

24 HEOL COLWYN

ABERGELE

CLWYD LL22 7UP

17th July 1990

Shell International Petroleum Cor
Shell Centre
LONDON SW

Dear Sirs

Re: MARACAIBO CEMETERIES
Your WA/52 of the 11th instant refers

There are two cemeteries in Maracaibo that were used for burials of expatriate staff and their dependents of all nationalities and religions in the Western Division.

1) Cemeterio Redondo (The Round Cemetery)

This is located at the junction of the Cinco de Julio and Avenida El Paraiso, approximately 1km from the now Maraven Office.

J. Heppel

I have today checked with an old Shell employee, who confirms that Shell had their own plot when he first worked in Maracaibo in 1929.

There are, I think, three plots, two are located approximately 40 yards left from the main entrance, the other 50 yards directly ahead on the main path.

From 1948 to 1962 I was responsible for camp services, Maracaibo Eastern and Western Divisions, included in this operating budget was an item for cleaning/maintaining these plots.

2) Cemeterio Cuadrado (The Square Cemetery)

This is located in La Olympia, a suburb of Maracaibo, approximately 2kms out of town.

It was adjacent, when opened, to the Race track, which has now moved to a large stadium.

Cont'd./

This cemetery was opened towards the end of 1950 as the old cemetery was full, although there were still empty tombs in the Shell plot.

The purchase was arranged by Personnel and Land, Legal Departments, no doubt a P.R. Operation to assist in financing the new cemetery.

I enclose photographs that were obtained for me as a result of an enquiry I made to an old member of my Department. You will I think agree that no comments by me on the present condition of the graves are necessary!

There is an old employee of C.S.V. Personnel Department working in the same Department with Maraven-Maracaibo who can assist in this matter, although I am given to understand he is due to retire, if he has already done so, I am sure he can be contacted. His name is Julio Tinaure.

I have a personal interest in this matter as a very old army friend was interred in the Cemeterio Redondo. We served in the army together for six years in North Africa, Italy and Austria. He died in Lagunillas Hospital on Christmas morning of 1955. His widow was adamant that his body be flown home for burial. This was a very difficult request to agree to, and almost impossible to arrange. I was requested by management (who arrange a plane for me to collect the widow and daughter from Lagunilla) to persuade her to allow interment to take place in Maracaibo. I am still in contact with this lady and her daughter and should the question ever be raised that this promise is being kept, I hope I can assure them that it is.

wid. the promise that grave would be maintained

There is a school teacher and many wives and children of all nationalities buried there.

You may be interest to know that Cardon Refinery had an arrangement for burials to be carried out in the local church cemetery. I have no idea what arrangements were made in Caracas, Eastern Venezuela or Los Gargas - Maturin area fields.

May I suggest that if, as I sincerely hope, an arrangement with a local contractor is made, to clean up the area, possibly dispose of unwanted plots, clean regularly existing graves etc and if help is required to supervise or arrange, contact be made with the present British Vice Consul Maracaibo. His name is George Podoldcki who

Cont'd./

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has business interests in the town. He is not known to me, but have been advised by the previous Vice Consul that he is a very reliable person.

I would be grateful to hear, in due course, what action is being taken.

Yours sincerely

S F FROST

cc G C Tilston

VIEW THE NOTE

E01

From: WYORE2 --UICVM01 Date and time 16/10/90 21:16:07
To: SLJDAS --UICVM00 D. Spiteri

From: O. Reyes WA/52 SIPC London Tel: SC 3422

Subject: Venezuela - Cemeteries

Danny, In response to our letter transmitting the photos of the burial lots you sent over, Shell Venezuela has now identified ownership titles in the Round and La Limpia cemeteries. The titles are in the name of Caribbean Petroleum and CSV, both liquidated companies. They are arranging for the titling to Shell Venezuela with the authorities and once obtained, they will plan to do the necessary cleaning/fencing and marking. This is now moving. Regards Oscar

Regards,

O. Reyes

*** Forwarding note from SLJDAS --UICVM00 16/10/90 14:49 ***

To: WYORE2 --UICVM01 O. Reyes

From: D. Spiteri ukpr/4

Subject: Venezuela - Cemeteries

Where are we at with this one, please?

Regards,

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VIEW THE NOTE

E01

Regards,

Danny

END OF NOTE

Red 19/10 by hand