

SOS FROM PANMEN

By KITT ROXBURGH

IN a desperate bid to be on the road for Carnival '73, members of an Arima steelband will tomorrow ask the Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams, for help.

The reason: a man with a cutlass has slashed their hopes of taking part in the Panorama contests and they have tried without success to get assistance from every possible source.

The small, unsponsored Marzican Steel Orchestra's giant headache began two weeks

TO DR WILLIAMS

MAN WITH A CUTLASS LASHES 65 PANS-AND MARZICAN STEELBAND'S HOPES FOR PANORAMA

ago (Sunday February 4), while they were practising in their tent on Vitalis Douen Lane, Arima.

A man rushed into the yard brandishing a cutlass. The young panmen fled. And by the time the man left, 65 pans were ruined and the tent itself chopped.

"The amazing thing, "Marzican's captain William Rosemin said yesterday, is that we have reported the matter to the police. There were seven

ral eyewitnesses, yet no one has been arrested.

"\$2,500 worth of precious equipment has been destroyed. You know we hadn't been able to take part in Panorama for the past two years because of a lack of funds but the fellows really worked hard this year only to see this happen to us."

He said the band had received permission to practise and build their

tent on the site (which is on Crown Lands) and stated that a man had protested, saying that he should have been given permission to erect a business place there instead.

In a letter to be delivered at Whitehall tomorrow, the band, through the newly-formed Eastern division of Pan Trinbago, will ask Dr. Williams to step in and save the day.

"So far Pan Trinbago hasn't been of any help—although we understand that there is a fund that could be utilised in emergencies such as the one we're faced with," the captain said.

Still on the Carnival scene, the "Buy Local Committee has announced that there will be a big new prize in its Calypso contest.

\$500 and a beautiful trophy will go to the calypsonian voted the "People's Choice."

The price has been donated by the National Petroleum Company as a token of its interest in cultural development, said a spokesman yesterday.