

No Major Escalation of Crime Against Visitors in the Bahamas

NASSAU, The Bahamas — Responding to a front-page *Miami Herald* article published June 14, the Ministry of Tourism has asserted that "there is no pattern which would indicate

that there has been a major escalation of crimes against visitors from America or any other country."

Baltron B. Bethel, Director-General of Tourism, in a letter to the Editor of *The Herald*, called international drug traffic a "monster which (American) citizens illegally maintain in our country."

"It is the exception rather than the norm to have to write to your newspaper regarding an article, which, because it does not give the full picture, could severely damage our tourism industry, the very lifeblood of our economy," Bethel told

the Editor of *The Herald*.

"Because of the importance to our economy of attracting visitors from the United States and from the Bahamas Government, promotion boards, individual Bahamian hotels and airlines, cruises and the travel trade which serve The Bahamas spend well over \$20 million annually promoting this destination in the United States.

"A news story which portrayed The Bahamas and our people unfairly appeared in *The Herald* on June 14 and under the six-column banner headline, 'Many Bahamas

visitors find fear, not fun.' Upon reading the story, it became apparent that the allegations do not support either the scare headline or the prominent display on page one.

"The incidents cited in *The Herald*—about 12 in all, and not all of recent—do not justify your reporter's assertion that 'fear is replacing leisure in The Bahamas.' Twelve or so complaints out of 1.9 million annual visitors do not constitute a valid sample by any reportorial or research standards.

"Your reporter quotes unnamed Bahamian authorities as saying that 'crime generally is riding a flood of drugs, illegal aliens and gun-running.' He did not point out that The Bahamas is a transshipment conduit for drugs destined for the huge American market, and that more than 90 per cent of the drug smugglers are Americans.

"Further, your reporter states that 'no police agency keeps statistics about the number of boats actually attacked or the number of Americans assaulted on shore.' That statement is untrue. *The Herald* received from Bahamian authorities a list of drug-related crimes, including information about boats and aircraft seized in drug-related activities. And the U. S. State Department compiled statistics showing that in 1980, 41 American citizens were victims of crime in The Bahamas, five of them killed; there were 48 U. S. victims in 1979 with two fatalities, and 55 victims in 1978 with no deaths reported. James Webb of the U. S. State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs, has said, 'We feel the Bahamians are doing all they can to control crime against Americans.'

"Thus, there is no pattern which would indicate that there has been a major escalation of crimes against visitors from America or any other country."

"United Press International distributed a news story earlier this year which said, 'The Caribbean is still one of the safest vacation areas around. Even those islands that have suffered outbreaks of violence are a lot safer than many U.S. vacation sties.' *The Herald* published the UPI story on March 29, 1981.

"It is true that there is considerable international drug traffic in Bahamian waters. There are 100,000 square miles of sea to patrol, complicating the task of the police and the Royal Bahamas Defense Force which are doing an admirable job in combating the menace of drug traffic, created and perpetuated by United States citizens. American drug enforcement officials, including the Coast Guard, also are having limited success in keeping the narcotics traffickers from entering the U. S.

"We believe that by exhibiting normal prudence, yachtsmen may cruise our island without undue risk. In a trouble world, The Bahamas is still a comparatively safe haven and snug harbour.

"Let me add that we subscribe to the view both The Bahamas and Florida are complimentary to each other in the attraction of tourists. What helps Florida attract tourists also helps The Bahamas and vice versa. In this vein, we are as anxious as the South Florida law enforcement and tourism authorities to see serious crime there eradicated. While our problem is nowhere as serious as yours, ours could be eliminated if the U. S. Government, at the prodding of your newspaper, took proper measures to get the monster of illegal drug traffic, which your citizens illegally maintain in our country, off our backs. Our Prime Minister has called for this but with no meaningful response. It is a burden we should not have to bear."

Sunday

July 26, 1981

	WFMY CH. 2 Cable 2	WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3	WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6	WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9	WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10	WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12	WTBS CH. 17 Cable 13	WGHP CH. 8
7:00	Kenneth Copeland	Jerry Falwell	30 Minutes		Jimmy Swaggart	World Tomorrow Spiritual Awakening	James Robison It Is Written	Dr. D. James Kennedy
7:15	"	"	Fat Albert		"	"	"	"
7:30	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
7:45	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
8:00	Rex Humbard Oral Roberts	Kenneth Copeland	Mighty Mouse Heckle, Jeckle Goodbye		Frederick K. Price	Robert Schuller Church Of Our Fathers	Three Stooges & Friends	Gospel Expo- Show My People
8:15	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
8:30	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
8:45	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
9:00	Sunday Morning	Jim Bakker	Sunday Morning		Dr. Jerry Falwell	Oral Roberts Rex Humbard	Lost In Space	Jimmy Swaggart
9:15	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
9:30	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
9:45	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
10:00	"	Jerry Falwell	"		Car Care Central	Day Of Discovery Dimensions 5	Hazel Theatre: "Cool"	Robert Schuller
10:15	Day Of Discovery	"	Gospel Jubilee		"	"	"	"
10:30	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
10:45	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
11:00	PTL: Prime Cuts Face The Nation	Jimmy Swaggart	"	Tony Brown	Hits The Jackpot	First Presbyterian Church	Hand Luke	Help Yourself TV8 Report
11:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
11:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
11:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
12:00	Movie: "Kid Dynamite"	Herald Of Truth Meet The Press	Face The Nation F.Y.I.		Theatre II: "They Only Kill Their"	Issues & Answers Pro & Con	"	Issues & Answers Pro & Con
12:15	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
12:30	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
12:45	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
1:00	"	Marijuana As Medicine	Matinee: "Top Of The Hill"	Firing Line	Master	The Basters National Sports	This Week In Baseball	Wild Kingdom National Sports
1:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
1:30	Movie: "Harum-Scarum"	Movie: "The Night Of The Iguana"	"	"	"	"	"	"
1:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2:00	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
3:00	"	"	"	All Creatures Great & Small	High	"	"	"
3:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
3:30	Movie: "Magnum Force"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
3:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
4:00	"	Sportsworld	"	Julia Child	Metromedia: "The Killing Affairs"	U.S. Women Open Golf	"	U.S. Women Open Golf
4:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
4:30	"	"	CBS Sports Sunday	Victory Garden	"	"	Last Of The Wild	"
4:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
5:00	"	"	"	Lawmakers	"	"	Rat Patrol	"
5:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
5:30	"	Wild Kingdom	"	Wall Street Week	"	"	Wrestling	"
5:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
6:00	News 2	Montage	CBS News	N. Carolina People Almanac	Playhouse 5: "The Man Who Loved Cat"	News: ABC News	"	Pink Panther ABC News
6:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
6:30	CBS News	NBC News	Reel Perspective	"	"	"	Nice People	"
6:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
7:00	60 Minutes	Disney	60 Minutes	Run America Run A Time Past	Dancing	Those Amazing Animals	Tush	Those Amazing Animals
7:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
7:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
7:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
8:00	Archie Bunkers' One Day At A Time	Chips	Archie Bunkers' One Day At A Time	Evening At Pops	Lawrence Welk	ABC News Special: Social Security	TBS Movie: "The Incredible Mr."	ABC News Special: Social Security
8:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
8:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
8:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
9:00	Alice Jeffersons	Big Event: "California Gold Rush"	Alice Jeffersons	Masterpiece Theatre	Merv Griffin	ABC Movie: "City In Fear"	Limpet	ABC Movie: "City In Fear"
9:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
9:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
9:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
10:00	Trapper John	"	Trapper John	Wodehouse Playhouse Butterflies	News	"	TBS News	"
10:15	"	"	"	"	Odd Couple	"	"	"
10:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
10:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
11:00	News CBS News Baretta	Carol Burnett Jim Bakker	News CBS News Monte Carlo	Twilight Zone	Movie: "The Lives Of Jenny"	News	Open Up	News
11:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
11:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
11:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
12:00	"	"	"	"	Logan	ABC News Late Movie: "Hotel"	TBS Theatre: "Million Dollar"	ABC News T. Brown's Journal Rifleman
12:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
12:30	"	Charles Young	Gunsmoke	"	"	"	"	"
12:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"