

Chinese fine!

The 230 Chinese workers in the employ of Ashtrom at the golf course are eating well and, generally, living well at the project.

No issues had ever been heard by the general public regarding the living and working conditions of the Chinese at the project.

If the media had ever wondered why this was so, they clearly saw why during Wednesday's tour of the total site: no source of any potential problem was evident; the Chinese workers seemed well and properly provided for; and, Ashtrom seemed sincerely committed to its promise to make sure that everything was alright. (pages 4, 12, 13).



Ras B leads off



Ras B of Heartbeat Radio

On Wednesday morning, the print and radio media toured the golf course project with top project managers and other personnel.

After the roughly 1.5 hour tour - during breakfast in Zurra's 25 - 30 person

capacity private dining room - the media was given the chance to ask pertinent questions.

Veteran broadcaster and journalist, Ras B of Heartbeat Radio, led off and asked most of the

questions, receiving information revealing answers regarding any challenges due to the great size of the project, any labour issues, the availability of possible training, and so on.

The media left around

10:30 with a good feeling about what was happening at the project and what is expected to happen in time to come, thanks to Flag Luxury Properties.

See pages 4, 12, 13

Media visit to Flag's project



Project personnel at Flag Luxury Properties (Anguilla) Ltd. who accompanied the media on a tour of the property on Wednesday morning. **Left - right:** Brian Simpson, Senior Project Manager; Andrew Bradley, Design and Control Coordinator; Mark Johnson, Estate Project Manager; **Ronen Arava** Chief Project Manager; ASTHROM; Fritz Smith, Executive Project Manager; Ash Hodge, Director of Public Relations; and Geoffrey Blake, Project Director.



Media and Flag personnel entering the St Regis bus. Media included Radio Anguilla, Heartbeat Radio, Kool FM and Klass, The Anguillian, Daily Herald and The Light newspapers, and Anguilla Life magazine and the What We Do In Anguilla tourism tabloid and magazine.



Photo at left: Partial of the miniature of the project, upstairs Zarra's, which mainly shows the St Regis Residences which are privately owned, most however remaining in the rental pool.

It was said that two buildings were currently being constructed by just Anguillian workers, the rest mainly by Chinese.

One building had workers from Anguilla, the region and beyond, all nicely working together.



Photo at left: A small section of the nearing completion Temenos Estates Homes which are privately owned villas.

Just west of these Estate Homes are Temenos Villas which are "smaller versions of the Estate Homes".

The 1, 2 and 3 bedroom St regis Residences are west of the Temenos Villas, each with a view of the beach or golf course.



Photo at left: The Temenos Golf Club House which houses Zarra's restaurant by Bob and Melinda Blanchard.

Magnificent vistas are enjoyed from and towards Zarra's, this photo taken from upstairs one of the Temenos Estate Homes on Wednesday morning.

Temenos is the Greek word for "sanctuary".

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Media visit to Chinese camp



Above, left: Very clean and comfortable air-conditioned container rooms, 4 Chinese workers per 10 foot or so wide room.

Photo above: Two rows of facing container homes with tents and a cement walkway in the middle, creating a street effect.



Above: A clean, "no flies, no mosquitoes", adequate laundry for the 230 Chinese workers to do their own washing.

The workers are said to have all the facilities they need including hot water, cold water, proper toilets, showers and everything.



Three photos above, top: Chinese worker looking at big disk, big screen TV in Chinese language, being one of 30 channels beamed in from China for the workers here to keep in touch with events back home and to enjoy themselves when not working hard and long hours. Two above: Clean, insect-free kitchen where breakfast, lunch and dinner are prepared, the lunch being delivered to the workplace, the others being eaten in large dining room.

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CHINESE WORKERS GET US\$1,800 A MONTH!



Ras B
Heartbeat Radio

In answer to a question from well respected, senior local journalist, Ras B from Heartbeat Radio, it was disclosed that the Chinese workers each get US\$1,800 a month wages.



Ronen Arava
Chief Project Manager

Ronen Arava, Chief Project Manager at Ashtram - the company in charge of construction - said, "For China, it's a very good salary; and, I think also for Anguilla, it's a good salary."

Media visit to Flag's project



Far left: Part of a Temenos Estate Home taken from a similar villa.



Below that: Workers from Anguilla, the region and beyond on one building.



Left: One in a group of Spanish workers laying a PVC pipe at one of the St Regis Residencies.

There were 50+ Santo Domingo workers at Flag who, early this year, had feared that they would all lose their jobs there.

Reports since said that all the Spanish workers who wanted work would get work with one or the other local sub-contractors.

The 800 or so workers on the project are employed by two companies: Flag Luxury Properties and Ashtröm. Flag has 100 in construction, 50 in administration and 150 in landscaping on the golf course. Ashtröm has 40 East Indians, 30 Israelis, 200 Anguillians and other persons from the region and 230 Chinese.

Question and answer period



Ash Hodge, Director of Public Relations; and Geoffrey Blake, Project Director

At the end of the media tour, media and project personnel all sat around a large table and served themselves to a choice of coffee, juice, diced fruit, croissants and other breakfast items.

Public Relations Officer, Ash Hodge, then welcomed the media once again, saying, "We welcome the opportunity to

share our progress and our plans with you. We're looking at Spring for the completion of many of the residencies. We are still on schedule for opening next year 2008 and at that point we'll have one of the best facilities in the region which will be remarkable for its architecture, for its design and for its one-of-a-kind amenities that persons who'll take advantage of

its facilities will receive." He then called on Mr Blake, the Project Director to receive and answer questions from the media.

Veteran journalist Ras B of Heartbeat Radio kicked off with a question about the magnitude of the project.

Mr Blake said the magnitude of the project posed a challenge which was and has been overcome thanks to "the process and procedure of Ashtröm".

He opined that, probably, the single largest challenge was the lack of adequate local resources and experience and expertise at this time of construction.

To a question as to whether the Government has been cooperative in helping the project to achieve its goals and meet its targets, the answer was "Exemplary!"

Ras B quickly followed up with a comment about not

having heard of any labour issues at the Flag Luxury project and asked, "With respect to labour, do you have all your labour issues under control?"

Mr Blake answered emphatically, "We have everything under control!"

He went on, though, to add, "We can't foresee the future. We do not know what actual events might disturb the planning; but, at the moment, we're under control. We don't see any issues for the future. Our challenges will transition from a construction environment to an operational environment. That's a new area!"

About there being a serious training programme for Anguillians, he said, "Normally, when you bring in a project like this, it's essential that there is participation at the government level as well."

About having local personnel in administration once

the operational environment is in place, Mr Blake said, "We made a commitment earlier, on the construction side, that we will maintain a quantity of Anguillians. To my understanding, we're saturated with the number of Anguillians that are available."

He added, "When we go operational, we will have the same sort of numbers that we have now. We'll see a lot of transition of people going from construction to operation. Normally, on a resort, the people that go through the electrical, the mechanical trades, the technical trades, they quickly transition into the operational side. It's logical. They know the project. They know how's it's built. It's logical that they'll stay with the project."

About the project ever having any bad publicity, he hastened to say, "I don't

think we ever had bad publicity. It's never been a concern to us."

He went on to confirm that a total of 114 rental units will be available which include some 30 or so rooms in 4 hotel-owned buildings.

No rooms for stay will be in the St Regis Manor House which will contain a lounge, spa, fine and casual dining, kids club, banquet room, exercise facility, beauty salon, retail shop, outdoor dining and an outside swimming pool.

The media thanked all the project personnel for the opportunity to be taken on a tour of the project.

Ash said that he'd like to continue it on a monthly basis, so that the media will be kept up to date.

It was mid-morning when the seeing and hearing for one's self finished.

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