

PANMEN STILL HUNTING SUPPORT

PAN Trinbago was last night trying to arrange to meet the eight finalists in the Calypso Monarch competition to get them to boycott the big Dimanche Grass show.

But the Calypsonians' Association has said it will sanction no such boycott.

"It was agreed that we dissociate ourselves from the existing controversy between steelbandmen and government", said Calypsonians' Association, president, Randolph Greenidge (Lord Artist).

But this association plans to institute its own boycott next year if it does not have 75 per cent representation on the panel of judges for calypso competition.

"So far, we have had no feedback from Brassoramba bands, calypsonians or Carnival bands which we had asked to support us in our boycott of CDC-sponsored shows," said Pan Trinbago's secretary Peter Carasquero yesterday.

But he added: "We expect to meet the calypsonian finalists sometime tomorrow and

KAISOMEN: WE WON'T BOYCOTT

find out what is going on."

Yesterday, a last-minute move to save Panorama 1979 failed.

A three-man delegation, headed by Ivan Williams, chairman of the CDC and the joint management committee responsible for Panorama, met officials of Pan Trinbago to find a solution to the impasse.

"The delegation wanted a letter from me that steelbandmen had given no ultimatum, the steelband movement had no intention of embarrassing the government, and we are willing to accept any compromise by the

Ministry of Education and Culture," said Pan Trinbago's president, George Goddard.

Pan Trinbago, the organisation representing steelbands, is now working on plans for a mid-year pan festival.

Another government-level meeting at which a solution to Panorama '79 was expected has so far yielded no results.

A meeting at Balisier House, chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams, was supposed to discuss the Panorama issue, but it concentrated on the squatting issue.

Hours before that meeting panmen had taken a final decision to boycott Panorama this year.

"To go on with the show would be a betrayal of those panmen who boycotted the shows in San Fernando and Tobago last weekend," said a spokesman.

San Fernando Mayor Gertrude Kirton, accusing the panmen of holding the nation to ransom, called for a speedy solution.

"The current situation is very unfortunate and amounts to holding the nation to ransom," she said yesterday.

She added: "Southerners

would not be involved in the current "pan war" between Pan Trinbago and government if the Southern Steelband Movement had organised the competition."

The SSM organised the south Panorama competition last year.

The controversy between Pan Trinbago and government erupted after government announced it would pay the bands a \$500 appearance fee and an incentive fee to be shared from the gate receipts after \$275,000 had been cleared. The panmen want a flat \$4,000 appearance fee.