



THERE LIES CUBA — This news map shows the relation of the Bahamas to Cuba. These islands, where Columbus first set foot in the New World, will be the meeting place of the political leaders, who plan to draft a home-rule constitution. Bahamas' present constitution is practically a direct colonial one with all important powers in the hands of the governor. (UPI)

By LAURENCE MEREDITH
United Press International
 London—Political leaders of the Caribbean holiday islands of the Bahamas meet here beginning May 1 to agree on a home-rule constitution after 300 years of control from London.
 This scattering of more than 3,000 islands off the Florida coast, 22 of which are inhabited, is a familiar sun-pasture for hundreds of thousands of American tourists who flock there every year. And it was on Watling island in the Bahamas that Christopher Columbus first set foot in the western world in 1492. Today the islands have 170,000 inhabitants of whom some 75,000 are descended from African slaves, 14,000 Europeans and the rest of mixed blood. Almost half the population is concentrated on

the island of New Providence, which includes Nassau, the capital.
 There has been little open pressure among the islanders for constitutional changes and none for independence, possibly because of the prosperity brought by American and other tourists but also because of the large number of foreign investors who take advantage of the colony's lack of direct taxation.
 Since World War II Britain's colonial policy has been to push her dependent peoples into taking a greater share in their own governments and thus relieve the British taxpayers of much direct financial responsibility. Britain thinks the time has come for the Bahamas to carry a bit more of their own load.
 When the plan to hold this week's conference was announced last December, Governor Sir Robert Stapledon said: "It was agreed that the

time had come for the Bahamian people to exercise a wide measure of responsibility for the government of the country."
Colonial Plan
 The present constitution is practically a direct Colonial one with all important powers in the hands of the governor.
 There is an executive council which is appointed and advises the governor. The legislative council has only limited power but is elected by full adult suffrage. Male suffrage was introduced in 1958 and women were given the vote only in 1962.
 In the first election under complete suffrage held last November the United Bahamian party won a narrow over-all majority in the legislative council. This party chiefly represents Nassau business interests, popularly known as the "Bay Street boys" after the main business street in Nassau.

The opposition party is the progressive Liberal party which is the nearest thing to a nationalist movement in the Colony. It won 10 seats at the election against the United Bahamian party's 19.
Ministry Change
 The new constitution due to be prepared at the London Conference is expected to replace the present post of chief minister with a prime minister and cabinet completely responsible to the legislature for all internal affairs.
 The British government in London will still maintain control, through the governor, of external affairs, defense and possibly internal security.
 There has been no suggestion yet, either from the islanders or the British, of full independence and the question is not likely to arise in the immediate future.
 When it does, it may come in the form of some link-up with the other British West

Indian islands. When the Federation of the West Indies was created in 1958, the Bahamas were not included. Like Bermuda to the north, they are separated from the rest of Britain's West Indian colonies by the barrier of the Greater Antilles—Cuba, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico.
Now Playground
 Since the war property promoters have moved into the tax free haven of the Bahamas in a big way and today the islands are fast moving towards being the world's most luxurious tropical playground.
 Under the encouragement of the British Colonial government a great new free port is being built on Grand Bahama island, known as Freeport, which it is hoped may eventually rival Hong Kong and Singapore.
 The site for a city of 100,000 people is being laid out. Business men located there will pay no income tax, no

capital gains tax, no real estate tax and for 99 years will pay no excise taxes to customs and no stamp taxes.
Seek Tax Escape
 Nearby, the world's largest dry dock is under construction where freighters will be built, based and maintained to escape the normal taxation levied by many countries on merchant shipping.
 The islands also have great strategic importance for the United States, particularly in the coming space age.
 Listening posts on the islands work closely with Cape Canaveral in tracking all U.S. space flights. And astronauts have been picked up off the Bahamas and taken to Grand Bahama for de-briefing.
 The strategic value of the islands to the United States was underlined this month by reports the U.S. Navy was seeking to establish a test center in one of the more remote Bahamian islands for anti-submarine weapons.

Religion in America

Truce in Religious Quarrel Over Birth Control Proposed

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent
 The time has come for Protestants and Catholics to declare a truce in their rancorous quarrel over birth control.
 If they will do so, new methods of fertility regulation can be developed—perhaps "within a remarkably short period of time"—which will be safe, effective and morally acceptable to all religious groups.
 So says Dr. John Rock, a man who has unique credentials for speaking on this subject.
 Dr. Rock is a Harvard University scientist who is world famous for his pioneering research in human reproduction. He is co-developer of the oral contraceptive pill. He also is a devoted member of the Roman Catholic church. He has written a book, entitled "The Time Has Come" (Knopf, \$3.95), which ought to be read and pondered by every church leader, politician and plain citizen who is concerned about the problem of limiting population growth.

Dr. Rock says that Protestants and Catholics are now in "substantial agreement" about the objectives of family planning, and differ mainly about the methods which may be employed. Most Protestant bodies endorse the use of any medically approved contraceptive technique, but the Catholic Church condones only the so-called rhythm or "safe period" method.
 Since this dispute is tied up with differing views of "natural laws," Dr. Rock sees little hope of resolving it "within the limits of the family planning methods now available."
 "I envisage the eventual resolution of doctrinal differences only after the expansion of the armamentarium of birth control," he says. "This will include not merely refinements of current methods but also entirely new approaches which will fit into normal reproductive physiology."
 Given an adequate research program, he says, "it is not unrealistic" to anticipate that science can come up with a variety of entirely new birth control techniques, far better, cheaper and more effective than those which are now

most widely used and which date back to the 19th century or earlier. Among these new techniques, he is confident, "will be effective methods which all religious groups can accept."
Take the Lead
 Since the Catholic Church is "widely thought to bear special responsibility for the terror which grips politicians' hearts whenever birth control research is mentioned," Dr. Rock believes it would be "most appropriate" for Catholics to take the lead in achieving a religious truce on this subject.
 "A public policy of tolerance can be evolved which will respect the deeply held convictions of all Americans and help to eliminate much of the animosity and rancor which this conflict has generated," he says.
 "Such a policy, by freeing our medical research establishment for a concerted effort in fertility control, offers the only practical road to a solution of both the doctrinal differences between Catholics and non-Catholics on family planning methods, and the world's population explosion."

News About Servicemen

COMPLETES TRAINING
 Army Specialist Four Alvin G. Peterman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin H. Peterman, 735 NE 11th st., Grants Pass, recently completed a two-week training exercise with other members of the 8th Infantry Division's 12th Engineer Battalion in Germany.
 Specialist Peterman, a clerk-typist in the battalion's headquarters company in Germany, entered the Army in September 1961, completed basic training at Ft. Ord, Calif., and went overseas in March 1962. The 23-year-old soldier is a graduate of Grants Pass High school.

BRUTON ASSIGNED
 Army National Guard Pvt. Bobby Bruton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray M. Bruton, route 2, Central Point, recently completed active duty training under the Reserve Forces Act program as an artillery automatic weapons crewman at the Air Defense Center, Ft. Bliss, Tex. Bruton is regularly assigned to Battery D, Second Automatic Battalion in the 249th Artillery, an Army National Guard unit in Medford.
 A 1959 graduate of Crater High school, Bruton attended Southern Oregon college following high school graduation.

Bedtime Snack Not Harmful, Is Claim

Chicago—(UPI)—Go on and enjoy that heavy snack before you turn in at night. It won't keep you from falling asleep. In fact, you may even sleep better.
 So say sleep researchers of the Spring Air company here which has dug into the loss of sleep. What you may have heard about daytime naps, sleeping on your left side, and using a hard mattress all being good for sleep are just the bunk, the bedding company says. And mistaken notions about sleep may, in fact, keep you awake.

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