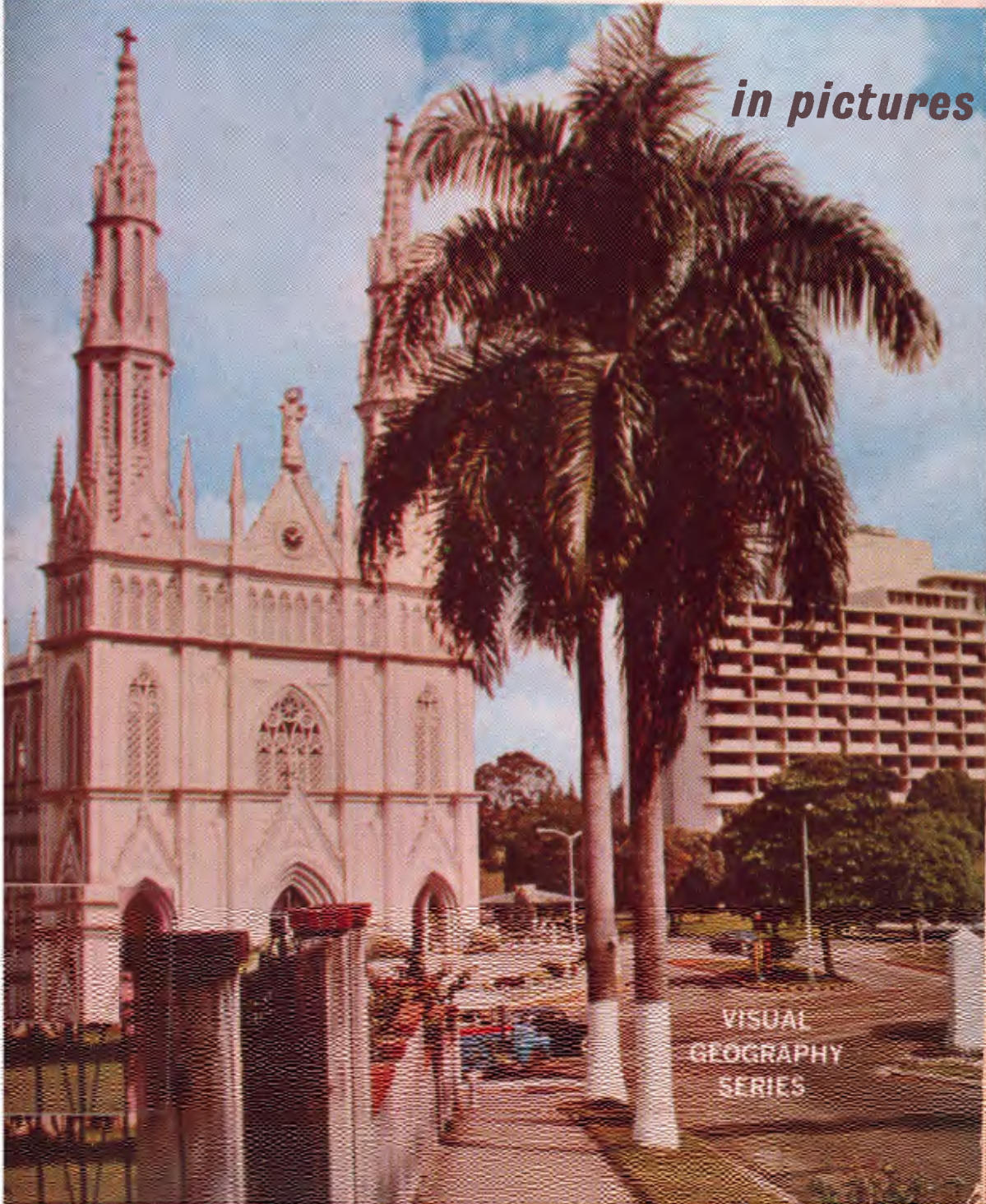


# PANAMA

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## *and the* CANAL ZONE

*in pictures*

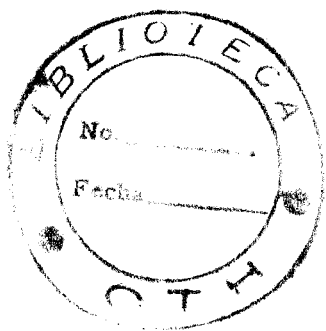
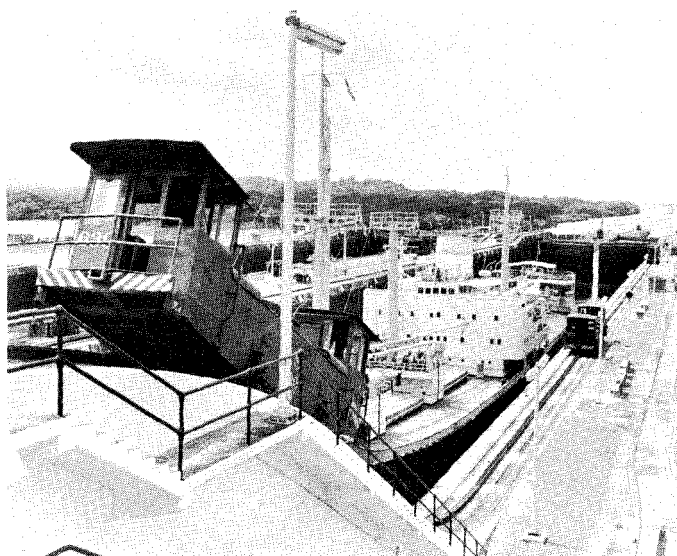


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# PANAMA

*and the*

# CANAL ZONE



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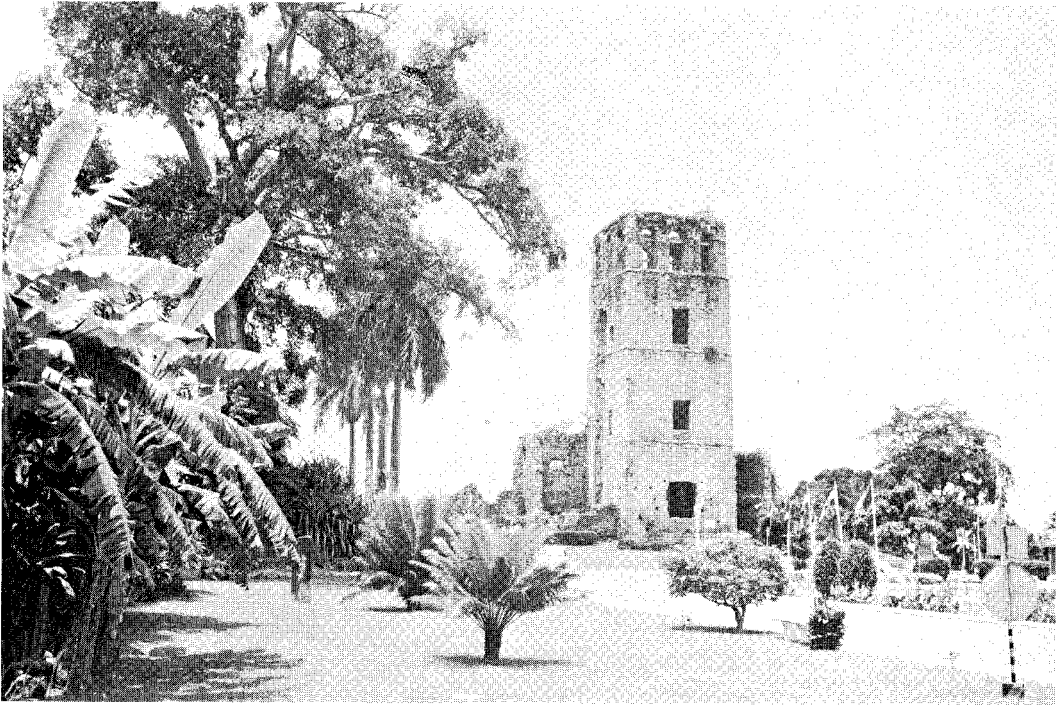
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# PANAMA *and the* CANAL ZONE

VISUAL  
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SERIES

in pictures



Prepared by PETER ENGLISH

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*Gothic details adorn a church in David, the principal city of Chiriquí Province. The predominant religion in Panama is Roman Catholicism.*

#### PICTURE CREDITS

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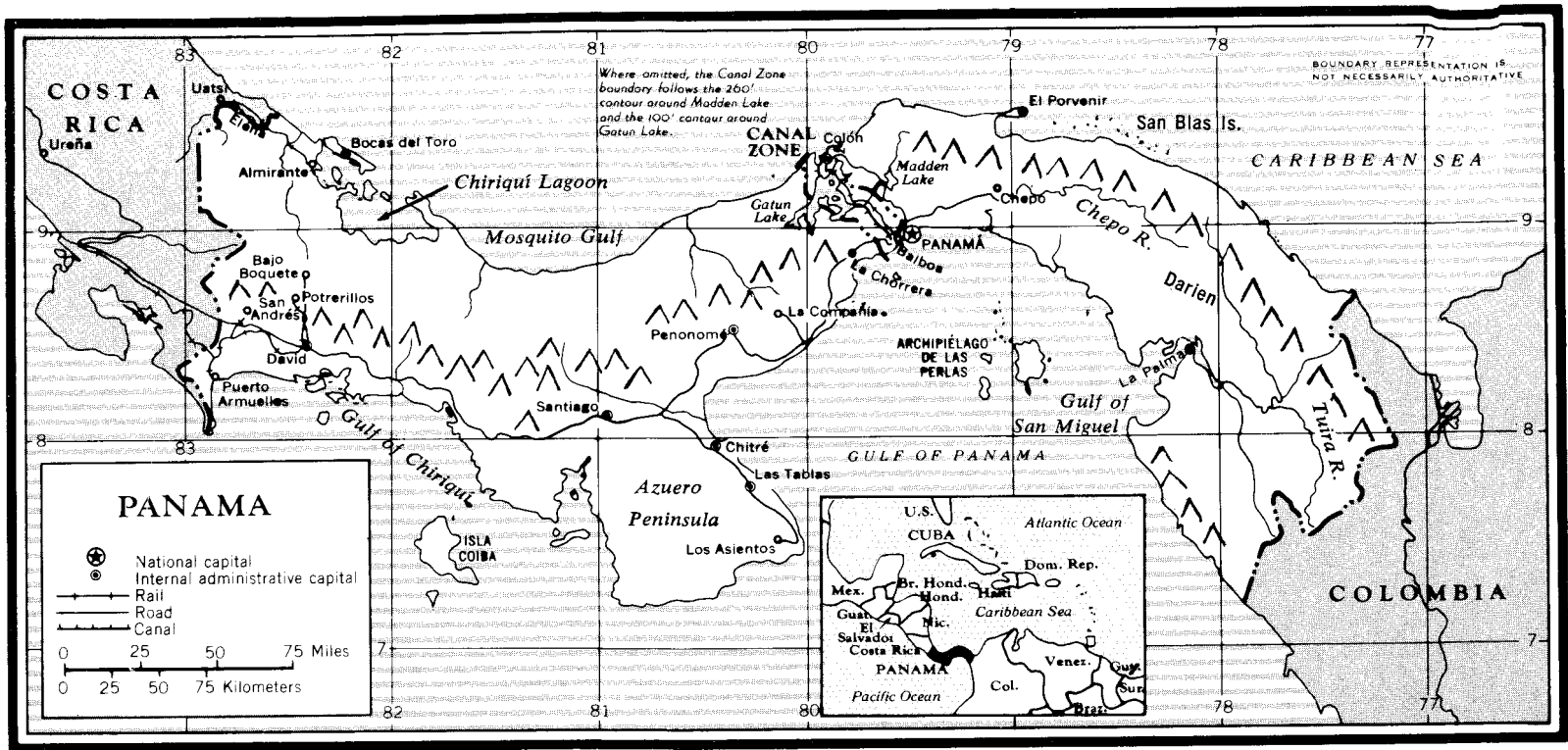
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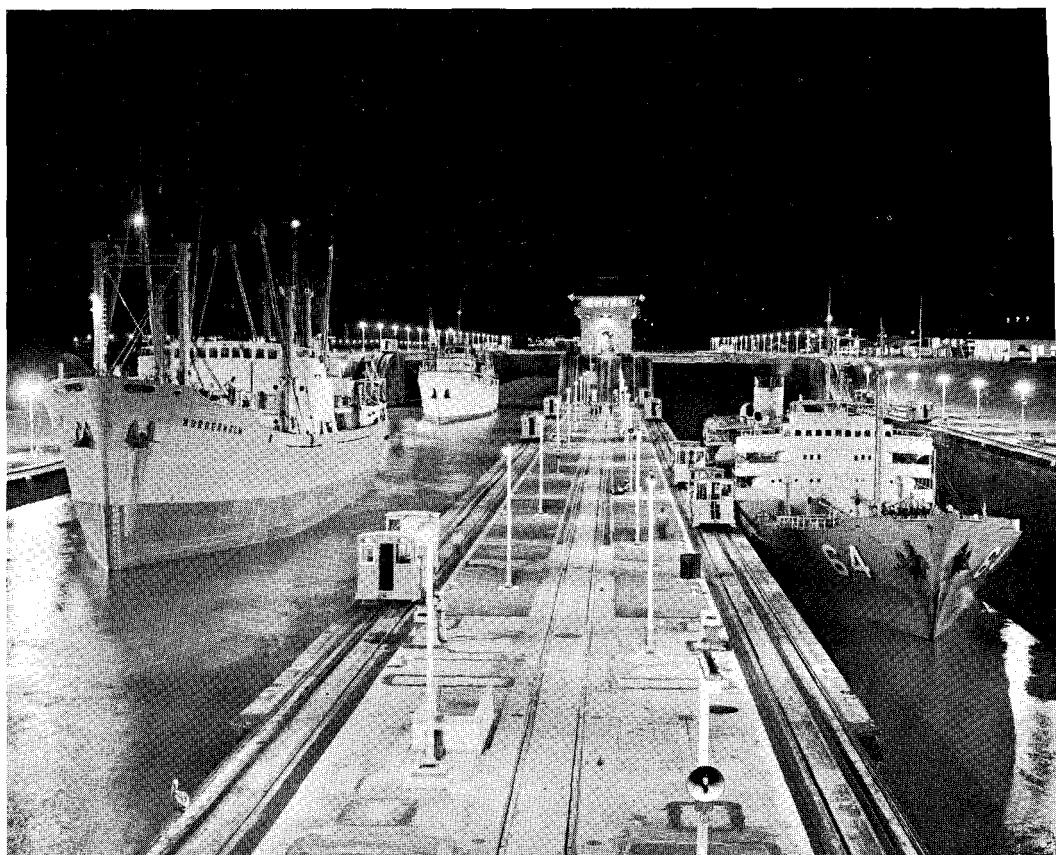


*This residential area in Panama City contains many large, modern apartment houses*

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*The Miraflores Locks work night and day lifting or lowering vessels a total of 54 feet.*

## INTRODUCTION

THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA and the Panama Canal form a unique geographical and political entity.

Visitors arriving at Tocumén International Airport outside Panama City—the capital of the Republic—are greeted by slogans informing them that they have come to “the Bridge of the

World,” and “the Heart of the Universe.” While these claims may seem overstated, they are not without justification: the Panama Canal, for 54 years, has been a link between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and a passageway for merchant and military ships from all over the world, while the Republic of Panama, from a



geographical standpoint, links the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

No aspect of Panama and the Canal Zone is without vivid drama: the early Spanish colonization; Panama's emergence as a nation; its current political unrest; and, of course, the construction of the Canal itself—one of mankind's most spectacular engineering feats.

Within the small area of the Republic of Panama, there is considerable diversity, ranging from modern sophisticated city life to simpler, primitive, little-changed existence in the rural areas.

All in all, the story of Panama and the Canal is one of the more engrossing episodes in the history of the Western Hemisphere.



*This church in the old city of Nata is one of the oldest structures of its kind in Panama.*



*Panama City with its modern apartment houses flanks the shrimp-rich Bay of Panama, where a fishing fleet is visible.*

## I. THE LAND

PANAMA HAS THE SHAPE of a huge “s” lying on its side. The Caribbean Sea lies to the north, Colombia to the east, the Pacific Ocean to the south, and Costa Rica to the west. Not including the 553 square miles of the Panama Canal Zone, the area of the Republic is 29,209 square miles. The greatest east-west distance in the country is 450 miles, and the greatest north-south distance is 130 miles.

### TOPOGRAPHY

Most of Panama is covered with wooded hills and low mountain ranges. The country’s highest peak, 11,410-foot Mount Chiriquí, rises near the western border. From this peak the mountains slope to a region of low hills near the middle of the country. The Panama Canal runs through this hilly region. East of the canal, the mountains gradually rise to more than



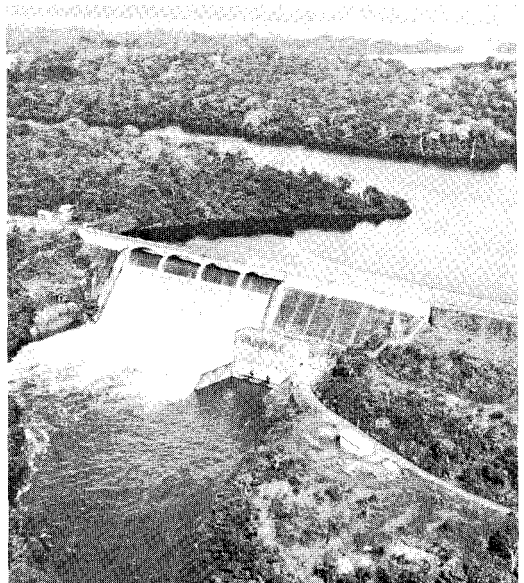
*A typical view in the uplands of the Chiriquí Province. This area, in the west of Panama, produces much of the country's food. It is characterized by mountains and such rich rich soil for agriculture that it might be termed the "bread basket" of the Republic.*

7,000 feet near the Colombian border. Fertile plains and valleys lie between the mountains and the coasts. Most of the people live on the

Pacific coast, between the Canal and the border of Costa Rica. Thick jungles cover much of the eastern part of the country.



*The island of Taboga, 12 miles from Panama City, is characterized by white, sandy, shell-strewn beaches, flower-covered hills and even boasts a Chinese-style hotel and trading post.*

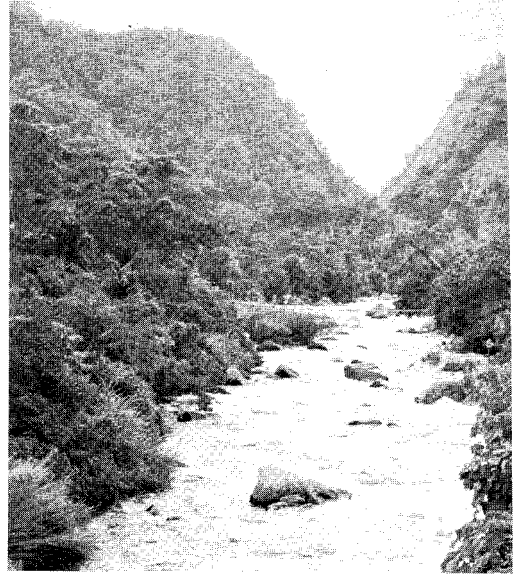


*The Madden Dam on the Chagres river, built in 1934, provides additional water reserves for the Canal. Adequate water supply for the operation of the waterway is a major problem, especially during the dry season. This water is also used for generating hydro-electric power and for municipal purposes.*

## COASTLINE AND RIVERS

The Caribbean coast measures 426 miles, while the Pacific coast, much more deeply indented, is 767 miles long. On the Caribbean coast, the chief indentation is the Mosquito Gulf and on the Pacific coast, the Gulfs of Chiriquí and Panama. Many small islands lie off both of Panama's coasts—1,600 in all.

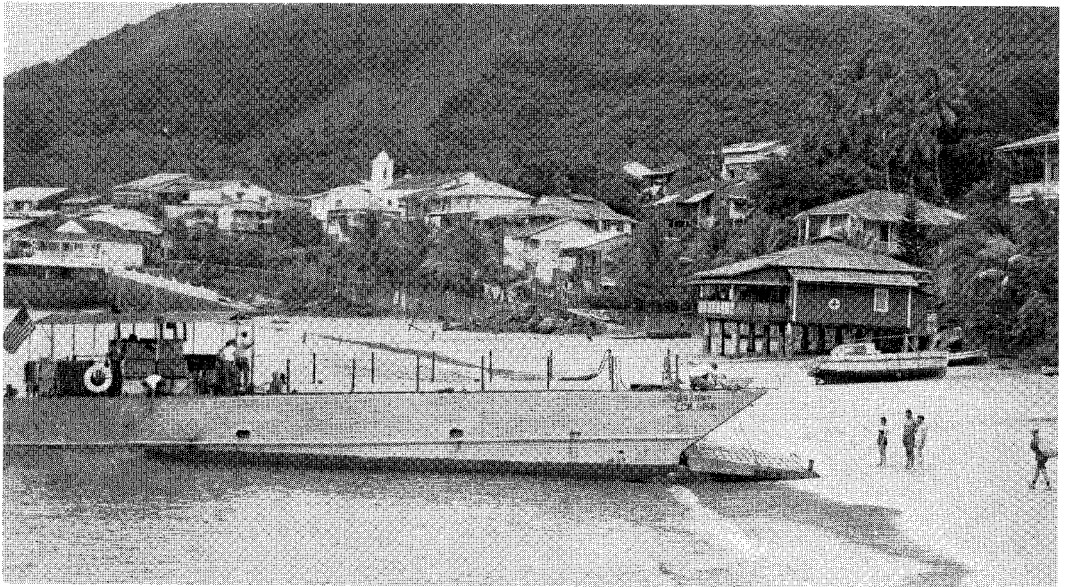
The 125-mile-long Tuira River flows through eastern Panama near the Colombia border. Most important of the remaining 500 or more streams, are the Chepo and the Chagres Rivers, both in central Panama.



*Chiriquí Province offers cold streams that attract fishermen, and its woodlands and mountainsides provide some of the country's most beautiful scenery.*

## CLIMATE

Most of Panama has a hot climate with almost no seasonal changes in temperature. Temperatures in the lowland areas average about 80 degrees throughout the year. Mountain temperatures average 66 degrees but sometimes drop to 50 degrees. The Atlantic side of the country receives about 130 inches of rain a year. Only about half as much rain (68 inches) falls on the Pacific side annually, and some



*The United States Army executes a practice maneuver on the island of Taboga, the "island of flowers" just off Panama's Pacific coast. This island is a lovely spot to visit, offering picturesque houses, tropical foliage and flowers, and fine beaches.*

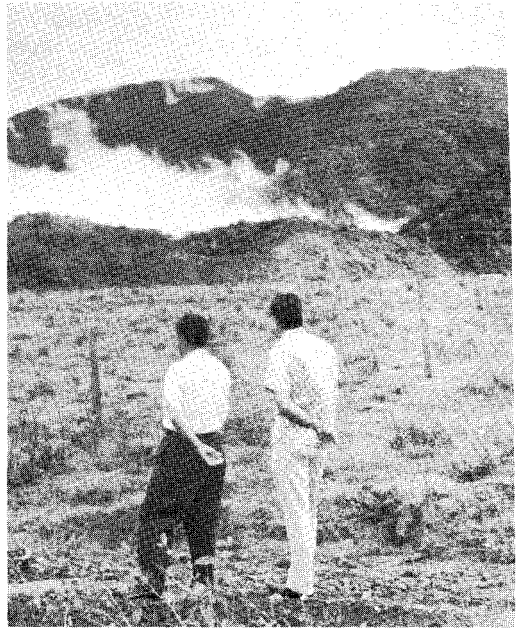


regions there are subject to drought, especially those fronting on the western shores of the Gulf of Panama, in the provinces of Los Santos and Coclé. On the Pacific coast, seasons are defined in terms of rainfall—a short dry season and a longer rainy one.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The principal natural resource of Panama is the fertile soil of its valleys and plains. In addition, rich forests cover about 70 per cent of the country, with most of the woodlands lying in the eastern regions where mahogany trees are numerous. The mountains of eastern Panama contain small deposits of gold. Other minerals include manganese, iron, mercury, silver and copper. Limestone of good quality for cement manufacture is abundant, as is shale for the production of brick and tile.

Shrimp, pearl oysters and many kinds of fish live in the coastal waters.



*The densely forested hills of western Panama provide about 5,000,000 board feet of mahogany and other hardwood every year for export.*



*These men are hauling a catch in from the surf. In addition to commercially valuable fish, the waters near Panama City teem with such game fish as marlin, snook, amberjack, sailfish, and giant sea bass. Pearl fishing is also an important occupation.*



*Queen's-flower, native to Jamaica, has been found to thrive in the Panama climate.*

## FLORA AND FAUNA

Panama, situated at the point where North and South America meet, has a considerable range of plants and animals, but in general,

South American types predominate—in fact, naturalists draw the boundary between North and South America in Nicaragua, well to the north of Panama.

Palm trees are common at sea level, as well

*The Holy Ghost orchid, "Espiritu Santo," Panama's national flower, blooms in August and September.*

