Critics of the United States here are making an effort to restore Puerto Rico to the list of "non-self-governing" territories under scrutiny of the General Assembly Colonialism Committee. Representatives of Puerto Rican independence groups have been urging the move of "trying to impose a colonial plebiscite" on the Commonwealth.

Puerto Rican voters will go to the polls July 23 to express their preference for revised Commonwealth status, statehood or outright independence. In the most recent general election candidates favoring independence received only 27 per cent of the votes.

The issue will come to a head here Monday when the Colonialism Committee is scheduled to decide whether to put Puerto Rico back on the agenda. In 1953 the General Assembly dropped the item after Puerto Ricans had approved free association with the United States in a new Commonwealth relationship.

Several influences now coalesce to make the subject a hot one.

First, the discussion here coincides with a period of uncertainty in Puerto Rico itself. Many persons agree that the unique relationship that coupled exemption from Federal taxes with complete home rule under U.S. sovereignty has brought great economic benefits to the island. But there is vague dissatisfaction that the present Commonwealth status may not be adequate for the future.

A joint commission on the status of Puerto Rico established by Congress and the Puerto Rican Legislature recommended last year after exhaustive examination that a new plebiscite be held to focus public concern on the three alternative courses. At the same time it is as much as said that either statehood or independence would be currently impracticable.

Although the independence movement has always been very small, advocates of statehood in the American Union have usually mustered about 35 per cent of the votes. Statehood groups in Puerto Rico are identified with the Republican Party.

Recently the fortunes of the governing Popular Democratic Party have suffered a severe blow in the marital misadventure of Gov. Roberto Sanchez Vilella and his announced intention to retire. Whether former Gov. Luis Munoz Marin can rally the party again remains an open question.

Second, the U.N. vote will present an opportunity for countries that may be unhappy with the United States for one reason or another to vent their displeasure. Delegations that may disapprove of American policy in Vietnam or of the unwillingness of the United States to force a confrontation with South Africa over Rhodesia and South-West Africa will have a chance to embarrass Washington.

Demands for re-inclusion of Puerto Rico on the agenda have come principally from Cuba and the Soviet bloc with strong endorsement from Tanzania, whose Ambassador, John Malacca, is chairman of the Committee.

So far the United States has had the support of most European and Latin American members for its insistence that Puerto Rico is freely self-governing and is no proper concern of the Committee. American representatives believe that this position will prevail.

American territories currently are receiving a thorough going-over, with the Committee studying Guam and American Samoa as well as the Virgin islands. With the recent fiasco of the U.N. Mission to Aden still in the news, the United States has not decided whether to encourage a mission to the Virgin Islands.

In Committee discussions American representatives have pointed to the popularly elected legislature in the Virgin Islands and to recent economic development that has brought a per capita income of $2100 a year—a figure that is probably five times the average of countries represented on the Committee.
LINDSAY PROMISES AID FOR PROGRAMS OF PUERTO RICANS

Key City Officials Ordered to Work With Members of Grass-Roosts Conference

By PETER KIHS

Mayor Lindsay yesterday ordered every key city agency to designate a top-level representative to work with Puerto Ricans on proposals to better their life here.

The proposals will come out of the city's first grassroots conference, with the Puerto Rican community, which started yesterday.

The Mayor declared, for example, that there was a need for a fundamental review of the teaching methods and curriculum for the more than 200,000 Puerto Ricans among the one-million youngsters in public schools. This 20 per cent proportion, he said, calls for a greater voice of the Puerto Rican community on all levels of the educational structure.

About 1,000 persons started the two-day conference called by the Mayor at the High School of Art and Design, Second Avenue at East 57th Street.

The conference, in preparation for four months, brought together the whole wide range of leaders of the 700,000 Puerto Ricans here.

At least 15 commissioners and deputies were on hand to head a dozen panels, headed by Nick Ortiz, manager of the Bank Popular, said the city had 10,000 Hispanic-owned businesses, but said they were marginal and in ghetto areas, victimized in many ways.

Narcotics Addiction Cited

On the social side, Dr. Efren Ramirez, the city's Narcotics Coordinator, said addiction was growing faster among Puerto Ricans than any other ethnic group here. He estimated that 16,000 Puerto Ricans had made up 21.2 per cent of the city's addicts in 1964 while at the same time totaling only 8 per cent of the over-all population.

Nevertheless, Borough President Herman Badillo of the Bronx noted that "when all of us as Puerto Ricans here from Puerto Rico or New York, we are all living below the poverty level" — as was he at his arrival at the age of 12.

Now, he said, half had climbed above that median despite society's demands for more and more education — as against only 3 per cent of New Yorkers having had high school training in 1860.

Under the administrations of former Mayors Vincent R. Impellitteri and Robert F. Wagner, the city had held three conferences in San Juan and one here on migration problems — but on an intergovernmental level. When another San Juan session was set for last December, objections from New York Puerto Ricans led to its replacement by another self-help effort here instead.

Mayor Lindsay had assigned Miss Marta Valle, a five-foot, suburban-haired assistant-secretary-

PUERTO RICAN AID PUSHED BY MAYOR

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of the Human Resources Administrator, as organizer, Miss Valle, presiding yesterday, said that 250 persons had been involved in the planning.

"Some have held," Mayor Lindsay told the opening session, "that because of factional differences it would be almost impossible for the city to establish a sound relationship with the entire Puerto Rican community.

"After taking part in the planning, including two meetings with the organizers at Gracie Mansion — he said he had come to believe that the factional argument was "an excuse for those who were reluctant to tackle difficult issues involving Puerto Ricans."

He pointed the conference's recommendations would become a "new work agenda for New York City," and was happy when, with a smile, he quoted the Puerto Rico-born philosopher, Ramon Maria de Hostos; "All the tortures I can imagine is more terrible than wasting time on words when action is needed.

As a city speaker, Mr. Badillo said education was the single most important immediate need. He urged a Board of Education programs to help Puerto Ricans adjust to the city's high school dropouts, and education for "meaningful trades" instead of such courses as working on obsolete airplane engines, which he found where he was in high school in 1964.

Puerto Ricans have been hamp- ered in anti-pverty programs, he said, because they do not live congregated in a single area. In reply, Mr.Sviridoff, the city's Human Resources Administrator, promised his agency and the Council Against Poverty would support citywide efforts like the Puerto Rican Community Development Project and other.

"Introducing the economic development discussion, Mr. Logo asserted that many Puerto Ricans in the city have actually lost ground while most city enterprises moved forward. His panel said it was Puerto Rican businesses were generally small, family-owned operations in low-income neighborhoods, reflecting a strong characteristic of the community. More than half are food outlets.

The death rate of such businesses, he said, was substantial, with one merchants' association finding a fifth of the most popular food outlets had to close down by 1965 closed down within a year. Only 10 per cent, he said, had bank accounts.

"The only real government help, the report said, has come from five Small Business Development Centers set up here in 1964 as part of a job recovery program. These, it said, are now "scheduled for dismantling," after $1 million in low-interest loans to Hispanic businesses.

The United States Small Business Administration, it said, "failed to discharge its responsibilities."

Moreover, the panel charged that Puerto Rican businesses had been subjected to monopolistic practices by "private sanitation companies, milk distributors, window cleaning guilds, etc." These, it said, "have illegally appointed certain areas into business service districts to reduce competition among the businesses."

Other handiaps, the panel said, were refusal of insurance; inadequate police protection; inability to operate on Sundays because of the Sabbath law; influx of damage and eviction of areas set for urban renewal and control and control aid programs by "persons who mind their qualifications have been of the type of political connections."

The panel urged creation of a national institute for commercial education, creation of a national development project to aid Puerto Rican businesses, and allocation of part of local government procurement to small businesses.

Chairmen of the panels included:

Education: Herman Laffontaine, president, Puerto Rican Teachers Association.

Health: Caridad Piñera, commissioner, New York City Department of Health.

Housing: Roberto Casalalia, chairman, New York Citizens Council, Puerto Rican.

Community Development: Manuel Diaz Jr., chairman, Latino Community Development Corporation.

Commodity: Leon Crofsky, executive director, Puerto Rican Community Development Corporation.

Labor: Manuel Cancel, chairman, Central Labor Council.

Welfare: George Morales, director of community development, Action in Puerto Rico, East Harlem.

Recreation: Felix N. Torres, Family Court Justice.

Youth: Mrs. Eudice Velez, president, Consumer education, Youth in Action.

Religious: Guillermo Gil Rosado, executive director, Congress of Puerto Rican Homeowners.

Others: Jose Morales Jr., Puerto Rican Construction Projects, Puerto Rican Construction Projects.

Heidi; D. Ramirez.

Secretary of Labor Alfredo Nazario of Puerto Rico, representing Gov. Roberto Sanchez Vilella, declared the constant shedding of persons between Puerto Rico and New York City required the utmost cooperation of both governments.

He said the commonwealth government should look to another high-level intergovernmental conference in San Juan after political parties next July.

Mayor Lindsay gave further political recognition to Puerto Rican with an opening announcement naming MatiaGamilla BeatoPenas as a member of the city's Youth Board. She is president of the New York Puerto Rican Association for Puerto Rican Civil Rights.

In turn, the Mayor was surprised with presentation of a folk-art painting dedicated to Mrs. Lindsay by a former longshoreman, Antonio Ortiz Pagan, who learned painting at a Hunts Point community center in the Bronx.
SCHOOLS ASSAILED BY PUERTO RICANS

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tion for the schools and give the Mayor more control over
school problems here.

The conference brought to-
gether leaders from many fields
of the 700,000 Puerto Ricans
here.

Mayor Lindsay was given a
standing ovation at one session
later when he announced that
a City Housing Authority proj-
ect to be planned—would be
named for a Puerto Rican
for the Grandiame—as an "ins-
piration to the young people."

The leader honored would be
Engelino Melis de Hastos, who,
the Mayor said, "represents the
finest in Puerto Rican thought
and culture and was a "citizen of the Americas."

The Puerto Rican leader, who
lived from 1850 to 1903, crus-
aded for freedom for Cuba and
Puerto Rico in Spain and as an
editor, New York City in
1850. He took part in an 1874
expedition from Boston to aid
Cuban rebels in 1874, and in
1883 helped formulate plans for
Puerto Rico's civil government
after the Spanish-American war.
For much of his life he was
an educator in the Dominici-
Can Republic and Chile.

Defends Budget

In another school develop-
ment, Mayor Lindsay said on the
WABC-TV "Searchlight" yesterday that
neither he nor the Board of
Education was satisfied with the
school's performance, and de-
fended his tighter controls in
his proposed $1.2-billion school
budget. The Mayor said his proposed
budget gave the Board of Edu-
cation flexibility to make ad-
justments in the broad catego-
ries, but required city ap-
proval for any transfer of funds
from one such category to
another.

Observing that the city itself
planned to spend $933-million
on manpower training in the
fiscal year starting July 1, the Mayor
said he was prepared "help-
ful" suggestions—and if need
be even a "discussion" with
school officials—in such fields
as early childhood and voca-
tional education.

Dr. Bernard E. Donovan,
Superintendent of Schools, re-
sponded cautiously to the Mayor's
moves. Dr. Donovan said he be-
lieved state law provided that
the school board could spend
funds it receives "as it wishes,"
but indicated he did not want
any clash.

A dozen panels submitte-
scores of recommendations
adopted at the end of the two-
day Puerto Rican conference.

Dep. Mayor Joseph W. Con-
tello contended it had developed
"the strongest voice for the
Puerto Rican community ever
in this city."

The session had been orga-
nized and provided over by 32-
year-old Marta Vallec, New
York-born assistant deputy ad-
ministrator of the city's Hu-
man Resources Administration.

Dr. Costello proposed that it
meet annually and keep its pan-
els as year-round watchdogs.

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M. H. Adopted

Mayor Lindsay declared that
"every recommendation will re-
cieve detailed consideration and
the policy will be to carry out
whatever can be carried out
with available resources."

In the closing moments, those
present adopted a conference
motto, which had been a panel
comment by Dr. Frank Bouilla,
professor of sociology at Mass-
achusets Institute of Technol-
ogy. This was: "To no quiero
que me den sino que me pongan
donde hay," which freely trans-
lated means, "I don't want
handouts, give me opportunity."

For the public schools, a fifth
of whose pupils are Puerto
Ricans, the conference called for
appointing a Puerto Rican to
fill the next vacant seat on the
Board of Education. The term
of a Staten Island member, John
H. Lotz, expires next month.

Mayor Lindsay, in the "Search-
light" telecast, observed he was
required by state laws to select
an appointee from a list recom-
 mend ed by a screening com-
 mittee.

The Puerto Rican conference
called for machinery to put
parent-teacher "evaluation of pro-
grams," urging a course on
Puerto Rican History and Civi-
l Culture in the curriculums of all
schools, the teaching of Spanish
in Puerto Rican students in ele-
mentary classes to keep their
bilingualism, and use of intern-
ships for teachers to improve
and "screen out and unqualified can-
 didates."

Proposals on Housing

Housing recommendations
sought Puerto Rican community
participation in planning re-
development programs, appoint-
ment of Puerto Ricans to policy
and administrative posts in the
Housing Authority and more
vest-pocket, low-rent housing.

Walter Washington, chairman
of the City Housing Authority,
said he had found in his brief
career so far in the city was a waiting
list of 153,000 families for pub-
lic housing. He said that more
than a third of these were
Puerto Ricans and another third
were Negroes.

The conference recommenda-
tions included increased gov-
ernmental aid for Puerto Rican
businesses, more emphasis on
Puerto Rican star players in
education, enlarged student ex-
pansion of legal services to pro-
vide representation for the poor
in administrative agencies, and
an amplification of welfare and un-
employment Insurance proce-
dures.

Also proposed were recruit-
manship of policemen from Puerto
Rico with a possible reduction
in the height requirements. Gov-
ernment support for a Puerto
Rican House of the Arts, im-
provement of "shameful" condi-
tions in city park athletic fa-
cilities, a training Institute for
community-development leaders
and more funds for fight narc-
otics addiction.