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Efforts to solve 'pan' problems

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loan was paid off, plus the interest.

The panmen received another loan — one for \$1,600 in 1968 to help the association finance its Steelbands' Music Festival. This loan has not been paid back and is understood to have been written off by Government.

Legally, NATTS has not been dissolved. Under its constitution, dissolution had to come by way of a resolution passed by two-thirds of the membership, but this resolution was never passed. How-

ever, NATTS no longer exists. In its place, the panmen now have Pan Trinbago, which has since been officially registered.

The panmen's governing body was first established in 1949 as the Steelband's Association; it became the National Association of Trinidad and Tobago Steelbandsmen (NATTS) in 1966, and now there is Pan Trinbago.

Past presidents were : Mr. Sydney Gallop of Crusaders — from 1949 to 1955;

Nathaniel Crichlow of City Synchronators — from 1955 to 1957;

George Goddard of Casablanca — from 1957 to 1959;

Albert Jones of City Kids — from 1959 to 1960;

Junior Pouchet of Silver Stars — from 1960 to 1961;

Cecil Hunte of Playboys — from 1961 to 1962;

George Goddard (not representing any band) — from 1962 to 1971, when NATTS folded.

Panmen began participating in the organising of Panorama in 1963 — the same year in which they went on their own to hold their Music Festival. They held similar festivals in 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1968.

Prior to that, panmen took part in the Music Festivals organised by the Trinidad Music Association (TMA), until the TMA decided to throw them out in 1962.

This decision came in the

wake of a misunderstanding that developed on the night the bands were due to perform at Queen's Hall. The show started 90 minutes late.

To help launch the panmen off on their own Music Festivals, the Prime Minister donated a trophy, and the following year, the CDC donated two trophies.

Today, the three-day talks open at the Convention Centre under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister himself.

Where will this consultation lead the panmen who, from inception has beaten a weary path from "outrage" to officialdom?

Maybe this is the crucial point. We will see.