

Despers may miss panorama

WEST INDIAN TOBACCO Gay Desperadoes Steel Orchestra is back home after a recent and most successful tour of Zambia, where they played for the President, Dr. Kenneth Kuanda, at State House.

The tour to Zambia band's sponsors in association with B.A.T. Zambia Ltd. who have sent word that the tour was a tremendous success. Trinidad and Tobago was highly praised for having produced such marvellous, new musical instruments.

On the way from Zambia the band stopped over in New York to fulfil engagements. They played at Greenwich Village, at colleges in New Jersey, and their performance at the U.N. Auditorium is reported to have brought down the house.

A pleasure

While in New York the band held two-hour rehearsals daily learning the 1969 calypsoes from tapes provided by Sparrow and Kitchener. With very limited time, having returned on January 30, Panorama may be out for the 'Despers' this year but fans will have the pleasure of hearing them and jumping to their street music on carnival days.

The story of this steelband's rise to fame is probably one of the most interesting in the whole history of the steelband movement. Despers, more than any other band, has come a long way from the day when its members were regarded as the 'dead end' kids.

Indeed, the name of Despers still strikes fear — but it is now the fear of defeat at steelband festivals, at the hands of these musicians who have won prizes at all festivals from 1964 to 1967.



WITCO GAY DESPERADOES in gay mood in Zambia where among other appearances they played for the President, Dr. Kenneth Kuanda, at State House.