so.

The Minister will continue to liaise with the hon. Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Decentralization on the matter.

**Oropouche River  
(Bridge)**

**7. Mr. Trevor Sudama** (*Oropouche*) asked the Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Decentralization:

Could the Minister state whether it is the intention of his Ministry to commence construction of the bridge over the Oropouche River on the La Fortune/Pluck Road, Woodland in 1991 and for which representation has been made by me for the past nine years?

**The Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Decentralization (Dr. The Hon. Carson Charles):** Mr. Speaker, the reconstruction of the bridge over the Oropouche River on the La Fortune/Pluck Road had been programmed to be reconstructed in 1990. Owing to the unavailability of sufficient funds however, work was unable to be started on the project. Reconstruction of this bridge is included in the Draft Estimates for 1991 and reconstruction work is expected to begin in 1991.

*Adjournment Motion (Leave)*

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

**ADJOURNMENT MOTION  
(LEAVE)**

**Mr. Raymond Palackdharrysingh** (*Naparima*): Mr. Speaker, I do seek leave under Standing Order No.12 to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance. It concerns the critical situation in the Middle-East, the Gulf crisis where war seems inevitable.

This matter is definite since it relates to the deepening crisis in the Gulf. The matter is urgent since there has been no appropriate response for peace to a United Nations' deadline of January 15, 1991. The matter is of national importance since there is the threat to the security of the state and our people. We need to clarify and take positive action with respect to our national concerns. We need to immediately address the following concerns:

1. What is our role and posture on the conflict?
2. What measures are being put in place for:
  - (a) security of the state;
  - (b) security and protection of our people at home and abroad;
  - (c) food security;
  - (d) adequate contingency plans for disasters and health care;
  - (e) contamination of the environment;
  - (f) educational programmes with respect to war;
  - (g) our regional and international response;
  - (h) our multi-ethnic society under stress;
  - (i) the role of the petroleum industry as an important sector;
  - (j) the responses of our citizens with respect to national loyalty and war.

It is my view that this matter is important to uphold discussion and it is incumbent upon the Government and, particularly, upon the Prime Minister to address these urgent and important concerns. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am of the view that the matter qualifies under Standing Order 12. I received the notice a bit late and I did not have sufficient time to communicate with Members of the Government side. I suggest that the hon.

*Adjournment Motion (Leave)*  
[MR. SPEAKER]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

Member speak with the Leader of Government Business to arrange for the hearing of this matter.

The Standing Order says that if the Speaker is so satisfied, leave of the House has to be given. I now ask whether leave is given for us to pursue this matter.

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### LAND ACQUISITION

**The Minister of Planning and Mobilization (Hon. Winston Dookeran):**  
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move,

That this House approve the decision of the President to acquire the lands described in the Appendix for public purposes specified.

You will note that there are 24 items listed in the Appendix of the Order Paper pertaining to specific acquisitions for a number of public purposes. I take the opportunity to indicate to this honourable House some of the steps that have been taken during the course of 1990 in order to put into place an efficient and more sensitive system in this particular area of land acquisition.

#### **1.45 p.m.**

You would recollect that on each occasion that matters of this nature come to this Parliament, a number of specific issues have been raised as to the functioning of the relevant departments: which procedures were being employed; the question of the backlog of compensation, and indeed, the legislative apparatus within which acquisition matters are processed. You would recollect also that some time ago, I had indicated to the honourable House that the Government in its quest to improve the level of administration had taken a number of steps in order to tackle this problem. I had previously indicated some of these steps which were taken over the last four years.

I am pleased in this presentation, to give a general summary of the outcome of some of those steps, in order to indicate to the honourable House, the progress which has been made in this very difficult situation of land acquisition, as we attempt in the Government, to ensure that there is permanence to the solutions which we introduced. I said that in clear distinction to what Governments in the past have been prone to do, which was to deal with problems in a rather casual way and not look for the fundamental problems which have led to the situation. There is no question in our minds and in the minds of those who have had to impact on this particular aspect of public administration that by 1987, there was

almost chaos in this particular field. The problems recognized, as I did indicate to this honourable House, covered the administration, the legal system and the financial aspects.

Over the last few years, we undertook in a very systematic way, steps to improve all three aspects of public administration—one of the hallmarks of our efforts in order to ensure that this situation can be remedied for some time to come. I indicated to the honourable House on previous occasions, that in 1987 we immediately commissioned what we referred to as a performance audit of the Lands and Surveys Division, so that we could examine some of the major problems associated with its delivery and to put into place the necessary management systems to improve its performance. The performance audit was commissioned by the Government and was conducted by a group of professionals from the private sector and included members of the public sector, who offered their services voluntarily. They submitted a comprehensive report in September, 1988 on the Lands and Surveys Division. This report was considered in its preliminary form, by Cabinet and the specific recommendations were accepted, in order to put into place the new structure for the department.

The report covers a number of specific issues and identifies some of the major findings which were our inheritance. It looked at a restructuring of the Lands and Surveys Division, established a rationale for that restructuring and identified the new roles which must be performed by the Surveys and Mapping Division and the specific role which must be performed by the various Ministries.

There is no doubt that the whole system was chaotic and there appeared to be no clear path for decision-making in land acquisition matters. These matters were dealt with at a technical level and its recommendations have been submitted in a substantial report which covered many pages of analysis and recommendations. Suffice it for me to say that these recommendations have been accepted and are in various stages of implementation. The results of these measures must be noted. I will take the opportunity today, to indicate some activities that have been taking place in this Division which lend credibility to the view that there has been a remarkable improvement in the administration of matters pertaining to land acquisition and leases.

Mr. Speaker, in the first place, it was recognized that the current physical facilities under which the Division operated, was inadequate and impossible to be reorganized in order to allow for the more efficient operation of the department. Its offices are located in four different places, not only in this Parliament building,

*Land Acquisition*

[HON. W. DOOKERAN]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

but also on Abercromby Street, in the 610 Radio Station building, another building on Richmond Street and a further building on Abercromby Street. We looked at the situation and analyzed that this itself was creating problems and a decision was taken to relocate the office in two buildings, one that housed the existing Mapping and Control Departments with all the necessary equipment for maps on Richmond Street and a new headquarters at 18 Abercromby Street. This new facility covers five floors of office space and the Land and Surveys Department is expected to move formally, to that new headquarters by February 1, 1991. The additional floor space will clearly provide greater possibilities for the public and also for the reorganization of the work programme of the Division.

In addition, the department, based on the recommendations that were made in this comprehensive study, introduced a number of new management techniques, particularly with respect to the question of survey orders. Previously, there were no fundamental checks on the implementation of survey orders. The Department under its Acting Director of Surveys, has now introduced a system of control, where on a monthly basis there have been reports pertaining to various survey orders. The new system which included monthly reporting and a number of other measures, has ensured that in 1990, of the 49 survey orders which were issued, 25 have been completed and by virtue of the performance of the Department in previous years, as we measure our performance, these figures do reflect a substantial change in this particular area. Those who have had dealings with the department, have been aware of these particular changes.

**1.55 p.m.**

The entire question of the adequacy of surveyors has always been a concern and this was also addressed during the course of 1990. In the first instance, there was need to fill some of the vacancies and I indicated on the previous occasion when a similar motion was brought before this House, the steps that we are taking to do so. In addition to that, there was a major problem with respect to the licensing of surveyors. After receiving the professional qualifications, now done at the University of the West Indies, the system for the licensing of surveyors was grossly inadequate and led to many years of frustration by qualified surveyors from the professional institutions.

The Land Surveys Board was requested by me to submit proposals for a comprehensive overhaul of the system of licensing. It was suggested to them that this system should ensure that there is expedition in this process, so that the

graduates who are employed, not only in the state enterprise but in the private sector, will avail themselves of the opportunity to be properly licensed well in time.

As simple as these things are, there were no proper systems in place in this particular area, which led to a lot of frustration. The Land Surveys Board made a number of recommendations to me on the matter, which was accepted by the Government, and among these recommendations there are a number of legal provisions which I will make reference to later on, concerning bringing to this Parliament, further legislation on this matter. Work has been completed by the Law Review Commission on the new draft Land Surveyors Bill, which hopefully will deal with some of these problems.

With respect to the physical facilities, the method of management, trying to improve the number of staff that is available to undertake the work programme, we have seen clear evidence of change. In addition, a Land and Surveys Division which was established in Tobago in 1990 gave the Department the capacity to deal with all those matters that had been left in total abeyance for many, many years, particularly with respect to acquisition matters resulting from the construction of the highway.

Allocations have now been made in the 1991 Estimates for the purchase of survey equipment and micro computers for the Division in its new headquarters. This, we have no doubt, will ensure that the operations of the division will improve persistently overtime.

Cabinet has also agreed to the appointment of two State Counsels to assist the Ministry of Planning and Mobilization in many aspects of its work. One aspect being the problems associated with land acquisition conducted through the Lands and Surveys Division. The in-house capability in this particular area is clearly going to increase the effectiveness of land acquisition matters and it is a further step in improving the quality of service that is now available through this system.

Underlying it all, was a clear absence of a land information system and in recognition of this, the Government agreed, based on the recommendations that we received from the performance audit of the Land and Surveys Division, that we shall proceed with haste in order to put into place a proper land information system and through the support of the Inter-American Development Bank, we have now embarked on a 10-month programme to design such a system for its implementation which will deal with all the issues pertaining to titles, tenure and land development.

*Land Acquisition*

[HON. W. DOOKERAN]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

I make these detailed points if only to emphasize that we in this Government are very much committed to dealing with our problems at its roots, to finding the source of the problems and finding appropriate solutions to deal with them so that there can be some permanence to these solutions overtime. We have had a number of improvements with respect to the performance of the Department. I am advised that the Division, in addition to the land acquisition matters, 24 of which are here today for the assent of this Parliament, has dealt with over 3,100 matters relating to land leases other than land acquisition, which I am advised is well over 100 per cent of what was done in the previous years. In addition, it approved over 314 consents to assigned leases which again was a substantial improvement over what has taken place in previous years.

I am putting these facts to the honourable House, if only to demonstrate what is the outcome of systematic and serious work. While I would not at this stage claim that all the problems have been solved, I feel very confident that we have laid the foundation for a permanent solution to this problem overtime. From time to time we have had the issue raised in this honourable House pertaining to the inadequacy of surveyors, and more particularly, to the question of surveys pertaining to recreation grounds owned by Caroni Limited. On the last occasion, I gave to this honourable House, an update of our performance in this particular area. Today I would simply like to indicate what the new progress has been.

I am advised that of the 57 recreation grounds in the counties of Victoria and Caroni, which required surveys before they can be effectively transferred from Caroni Limited to the local government bodies, 36 surveys have already been conducted. You would recollect that two years ago this process had not started and honourable Members opposite will recollect how many years before there has been absolutely no progress in this area. A total of 22 of these have been completed in the county of Caroni and 14 in the county of Victoria.

Land reclamation has been an area that has been in total abeyance for many years and there have been many outstanding applications—sometimes 10 to 15 years, which led to individuals simply proceeding without the necessary authority. We certainly did not look at that with any condolence but we established very early on in the Lands and Surveys Division, a Land Reclamation Unit which has been able, over the last year, to bring to Cabinet a number of specific applications for consideration after it has been duly considered by the land reclamation committee which had been out of existence for many years.



As I look at the issues before us, and we see the results of the outcome of the performance audit being accepted by Cabinet and the subsequent improvement in the work programme of the Division, I feel a sense of confidence at this stage that that path is now well-placed and irreversible.

### **2.05 p.m**

There has always been the very thorny issue of compensation. I had indicated to this honourable House on previous occasions, that in 1987, we could not ascertain what was the extent of moneys owed for land acquisition. It took us perhaps 18 months or so to be able to get some estimate. As we brought together all the necessary information, and at that time I had indicated that without considering interest payment—which is an important part of the land acquisition matter—that there was at least \$17 million outstanding, owed to citizens of this country for acquisition that had taken place many years before.

During 1990, we were able to increase our payments substantially. I am advised that by the end of June 1990, \$20.9 million was paid off in this particular area. Parliament had in fact appropriated much less than that, but at the last Parliamentary session, there were some variations in the Finance Bill that allowed greater sums of money to be allocated for this purpose. There has been a great ease with respect to payments to those whose lands have been acquired for many years, whether it is Uriah Butler Highway, Claude Noel Highway or for many other recreational purposes. During 1990, 150 claimants would have received compensation, and this compared to previous figures, has been a substantial increase.

Yet there is a problem to be resolved and we are currently discussing alternative methods by which we can handle this problem, beyond what we are doing at the moment. But when we compare the increases that were taking place, we see a definite attempt by the Government, in order to honour these obligations and to meet them to the satisfaction of so many of our citizens, who have had their land acquired without due and timely compensation.

The figures for the following years are:

<b>Year</b>	<b>\$M</b>
1986	5.8
1987	3.7
1988	2.8

*Land Acquisition*  
[HON. W. DOOKERAN]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

1989	2 0
1990	23.4
1991	15.0

I hope that during the course of this year one might be in a position to improve on that. It is an attempt by the Government to handle these very important matters of public administration, for good government requires us to handle these matters and this is what we are attempting to do in this particular area.

I indicated earlier on that the problems we had analyzed then, fell under administration, finance and the legal system. I had also indicated earlier in a presentation to this House, that there was need for legislative changes because the procedure itself requires substantial changes. There are two pieces of legislation that have now been considered by the Law Reform Commission, and will soon be put out for public comment, prior to it being brought to Parliament for approval.

One deals with the Land Surveyors Act to which I have made reference earlier on. The Land Surveyors Act of 1990, perhaps 1991 has now been prepared and will be very shortly put for public comment, dealing with fundamental changes in the operations of the Land Surveyors Board, with particular reference to the handling of the problem of licensing of land surveyors, and the procedures that must be followed, in order to ensure acceptable application of the rules for such licence processes.

This is how we change the country and other things by changing all these various methods, and by so doing, we must be able to ensure permanence to the solutions that we have put into place. At the appropriate time I have no doubt that in this honourable House we would wish to debate all the various parts of that proposed legislation, for it covers not only the question of the operations of the Board, but the methods of registration, the regulation of the practice of land surveyors with disciplinary procedures and appeals.

Suffice it to say at this time that we have covered the grounds of reviewing that legislation. I have had it gone through the entire process of technical analysis, including a review by the Law Reform Commission and it will shortly be submitted for public comment prior to it being brought to Parliament.

Another very important and significant piece of legislation which I have indicated was in the various stages of preparation dealt with the Land Acquisition Bill itself. The Land Acquisition Bill has been recognized for many years as having

fundamental need for change, in order to ensure that the rights of citizens are better and more effectively protected and that there could be a greater sense of accountability on the part of the public machinery.

Steps have been taken over the last two years to look at all the provisions of this bill and to arrive at some proposed suggestions. I took the step of instructing the appropriate department, to look at all the submissions that were made in this Parliament, both in the Lower House and in the Upper House, and to analyze the specific suggestions that were made, particularly in the Upper House by Members of that House on this particular issue, and to analyze whether or not they were appropriate to be included in the revised draft. All of course have not been included, but I want to assure this House that we have considered the views that have been expressed on this important issue and have included as many as we can within the context of the overall view regime for land acquisition.

At this point we also have available to us the Land Acquisition Bill that has also been reviewed by the Law Review Commission, and now that it has been completed it is likely to be subject for public comment, and for perhaps final amendment before it can be brought to Parliament

### **2.15 p.m.**

The objective of the Land Acquisition bill will be to streamline the processing of the acquisition of land, as well as to provide greater accountability on the part of the public system to ensure compensation to land owners for loss when land is acquired. There are also a number of other specific measures and I have no doubt that the Parliament will in due course debate the specific measures that are being employed.

It is clear that substantial work, therefore, has been done over the last few years in order to rectify the legal constraints which have been imposed upon us by virtue of these bills not being adjusted overtime and hence being partly responsible for the substantial delays.

It is against this background of performance, it is against this background of action, and it is against this background of hope that these specific measures that are now being brought before us are here for the approval of this Parliament.

You will note, Mr. Speaker, that there are 24 acquisition matters before us, covering many areas of public purposes. The details have been outlined in the Appendix before us. Some of these pertain to acquisition orders that have started

*Land Acquisition*

[HON. W. DOOKERAN]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

many years ago and which have now reached the final stage for the proclamation in accordance with section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act. They cover a number of very specific community purposes dealing with a community centre in St. Patrick Road, road construction on the Princess Margaret Highway, a recreation ground in the county of St. Patrick—they are all listed but I thought that for the records I should indicate—road improvement in Tobago, a school in the parish of St. David, Tobago; road improvement in the county of St. Patrick, access road, improvement of the telephone services, highway construction, a number of measures pertaining to road improvement in Tobago, extension of the market and the provision of parking facilities in Marabella, a connector road in the ward of St. Andrew, recreation ground in the county of St. Patrick, a community centre in the county of Caroni, a school site in Carapaichima, an additional school site at Cunaripo Southern Main Road, a recreation ground in the county of St. Patrick, Doorbassa Trace recreation ground, recreational facilities in the ward of St. Ann's, a hard surface court in La Romain, a recreation ground in Penal Rock Road, county of St. Patrick. These are some of the public purposes for which these lands have been acquired and in many cases they have already been acquired and occupied and the proclamation of the relevant legislation during the course of this year will then entitle formal finalization of compensation matters and hopefully payment in due course.

Mr. Speaker, I have taken the opportunity to apprise this House of the developments that have been taking place in this particular area in order to assure the hon. Members of the steps that we are taking in order to deal with this very difficult problem and to deal with it comprehensively from the administrative side, from the financial side and from the legal side. We have begun to see some evidence of that improvement and we have begun to receive letters of commendation from those who have seen the improvement. The Director of Surveys, and I myself, have received letters of commendation on the efforts that are being made.

I make these points in full recognition that this has been perhaps one of the most chaotic areas of public administration, that it has been a thorny issue, that it has been one that has been subject to total neglect and one that has left many of our citizens with their lands acquired without compensation and sometimes without even knowledge.

It is an enormous administrative task but the steps that we have taken and the steps that we continue to take during the course of 1991 will indeed inspire greater

confidence in this particular aspect, and in so doing will be able to allow the citizens of this country to say that there is in fact a clear discharging of the duties and responsibilities of Government in this particular area as indeed in other areas.

Mr. Speaker, I have raised these points because I know that they have been raised before and I thought that it is in this context that we have before us the appropriate motion to approve the consent of the President so that the lands that have been specified in the Appendix to the Order Paper can now go on to its final stages in the acquisition process.

I beg to move.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr. Basdeo Panday** (*Couva North*): Mr. Speaker, the tragedy with this Minister is that having decided upon his act of betrayal he has put his head in the clouds and he has put it so high in the clouds that he dare not look down to know what is really happening on the ground. It is an absolute pity that he comes to this House after sitting in some office somewhere not knowing what is going on in this country. Let me tell him what is going on.

First of all, he talked about audit performance of lands, surveys and so on, giving us a whole catalogue of what is being done on paper. I want to tell him what are the effects of that on the ground. There is a couple by the name of Nanton—he should know them—on the San Fernando Hill. The Government acquired their lands—do you want to tell this House how many years ago?—forced them off their lands, forced them to migrate to Canada. I do not know if they are dead.

**Mr. Sudama:** One is dead.

**Mr. Panday:** Their counsel has been trying to have this matter resolved and has come to an agreement with the Valuation Department that the matter is settled and the Valuation Department has put forward—I have not heard about it for some time—but there has been an agreement more than a year and the Government cannot effect payment. This Minister comes to this House and says all these nice things that they have done, these measures that they have taken, performance audit of lands and so on "Things used to be in chaos", he said. What is happening now?

The second matter I want to bring to his attention is this. There is a widow in San Fernando. Her name, I believe, is Rajkumarie Rampersad. They took away her

*Land Acquisition*  
[MR. PANDAY]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

land to build a link road from Ciperio Street to Gulf City. I wonder if he knows how long that road has been there. I want to tell him that despite all his performance audits, reports submitted and examined by Cabinet, recommendations made and all these great things that he has been doing in some glass cage somewhere, they have very little effect upon the lives of people on the ground.

I advise the Minister to bring his head down from the clouds. I know he is ashamed to look at the roots from which he came. He has been hiding from them. In fact, since he became Minister, and puts on jacket, and has office, he has been hiding. I advise him that if he wants to get back into Parliament, he should come back down to the grassroots and find out what is happening. *[Interruption]* When they criticize, humiliate and degrade your uncle on the other side, you should not participate in his degradation. You must not do that. You ask the Members what they do to your uncle in this House. I want to tell the hon. Minister to stop fooling us because it is not going to help him. It is significant that he chooses a motion for the acquisition of property to come and make this long speech. You think that is going to save your political life? It is not going to save your political life.

**Mr. Speaker:** What is all this abuse about?

**Mr. Panday:** This is not abuse.

**Mr. Speaker:** Please take your seat for a little while. This is a motion that has to do with the acquisition of a number of parcels of land. The hon. Minister has indicated what his Ministry is doing. He has said that prior to looking at the problem, the situation has been chaotic and he is streamlining the administrative aspect of this exercise and these are the results. I think that the hon. Member is going a little too far in being, what I consider to be, abusive to the Member for Chaguanas.

**2.25 p.m.**

**Mr. Panday:** My point is that the Member is misleading this House when he tells this House that everything is all right. If you think I should not make political attacks upon the Government I will abide by your order in this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not saying that you should not make any political attack. All I am saying is, that the Standing Order is very clear. It says that when we are engaging in debate we should refrain from personal abuse. I am also saying that you are making personal attacks on the hon. Minister of Planning and

Mobilization. I think you can make your contribution and it will have the same effect if you just refrain from being so personal.

**Mr. Panday:** I will not argue with you in this House as to what is a personal attack and what is not a personal attack. I will abide by your ruling. All I am saying is that this Minister is misleading the House. He is misleading this House because his head is in the clouds. He is a victim of illusions of grandeur. These are the bases upon which I make these comments. He is beginning to believe his own propaganda.

He speaks about land acquisition and the laws about surveyors and drafting, and that they have changed the rules about licences again. May I ask him, how many surveyors has the public service attracted as a result, because that is a problem? The Government has always said that it cannot acquire lands because it does not have surveyors. How many surveyors have you attracted as a result of all this paper work that you said you have done? This is not a personal attack. Let him tell us.

Mr. Speaker, he said the Land Surveyors Bill is in draft. I want to tell the hon. Minister that if he would get down from the clouds and go to the grassroots, he will find out that one of the problems that results in the delay of acquisition is the question of identifying owners' lands. If he wants that problem to be resolved, he must also look at that question, not merely the Land Surveyors Act, that is perfectly all right. I believe he is awfully misleading this House and trying to tell us that they are dealing with the problems, when I believe he is politicking and he uses this Act to make these statements.

There is on the statute books, legislation dealing with the registration of lands which make it easy to identify owners, and consequently, easier to acquire. I have spoken in this House on several occasions about the Government's dilatory action in not getting the President's consent and promulgating these laws, and one has to do the land acquisition. It was passed by this honourable House in 1981. In 1981 when these Acts were passed, we were told by the then Government—in fact I think it was the hon. Attorney General now, who was Attorney General then and I guess he was Attorney General even before that—that these Acts of Parliament were so important, they were so urgent and they were so necessary. Mr. Speaker, they have to do with the Land Law and Conveyancing Act, the Landlord and Tenant Act, the Limitation Act, the Condominiums Act and the Land Registration Act.

*Land Acquisition*  
[MR. PANDAY]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

There is an Act on our books No. 24 of 1981 called the Land Registration Act, which this Government refuses to bring into operation. For what reason? I do not know. If the Minister is serious about dealing with this whole issue of land acquisition, I want to tell him that it is not a problem in isolation. This problem is one that has to do with ownership of land and identifying owners of land. He must look at the question of the Land Registration Act which is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, his land information system of which he spoke, do you know how long we have been promised that they were going to computerize the whole question of land registration and deeds? Why come to this House now, in the dying days of a Government that is bound to lose the election? There is no way they are going to win. They come and tell us that they are setting up a land information system. What system is this? Has it anything to do with the system that we were promised some 15 years ago about computerizing the whole system? As a matter of fact, when you go to find a deed—and I am sure you would have personal experience of this—where you try to find a deed so that you may convey land, the system is in chaos now. The tendency is always—of course, even after five years of being in power to keep blaming the past. The past is always to blame. I wonder if they do not realize that argument is *passé* and not going to hold water anymore.

The Land Registration Department is in chaos. It is impossible to find documents. If you cannot find documents, how are you going to deal with this issue of land acquisition, not merely with survey, but to inform the owners of that land? I do not believe the Minister is serious, I believe he is merely politicking here today and trying to put some impression that the Government is doing something, when in fact, it is fluttering and dying. They have lost the will to do anything at all.

If the Minister would look at his own schedule, where the Director of Surveys signed a survey on August 10, 1976—that is the first parcel of land. The second parcel of land, Plan of Survey signed by the Director of Surveys February 27, 1984. The first parcel is in St. Patrick and the second parcel is in Chaguanas. The next survey was signed in 1986. They are now coming to this House.

As a matter of fact, I congratulate the people from Tobago because it seems to me that is the only place where things function, where acquisitions are done quickly. For example, the one here for road improvement for Tobago was done in 1989—that is the fourth parcel. In February, 1988—fifth parcel. Ninth parcel in Tobago, January 31, 1988. They seem to get things done rather quickly there.



Maybe we should find out from the people in Tobago what it is they are doing, how they operate the system, how is it they can get it done so quickly and we in Trinidad cannot. They probably have some administrative arrangement that we could copy.

Item 12 in 1988. However, Mr. Speaker, I see here that in Victoria there is a survey which was done in 1990. I want to find out what happened. Somebody must have made an error. How come this was not brought to the House? What actually took place? On May 23, 1990 this survey was executed on the Order and we had it before the House in 1991. He should look at that and follow the pattern that is done there. I see this is for the extension of the market in Marabella. We should find out who are the officers involved. How did they get this done so very quickly?

**Mr. Sudama:** San Fernando East.

**Mr. Panday:** Maybe the hon. Member for San Fernando East has some secrets of how he could get acquisitions and pass it on to the Government.

There is one further point I would like to point out to the Minister and that is to examine the statement before this House today with respect to the 57 recreation grounds belonging to Caroni Limited; 36 surveys having been completed: 22 in Caroni and 14 in Victoria. May I ask him, therefore, why have they not been transferred to the respective local government authority, or is it that you will have to do some kind of survey again, or some performance audit by some other department in order to effect another aspect of your work? If that is the case, if the Minister has to do that, does the hon. Minister think he is going to have time before he demits office?

**2.35 p.m.**

I thought he was pulling a fast one on us when he said that things are going to be better because provisions have been made to have two state counsels in his Ministry. I want to tell the hon. Minister that at the present time there is a shortage of state counsels in every single department. In fact, it is so bad and their working conditions are in such a terrible state that they have gone on some kind of protest action. The Minister is not fooling anybody when he says that things are going to get better because they have put certain things in place; they have made provisions for the appointment of two state counsels in his Ministry, when in fact the state counsels are saying that they cannot operate under the conditions the Government has imposed upon them. My humble and respectful advice to this

*Land Acquisition*  
[MR. PANDAY]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

great Minister, is that if he wants to deal with the question of land acquisition and to ensure that the procedures are smooth and that people are dealt with adequately and in time, he really has to deal with the whole Government. He has to deal with the whole gamut of the problems that relate to the Government because if he wants to attract state counsels he has to deal with the state counsels' problem.

Most of all, I would like the hon. Minister to answer that last question, which is, when will these 36 surveys be completed and what is the keep back in having these recreation grounds transferred to the county councils?

**Mr. Trevor Sudama** (*Oropouche*): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a couple of points and to draw a few things to the Minister's attention for whatever actions the Ministry and the Government may propose on this matter. Before I do so, I must make a comment. After being in this House for 10 years and after making 10 years of continuous representation, it is only today that two items on land acquisition with respect to the constituency of Oropouche, appear on this Order Paper in order to gain the approval of this House. It is a sad commentary on the past administration. I understand that they are campaigning very heavily in Oropouche but as usual I will deal with that in due course. Their record in Oropouche will come up for scrutiny in Suchit Trace in particular—what promises they are making and what the PNM Government has done for Oropouche in 30 years. Continuing in the vein of the past regime, after persistent representation, we have only two items on land acquisition to come before this House after four years. But then, the people of Oropouche must be thankful for small mercies, they being at the margin and not the periphery.

It is not only the Members for Port-of-Spain East and St. Ann's West who have been marginalized and they have said so—there are many people who have been marginalized in this country. It is a matter of concern where there is a particular problem of deficiency of recreational facilities in the rural areas. There are deficiencies elsewhere but in rural areas especially, there is this whole question of the acquisition of lands for the purposes of recreational grounds.

You also have this lack of concern as happened with the previous regime. It continues even today and we now have these two items for land acquisition. One is the La Fortune/Pluck Road, not too far from Plum Mitan Junction. I am sure the Member for San Fernando East would probably be grateful to know these names in his further and hopeless intrusion into the Oropouche constituency. I do not know if on his way to Suchit Trace he passed through Debe Trace and saw the condition of that road. Anyway, that acquisition is now being put in place.

The other one is Doorbassa Trace on which I have been communicating with the Minister for the longest while. Finally, I see that it went for approval. I want to point out the problems that arise with respect to the acquisition of Doorbassa Trace in my constituency where there is a tenant on the land which is being acquired. In this particular case, the tenant on the land is a cane farmer and he does not appear to know his rights with respect to the acquisition. It is possible that the legal position is that the Government only deals with the owner of the land and then gets the owner to relate to the tenant and they will have their own private negotiation and come to a form of settlement. If that is the case, the Government must specifically write to the tenant and let him know what his position is with respect to the acquisition. At this point in time with respect to the acquisition, the tenant is saying that he has certain rights to the land and the Government has to compensate him for his sugar-cane and other crops.

If the Government has made any arrangements with the owner, it must state this specifically, find out who is the tenant and tell that tenant what arrangements have been made with respect to the acquisition of the land and what are the rights, responsibilities and liabilities of the tenant. They are not doing this. From the representations that the tenant has made to me, he is not aware of this. Do you know what the tenant is going to do? That tenant is proposing legal action. However deficient this action may be in law, you can understand the time delay involved. Once a writ is filed in the court, you are talking about years and years of delay. So that you may have an acquisition motion going through this House, but a tenant files legal action simply because he is not informed and not aware of his rights as a tenant and he feels that he has certain claims against the state when in truth and in fact he may not have any claims against the state with respect to compensation. However, he is not aware of this and plans to file an action. Therefore, while we have waited over 10 or 15 years to get this acquisition on the Order Paper, you might have to wait another few years until that matter is resolved in court.

All this streamlining that the Minister talked about does not take into account the realities which people face on a day to day basis. He must take account of these things if he wants to effect these matters as expeditiously as possible. I suggest to him that in future cases where a tenant is involved with respect to land acquisition, the tenant must be identified and the Government must communicate with the tenant separately and not under cover with the owner. Particularly, where you have a dispute between owner and tenant, you can have a problem arising. Therefore, the tenant ought to be told in advance what is his status with respect to

*Land Acquisition*  
[MR. SUDAMA]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

this matter of land acquisition. As I said, in this particular case this tenant has not been told and he is under the misconception as to where compensation is going to come from to pay him for the development of the land which he has been farming on for a number of years and the future returns for his crops that he has expended his money on.

Secondly, the whole question of irrigation, not only in the Oropouche constituency but elsewhere in Trinidad and Tobago is peculiarly tied up with the question of reserve of water courses. I am convinced that this Government is not really concerned about drainage and irrigation as its predecessor was not greatly concerned with drainage and irrigation. After four years in office, they have only reached the stage of consultancy which is now being proposed for drainage and irrigation of the Oropouche Lagoon.

Let me be charitable today and give them the benefit of a doubt that perhaps they are interested in drainage and irrigation works to develop agriculture, not only in the Oropouche Lagoon but elsewhere in Trinidad and Tobago. You cannot develop agriculture unless you look at the drainage and irrigation problems. When those problems are looked at, the question of the reserves and watercourses becomes critical because you cannot pass equipment. Nobody knows. The Drainage Department does not know, Town and Country Planning does not know and the Lands and Surveys Department does not know exactly what are the reserves on the respective watercourses in Trinidad and Tobago. In fact, I do not believe they even know all the watercourses in Trinidad, let alone knowing the reserves on those watercourses which can then be developed to deal with the irrigation and drainage problem.

**2.50 p.m.**

This is a specific issue which must be addressed. That is, the reserves must be identified. And where acquisition procedures have to be put in place, these ought to be done expeditiously, that your streamlining ought to take special account of the acquisition of watercourse reserves. Because if by any chance they propose to do something about drainage, you might find that you have all your plans in place, and yet you cannot get onto the watercourse reserve simply because somebody is disputing ownership of those reserves. Therefore, your whole plan of action with respect to that aspect of putting in the infrastructure for agricultural development is completely obstructed by this lack of information and by the fact that the Government is not aware of the need to put something in place which would be effective and efficient in dealing with this problem of identification of watercourse

reserves to deal not only with the agricultural improvement of the land, but also to deal with the serious drainage problem with which we are confronted from time to time.

Where do we have agriculture? Where is agriculture pursued? Agriculture is pursued in the rural areas of Trinidad and Tobago by definition. That is where the vacant lands are. That is where the agricultural lands are. You do not have agriculture in the open areas of Trinidad and Tobago. And the Minister of Food Production himself, the honourable Member for Nariva, has stated very categorically that the reason for rural neglect, which includes the lack of attention being paid to agricultural development, is because Governments do not get votes in the rural areas.

Speaking in 1990, of course, he could not only mean the previous Government, but he means his own Government which has been in office for nearly four years. Governments do not get votes. And of course he is very, very prescient in that regard, because I am sure that if his own Government goes to the poll later this year or early next year, there will be a dearth of votes in the rural areas for the NAR Government, given the manner in which it has treated those people over the years.

He himself has said so; they do not get votes. So you understand the reason I say that these matters of dealing—for example, the definition of "watercourse reserve" which has to do with improvement of the rural areas will not be given any attention by this Government, as it has not been given attention by the previous Government.

I merely got up in this House to inform the country to the extent that that is permitted by Trinidad and Tobago Television. There was a time when they used to take shots of us from the back and present it to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. However, it is my duty, as I said in the current parliamentary session, to get up in this House and speak and to make representations, and this is exactly what I am doing, the efficacy of which will be determined at some future date.

I have no doubt about that, and I have no anxiety or apprehension, as the Member for San Fernando East is indicating, because my record is very clear as to what I have done and the representations I have made. But I will be making very explicit, their record, when we get into the hustings.

So that I say this: I am not sure that the Minister and his Government will take on what I say, but then I have gone past caring whether they take on what I say in

*Land Acquisition*  
[MR. SUDAMA]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

this House or not. But I say it. I will go through the motion and say it in representation of the 15,659 people who have put me here to represent their interests. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Rawle Raphael** (*Arouca North*): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion, but it is the first time I am speaking since July 27, 1990. I first would like to thank God for being alive today. Secondly, I trust that the soul of my good friend and colleague, DesVignes, will rest in peace, in spite of the fact that I know he would have some difficulty now seeing that the constituency is being represented by the "Valley of Debt". Nevertheless, I do trust the Lord will allow my friend's soul to rest in peace.

Thirdly, I would like to pay tribute to a public servant who was lined up among the seven of us. He is Reynold Fernandes, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security. I remember clearly when he faced the Muslims, he said, "Boss, I don't belong to any party." And they said, "Tonight you are NAR". And he went quietly and he lined up, and I just stood next to him. So I would like to pay tribute to this gentleman for his grit and courage on that Saturday night.

In respect of the matter under discussion, "that this House approve the decision of the President to acquire the lands described in the appendix for the public purpose specified", I merely bring to the Minister's attention that there is a matter thus connected that had been outstanding since 1987, and that is the Mohammed Ravine. I bring it to his attention and that of the public servants who are dealing with it because the matter was raised in the House here in a motion about two years ago, and it is still outstanding; 35 families have been affected. So I merely want him to take note of it to see what can be done to alleviate this serious problem of these residents of Arouca in the St. Clair area.

I am quite certain not one of us here would like to be in their position. I would like the Minister and the civil servants concerned to take note of it, because any time it drizzles, this whole area floods, and I find four years is too long.

There are other matters outstanding, but I think, as the Minister said, they are reorganizing the division; I myself have seen efforts in that direction, and I do wish him well, and I do wish the division well. I want to end by saying, please do something for the residents in that area of St. Clair so their problems can be alleviated. Thank you.

**The Minister of Settlements and Public Utilities (Hon. Pamela Nicholson):** Mr. Speaker, I am supporting the motion very strenuously, but I am here to say a

few words on behalf of the constituents of Tobago West today. I know that the hon. Minister is doing all in his power in the face of shortage of funds, and so on.

The representative for Arouca North just spoke about four years. I am talking about people who have been suffering for 15 years, 20 years, 25 years under the People's National Movement—the Claude Noel Highway. Some have died, and their sons and daughters now have to struggle in that direction. These are very poor people, the small man, all Tobagonians and very small.

We belong to the rural community, Sir, of Trinidad and Tobago. The total community is referred to as "rural" by these intellectuals from Oropouche, those so-called economists. These are people whose lands were acquired for the construction of the Claude Noel Highway since in the 60s, some were acquired in the 70s. I thought that I had to rise here today to appeal that all those people be addressed very promptly. It is not four years: it is 20 years, 25 years.

You also have acquisitions done 10 and 15 years ago the Auchenskeoch, Buccoo Road, Carnbee areas in the constituency of Tobago West. Those lands have been acquired, and the people are crying out. Every weekend I am under heavy stress and duress. But as a strong Tobagonian, I am able to stand up and explain to them, and they have been bearing it. Some are appealing to the hon. Minister of Planning and Mobilization.

I know your burdens, Sir, but I would like you to pay some special attention in this area, so that the Tobagonian will feel that justice is done.

Thank you very much.

**Mr. Oswald Hem Lee** (*Pointe-a-Pierre*): Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to make two remarks on this motion.

I have noticed that there are two parcels in the constituency that I have the honour to represent. I would like to first commend the hon. Minister for moving expeditiously to include the parcel of land described in item No. 11, that is on Market Street, Marabella, for the public purposes of the extension of the market at Marabella.

We who live around the San Fernando, Point-a-Pierre, Claxton Bay and St. Margaret's Village areas, and maybe even further south, know about the tremendous traffic congestion that we have on the Southern Main Road in the area of Trintoc to maybe just beyond the market area by the roundabout to the beginning of the San Fernando bypass.

*Land Acquisition*  
[MR. HEM LEE]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

This has been going on for years, and many man-hours are lost in this tremendous traffic congestion simply because many of the vendors who would normally sell their produce in the Marabella market—which is unable to accommodate all of them—spill over on the roadway. This creates tremendous problems for business people as well, since they would normally block the free passage-way in front of the businesses of those business enterprises from Union Road, Marabella to the area of the roundabout. I should also state that the Marabella Businessmen's Association has indeed been very vociferous in trying to get Government to acquire lands so that we could move to extend the market area so that they would then be better able to run their businesses as they feel their businesses were intended to run in the first place. And, of course, they have incurred tremendous cost by having to put up extensive barricades to prevent people from coming in front of their businesses and by so doing preventing their sales.

So that I view this as a very important move, in fact a strategic move by the Government in that it sends a clear signal to the Marabella Businessmen's Association that indeed the Government has taken the first step, in the first instance, to acquire lands to extend the market, and that at sometime shortly, I take it that we will be able to move on to extend the market so that we can now move the vendors from the footpath and the sidewalk in the Marabella area into the market that would be designed for them for their own comfort, and for their sales and, of course, for the safety of the public as well.

I take it that the travelling public, those who use the Southern Main Road, will be indeed very pleased with such a move, particularly when the total facility is created, when a new market is built and the vendors are able to then go in and use the new accommodation when the time comes.

**3.05 p.m.**

I view this as a very strategic thing and as sending the right kind of signal to the business people in the Marabella community. I commend the Minister, because I notice that this survey plan was signed only in 1990. I know the area has already been paved and it is my understanding that very shortly, rails are to be placed to prevent vehicles from parking in this particular area. It is intended that a certain number of vendors would be able to be accommodated in that area in the short term, until such time that a proper structure is placed for the comfort, good and welfare of all. Thank you.



**The Minister of Food Production and Marine Exploitation (Dr. The Hon. Brinsley Samaroo):** Mr. Speaker, there are two points which I would like to make in support of this particular motion. Firstly, I thank the hon. Minister for acceding to a request of the people and the Coalmine area who for more than 15 years have been asking for a piece of land on which to build a new school, the Grosvenor Presbyterian School. A plan of survey was signed by the Director of Surveys on October 16, 1989. I am saying this for the benefit of the Member for Couva North, who conveniently chose all the dates when they were signed, years behind, but even so, we are trying to remedy that particular situation. I am particularly grateful that an order was signed on October 16, 1989 and today we are coming to Parliament to acquire those pieces of land for the building of the Grosvenor Presbyterian School. I think the people of that particular area are especially grateful to the hon. Minister for having granted that wish.

I am sorry that the Member for Oropouche is not here, because I wanted to respond to the point that he makes quite continuously in which he claimed that I said that no Government supports rural areas because of the fact that they do not get votes. I think he should not have made that point today because the motion we have here, demonstrates the falsity of that kind of argument. I would like him to read the *Hansard* since he is not here and to inform him, that in a public speech I indicated it was the last Government—the PNM regime—which deliberately neglected the rural parts of Trinidad and Tobago, because that is not where the majority of seats were to be obtained; that it concentrated its efforts on the urban areas because that is where the majority of seats were located. The Member for Oropouche conveniently forgets to continue to quote from the rest of my speech in which I made the point categorically, that this Government, having taken note of that tendency, has made a very special effort to right that particular wrong by placing special emphasis on the rural communities of Trinidad and Tobago. The Member for Oropouche chose a wrong occasion to make that point. If he checks on the 24 pieces of land that are being acquired, at least 20 are in rural areas and that demonstrates quite clearly the point which I made, in the latter part of my speech which he conveniently neglected to bring before this House and he quoted the former part about the neglect of the rural areas.

This motion clearly demonstrates the different emphasis of this Government on development in the rural areas. I do not have to go through the entire list, but at

least 20 out of 24 pieces are in rural areas. So quite contrary to the point which he was making, this Government has made a special effort to rectify many of the problems in the rural areas. I noticed that the Member for Oropouche no longer speaks of the Debe market, but he used to come into the Parliament regularly and said that there will be no market in Debe; this Government does not care for any rural area. Now not only is there a market being built in Debe, but they are employing people from lists provided by the very Member for Oropouche. But he conveniently neglected to talk about Oropouche, because that is no longer an issue. I hope when he comes before this Parliament, he looks at the evidence that we have given which is quite clearly against the argument he postulates.

I wish to very strongly support this motion and on behalf of the rural communities of this country, to say special thanks to the Minister of Planning and Mobilization for having made a special effort to develop the rural constituencies of Trinidad and Tobago. Thank you

**The Minister of Planning and Mobilization (Hon. Winston Dookeran):**  
Mr. Speaker, I thank those who have contributed to this debate, those who have used the opportunity to highlight some of the details of the motion before us and to establish beyond doubt, the equity with which we handle these matters.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition had indicated and had called for the status with respect to one acquisition matter pertaining to Mr. Basil Nanton. I have been advised during the course of the debate, the appropriate cheque had been issued in late December to that person. I am pleased that the Member for Oropouche did acknowledge that he has been waiting for far more than four years, to see specific motions come before us and he was pleased to acknowledge it. I saw that he had a little difficulty because he knew that he had to give credit to this Government for so doing, but it was difficult to do so in the presence of the Leader of the Opposition. I admit I am pleased that he acknowledged that contribution.

The points raised by the Member for Couva North and indeed the Member for Tobago West, I will try and ascertain what the status of that particular matter is.

Mr. Speaker, in presenting this motion to this honourable House, I did indicate that there was substantial progress which has been made but I do not wish to underestimate the enormity of the task in this particular matter. Obviously, there are still many outstanding matters that have to be dealt with and I was very careful in pointing out, in statistical terms, what has been the progress with respect to land acquisition matters, granting of lease, changes of the use of lease, and so on, for that reflects those who have found that the system is responding to them more today than previously. There are still a number of outstanding matters but with the steps which I have outlined, I have no doubt that we are progressively on that path.

It is very difficult to be able to satisfy some Members of this House. They criticize me, for instance, for bringing motions in which a survey order was made in 1976 and they said that we took too long. My hon. friend from San Fernando East would be accountable for those in 1976. When I bring motions pertaining to survey orders made in 1990, they said that I am acting too fast, so I really do not know how to satisfy any legitimate concerns on the part of the Leader of the Opposition on these particular matters. I rather suspect that they were a bit surprised with the achievements of this particular department and were caught somewhat unawares and much of the notes which they have prepared, could not be utilized in this case and hence your very timely intervention to save me from their own assault on my character. I assure you that after the events of July 27, I could hardly be in any way affected by any personal assaults on me in this House.

**3.15 p.m.**

I assure the House that we will continue in our efforts in order to try to improve this situation and to all our citizens who still have not been satisfied, we will intensify our efforts in the months and years to come in order to try to deal with those problems and at the same time to ensure that there is a permanence to the solutions before us in this particular matter. I therefore beg to move that the House accept the motion on the Order Paper.

*Resolved:*

That this House approve the decision of the President to acquire the lands described in the Appendix for the public purposes specified.



## APPENDIX cont'd

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Three parcels of land each containing 464.5 square metres situate at the junction of Warner Village Road and the Princess Margaret Highway, Bejucal, in the ward of Chaguanas, in the county of Caroni known as Lots Nos. 4, 5 and 6, Warner Village and said to belong to B. Seedo, P. Ramoutar and Montorah &amp; Jageram respectively.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed as R.A. 80 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>3. The following parcels of land comprising together 1.9776 hectares, more or less, situate at La Fortune Pluck Road, in the ward of Siparia, in the county of St. Patrick, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated July 25, 1986 executed under Survey Order No. 41/86 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Two Parcels of land comprising together 1.9776 hectares situate on the south-western side of La Fortune Pluck Road by the Director of Surveys and dated 11th July, approximately 2.5 kilometres east of Timitial Junction, in the ward of Siparia, in the county of St. Patrick and consisting of:</p> <p>1) 0.7975 of a hectare said to belong now or formerly to Ragbir Madhai;</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A recreation ground</p>

## APPENDIX cont'd

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>2) 1.1801 hectares said to belong now or formerly to Harold Mosaheb.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a Survey Plan filed in Book 1140, Folio 28 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>4. The following parcel of land containing 596.4 square metres, more or less, situate on the south eastern corner of Old Grange Road and the Auchenskeoch/Buccoo Road in the parish of St. Patrick, in the ward of Tobago, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated July 11, 1989 executed under Survey Order No. 54/88 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land comprising 596.4 square metres situate on the south eastern corner of Old Grange Road and the Auchenskeoch/Buccoo Road immediately south of the Grange Police Station in the parish of St. Patrick in the ward of Tobago and said to belong now or formerly to Joseph Benjamin.</p> <p>This is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140 as Folio 72 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p>	<p>Road improvement</p>
<p>5. The following parcel of land containing 1.6327 hectares, more or less, situate on the Arnos Vale Road, in the parish of St. David, in the ward of Tobago, described in the Schedule hereto coloured</p>	<p>A school</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated February 23, 1988 executed under Survey Order No. 19/82 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land comprising 1.6327 hectares situate in the vicinity of the 2 1/4 m.m. on the northern side of Arnos Vale Road and west of Eboe Gully Trace, in the parish of St. David, in ward of Tobago and said to belong now or formerly to Arnos Vale Estate.</p> <p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a Survey Plan filed in Book 1140, Folio 50 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>6. The following parcels of land comprising together 7 acres 0 roods 20 Perches (2.8835 hectares), more or less, situate partly at Grange and Mt. Irvine, in the parish of St. Patrick, in the ward of Tobago, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a Plan of Survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated May 15, 1970, executed under Survey Order No. 18/68 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Several parcels of land containing together 7 acres 0 roods 20 perches (2.8833 hectares) and forming a strip commencing at the junction of Auchenskeoch/Buccoo Road and Shirvan Road and running in a north-easterly direction on either side of the Grafton Road to the boundary of Grafton Estate, in the parish of St. Patrick, in the ward of Tobago and said to belong now or formerly to Mt. Irvine Development Limited.</p>	<p>Road improvement</p>





## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Three (3) parcels of land known as lots 29, 30 and 31, situate at George Street, Siparia, in the ward of Siparia, county of St. Patrick, comprising 1673.0 square metres, more or less and said to belong now or formerly to the Methodist Church.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured pink on a survey plan filed as X.D.5 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>9. The following parcels of land containing together 8145.0 square metres, more or less, situate at Lambeau, in the parish of St. Andrew, in the ward of Tobago, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated December 13, 1988, executed under Survey Order No. 132/82 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Seven (7) parcels of land comprising together 8145.0 square metres, more or less, situate on the eastern side of Pascal Village Street, Lambeau approximately 250 metres north of Milford Main Road in the parish of St. Andrew in the ward of Tobago and described as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 133.0 square metres more or less, said to belong now or formerly to Fitz Elliot;</li> <li>2) 1503.1 square metres more or less, said to belong now or formerly to Ismay Elliot;</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;">Highway construction</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>3) 731.0 square metres more or less, said to belong now or formerly to Fitz Elliot;</p> <p>4) 1421.1 square metres more or less, said to belong now or formerly to Stephen Elliot;</p> <p>5) 1103.4 square metres more or less, said to belong now or formerly to Sydney Charles;</p> <p>6) 2714.1 square metres more or less, said to belong now or formerly to Alva Elliot;</p> <p>7) 539.3 square metres more or less, said to belong now or formerly to George Biggart Hutchinson.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140 as folio 63 in the vault of Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>10. The following parcels of land containing 1.7573 hectares, more or less, situate at New Wood Crown Trace (Norwood) in the parish of St. David, in the ward of Tobago, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated July 15, 1988, executed under Survey Order No. 13/85 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Several parcels of land containing together 1.7573 hectares situate at New Wood (Norwood) Crown Trace in the parish of St. David, ward of Tobago and described as follows:-</p>	<p>Road improvement</p>

**APPENDIX (cont'd)**

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 127.8 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Phillip Wallace;</li> <li>2) 491.0 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Methodist Mission;</li> <li>3) 430.0 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Sheila Leander;</li> <li>4) 259.2 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Carlyle Leander;</li> <li>5) 4092.0 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Ronny Campbell;</li> <li>6) 2210.4 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Wiggles;</li> <li>7) 1129.0 square metres said to belong now or formerly to B. Quamina;</li> <li>8) 1112.4 square metres said to belong now or formerly to C. Jack;</li> <li>9) 486.2 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Nancy Wilson;</li> <li>10) 689.6 square metres said to belong now or formerly to S. Bigart;</li> <li>11) 454.7 square metres said to belong now or formerly to heirs of Henry;</li> <li>12) 1688.2 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Nora Henry;</li> <li>13) 1773.63 square metres said to belong now or formerly to J. Quash;</li> </ol>	

**APPENDIX (cont'd)**

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>14) 1314.6 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Ray John;</p> <p>15) 1314.6 square metres said to belong now or formerly to J. Neptune.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed AN 95 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>11. The following parcel of land containing 1222.99 square metres, more or less, situate on the southern side of Market Street, Marabella, in the ward of Naparima, in the county of Victoria, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated May 23, 1990 executed under Survey Order No. 53/89 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land comprising 1222.9 square metres, more or less, situate on the southern side of Market Street, Marabella, in the Ward of Naparima, in the County of Victoria and said to belong now or formerly to H. V. Gopaul.</p> <p>This parcel of land is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140 as folio 86 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p>	<p>Extension of the market and the provision of parking facilities</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>12. The following parcels of land containing 6155.7 square metres, more or less, situate on the northern side of Piggott Street in the parish of St. Andrew, in the ward of Tobago, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated January 12, 1988, executed under Survey Order No. 98/84B and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Several parcels of land together containing 6155.7 square metres situate on the northern side of Piggott Street, Scarborough in the parish of St. Andrew in the ward of Tobago and consisting of:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 1377.2 square metres said to belong now or formerly to J &amp; E Faria;</li> <li>2) 682.3 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Armstrong;</li> <li>3) 740.3 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Jacob Walters;</li> <li>4) 35.5 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Jacob Walters;</li> <li>5) 587.3 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Edward Bayley;</li> <li>6) 2288.2 square metres said to belong now or formerly to C. Shaw;</li> <li>7) 444.9 square metres said to belong now or formerly to C. G. Makoul.</li> </ol>	<p>A connector road</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a Survey Plan filed as G.A. 4 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>13. The following parcel of land containing 2.7447 hectares more or less, situate at Massahood Junction, in the ward of Siparia, in the county of St. Patrick, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated April 26, 1988, executed under Survey Order No. 80/86 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land comprising 2.7447 hectares situate approximately 100 metres off the western side of the Siparia Old Road in the village called Massahood Junction 5 kilometres east of Fyzabad and 8 kilometres west of Siparia in the ward of Siparia, in the county of St. Patrick and said to belong now or formerly to Seepersadsingh.</p> <p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140 folio 52 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p>	<p>A recreation ground</p>
<p>14. The following parcel of land containing 2.8755 hectares, more or less, situate at Gopaul Lands, Marabella, in the ward of Naparima, in the county of Victoria, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Acting Director of Surveys and dated January 9, 1989 executed under Survey Order No. 49/88 and filed in his office.</p>	<p>A recreation ground</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land containing 2.8755 hectares situate between the Marabella Primary School on the East and Union Park East (Road) on the West, in the Ward of Naparima, in the county of Victoria and said to belong now or formerly to H. V. Gopaul.</p> <p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140, folio 68 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>15. The following parcels of land containing one acre more or less, situate on the eastern side of Luke Trace in the ward of Chaguanas in the county of Caroni described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated July 2, 1970 executed under Survey Order No. 95/68 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land comprising one acre situate on the eastern side of Luke Trace just north of the junction with Mamoral Road in the ward of Chaguanas in the county of Caroni and said to belong now or formerly to Mr. and Mrs. Fautino Lezama.</p> <p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 969/164 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House Port-of-Spain.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Community centre</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>16. The following parcel of land containing 0.6592 hectares, more or less, situate at Carapichaima, in the ward of Couva, in the county of Caroni, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated March 23, 1988 executed under Survey Order No. 72/87 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A parcel of land comprising 0.6592 hectare situate immediately south of St. Mary's Recreation Ground, Carapichaima in the ward of Couva in the county of Caroni and said to belong now or formerly to Ablack.</p> <p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140 Folio 53 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p>	<p>School site (Carapichaima R.C. School)</p>
<p>17. The following parcels of land containing 3.8968 hectares, more or less, situate in Scarborough, in the parish of St. Andrew, in the ward of Tobago described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated April 3, 1987 executed under Survey Order No. 132/82 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Several parcels of land containing together 3.8969 hectares situate at the northern end of Mt. Marie Village Street on the northern extremity of the town of Scarborough in the parish of St. Andrew in the ward of Tobago and described as follows:</p>	<p>Highway construction</p>



## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>1. 0.33831 hectare said to belong now or formerly to Julia Ward;</p> <p>2. 1.25301 hectares said to belong now or formerly to N.A. Bishop;</p> <p>3. 0.62966 hectare said to belong now or formerly to the Incorporated Trustees of Church of England;</p> <p>4. 0.08956 hectare said to belong now or formerly to the St. Nicholas School;</p> <p>5. 1.58626 hectares said to belong now or formerly to Esther Arnold.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed as R.H. 96 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>18. The following parcels of land containing together 1.1153 hectares, more or less, situate off the Cunapo Southern Road, in the ward of Tureure, in the county of St. Andrew, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated October 16, 1989 executed under Survey Order No. 87/82 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Four parcels of land containing together 1.1153 hectares situate on a Road Reserve off the southern side of the Cunapo Southern Road, Coalmine between the 2 1/4—2 1/2 m.m., in the ward of Tureure, in the county of St. Andrew and comprising:-</p>	<p>A school</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>a) 0.0044 hectare said to belong now or formerly to Alexis Didier;</p> <p>b) 1.0717 hectares said to belong now or formerly to Thomas Kewalsingh and others;</p> <p>c) 0.0360 hectare said to belong now or formerly to Congrada Morales;</p> <p>d) 0.0032 hectare said to belong now or formerly to Ashmaed and Shairoon Ali.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a Survey Plan filed in Book 1140, folio 80 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>19. The following parcels of land containing together 315.3 square metres, more or less, situate at Plymouth Road and Dutch Fort Village Street, in the parish of St. Andrew, in the ward of Tobago, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated July 5, 1988 executed under Survey Order No. 13/88 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Five (5) parcels of land containing together 315.3 square metres, more or less, situate on the western side of Plymouth Road north of its junction with Dutch Fort Village Street, and on either side of Dutch Fort Village Street in the parish of St. Andrew in the ward of Tobago and described as follows:-</p>	<p>Road improvement</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>1) 57.8 square metres said to belong now or formerly to E. Dillon &amp; Orrs;</p> <p>2) 32.5 square metres said to belong now or formerly to Julien Spencer;</p> <p>3) 43.5 square metres said to belong now or formerly to I. Imamsha;</p> <p>4) 64.1 square metres said to belong now or formerly to V. Wright &amp; C. Adams;</p> <p>5) 117.4 square metres said to belong now or formerly to T. Quashie.</p> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a Survey Plan filed in Book 1140, folio 55 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>20. The following parcel of land containing 2.6921 hectares, more or less, situate off Doorbassa Trace, in ward of Siparia, in the county of St. Patrick, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated February 17, 1989 executed under Survey Order No. 82/88 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land comprising 2.6921 hectares, situate between Doorbassa Trace and Doorbassa Branch Trace No. 3 and approximately 0.4 kilometre off the San Francique Road, in the ward of Siparia, in the county of St. Patrick and said to belong now or formerly to Kuldipnarine Goberdhan.</p>	<p>A recreation ground</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140, folio 65 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p> <p>21. The following parcels of land containing together 3654.3 square metres, more or less, situate at Gran Curucaye Road, in the ward of St. Ann's, in the county of St. George, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured pink on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated April 5, 1984, executed under Survey Order No. 121/83 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Three parcels of land containing together 3654.3 square metres situate on the Gran Curucaye Road, Bourg Mulatresse approximately 0.75 kilometre from the junction at the Saddle Road, Santa Cruz in the ward of St. Ann's, in the county of St. George and comprising the following properties:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 2710.3 square metres said to belong now or formerly to R. A. Moze;</li> <li>2) 306.3 square metres said to belong now or formerly to A. Fadelle;</li> <li>3) 637.7 square metres said to belong now or formerly to A. Fadelle.</li> </ol> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1108, folio 182 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p>	<p>Recreational facilities</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>22. The following parcels of land containing 1113.6 square metres, more or less, situate between Liet Street and Peter Hill Extension Trace, Mayaro in the ward of Guayaguayare, in the county of Mayaro, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated June 23, 1988, executed under Survey Order No. 10/87 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Three parcels of land together comprising 1113.6 square metres, more or less and situate between Liet Street and Peter Hill Extension Trace, Mayaro and described as follows—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A parcel of land containing 338.5 square metres more or less and said to belong now or formerly to Alexis.</li> <li>b) A parcel of land containing 561.4 square metres more or less and said to belong now or formerly to Ram Suratsingh.</li> <li>c) A parcel of land containing 213.7 square metres more or less and said to belong now or formerly to Bolvilia Frederick.</li> </ul> <p>These parcels are more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140 folio 54 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p>	<p>Linking Liet Street to Peter Hill Extension Trace, Mayaro</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p>23. The following parcel of land containing 0.1116 hectare, more or less, situate at Lucky Street, La Romain, in the ward of Naparima, in the county of Victoria, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated July 28, 1988, executed under Survey Order No. 80/87 and filed in his office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A parcel of land comprising 0.116 hectare, situate on the northern side of Lucky Street, La Romain and about 30 metres from the junction with the Southern Main Road in the ward of Naparima in the county of Victoria and said to belong now or formerly to HESSIE HILDALH LUCKY.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book. 1140 folio 58 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red House, Port-of-Spain.</p>	<p>A hard surface court</p>
<p>24. The following parcel of land containing 0.7900 hectare, more or less, situate at Boucaud Trace, Penal Rock Road, in the ward of Siparia, in the county of St. Patrick, described in the Schedule hereto and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey by the Director of Surveys and dated September 26, 1986, executed under Survey Order No. 19/84 and filed in his office.</p>	<p>Recreation ground</p>

## APPENDIX (cont'd)

Description of Land	Public Purposes for which to be acquired
<p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHEDULE</p> <p>A parcel of land comprising 0.7900 hectare, situate at the eastern side of Boucaud Trace and on the northern bank of the Curamata River, north of Penal Rock Road in the ward of Siparia in the county of St. Patrick and said to belong now or formerly to Hardaye Ramkissoon.</p> <p>This parcel is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a survey plan filed in Book 1140 folio 24 in the vault of the Lands and Surveys Department, Red, House, Port-of-Spain.</p>	

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Speaker:** I have been informed by the Leader of Government Business that there is no further government business for today's sitting. The motion on the adjournment which has been moved by the Member for Naparima and has been accepted will now be considered.

The Standing Order states that the motion shall stand over until 6 o'clock on the same day and at that hour any proceeding on which the House is engaged shall be postponed until the motion for the adjournment is disposed of or until 7 o'clock, which ever is the earlier, which means that the motion will be considered for one hour. It is now a quarter past three; the motion shall lapse if it is not concluded before a quarter past four.

## GULF CRISIS

**Mr. Raymond Palackdharrysingh (Naparima):** Mr. Speaker, everywhere today, there is tension in the air. Everyone, everyday puts his ears to the radio and the television to find out the details of impending catastrophe in the Middle East. Yet, we are not unaffected by the events in the Middle East. We are not unaffected, particularly since in our own right we are producers of oil. So as we look to see what is happening in terms of negotiations in the international

*Gulf Crisis*

[MR. PALACKDHARRYSINGH]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

community, we see negotiations after negotiations breakdown and the rumour of war becoming more evident.

There is a deadline which is quoted as January 15, 1991 and this Parliament may not meet before and if the predictions are correct concerning the outbreak of hostilities, we would not have had an opportunity to meet. The Government has not moved to inform the population about what is developing in the international community and what ought to be the response of the population. When I brought this motion before the House this afternoon, I brought it with the hope that at least the Government would have an opportunity to respond to some of the concerns of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. We need to clarify some of our concerns and also to look at what actions the Government has taken with respect to these concerns.

What is the role and posture of Trinidad and Tobago in this conflict? We are members of the United Nations and the matter, I would assume, has been discussed in the lobbies of the United Nations and, therefore, it is important for us to find out what was the role of the Trinidad Government in the deliberations of this matter in the United Nations' forum. Not only our role, but what is our posture in the conflict? Are we merely passive onlookers or have we been lobbying for a particular outcome or have we committed Trinidad and Tobago to some form of action in the event of hostilities?

Also, I would want the Government to clarify, in the event of hostilities, what measures are being put in place for the security of the state. It is no doubt that everyone perceives our country as almost insignificant, in the sort of crisis that exists. Have we considered seriously, the impact of hostility upon the state and how to deal with such hostilities? Are we committing the members of our protective forces to any extent in their use of any such hostilities and how do we intend to protect our commercial installations, factories and other useful sources of wealth?

We cannot escape the risk that is involved and I do not think that the Government has made this clear to the population and, therefore, there is need for clarification. What about our citizens at home and abroad? Of course this is the concern of many people, particularly parents whose children are working abroad. We have had our citizens living in countries like the United States, Canada, England. We have had our citizens working in places like Saudi Arabia and many people, particularly parents, are concerned about the safety of



their children and relatives; their families. Is that all that can be said about those people, that gas masks would be provided for them? It would be important to note whether or not the Government, through the Ministry of External Affairs, has taken the responsibility of quantifying the number of our citizens who are at risk, and what is being planned about their safety, in the event of full scale hostility.

**3.25 p.m.**

All of us at home are concerned. People are asking everyday about food security. Already, many of our citizens are beginning to buy goods from the shelves of supermarkets. They are beginning to store up whatever they could but you will appreciate that the life of such storage will be short. We continue to depend for our survival upon large volumes of imported food from countries abroad, to depend almost to the tune of \$0.75 billion for food from abroad.

This suggests to us that we would be in for a rather difficult time if hostility breaks out. But nothing has been said to the population with respect to food. It is felt that food supplies would be scarce in a very short time; that prices would skyrocket; that there could be rationing of food and yet nothing has been said to the population about how to condition themselves for such a possibility.

This is not fair to the country. It is important for the Government to tell the people about their intentions with respect to food security for the people of Trinidad and Tobago. One never knows what will happen, but it is also well-known that situations and events like these, bring unforetold disasters and the need for health care. Are we prepared to deal with emergencies? Nothing has been said to the population so far.

Other leaders are saying to their people what to expect and how to cope, but we have no plans. The weather reports have indicated that there is a possibility of some measure of contamination in the environment. We all know the dangers and disasters which have followed from wars in the past. There were two world wars and wars in Viet Nam and elsewhere. We all know about the lingering, detrimental effects of warfare and the use of chemicals in warfare, and what it means to the people and children who are yet unborn. Nothing has been said to this population about what to expect. It is time that the Government says clearly to the population that they are at risk, and what is to be done. It would seem that there is no will to respond to some of these issues so nothing has been said.

One has to be concerned about our response in this region. If it is intended to have a regional response, how would matters be co-ordinated? In the past, in

*Gulf Crisis**Friday, January 11, 1991*

[MR. PALACKDHARRYSINGH]

matters of hostility there has been no uniform approach, and indeed every country has the right to determine its role. Is it very optimistic to hope for a regional response, and what moves have been made by the Government to have such responses?

There seems to be confusion in the minds of our people. The psychological impact of the very real possibility of war, and the absence of meaningful occupations, for many, have been triggering off responses. According to the newspapers, some of our citizens are trying to enlist themselves for war one way or another. Do we have a method for handling those responses, or are we saying by our silence that the way our citizens respond, is their right and perhaps that is the direction of the policy of the Government?

I suggest that the crisis situation that we are in today is one that leaves our country bewildered, and is somewhat different from some of the former experiences of world-war trauma. We have to understand that we are a multi-ethnic society where we try to harmonize our existence, but I am afraid somewhere down the road there will be a falling away of this sort of unity of our people, because of different perceptions as to loyalties. Yet, nothing has been done to clarify to our people a response of our own worth in these eventualities.

**3.35 p.m.**

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude I want to find out from the Government whether or not any arrangements have been entered into with the United Nations and the United States for the use of our airfields or airstrips and strategic places in the country for military use. Can anyone answer whether or not the United States has the right of re-entry into Chaguaramas, and is this country being considered as a strategic location for one side or the other in the case of hostilities? I think the country is nervous—we are experiencing tension—and many people are hoping that a miracle would take place and there would be no hostilities, but all the indications are, from the pronouncements of the major actors in this game, that we are heading by January 15, 1991 to some concerted military action that is going to have worldwide repercussions.

In this light, Mr. Speaker, I hope those responding on behalf of the Government would deal with some of the specific issues I have raised and make clear the Government's approach to this entire matter.

Thank you very much.

**Mr. Patrick Manning** (*San Fernando East*): Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand why a member of the Opposition would want to raise this issue in the way the issue has been raised by the hon. Member for Naparima. Indeed, it is clear to us on this side, as indeed it is clear to many people in the national community, that a strategy is being carefully crafted by the Government to heighten the potential consequences of a conflict in the Middle East in such a way that it is portrayed in the worst possible light, something to be able to divert attention at home away from some of the difficult situations that confront us. *[Interruption]*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please!

**Mr. Manning:** Mr. Speaker, an impression is being given that the world is heading for a world war. Indeed, when I listen to the hon. Member for Naparima, he did draw into his contribution some of the implications of the conflicts that took place in the world between 1914 and 1918 and 1939 and 1945. I do not know where the impression had been obtained that we are heading for a world war, nor is it clear to me why it is that the hon. Member for Naparima, and other people in this country, have been viewing the events in the Middle East in a light that suggests that the national community of Trinidad and Tobago is about to become embroiled in a major conflict that could have catastrophic consequences on the quality of life of our citizens here.

**Mr. Palackdharrysingh:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

**Hon. Member:** Palackdharrysingh sounded better than him.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please! The Member for Naparima.

**Mr. Palackdharrysingh:** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. Member for San Fernando East is trying to mislead the House by insinuating what I have not said. I have been very careful in what I have said. Would he stick to his own interpretation and leave mine as it is if he cannot properly focus on what I have said!

**Mr. Manning:** Mr. Speaker, there have been conflicts in the Middle East before. Indeed, there was a conflict in 1956 and we can look back at the history to see how it affected Trinidad and Tobago. There was a conflict in 1967 and we can look back at the history to see how it affected Trinidad and Tobago. There was a conflict in 1973 and we can look back at the history to see how it affected Trinidad and Tobago. There was a conflict in 1982 when Israel entered Lebanon and we can look back at history to see how it affected Trinidad and Tobago, and the

*Gulf Crisis*  
[MR. MANNING]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

circumstances of the world in those years were different from the circumstances that exist today. Not too long ago we saw the dismantling of the communist system in Eastern Europe, and in the world we have been witnessing a realignment of the political forces in a way that many people who today are alive and are involved in the public affairs of their countries or the world at large, never anticipated could have happened in their lifetime.

Much has been said about the war between Iran and Iraq and that Iraq had the capability to sustain this war for eight years. Some people also argue that as a consequence of that it is reasonable to conclude that in circumstances where hostilities are likely to break out in the Middle East then one can look forward to a long drawn out war and that events can be catastrophic.

Mr. Speaker, when Iraq and Iran went to war, one of the major allies of Iraq at that time was the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union was responsible for re-supplying Iraq with a lot of the war equipment and materials that would have been required to sustain a long campaign. They were the major supplier. What is the position today? Today, the Soviet Union subscribes to the United Nations' resolutions and indeed have been contributing to the United Nations' effort to either prevent the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East, or against the possibility that hostilities do in fact break out to participate in those hostilities on the side of the United Nations. It is an entirely different international situation that is facing the world today. Therefore a lot of the talk that has been emanating from the Government and from Government's spokesmen seem to be talk designed to create panic in this country for reasons that for me, are yet obscure.

Mr. Speaker, what are the real implications? What is the situation? Iraq went into Kuwait on August 2, 1990. The real threat from the standpoint of the security of the Western countries, and in fact many others—it was not so much Kuwait—is indeed that the move was viewed as a precursor move to an incursion in Saudi Arabia which controls a large proportion of the oil and gas resources of the world. That is where the real concern lay. To the extent that the United Nations were able to act as expeditiously as they did, many people are of the view—and I share the view—that what was forestalled was a further incursion into Saudi Arabia. Okay, that has been forestalled.

**3.45 p.m.**

It does now appear that hostilities are likely to break out sometime after January 15, 1991. Permit me, Mr. Speaker, to express my own view on this

matter. I am still hopeful, in fact, that no war will in fact take place. But whether it takes place or whether it does not take place, the major area in which Trinidad and Tobago is going to be affected is in the area of oil prices. People talk about food, we do not import any food from Iraq, we do not import food from the Middle East—very little.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at the import patterns for Trinidad and Tobago, how much of what we import comes from the Middle East? The thing is being over-stated for reasons that are best known to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and we on this side do not wish to be drawn into it in that way. Are there legitimate concerns? Of course, there are legitimate concerns, but we do not wish to be a part of any strategy that appears to be designed to unduly heighten the impact of this and to panic the people of Trinidad and Tobago. In fact, one of the spokesmen for the state has gone so far as to say that the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East can lead to a postponement of the Carnival of Trinidad and Tobago. In fact, it is the hon. Prime Minister himself—I think it is reported in the media of today—who has said that he has seen the statement and they are considering it.

Mr. Speaker, the ineptitude of this Government continues to befuddle us. The minute you make a statement of that nature a number of persons who would have been making plans to come to Trinidad for Carnival, immediately begin to make adjustments to those plans. The statement will adversely affect Carnival and tourism that is normally associated with it. It is an injudicious statement if ever I heard one. Instead, the Government must categorically say that there is no plan at this stage to postpone any Carnival, because there is nothing else apart from what has been said that gives that impression. Before a categorical statement is made to clear the air and to remove any doubt, you have the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago saying that he has seen the statement and they are considering it; adding fuel to the fire and continuing the uncertainty that was first injected when that statement was made. They cannot do anything right. They do not seem to be able to do anything right.

Mr. Speaker, what happens if war breaks out in the Middle East? The petroleum markets are going to be affected and oil prices are likely to skyrocket. It is my view that any outbreak of hostilities, if it takes place, will not last unduly long. Therefore, any increase in oil price, which is likely to be significant in those circumstances, will be temporary in nature and very short-term. But the minute a state of normalcy is returned to, then the basic laws of supply and demand are

*Gulf Crisis*  
[MR. MANNING]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

going to apply. The reality today being, that even in circumstances where approximately 4 million barrels of oil per day have been removed from the market, the cumulative production of Kuwait and Iraq, you still have a situation where the actual supply is greater than the demand at a time when the stocks of oil are at their highest level for a ten-year period. Indeed, not much oil is being traded at this time even though oil prices are being quoted on the international markets as you would expect in those circumstances. That is the reality.

There has been talk that the United States ought to draw-down from their strategic petroleum reserves, to ensure that oil prices do not get out of hand. There are political considerations in this matter that many people seem to be ignoring. Another question has been raised, and the question is, that the action of the United Nations, spearheaded by the United States, are providing for Saudi Arabia, a measure of national security. The question that has been asked is: What is the price that Saudi Arabia is expected to pay for this? The question was asked, not in the context of dollars and cents, but in the context of *quid pro quo*—so we do this for you.

Is it that Saudi Arabia will be expected to play a certain role in the international petroleum markets to ensure that oil prices, in the future, do not get out of hand? In other words, are we, in fact, witnessing a re-ordering of the control mechanisms of international oil where the control is likely to pass again from the oil-producing countries to the extent that they exercise that control, do it in a manner that takes into account some of the realities of the developed countries?

The United States is in recession today. There has been talk about the United Kingdom being in recession, and high oil prices are going to aggravate that. There is a definite interest in ensuring that oil prices are kept as low a level as possible. That is a question which will concern Trinidad and Tobago because it has implications for revenue position, and if a war breaks out it is likely to fall. What happens if war does not break out? If war does not break out—even today Brent North Sea Crude is being quoted at about \$27 per barrel. That is a full \$13 plus below the \$40 plus that was being quoted in the months of August and September when the initial actions were taken in Kuwait and when the petroleum markets were being affected seriously by what was called "the war jitters". It is war jitters that has it today only at a level of \$27 plus per barrel, reflecting supply and demand on the one hand but also the market responding, as indeed, it always does, to the concerns of the impending situation that exists in the Middle East. So that if no hostilities break out, you are likely to see oil prices fall again. Anyhow you look

at it, what we are likely to be seeing in Trinidad and Tobago is a reduction in oil prices and that is the important consideration. Reduction in oil prices will lead to a reduction in oil revenues. That is a scenario that I am putting forward—whether they agree with it or not it does not matter—for the consideration of this honourable House. That is the concern of Trinidad and Tobago at this time.

From the stand-point of Caricom the concerns are similar. They do not export oil and, therefore, their oil import bill is going to be affected by what takes place there, or by the perceptions of oil prices as we see it. If the oil prices fall, of course, the oil import bill is going to fall. As it now stands, the oil import bill is high because oil prices are much higher. Those in my view, are the major considerations.

Of course, Iraq has made it clear that their first target is going to be Israel. In that situation some new concerns arise to the extent that some of the Arab countries are taking part in the implementation of the United Nations' resolution on Kuwait on the side of the United Nations' forces. The minute the question of Israel comes in and the question of the Palestinians has been raised, and indeed, it has been, there is the potential for a re-ordering in the Middle East of some of the political alignments, and the stage may well be set for major conflicts in the Middle East. Will it overflow? Will it spill outside of the Middle East? As of now, none of us can say that it will.

While we on this side believe that, yes, it is a serious situation, as indeed it always is, I think that the Government would be well-advised not to over-play it in the way it has been over-playing it. In fact, in the last few days a war council gas mask is to be prepared and so on.

**The Minister of External Affairs and International Trade (Sen. The Hon. Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo):** Mr. Speaker, I thank hon. Members who have made their submissions on the motion so competently moved by the hon. Member for Naporima. Had the Member for Naporima not spoken and the former Leader of the Opposition contributed, I would have said quite politely, Mr. Speaker, I also have nothing to contribute to this House today. Let me say however, that in that context it is rather surprising that the Member for San Fernando East has once again surprised me with what I can only describe—with the greatest respect to the Chair and with the greatest respect to the country—as an amateurish, superficial and a rather vacuous comment on a rather important issue.

*Gulf Crisis*  
[HON. S. BASDEO]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

**3.55 p.m.**

I think one thing that is very clear is that the PNM is no longer competent and continues no longer to be competent to guide this country. And if I may give credit to Mr. Palackdharrysingh, the Member for Naparima, he has demonstrated quite clearly that he understands the issue and acts as a shadow minister of external affairs in a government hopefully at some time in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Naparima has said very clearly that we have not really been concerned about what has been taking place in the Middle East. At least, that is his impression, judging from his own political perspective. I have nothing to say on that. I think in the game of politics we tend to use opportunities to better our own political chances in the political environment.

But I think any serious commentator who has been examining the role of this Government in foreign affairs over the last four-and-a-half years cannot but say that is not true, and that is also the situation with respect to the Middle East.

I want to put this matter in its true perspective. At the end of July last year when this country was caught in the throes of one of its most serious crises, in that scenario, Trinidad and Tobago articulated a very principled and a very progressive policy position. That principle and that policy position that was enunciated complemented in totality the objectives to which this country and, in fact, the international community subscribe, that is to say the objective of the United Nations. We condemned the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, and we made it unequivocal that Trinidad and Tobago would like to see an immediate withdrawal of the troops from that country.

In addition to that, we supported at the United Nations, the 12 resolutions that were passed by the Security Council, supported it in the sense that we verbalized our understanding of why it had to be done and the need for it to be done. So to that extent, Trinidad and Tobago has been part and parcel of that progressive movement under the United Nations condemning political aberrations of this kind. So therefore, to say that we have not been taking a leading role or even a position on this matter is not correct.

In addition to that, I want to say to the hon. Member for Naparima, and through you, Sir, to the hon. Members of this House and the country at large, that this government has been closely monitoring events in the Middle East through our various missions abroad, particularly our missions in New York, Washington and



Geneva. I have also been in constant discussion even here at the regional level with members of the foreign ministerial fraternity in Caricom.

Let me say in addition, and let me put on the record, that when Prime Minister Robinson visited President Bush—and I was privy to the discussions that took place—the American government paid the highest tribute to this country in the sense that, notwithstanding the problems which we were facing in July and August, 1990, we were able to pronounce on this important event that was taking place in the Middle East.

So we were not sleeping. We were not suffering from political insomnia. As a matter of fact, this Government has been firmly in control of thorough understanding of this matter and, indeed, foreign relations matters as it has never been before in the history of this country. I want that also to be put into the record, and I challenge those who wish to question it to a debate on that matter.

Let me also say that in more recent times I have been holding discussions, and even up to yesterday, with heads of foreign missions in this country. Yesterday afternoon, the American Ambassador came to see me to apprise me of the discussions which transpired in Iraq. He made it very clear to his allies, or to us as an ally, that this was the position being taken by the American government as to what the possibilities for peace seem at this time.

Despite the fact that he painted a very bleak picture, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago hopes, as indeed the Member for San Fernando East pointed out, that peace will still be the order of the day come January 15. And to that extent, we put a great deal of hope on what the President of France is now doing, that is to say, submitting an initiative under the aegis of the European Economic Community, to try to explore ways and means to resolve the matter. In addition to that, we hope that the initiative being taken now by the Secretary General of the United Nations will indeed fructify. So I suggest then that we have been in the stream of things with respect to this particular matter.

Now, there are very many issues that were raised by the Member from Naparima, and in view of the time constraint, I just want to allude to some of those to demonstrate what we have been doing as a government. Apart from the international initiatives that have been taken and the supports that have been given to those initiatives by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, we have also taken regional initiative by way of discussion of the issues at the foreign ministerial level, as well as with our allies in Latin America, more particularly Venezuela.

*Gulf Crisis*  
[HON. S. BASDEO]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

Indeed, it was only this week that under the chairmanship of the Hon. Prime Minister, the Foreign Affairs Committee of Cabinet met to look at what contingency measures ought to be taken should the need arise. And I want to report to this honourable House that on the basis of the discussions that took place at that meeting, two particular issues of importance were raised as they relate to matters of national importance.

The first, a committee was structured to look at the whole security aspect of Trinidad and Tobago, the national interest, and by extension, the regional interest through the co-operation of Caricom and our neighbours in the circum-Caribbean area.

In addition to that, under my chairmanship, a contingency planning committee with respect to possible development resulting from the war was structured. That committee met this morning.

The reason the Hon. Prime Minister is not here in this House today, Sir, has to do with his involvement at the present time with security matters, with matters of an economic and social nature, as they relate to the possible outbreak of war.

This morning, the Hon. Prime Minister held discussions with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, which meeting I was told, was very constructive, very realistic, and all the support we needed from the Opposition has been promised to the Government in the event of war. I compliment the Leader of the Opposition in this regard.

In addition to that, the Prime Minister spoke to the honourable President of Venezuela, and on the basis of that discussion we would be working this weekend in the Ministry of External Affairs and other ministries of government, because a technical team is due to arrive in this country at 8.00 o'clock tomorrow morning. We are due to commence negotiations and discussions for co-operation in a wide array of areas, including economic co-operation, including the whole question of support for the defence of our petroleum installation, the whole question of developing, in the event of food shortage, a food security programme which has been raised by the Member for Naparima, and matters of this kind. This House will be apprised, as indeed the country will be apprised, of all these negotiations which will begin tomorrow, continue on Sunday, and hopefully next week.

But perhaps more importantly, at 3.00 o'clock today, the Hon. Prime Minister was due to speak with Prime Minister Manley of Jamaica on the same matter with

the hope that in the coming week, a meeting will be held between Prime Minister Robinson, Prime Minister Manley, and President Perez in Trinidad and Tobago.

We are prepared to host this meeting and we hope that the meeting will take place towards the latter part of this week where a number of these matters will be discussed, where a co-ordinating network and mechanism will be put in place in order that we can, together as a united region, deal with some of these more important issues which have really been beyond the depths of understanding for the Member for San Fernando East.

I have to report to this House also that this morning we had a three-and-a-half hour marathon meeting at the Ministry of External Affairs and International Trade, a meeting of the Contingency Planning Committee on developments in the Middle East, at which a number of members of the committee, including the permanent secretaries from some seven ministries, a representative from NEMA, a representative also from the International Trade Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, as well as a representative from Meteorological Services Division, and other agencies met, and we have in fact begun the preparation of a plan of action which will be submitted through the Prime Minister to the Cabinet within the week so that we will have much more concrete proposals on which to act, on which to build, and on which to base a plan of action to help the region and our neighbours as well.

So that you see we are not really relying upon assistance from any other source; charity begins at home. We feel it is important to muster whatever resources we have, develop a strategy and a plan which can be implemented in the event of war.

This Government has been guided in all of these negotiations, deliberations and consultations by the principle that we should not do anything that would lead the population to panic unnecessarily. At this stage the Government has everything under control and I think it is to the credit of the Hon. Prime Minister, his wisdom, his statesmanship and his initiative that a number of these things have fallen into place.

As a matter of fact, I think one of the things we are blessed with in this country is the capacity of our Prime Minister to understand international relations. One thing which emerged very clearly in this debate is that my friend, the Member for Naparima, does understand the methodology involved in international relations, and as a result, he can put things together, as I said, if he is in my footsteps. I am

*Gulf Crisis*  
[HON. S. BASDEO]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

not too sure that can be said of the People's National Movement through their Leader, the Member for San Fernando East. I am very, very disappointed.

Mr. Speaker, there were a number of other issues which were raised. I want to allude to perhaps a point which was made by the Member, I think, for Naparima, that is to say whether the United States has the right of entry into Chaguaramas. Again, it is certainly the contribution of a man who understands some of the important contemporary imperatives of the day. I must say that to his credit.

But to answer him, and in so doing to tell the country, which I do not think they know, it is under the NAR administration that the residual rights which the United States of America had with respect to entry into Chaguaramas has been curtailed on the basis of understanding and on the basis of negotiations.

A few months ago after I had discussed the matter with the American Ambassador, the State Department replied that from now on they are clear that they have no other entry rights into Chaguaramas. It belongs to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. These are things which the people do not know because we do not tell them these things. What the people are told are some of the negative things in the society which, because of the whole subliminal impact of psychological behaviour, is embedded into their psyche because of irresponsible politicians, and sometimes irresponsible media coverage.

I do not want to get into these matters because I think we are dealing here with a very, very serious issue. It is a matter which we have considered over the last few weeks and are still considering at the present time.

Now, there are other questions which were raised with respect to the motion before the House, and one of them was: What is the position with our citizens abroad? To answer that question, Mr. Speaker, I want to state again, through you, to the nation that we have been monitoring the developments in the Middle East very closely with respect to the safety and security of our citizens. As you know, Trinidad and Tobago is a small country without the economic and financial wherewithal to install missions all over the world, and for that reason it is important for us to link our interests with that of our Commonwealth partners in some cases, to ask them to assist where circumstances necessitate. And to that extent, in a number of countries where we do not have missions, the British government has agreed to undertake consular responsibilities. This is true with respect to Saudi Arabia. To date, in fact, only this afternoon just before I was summoned into the Parliament, I had discussions with the Deputy High

Commissioner for the British government here, Mr. Smallman, and he submitted to me a list of 26 names of Trinidadians who are now in Saudi Arabia, among others.

As a Government, the Cabinet only yesterday agreed that where these citizens of ours cannot furnish themselves with gas masks where they are needed, we will stand the financial consequences. We will do all in our power to ensure that they are looked after. If they are prepared to be air-lifted, we will, in fact, ensure that this takes place with the co-operation and support of our allies in the Middle East.

In addition to that, I have requested a further breakdown of the occupations of these people from Mr. Smallman. And more importantly, I have asked them to see whether we do have citizens from our country in the Arab Emirates as well as Abu Dhabi, because it has been stated to me this morning that we have been receiving phone calls from some of our citizens with respect to them being in this part of the world.

So again, we have been on the ball, Mr. Speaker. We have been trying to do all that is necessary in the circumstances. We have been trying to do all in our command to ensure that despite the contemporary exigencies, the citizens of our country, whether they are here or whether they are abroad, will be able to receive assistance as much as we can provide, given our present economic conditions. So that really relates to the question of our citizens.

I do not have to talk about the role and posture that we have taken. I think that has been dealt with. I think my friend, the Member for Naparima, will certainly concede that we are not passive observers, on the basis of my very brief contribution.

Let me state as well, very quickly, that I held discussion this afternoon as well with representatives of the Caricom Secretariat. They are here to discuss another matter of Caribbean import, and I used the opportunity to talk about the co-ordination of our efforts with respect to the need to ensure food security, should that matter arise after January 15 or thereafter.

We are looking at the issue of transportation. As you know, the Caribbean is not one of those areas so blessed with regular transportation facilities from the South, meaning here from Latin America and Central America. And it is very clear to us that in the event of war, a lot of goods and services which come to us from Canada and North America will be diverted to Western Europe. In that context, it will be important for us to look at our southern neighbours here to see what can be done if warranted. So in that context, we have to look at the whole question of the

*Gulf Crisis*

[HON. S. BASDEO]

*Friday, January 11, 1991*

development of a mechanism to address the transportation problem of goods and services.

One other matter before I close. This weekend all of our missions in North America and in Europe have been alerted and they are to stay on alert. They are to report to me as circumstances warrant, and we will be keeping in touch with them for information which will be required to inform the policy decisions which will be taken with our neighbour, Venezuela and our other members who are coming here for discussions.

Finally, Sir, I owe a great deal to the staff of my Ministry and a great deal to the staff of all the Ministries involved in this effort: the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Environment, and others as well. They have been doing a fantastic job. I thank them publicly and I ask them for their continuing co-operation as Trinidad and Tobago braces itself for the eventuality of war.

Thank you very much.

*Motion made and question proposed, That the House do now adjourn to Friday, January 18, 1991 at 1.30 p.m. [Hon. J. Toney]*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*House adjourned accordingly.*

*Adjourned at 4.15 p.m.*