

WITCO STICKING WITH DESPERS

12.7.89

WITCO, (West Indian Tobacco Company), is investigating problems which hampered Witco Desperadoes during its recent visit to New York where the band performed at Carnegie Hall.

But Witco has no intention of severing its relationship with the popular band, said David Daniel (acting Witco Managing Director) yesterday.

Members and Pan Trinbago officials who went on

the trip have reported various problems and situations which occurred in New York. Contributions for funding the visit came from Government, AT&T, Coca Cola and New York Daily News.

Yesterday Daniel said that Witco has no intention of quitting as sponsors of

the band and that the New York visit is being investigated:

"It is something which will be resolved. We are making every effort to do so, holding discussions with the parties involved and Despers. The situation is in hand," he added.

Top steelbands in Berger contest get prizes Sunday

WINNING steelbands in the 1989 Berger 'Las Lap' competition will receive over \$12,000 in prize money, to be presented by Minister of Youth, Sport, Culture and Creative Arts, Jennifer Johnson.

There will be a concert featuring winning conventional bands, Phase II Pan Groove, Trintopec Starlift and Trintoc Invaders, as well as best beating pan around the neck bands, Chord Masters, Pashphonic and La Creole Pan Grove. The concert takes place tomorrow on the green across from the Harvard Club and the Roxy Roundabout, from 4 p.m.

Phase II has won for a second time the now-popular Berger Las Lap competition, which has been over the past years, a move to reinstate the steelband as a street band, during Carnival celebrations.

Phase II also won the George Goddard Challenge Trophy last year.

In addition to cash prizes, the best 'Flag Waver' will be presented with a trophy and one hundred dollars. This year's winner is the flag waver for Chord Masters.

In the conventional bands category, the first three winners are Phase II, Trintoc Invaders and Trintopec Starlift.

Chord Masters, Pashphonic and La Creole Pan Grove were victorious in the Pan Around the Neck category.

Plans in place for Despers visit to NY

ALL PLANS are now in place for the visit to New York of the 1988 Steelband Music Festival winner, Witco Desperadoes. This was announced early this week by the Ministry of Industry, Enterprise and Tourism.

The band is scheduled to leave Trinidad on May 20 for the four-day tour, during which time it will give a number of performances, including one at the prestigious Carnegie Hall on May 22.

The Government, through the Ministry of Industry, Enterprise and Tourism, and the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Creative Arts, is providing funds for air transport, allowances and meals.

The Daily News of New York will meet the costs of accommodation and transport for band members during their stay.

Given Government's severe economic situation, the Tourism Ministry has sought the help of the private sector to reduce the Government allocation towards the cost of the tour.

On Friday last week, Tourism Minister Ken Gordon met with Jennifer Johnson, Minister of Culture and Creative Arts, to discuss details of the tour, as well as an invitation to the Colours of Liberty Parade in Paris, in August.

Whit Monday pan treat on Princess Building grounds

IN celebration of the 75th anniversary of the city of Port-of-Spain, a special steelband treat is in store for all pan lovers on Whit Monday, May 15, from 10 a.m.

Pan Trinbago's Northern Region's gift comes in the form of a pulsating Pan on the Move 'jam session' around the Queen's Park Savannah culminating in a 'Steelband Explosion' at the Princess Building grounds. This is in collaboration with the Caribbean Development

Company (Carib).

The bands performing are as follows:

Conventional bands — Amoco Renegades, Blue Diamonds, Laventille Sound Specialists, Carib Tokyo, Neal and Massy All Stars, Trintopec Starlift, TTEC Power Stars, Trintoc Invaders, Phase II Pan Groove, Arima Angel Harps and Solo Harmonites.

Pan around the neck bands taking part are: Pashphonic, Worldwide, Scrunters Pan Groove, Jadapt, Modernaires and Scorpion Pan Reflection.