

LIVING IN PUERTO RICO

After you're established in your new assignment, one of the first things you'll want to do is get acquainted with your new-found home, its people, its history, its traditions.

You'll find that Puerto Rico is a progressive country, with completely modern facilities. A few short years ago, agriculture was the principal source of income, but since 1940 industrialization has completely changed the standard of living. Puerto Ricans are friendly, vivacious, and bilingual. The chaperone system is still a common practice. Children believe in Santa Claus, as well as the Three Kings. Food in Puerto Rico is good.

But don't expect the people to adjust to you — rather, adjust to them. Learn the customs. For example, it's considered bad taste to appear on the streets in shorts. Learn as many idioms and local phrases as you can: you'll make friends fast.

As you savor the relaxation and fun of this fantastic tropical paradise, you'll become at home abroad.

And you are at home, a mere 1,600 miles from New York. You need no passport or inoculations, and there is no need to go through customs when you return home. The U.S. dollar is

currency. The same measures as in the U.S. are used, except that kilometers are posted on the highways, rather than miles. U.S. postage is used, since this is a Commonwealth under the American flag. Puerto Rico is in the Atlantic Standard time zone, which is one hour ahead of Eastern Standard. Since the electrical current is 110 single phase for domestic use, U.S. manufactured electric irons and shavers can be used. Tap water is safe to drink. You'll find chapters of the Masons and the Elks, Chambers of Commerce, and other national organizations. Medical facilities are excellent. In Puerto Rico you are *en su casa* — right at home.



A SHORT HISTORY

DISCOVERY

Christopher Columbus discovered Puerto Rico during his second voyage to the New World. Sailing up the Lesser Antilles en route to Santo Domingo in Hispaniola, island-claiming, so to speak, for the glory of Castille, Columbus heard from friendly Indians about a lovely island called **Borinquen**. On November 19, 1493, he came upon it and named it **San Juan Bautista**, (St. John the Baptist). Puerto Rican legend has it that he touched first on the west coast (precisely where is still disputed). It is said that he sent men ashore who reported that they found an Indian village with crude dwellings laid out around a **plaza**.

It was not until 1508, however, that Juan Ponce de Leon, who had accompanied Columbus on that second voyage, obtained permission to explore **Borinquen**. Leaving Santo Domingo in what today is the Dominican Republic, Ponce's expedition reached the same harbor where Columbus had stopped to get water for his ships 15 years earlier. The Indians were friendly and led Ponce to a more protected harbor on the north shore which he promptly named **Puerto Rico**, or rich port. (Interestingly, over the years the entire island became known as Puerto Rico, and the harbor and city built there, **San Juan**. The name switch has stuck to the

present day.)

On this trip Ponce merely explored **Borinquen**, but a little later he obtained permission to settle it and returned with a tiny contingent of 50 men, sailing directly to the fine harbor.

He chose as his location for the first settlement a spot about a league to the south of the bay, and there he founded **Caparra**, building his own house, which also served as a fort, and bohios, or palm-frond huts, for the rest of the settlers.

Ponce and his men began to learn about the Arawak Indians who inhabited Puerto Rico. The Arawaks were agrarians living in small villages, each one ruled by a chieftain called a **cacique (kah-see-kay)**. They cultivated food crops, tobacco and cotton, fished, hunted birds, and built canoes. Some of these were large enough to carry 60 men. Despite their generally peaceful lives, they were skillful with the bow and arrow and with wood swords called **Iacanas**.

Despite friendly beginnings, trouble soon developed between the Spaniards and the Indians. Obeying official orders, Ponce distributed lands to his settlers, assigning to each one a cacique and Indians to labor in the fields and for gold-mining. Arawak life and customs were completely disrupted and the once free aborigines became virtual slaves. Believing at first that the Spaniards were gods and consequently immortal, the Indians did not dare to revolt until one crafty cacique arranged to have a young Spaniard dropped in a river and his head held under until he died. The news that Spaniards died just like other men unleashed the controlled hatred of the Indians into open hostility. After a series of rebellions, the Indians were conquered and virtually wiped out.

The settlers at Caparra were discontented with the site that Ponce had chosen, claiming that it was swampy, unhealthy and inconveniently distant from shipping coming to the bay. So, over Ponce's opposition the authorities in Spain allowed them to move to the westernmost tip of the long narrow island (Isleta de San Juan) that forms

U.S. troops in Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War, 1898.





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the north side of the harbor. The move was made in 1521, almost 100 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in North America.

Ponce came from the Province of Leon in Spain. In the early days of the colonization, persons allowed to settle on the island came mainly from the aristocracy, natural defenders of the interests of the Monarchy. Descendents of persons burned or condemned by the Inquisition were not allowed. Nevertheless, Ponce and his settlers were rugged people. If they hadn't been tough, they could hardly have survived.

In those early years, the colonists were under frequent attack by fierce Carib Indians from neighboring islands. So in 1533 the construction of La Fortaleza (the fortress) was started at a point overlooking the harbor. At first the building consisted of only one tower and four walls around a patio, but it was gradually enlarged.

Because of the excellence of San Juan harbor and the strategic location of Puerto Rico near the Caribbean gateway to Spain's American empire, Puerto Rico quickly acquired special importance. Each year two convoys left Spain to fetch back wealth from the New World, entering the Caribbean near Puerto Rico, where they ran the risk of attack by corsairs eager for Spanish treasures. To keep these pirates from seizing the young city and using it as a base from which to attack Spanish ships, Spain decided to strengthen the defense of San Juan. In 1539, construction was started on El Morro fortress on the high northwestern tip of the city to command the entrance to the harbor. Though it was not completed until about 1776, when it became virtually the fort we see today, it was strong enough by 1595 to repulse an attack by Sir Francis Drake who came seeking 35 tons of precious metal that Queen Elizabeth had learned were stored in La Fortaleza. He was counting on surprise as an ally,

but the gunners of El Morro were ready for him and he withdrew under hot cannon fire.

The defenders of San Juan were to learn, however, that the thickness of El Morro's walls and the range of its guns did not guarantee the defeat of every adversary.

On June 6, 1598, George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, arrived off the coast of Puerto Rico at the head of a fleet of 18 ships, determined to "possess the key of all the Indies" for Queen Elizabeth. Employing an unexpected strategy, he avoided the harbor of San Juan and landed his troops on a deserted beach on the mainland east of San Juan. After one of his warships had silenced the Spanish batteries stationed nearby, he marched westward to the city. El Morro's defenders had been weakened by an epidemic of dysentery and Cumberland's siege guns breached the land wall of El Morro, which surrendered. However, Cumberland held the "Key of the West Indies" only 157 days. His own forces were so ravaged by dysentery that he gave up his dream of conquest and sailed back to England.

In 1625 a Dutch fleet of 17 ships, commanded by General Bowdoin Hendrick, sailed safely into the bay under the guns of El Morro and anchored off the Puntilla. Troops occupied the city and captured the tiny fort of Canuelo which had been built on a small island opposite El Morro at the harbor entrance. But Hendrick was unable to starve the defenders of the fort into surrender as they were being supplied with food brought across the bay in small boats under cover of night. Hendrick sent Governor de Haro an ultimatum, demanding the surrender of the fort or he would set fire to the city. The governor replied, "If you burn the city, the citizens have the courage to build other houses as there is wood in the forest as well as material in the land."

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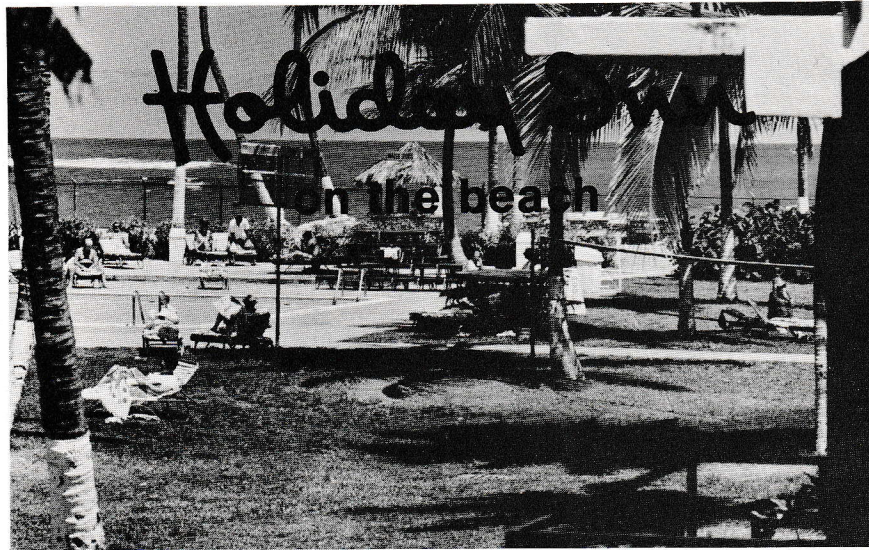
The Spaniards managed to recapture El Canuelo and burn it and an attack was launched on the Dutch ships. After setting fire to some hundred buildings, including La Fortaleza, Hendrick ordered his troops to reembark and sailed away.

After the burning of San Juan, the construction of the great city wall was

started, continuing for some 150 years until the city was entirely enclosed with entrance and exit allowed through great gates.

In the 17th Century Spain's power in the Caribbean was threatened by England, France and Holland, all eager for colonies and San Juan's defenses were strengthened. A simple defense

work, or redoubt, was built on a promontory half a mile east of El Morro and called San Cristobal. After the British captured Martinique, St. Lucia, Grenada and Havana in Cuba, the largest of the Greater Antilles, in the 1760s, Spain listed Puerto Rico as a defense station of the first order. Sometime in 1765, Field Marshall Alejandro O'Reilly brought Engineer Tomas O'Daly to Puerto Rico to reinforce the defenses. He made various changes in El Morro and enlarged the redoubt of San Cristobal into a modern and ample fortification, covering 27 acres and with a formidable system of outworks across the eastern tip of Isleta de San Juan to the bay itself. It was built not only to defend the eastern approach to the harbor by sea, but also the overland causeways linking the islet of San Juan with the mainland of Puerto Rico.



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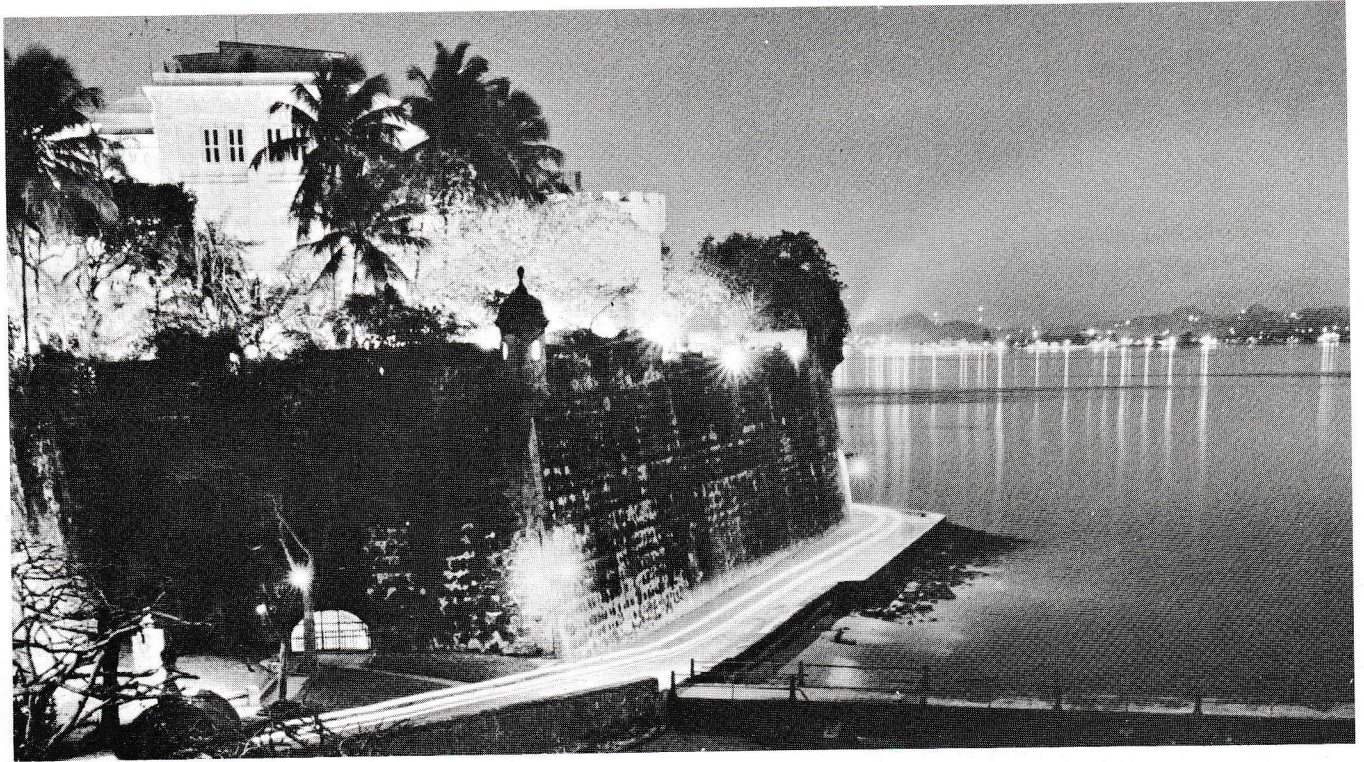
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"EXCLUSIVISM"

The commercial system that Spain sought to impose on Puerto Rico and its other New World colonies was monopolistic and mercantilistic in the extreme. The island produced only raw materials, mainly agricultural products. Gold mining, the first important economic activity, began to play out about 1540. The island could trade only with Spain and move its commerce only in Spanish ships. The Casa de Contratacion in Seville, the imperial agency regulating trade, designated San Juan as the only legal port of Puerto Rico and also designated which Spanish ports could trade with the colonies. Coastwise shipping between San Juan and outlying settlements was prohibited.

The result was disastrous. According to D. Salvador Brau, author of one of the basic histories of Puerto Rico, Governor Juan Perez de Guzman complained in 1662 that 11 years had passed without the arrival of a single merchant vessel in San Juan.

If few Spanish merchantmen called at San Juan, many flying other flags called elsewhere on Puerto Rico's



Night lights brighten La Fortaleza (The Fortress), oldest executive mansion in continuous use in the Western Hemisphere. The 17th century palace, located in Old San Juan, is the residence of Puerto Rico's governors. Surrounding La Fortaleza is an ancient wall which 400 years ago guarded San Juan from sea attack.

coast. Since Portuguese, French, English, Dutch or Danish traders were repeatedly refused when they sought to establish legal arrangements with San Juan, they simply turned to smuggling with outlying settlements.

The French from Tortuga, the Dutch from Curacao, the Danes from the Virgin Islands and the English from Jamaica ran sloops over the Caribbean to the beaches on the west, south and east coasts to load cattle, hogs, mules, ginger, tobacco, coffee (after 1750), dye-woods, fresh fruit and vegetables in exchange for slaves, linen or other cloth implements.

Thus, although some versions of Puerto Rico's history leave the impression that the island passed the centuries in a sort of sleepy insularity, in reality there developed two distinct societies, that of San Juan, the military base and center of officialdom, and that of the rural interior and unfortified seaboard, though it should be mentioned that San German in the southwest part of the island quickly became a town with a growing culture in the early days of settlement.

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In Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, one can almost hear the footsteps of the old watchmen of the days of the Conquistadores. The old cobblestones came over in Spanish galleons, centuries ago.

But San Juan's isolation was not complete. If the government at home persisted in its rigid commercial policy, local authorities, unable to prevent illicit commerce, could at least turn it to their own advantage, and some of the highest officials became involved.

In the Caribbean at the end of the 17th Century, smuggling was going hand-in-hand with privateering. As every schoolboy knows, privateering, often a polite name for piracy, had its Golden Age in the Caribbean.

Spain first issued **patentes de corso** or letters-of-marque in 1674, rather late

in the game, with the intention that they would be used only to protect legitimate Spanish interests. The privateers of Puerto Rico became a menace on the seas, particularly to the English.

By the middle of the 18th Century, in fact, smuggling and privateering were bringing to Puerto Rico for the first time some of the riches the island's name implies. Privateering, however, was not serving the purpose for which it was originally authorized, that is, the preservation and encouragement of Spanish colonial trade with Spain. In 1765, therefore, the Spanish Crown sent Field

Marshal Alejandro O'Reilly to make a thorough survey of conditions in the island.

END OF AN ERA

O'Reilly investigated social, economic and military affairs with a keen eye. He traced with great precision the patterns of smuggling and overhauled the entire military establishment which was given over to laxity and graft. O'Reilly reports brought about several reforms, initially none of a fundamental nature. But in the early 1800s several basic changes were instituted. Most important was the establishment of a flourishing legal trade with the United States, replacing the widespread contraband trade, the opening of San Juan to free trade with foreign ports and opening the island to immigration and settlement.

Meanwhile, San Cristobal had been completed and improvements made to El Morro. In 1796, after Spain declared war on England, the English sent an expeditionary force to the Caribbean with the idea of taking Trinidad and Puerto Rico. Though successful in Trinidad, the overland attack on San Juan by Sir Ralph Abercromby, who attempted to repeat the tactics of Cumberland, was repulsed by the Spaniards.

This was the last serious attempt by a European power to take the island by force and Puerto Rico entered a period of relative peace marked by economic and culture development. In the Caribbean and on the mainland of the New World, there would still be violent upheavals, war, privateering and piracy, but in Puerto Rico the 19th Century gave people their first opportunity to attend to economic, political, social and cultural betterment.

The beneficial effects of the end of exclusivism were immediately apparent in increased trade. The economy assumed a dynamic aspect, although it was still agricultural.

Planting of coffee especially flourished and as its quality was exceptional — grown in the cool mountains under tall shade trees — it soon became the choice of Europe and premium prices were paid for it.

The economy expanded without widespread slavery. Although Negroes were first brought to Puerto Rico as slaves in 1509 and were in constant

demand as laborers, slavery as an institution had clearly not made a favorable impression on the Puerto Rican temperament. And in 1873, slavery in Puerto Rico was officially abolished, without bloodshed.

If the economy expanded, the population expanded, too. The inhabitants remained basically Spanish in blood and culture, but during the centuries, in addition to the original Indian, Spanish and African strains, there were added Portuguese, French, English, Dutch, Irish, Italian, Corsican, Central European and Anglo-American.

Although formal education remained almost exclusively the province of the wealthy, cultural life blossomed. Jose Campeche (1752-1809), a completely self-taught painter, left works considered by some critics to be the best produced by any Puerto Rican artist of colonial times. Ranking close to him was Francisco Oller (1833-1917), who studied in Paris.

Juan Morell Campos (1857-96), whose charming *danzas* are still enjoyed by music lovers even beyond Puerto Rico's shores, emerged as a leading composer. A literature developed. Alejandro Tapia y Rivera (1826-82), became a romantic playwright. San Juan's charming Tapia Theater, built about 1832, is named for him.

Meanwhile, in the area of political growth, some people tried to develop a Puerto Rican war for independence

and a brief uprising did take place in the small mountain town of Lares in 1868. But, basically, Puerto Rico followed peaceful ways to achieve political reforms.

In the last decade of the 19th Century, the greatest political leader was Luis Munoz Rivera (1859-1916), who was responsible for obtaining from Spain the Charter of Autonomy which made the island a dominion. It gave executive power to a governor-general appointed by the Crown and legislative authority to a two-chamber parliament, partly elective. It also gave Puerto Rico complete freedom in external trade and a voice regarding commercial treaties made by Spain.

Puerto Rico's hopes for autonomy, however, were crushed by the Spanish-American War and the Treaty of Paris of 1898, which ceded sovereignty over the island to the United States. There followed a long and sometimes painful period of adjustment for the island.

THE COMMONWEALTH

Puerto Rico today is a self-governing Commonwealth of the United States, a community of 2.7 million U.S. citizens associated with the Federal Union by compact and mutual consent. Its Constitution was adopted by the people of Puerto Rico and ratified by the U.S. Congress. The Commonwealth was officially proclaimed on July 25, 1952.

Called the *Estado Libre Asociado*

(free associated state), the Commonwealth relationship of Puerto Rico to the United States is unique in that it is neither a state of the Union nor a territory. Devised by Luis Munoz Marin, son of Munoz Rivera, and the Popular Democratic Party which took power in the 1940s, the Constitution of the Commonwealth is in complete harmony with the Federal Constitution, providing for a republican form of government with executive, legislative and judicial branches. Certain of its human rights provisions are more specific, however, than those of the Federal Constitution. Among these are a specific guaranty of freedom of the press and a provision guaranteeing opposition party representation in the House and Senate even though their candidates fail to win a majority of the votes in a particular contest. The constitution also:

- Prohibits discrimination on account of race, color, sex, birth, social origin or condition, and political or religious ideas:

- Recognizes the right of labor to organize, to bargain collectively, to strike and to picket according to procedures established by law.

Residents of the Commonwealth do not have voting representation in Congress and do not participate in national elections. The Commonwealth does have a Resident Commissioner in the Congress to advise U.S. lawmakers on bills and actions affecting Puerto Rico.

Residents of the island do not pay Federal income taxes, except on income derived from outside Puerto Rico. They do pay Federal excise taxes on merchandise purchased from the continental U.S., and, by mutual consent of Congress and the Legislature, Social Security taxes.

Most Federal agencies have offices in Puerto Rico. The Commonwealth uses the Federal postal and currency systems and send its sons into the U.S. armed forces. The Commonwealth, like the States, looks to the U.S. Supreme Court for the final decision in legal disputes. The Commonwealth Constitution provides that Puerto Rico shall not enact a law violating the Federal Constitution.

The Commonwealth, in other words, is a dynamic experiment in self-government which can accommodate

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itself to changing requirements. At the same time, it does not prevent the people of Puerto Rico from seeking either independence or statehood.

In a special plebiscite held July 23, 1967, the people of Puerto Rico strongly reaffirmed their desire to continue their present Commonwealth form of government permanently associated with the United States. Almost two-thirds (66.3%) of all registered voters participated and the results are shown below.

425,132 (60.4%) voted to continue Commonwealth Status

274,312 (39.0%) voted to request Statehood

4,248 (0.6%) voted to attain Independence

Puerto Rico's general elections fall on the same date as the national Presidential ones and frequently upwards of 80 per cent of the eligible voters participate.

On November 5, 1968, the voters elected Luis A. Ferre, 64, an industrialist and an advocate of eventual statehood for Puerto Rico, as Governor.

It marked the first time in 28 years

that the ruling Popular Democratic Party lost control of the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth House of Representatives, although the **Populares** kept control of the Senate.

The elections and the subsequent transition within the Governmental bureaus and agencies have been free of violence, testifying to the maturity and stability of Puerto Rico's democratic processes.

Governor Ferre, who led the New Progressive Party to power, has said that he will seek statehood gradually. The first goal, according to the Governor, is to boost the economy and raise the standard of living of the people.

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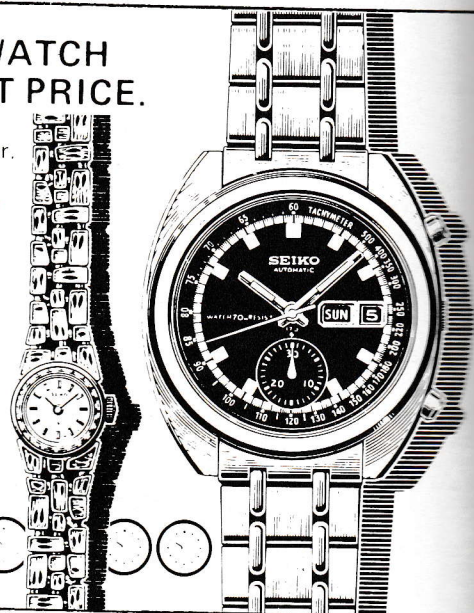
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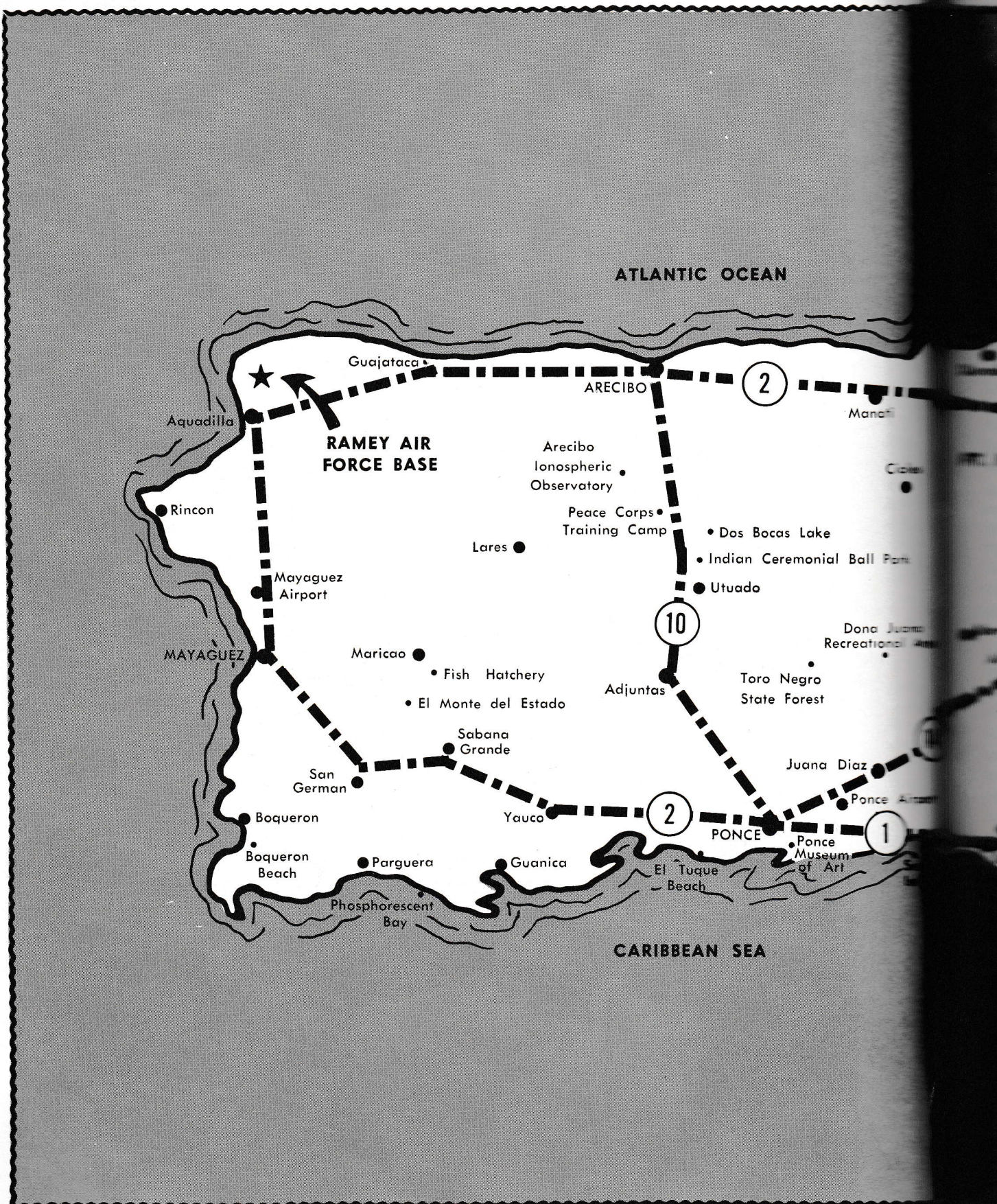
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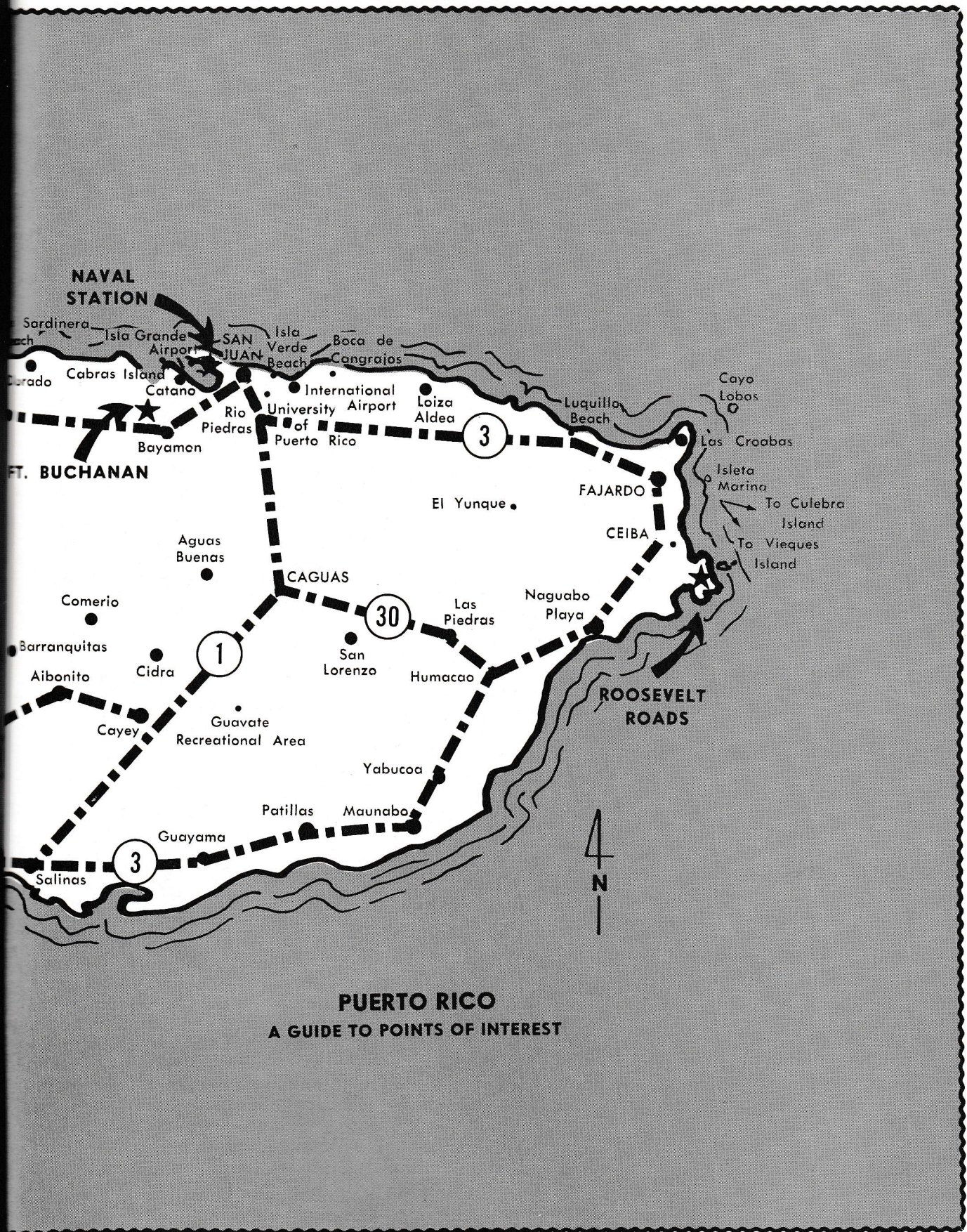
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—COME BACK TO THE VIRGIN ISLES—

A part of the curving Antilles chain separating the Caribbean Sea from the Atlantic Ocean, the Virgin Islands of the United States are located about 40 miles east of Puerto Rico and some 1,400 miles southeast of New York City.

More than 50 islands and cays of volcanic origin are included in this West Indian territory, but only three presently are of any population or commercial significance. The largest of these, St. Croix, has 84 square miles of land, much of it flat and suitable for agricultural use. Forty miles to the north of St. Croix lie the islands of St. Thomas and St. John which rise from the same submarine plateau. St. Thomas, with 28 square miles, and St. John, with 20 square miles, are rugged mountainous islands with peaks reaching a maximum height of 1,500 feet above sea level. Between these two islands and St. Croix, the Caribbean Sea deepens to 15,000 feet.

The steeply sloping mountain sides on St. Thomas and St. John drop abruptly to the sea, leaving very little tillable land. On St. Croix, sugar cane still is the main crop, though of diminishing economic feasibility. However, farming with machine cultivation is making food crops an attractive new enterprise for both local and export markets.

The limited agricultural resources of St. Thomas are compensated in large degree by the harbor. Once an important shipping center, it is now one of the world's most popular ports of call for cruise ships.

The beautiful Virgin Islands National Park is the principal attraction on St. John. Here, the fabulous beaches and rugged mountain scenery give this small, thinly populated island a special charm all its own.

The semi-arid tropical climate of the islands, with a temperature average of

about 80 degrees, varies little between summer and winter. The heat of the tropical sun is tempered by the trade winds, and temperatures range from a low of 69 degrees in winter to a high of 91 degrees in the summer.

The tropical flora includes hibiscus, bougainvillea, flamboyant, oleander, poinsettia, African tulip, frengi panicum, lignum vitae and a host of other beautiful flowering trees and shrubs. Sea grape, mahoe and mangrove line many of the shores, and the royal and coco palms find a naturally good environment. Native fruit trees include mango, soursop, lime, guava, sugar, apple, avocado, papaya, genep and mammee apple.

Stone, sand and gravel provide local building materials, but there are no minerals of commercial significance.

Fish is an important ingredient in the native diet, but there is no large commercial fishing industry. Game fishing

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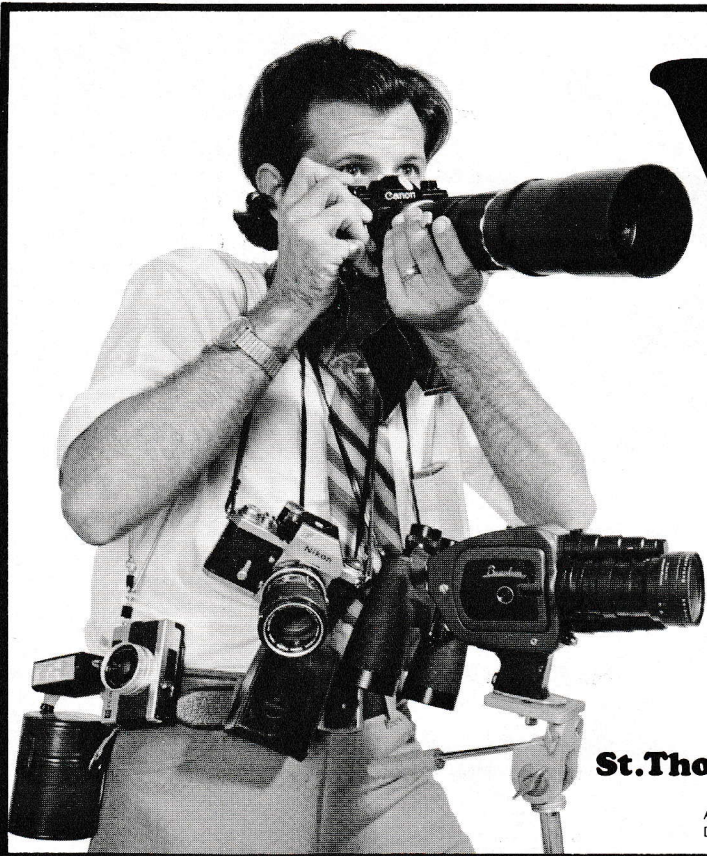
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HENNESSY Bras Arme Cognac	8.95	13.94	CAMPARI Italy's Unique Aperitif	3.50	5.51
HENNESSY V.S.O.P. Reserve	10.95	N/A	SOUTHERN COMFORT The Grand Old Drink of the South	3.95	7.27

All prices are subject to change without notice.

*Price per fifth



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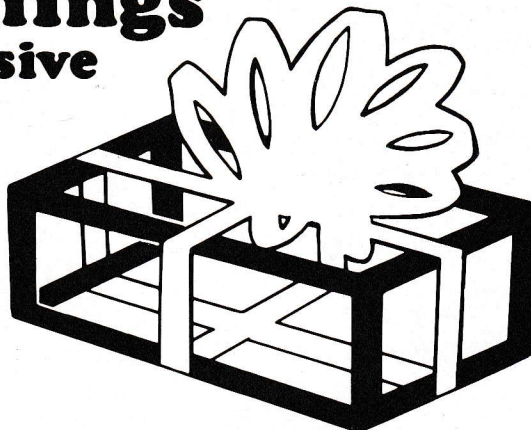
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is a growing and exciting sport, with sailfish, tarpon, marlin, king fish, wahoo, Spanish mackerel and tuna among the catches.

HISTORY

The trade winds which blow down from southwestern Europe and Madeira brought Christopher Columbus to Santa Cruz, now known as St. Croix, on his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere in 1493. There, he sailed into the estuary of Salt River in search of fresh water. Columbus also sighted St. Thomas, St. John and the British Virgin Islands which he named "Las Virgenes" in honor of St. Ursula and the 11,000 virgins.


The warlike Carib Indians occupied the Virgin Islands at the time of Columbus' discovery, and their hostility defeated colonization until about 1555, when they were driven off the islands by forces of King Charles V of Spain.

During the 17th century, France, England, Spain, Holland and Denmark jockeyed for control of various islands in the West Indies. Sugar was the prize. The importance of this product at that time is indicated by the fact that Great Britain seriously considered whether to keep Canada or the French Island of Guadeloupe in the negotiations that ended the Seven Years' War in 1763.

In 1671 Denmark chartered its West Indian Company and began colonizing St. Thomas and St. John. St. Croix was bought from France in 1733 and remained under Danish control, except for a brief English occupation during the Napoleonic Wars, until 1917.

Under Denmark's liberal trading laws and policy of neutrality, the Virgin Islands flourished. Charlotte Amalie became a famous Caribbean port and

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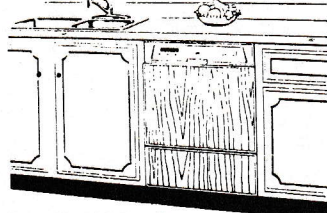
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A Cruise ship drops anchor at Caneel Bay, St. John. In the background are the sloping hills of St. Thomas.



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prospered in a booming trade with the New England States. Sugar cane plantations and windmills for grinding cane dotted all three Danish islands.

As a collateral to the sugar industry, slavery was introduced in the 1680s. Twice the slaves revolted. Once, after a bloody mutiny on St. John, they held that island for six months, until French forces were sent from Martinique to aid the Danes. Tradition says that the slaves ended their bondage by mass suicide, either by jumping from a cliff or shooting themselves on the rugged north shore of the island.

Slavery was abolished in 1848, and the commercial importance of the Virgin Islands diminished, as sugar cane became more and more a marginal crop compared with more competitive conditions in Cuba and elsewhere.

The United States first became interested in acquiring the Danish Virgin Islands during the American Civil War. A purchase agreement was negotiated, but the Senate refused to ratify it in 1870. To forestall German seizure and make available the St. Thomas harbor as a base for the United States Navy during World War I, a treaty for purchase of the Islands for \$25,000,000 was agreed upon in 1916 and ratified the following year. The United States assumed control of the Danish West Indies on March 31, 1917.

GOVERNMENT

The Danish system of government and legal code was continued from 1917 to 1931. Military, civil and judicial power all were vested in the Government appointed by the President. The Islands were under the administration of the United States Navy, and all Governors appointed were Naval officers.

When the United States purchased the Islands, natives who were not citizens or subjects of other countries were given the status of "inhabitants of the Virgin Islands entitled to the protection of the United States." Then on February 25, 1927, full American citizenship was granted them.

An Executive Order of the President transferred jurisdiction over the Virgin Islands from the Navy to the Department of the Interior on February 27, 1931. The first civilian Governor was appointed at that time.

On July 22, 1954, the Congress enacted the Revised Organic Act,

under which the islands were to be governed. The act provided for a legislative and judicial branch.

Executive power was to be exercised under supervision of the Interior Department, appointed by the President and consent of the Governor's resignation of all local laws of all activities, appointments, including the executive appointments in the Islands, and presented to the St. Thomas Legislature.

The Virgin Islands Legislature consists of two members from each of the three islands, elected at large by the Legislature. The Governor is appointed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, but he then must submit a report to the action.

Judicial power in the Islands was to be exercised by the Federal District Court, certain local authority in law. The District Attorney is appointed.

FINANCE

The Government of the Virgin Islands levies taxes and manufactures, and the proceeds are paid to the U.S. Treasury.

About 10% of the income of the islands comes from the Federal Government, which is applied as a subsidy to the islands. The other local income is derived from receipts, taxes, duties, and other local sources. The islands are required to collect and remit to the U.S. Treasury any matching funds remaining.

which the Virgin Islands now are
rned. Distinct executive, legisla-
and judicial branches were desig-
d.

Executive authority is exercised,
r supervision of the Secretary of
terior, by the governor who is
nted by the President with advice
nsent of the Senate. The Govern-
responsibilities include execution
local laws, supervision and control
activities of the executive branch,
ntment of officers and employees,
ding the commissioners of the
utive departments. The seat of gov-
ment is in Charlotte Amalie, St.
mas, and the governor is rep-
ented by administrative assistants in
Croix and St. John.

The Virgin Islands have a one-house
slature, composed of 11 senators,
each from St. Thomas and St.
x, one from St. John, and six
ed at large. Every bill passed by
Legislature must be signed by the
ernor before it becomes law. If the
ernor's veto of a bill is overridden
two-thirds vote of the senators,
en must either approve the bill or
nit it to the President for final
n.

Judicial power is vested in Virgin
nds municipal courts and in a
eral District Court. The latter has
ain local jurisdiction as well as
rity in cases arising under Federal
The District Judge and District
rney are appointed by the Presi-

FINANCES AND TAXES

The Government of the Virgin
nds derives its revenues from local
s and Federal excise taxes on goods
manufactured in the Islands and ship-
to the United States.

About one-third of the total revenues
e from income taxes under an Act
ongress which provided that the
eral income tax schedules be ap-
d as a local income tax in the
nds. Another third comes from
r local taxes such as property, gross
pts, trade and excise taxes, cus-
dues and license fees. Excise taxes
cted in the United States on Virgin
nds products and returned as
ching Funds account for the
ining third.

Combined local revenues and Match-
ing Funds provided an operating and
capital budget of over \$20,000,000 in
fiscal year 1963, as compared with
\$17,400,000 in fiscal 1962.

In addition, the Virgin Islands par-
ticipate in Federally supported pro-
grams such as public housing, urban
renewal and various health and educa-
tional projects on much the same basis
as the States.

VIRGIN ISLANDS CORPORATION

The Virgin Islands Corporation is
wholly owned by the Federal Govern-
ment. It is the instrument through which
a number of functions necessary to the

Islands are managed. VICORP's major
activities are the growing of sugar cane,
operation of a raw sugar mill, generation
and distribution of electric power, land
management and conversion of salt
water to fresh in St. Thomas.

The objective of VICORP manage-
ment is to make the corporation self-
sustaining. Previously, the Federal gov-
ernment underwrote the losses.
However, losses now are made up from
the local Government's Matching
Funds. Since the main contributor to
such losses has consistently been the
sugar cane operations in St. Croix, it
is planned to phase out this activity over
a period of several years in favor of
more economically sound operations.

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In addition to public utilities and sugar products, VICORP has authority over several former military installations in St. Thomas which include the airport, several docks, hotels, factories and housing units, as well as the golf courses.

Next to the Government, VICORP is the largest employer in the Islands. During the peak period in 1963, 1,187 persons were working for the corporation, including 550 British West Indian cane harvesters.

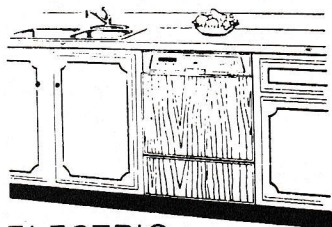
COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

A modern dial telephone system now serves all three islands, and world wide telegraph service is available. Radio and television stations provide popular programs, and there are several newspapers serving the communications needs of the Islands.

Transportation to the Virgin Islands is mainly by airplane, except for cruise ship passengers. In the Islands, cars, buses and taxis are driven on the left hand side as in England.

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