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UFO Spotted Above Paramaribo -- An unidentified flying object (*UFO*) was seen yesterday above great parts of the capital city Paramaribo. The strange object was first seen around 10 am flying across the sky above the Flora neighborhood, where also the Suriname air force base is located. Various witnesses say that they saw something flying from one point of the sky to another with a very high speed. Back and forth, back and forth. Later on, the same object was spotted above the sky of Cupido-project, a neighborhood in west Paramaribo. There also it showed the same behavior, moving with an enormous speed from one end of the sky to a point near the sun. An hour later it disappeared. (De Ware Tidj, 18 October)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

UNC Caucus Moves Against Three Dissidents -- The parliamentary caucus of the United National Congress [UNC] has passed a
resolution calling for the conduct of three former UNC ministers to be referred to the party national executive and the yet to be set up disciplinary committee "for appropriate action to be taken against these three members". This resolution was passed unanimously at the caucus yesterday. Former Ministers Ramesh Maharaj, Ralph Maraj and Trevor Sudama were summoned to appear before the caucus to say why they should not be disciplined for entering into a strategic alliance with the opposition PNM [People's National Movement] while they were members of the ruling UNC and also for voting to defeat three Government Bills in Parliament recently. They did not attend the meeting. [passage omitted] (Trinidad Express, 18 October)

New Party Registered, Just in Case -- A new political party has been registered, according to Prime Minister Basdeo Panday. He made the disclosure before a large crowd of UNC supporters at a meeting at Bamboo Settlement #3 on Tuesday night. Panday told supporters they should be worried about a major split in the party, with one faction being loyal to him, and the other supporting deputy political leader Ramesh Maharaj. He did not give details of the new party registration but said it was Plan B—a measure to ensure his party is not prevented from contesting the December 10 polls because of possible legal action by Maharaj. [passage omitted] Sources have indicated that the general secretary of the party, Fazal Karim, registered the party recently. [passage omitted] (Trinidad Express, 18 October)

Former Banker New Petrotrin Chairman -- Former banker turned tourist destination manager William Francis has been appointed chairman of Petrotrin. Francis, 52, was selected as chairman by the Petrotrin board of directors, and not Cabinet, on September 17. He replaced Roderick Parriag, 57, who submitted his letter of resignation from Petrotrin in early September. A retired chemical engineer, Parriag replaced sacked chairman Donald Baldeosingh last November. A week after Parriag resigned, Prime Minister Basdeo Panday said a new Petrotrin Board was approved but a chairman had not yet been chosen. Francis made his public debut as Petrotrin's top man at a media conference held at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port of Spain yesterday. [passage omitted] (Trinidad Express, 18 October)

[Description of Sources: Bridgetown Daily Nation (Internet Version—WWW) in English -- Independent newspaper; Paramaribo De Ware Tijd (Internet Version—WWW) Selected English translations of Dutch vernacular -- Liberal independent newspaper; Georgetown Guyana Chronicle (Internet Version—WWW) in English -- Government owned newspaper; Kingston Jamaica Observer (Internet Version—WWW) in English -- Independent newspaper; Port-of-Spain Trinidad Express (Internet Version—WWW) in English -- Independent newspaper]

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