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Ambassador Shlaudeman visits



PRIME MINISTER PRICE AND AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAM

The US Special Envoy for Central America, Mr Harry Shlaudeman made a brief visit to Belize on Tuesday, July 17.

Mr Shlaudeman came to Belize at the request of US President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State, Mr George Schultz. He conferred with Prime Minister George Price and Foreign Mi-

nister Mr Vernon Courtenay.

Topics discussed included the recommendation for Belize made by the Kissinger Commission on which Ambassador Shlaudeman served as executive director, and the current status of the Contadora process.

Prime Minister meets with U.S. investors



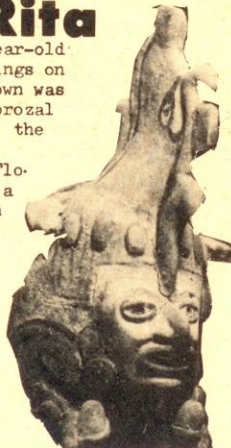
Visiting US businessmen pose for photographers in front of the Public Buildings in Belize City along with Prime Minister George Price (front row centre). The group of 8 investors from different parts of the United States met Wednesday with the Prime Minister in his Belize City Office. Present for the 45-minute discussion were the US Ambassador to Belize, Mr Malcolm Barney, and the US AID Director, (CONT'D ON PAGE A)

Major Postclassic Maya Cache found in Santa Rita

The discovery of a 500-year-old cache of Maya ritual offerings on the outskirts of Corozal Town was announced July 12 by the Corozal Postclassic Project and the Department of Archeology.

A University of Central Florida expedition, funded by a National Science Foundation grant, recovered the deposit of three ceramic pieces (photo) and smaller objects sealed in the core of a Postclassic period (A.D. 1350 - 1550) building in the eastern extent of the site of Santa Rita, located in Corozal Town.

Scores of Belizeans lined the sides of the trench, witnessing the



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CHIEF JUSTICE: Magistrates are too lenient in drugs cases

BELIZE CITY - 17 JULY 1984: Chief Justice, Mr George Moe, Q.C., said in the Supreme Court today that the Magistrates are not treating the offences against the Drugs Ordinance as seriously as they should and that the sentences imposed by them do not sufficiently reflect the concern of the community and the intention of the legislature. "It is true that one cannot say in advance what the sentence is to be in any particular case but I must stress that the Courts, both Superior and Inferior, have a duty to reflect this concern" said the Chief Justice.

These comments were made by the Chief Justice in a judgement on a Prosecution appeal against the sentence recently passed by the Corozal Magistrate. Alberto Bartley, 32 years, of Orange Walk had been charged along with an American, Dennis Wilson, with the possession of 940 lbs. of Marijuana. The offence took place on 1 May 1984 when Bartley had driven a van full of 32 sacks of Marijuana to the Sarteneja airstrip ready for exportation. A plane landed shortly after Bartley's van arrived. A joint Police-BDF party who were laying in wait as a result of information received, sprang into action and arrested both Bartley and Wilson, while some other persons managed to escape.

The case was heard by the Chief Magistrate, Mr George Singh, sitting at Corozal on 7 May 1984. Bartley pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$15,000 (Bze. ccy). The Prosecution appealed to the Supreme Court on the ground that the sentence was unduly lenient. (CONTINUED ON PAGE B)

Postclassic Maya Cache...

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detailed excavation as it progressed.

The June 28 cache discovery culminated several seasons of research at the site of Santa Rita, Corozal by Drs. Diane and Arlen Chase, a husband and wife archaeological team from the University of Central Florida. Although they have found other Postclassic caches at this former Maya capital city, none approximates the preservation or ideological significance of the present find.

Dr Arlen F. Chase, Project Field Director, discovered the cache on a routine inspection of the excavations into Structure 37, a small and low building whose remains measure less than 18 feet by 12 feet and is raised no more than 3 feet above the ground. Within the core of this construction, he found a lidded pot placed within a pit and sealed beneath a later floor.

"When the lid was removed and inverted, but elaborately painted, pottery vessel was revealed wedged inside" Chase said.

The actual form of the central figure became clear only after being transferred to the laboratory following its in-field recording. In front of a breathless field crew, the inner figure was carefully lifted from its container.

"The central pottery vessel represents the most elaborate and best

preserved Late Postclassic period (A.D. 1350 - 1550) cache figure known," said Project Director, Dr Diane Chase. "This inner pottery piece is modeled, stuccoed, and exquisitely painted. It portrays a diving Postclassic deity with Maya earth monster attributes."

Inside this unique effigy was an offering of jade and shell beads, pieces of turquoise and native copper, and a small piece of sheet gold. The lidded vessel served to create an air-tight seal for the effigy, thus preserving the elaborate but delicate colors. Given the alternately wet and dry soil of the tropics, such preservation is most unusual for any Maya pottery which has been painted only after firing.

Known since the turn of the century, Santa Rita was first documented as an important Postclassic city by British physician Thomas Gann, an archaeologist by avocation. Although the Chases' excavations focus primarily on this Postclassic period, earlier remains from Santa Rita are just as spectacular and include a Middle Classic (ca. A.D. 500) burial containing nine polychrome vessels and one stone tripod container, carved bones and jade and shell beads.

The Chases have been concentrating on defining the Postclassic

settlement and ritual patterns that exist there. Spanish historical records indicate that the site should have had a population of several thousand; archeological evidence indicates that more than 200 buildings remain along a natural bluff above Corozal Town. Santa Rita, capital of the Postclassic province of Chetumal, was well situated in relation to marine resources and riverine trade routes. The site also controlled honey and cacao

(chocolate) trade, as well as serving as a religious center.

Dr Diane Chase is firmly convinced that these particular kinds of deposits are associated with Maya New Year's ceremonies carried out in Postclassic regional capitals.

"The value of this contextual deposit to furthering an understanding of Postclassic finds from Santa Rita, to allow a redefinition of our current conceptions of Postclassic Maya civilization."

GOVERNOR GENERAL RETURNS FROM CANADA, U.K. VISITS

The Governor General of Belize Dame Minita Gordon has returned home after visiting Canada and the United Kingdom.

During her visit to Canada, Dame Minita was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Victoria University in British Columbia in recognition of her devotion to the service of others, and for her contribution to the advancement of man. While in Canada, the Governor General was also guest of honour at a luncheon hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria.

She also visited a number of educational

institutions, including the Royal Roads Military College and the Pearson's United World College.

On her visit to London, the Governor General was received at Buckingham Palace by Queen Elizabeth II who presented her with the dignity of an ordinary First Class Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

Dame Minita is the first woman of the Commonwealth to hold the office of Governor General and the first Belizean woman to receive the GCMG.

DOMINICA COOPERATIVE OFFICERS VISITING

Three Cooperative Officers from the island of Dominica in the Eastern Caribbean, are presently in Belize on an observation tour of fishing cooperatives and beekeeping cooperatives.

They are Mr Ortnel Clarke, Mr Robert Anselm and Mr Joseph Carbon. They arrived in Belize on July 11. Their

visit is slated to last one month.

Mr Clarke specializes in beekeeping cooperatives and Mr Anselm and Mr Carbon are interested in fishing cooperatives.

The three Dominican officials have already met with executives of some of Belize's fishing and beekeeping cooperatives.

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