

SOUTH AMERICA (cont.)

fortable to find the traffic coming at you from the "wrong" side of the road. When the bus reached its destination, Port of Spain, the capital city of Trinidad, we were met by Gitmo type street vendors who passed out cards advertising the places of entertainment available in Trinidad.

We also got our first taste of using foreign money here when we converted our American dollars into British West Indies dollars. Although the city did have some beautiful sights, it turned out to be a rather routine liberty port.

EQUATOR CROSSING

The following morning we left Trinidad and headed for Montevideo, Uruguay. But, there was still one big event waiting before we reached the next port.

The "Crossing the Line" ceremonies (JET BLAST-Sept. 23) were endured by all and the Bennington crew became Shellbacks.

Highlighting the event, were the Pollywog uniforms, Dave Jones and his black robed judges, and the initiations. The actual crossing of the Equator took place at 2336 on September 16.

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

The weather got colder as we

MAIN STREET, S.A. - Looking like many United States main streets, this busy avenue in Santiago, Chile, brought nostalgic memories to the crew.



MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY - This "cinemascope" view of Montevideo, Uruguay, gives an idea of the large size and modernness of Uruguay's capital city.



passed the Equator and neared Montevideo, Uruguay. To most of us it was a strange sounding place. As the smallest country in South America it never had received much publicity and we didn't know what to expect. However from Sept. 24 to the 27th Montevideo showed us that the advertisements about friendly South America were more than true.

It reminded us of a large American city. Its modern architecture surpassed that of any United States city and the busy streets were reminiscent of Main Street, U.S.A. What surprised us most were the late hours kept by the people of Uruguay. Restaurants did not begin serving supper until 2000 (the Uruguayans use the 24-hour clock also) and nightclubs wouldn't take any of our 3 for 1 pesos until 2300. The usual closing time was around five in the morning.

The Montevideo visit continued for three days and nights



PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD - A Trinidadian street vendor shows his wares to a Bennington sailor during the Big Benn's visit to the island's capital city, Port of Spain.