

Govt to pay Pan Trinbago debts

IN a sudden move yesterday Government agreed to pay outstanding debts incurred by Pan Trinbago last year, including prize money for steelbands. But the prize money for this year's Panorama will not exceed the sum of last year's

The Ministry of Education and Culture will pay out some \$199,000 as debts relating to Panorama 1977. It will expedite the payment of transportation arrears also.

Sanction was given by

Cabinet yesterday morning following proposal submitted by the Joint Management Committee dealing with Panorama 1977 and '78.

HONOUR

A spokesman for the ministry yesterday said: "This morning Cabinet decided that the Ministry of Education and Culture should honour the payment of the outstanding 1977 prize money in full. And the level of prize money for 1978

should not exceed the level of 1977."

The non-payment of the money had led to heated argument between Pan Trinbago executives and bandleaders. It also almost resulted in a boycott of Panorama this year, and to an extent caused Southern bands to stage their own Panorama show this year, organised by the breakaway Southern Steelband Movement (SSM).

A Pan Trinbago source announced that registration date for bands taking part in

this year's Panorama will close on Monday. Already about 15 bands from the South and some 45 from North and East have registered.

Registration takes place at Pan Trinbago office, No. 111 Queen Street, Port of Spain.

The Joint Management Committee has also called a meeting of bandleaders at the Town Hall Port of Spain, for Sunday morning.

At the meeting plans and rules finalised by the Committee for Panorama '78 will be discussed.