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THE PRIDE of Trinidad and Tobago, cultural pan ambassador, Amoco Renegades, whose members proudly display their national flag travel kits during the band's just concluded European tour.

Rendezvous in Japan

BY SEAN NERO

REIGNING National Panorama champion Amoco Renegades embarks on its fourth consecutive tour of Japan on Wednesday.

The Charlotte Street-based steel orchestra, with eight national titles to its credit, has been conducting annual concerts and workshops in "the Land of the Rising Sun" since the summer of 1992.

The band has already acquired the distinction of being a household name for thousands throughout Japan. This time around, Renegades secured a three-week contract.

The touring Renegades contingent consists of 22 members, under the lead-

ership of captain George A Duncan. The group also includes vice-captain Selwyn "Snail" John, Robert Alleyne, Allison Sample, Candice Andrews, Edmund Willis, Sheldon James, Edward Nicholas Jr, Winston Downes, Anthony Crichlow, Caudlyn Lopez, Harold Moses, Leslie-Ann Francis, Anselm Gibbs, Rudolph Grant, Lanel Lopez, Andrew Brumant, Trevor Osborne, Vance Romain and Brian Brumant.

The technical team includes arranger Jit Samaroo and tuner Bertrand Kellman.

Brumant (Brian), a tenor player, is currently in Japan on his second innovative pan apprenticeship programme with Conversation Co Ltd and

Helios "Sukiyaki Meets The World Festival Committee," of Japan.

During his visit last year, Brumant was instrumental in the formation of the Sukiyaki Steel Orchestra, the first ever National Steel Orchestra in Toyama, Japan.

Renegades commences its itinerary in Japan next Saturday, and ends its tour on September 9. During its stay, the band will have seven concert performances and six pan workshops in the Japanese towns of Imadate, Wakasa, Obama-shi, Yaiza-shi, Okayama, Miyazaki and Mizuho.

Renegades recently returned to Trinidad on July 31, from an extensive 10-week tour of Europe.