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MADE IN U.K. ASSEMBLY LINE 'PANS' FOR TRINIDAD

STEEL Band Promotions, of Croydon, England, is planning to export to Trinidad steel band instruments which have already been running off the assembly line.

The group, headed jointly by Mr. Joseph Grannum, Labour Attache; and Mr. Allan Charles, Information Attache at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London, is described as a "voluntary body for steel band enthusiasts."

The organisation states its system of producing the musical instruments — which eliminates the use of oil drums and substitutes a purpose-made instrument that only needs to be tuned — was more advanced

than that of Trinidad's — birth place of the steelband.

The idea developed as a result of the growing interest shown by schools in England, in introducing steelband music into their curriculum.

The first school to introduce steelband music was Elmwood Junior by the Croydon Education Authority.

As a token of appreciation, Steel Band Promotions was scheduled Thursday to present Alderman Littlechild, Mayor of Croydon, with the first instrument that has come off the assembly line.

Dr. Patrick Solomon, Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to London, was listed to make the presentation, at

the Croydon School's inter-cultural concert.

Inter-cultural activities as part of the school curriculum in Croydon began with the introduction of steelband music in Elmwood Junior School two years ago.

The idea arose out of discussions between Mr. Charles and Mr. James Cummings, Community Relations Officer for the Borough.

Shortly after his appointment, Mr. Cummings visited the school and noted the keen interest in music and the lively spirit of the students.

He took a steelband record to the school's headmistress, Mrs. Ethel French, who agreed to co-operate in establishing a steelband class in the school.

A statement issued by the group pointed out:

"The demand for steel band instruments throughout the country has grown so rapidly, that Steel Band Promotions were forced to consider methods that were more productive than the traditional ones that had been in use ever since the steel band originated in Trinidad and Tobago in 1946".

The group obtained the co-operation of a Croydon light engineering firm with whom they were able to so design methods of production that steel band instruments will now roll off the assembly line.

The statement added: Croydon has, therefore, not only introduced steel band music into the school, it has also pioneered technique in steel band production that is more advanced than Trinidad and Tobago where it originated and to where the same instruments may soon be exported from Croydon".