

VISIONS of the ***INTERIOR***

By Robert J Fernandes

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

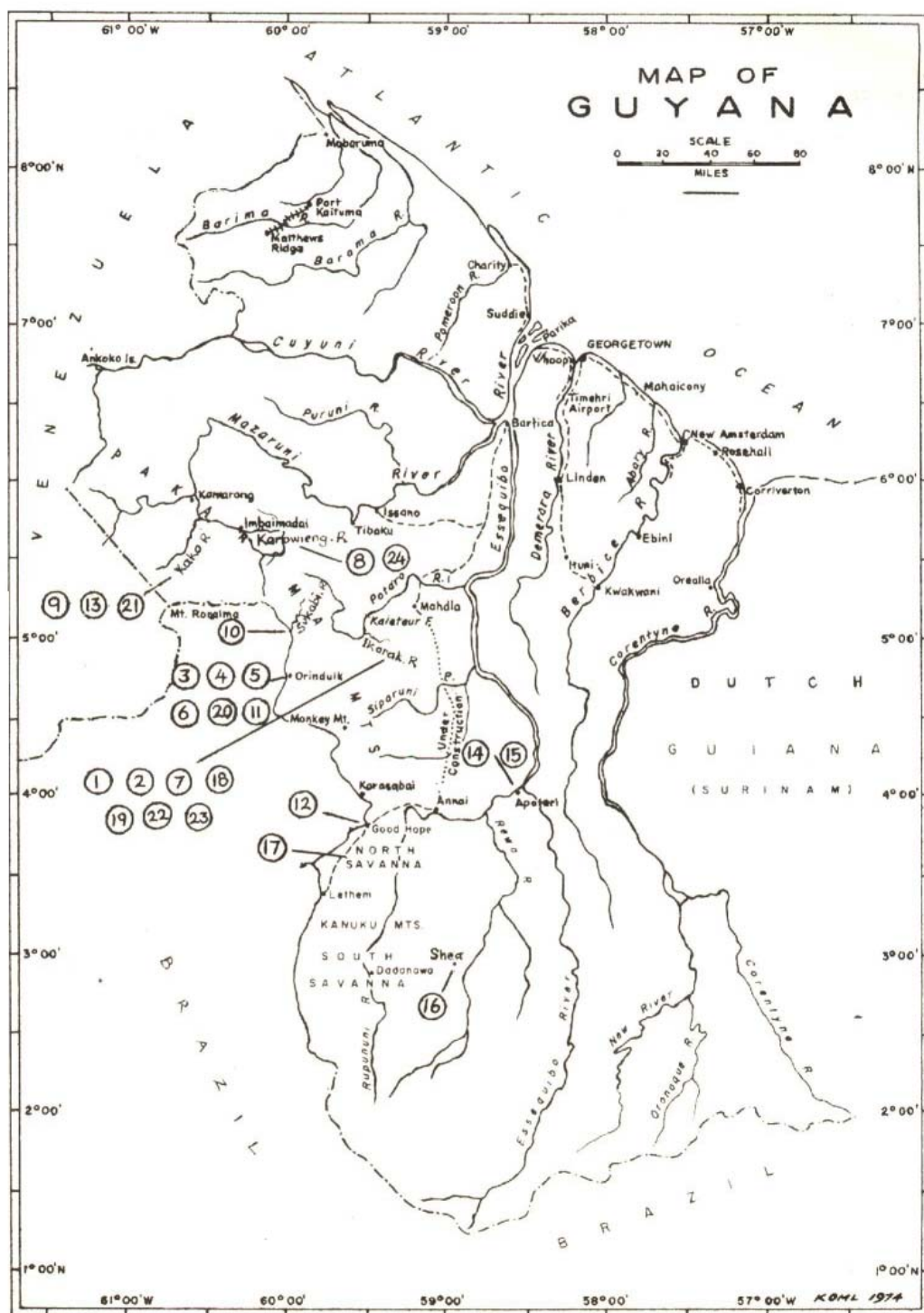
I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those persons who made this publication a reality — to the Curriculum Development Centre for Sponsoring the publication, to Adrian Thompson for advice and encouragement, to Stanley Greaves, and Joel Benjamin, for helping to see the project through and finally to my Amer-indian brothers without whose friendship and assistance this book would not have been possible.

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INTRODUCTION

It has often been said that we have too few singers of the interior of this beautiful country of Guyana except for Arthur Seymour, W.T. Lord, Ron Savory and a few others, but suddenly there has emerged the clear young voice of Robert Fernandes who invites us to share with him the beauty and the solace of quiet places by the presentation of photographs in which the camera is an instrument of art so that the pictures are not only evocative but are intended to stimulate an urge to visit and explore the many beautiful places yet waiting to be discovered. They represent not only a flair for composition but in many the spirit of the place is captured in a manner difficult to describe as is exemplified in "Evening Shadows" and "John Daniels Fall." Water is obviously his predilection.

On the coastlands and in the near and far interior savannahs the sky dominates the landscape. The forest is a more complex feature that requires a different understanding. The variety and appeal of our many rivers increase as they are ascended into the hills and mountains. Waterfalls abound in infinite variety and beauty, and in these pictures we are introduced to the poetry of water — the result of a complete harmony and a creative urge that lifts them above the ordinary.

It is a good thing to love your country but it is a greater good if you inspire this love in others. Trees and water are among the greatest features of Guyana — two resources to be treasured and preserved for the generations yet unborn. The Guyana forest is not a jungle, it is one of the safer forests of the world, where nothing rushes out to attack unless disturbed or trod upon.

It is said that some Arabs' vision of Firdaus (Paradise) is of a land of water and trees, of coolness and shade. Here in Guyana is an earthly paradise to be gained by all who will travel on foot or by water in our 'lovely native land.'

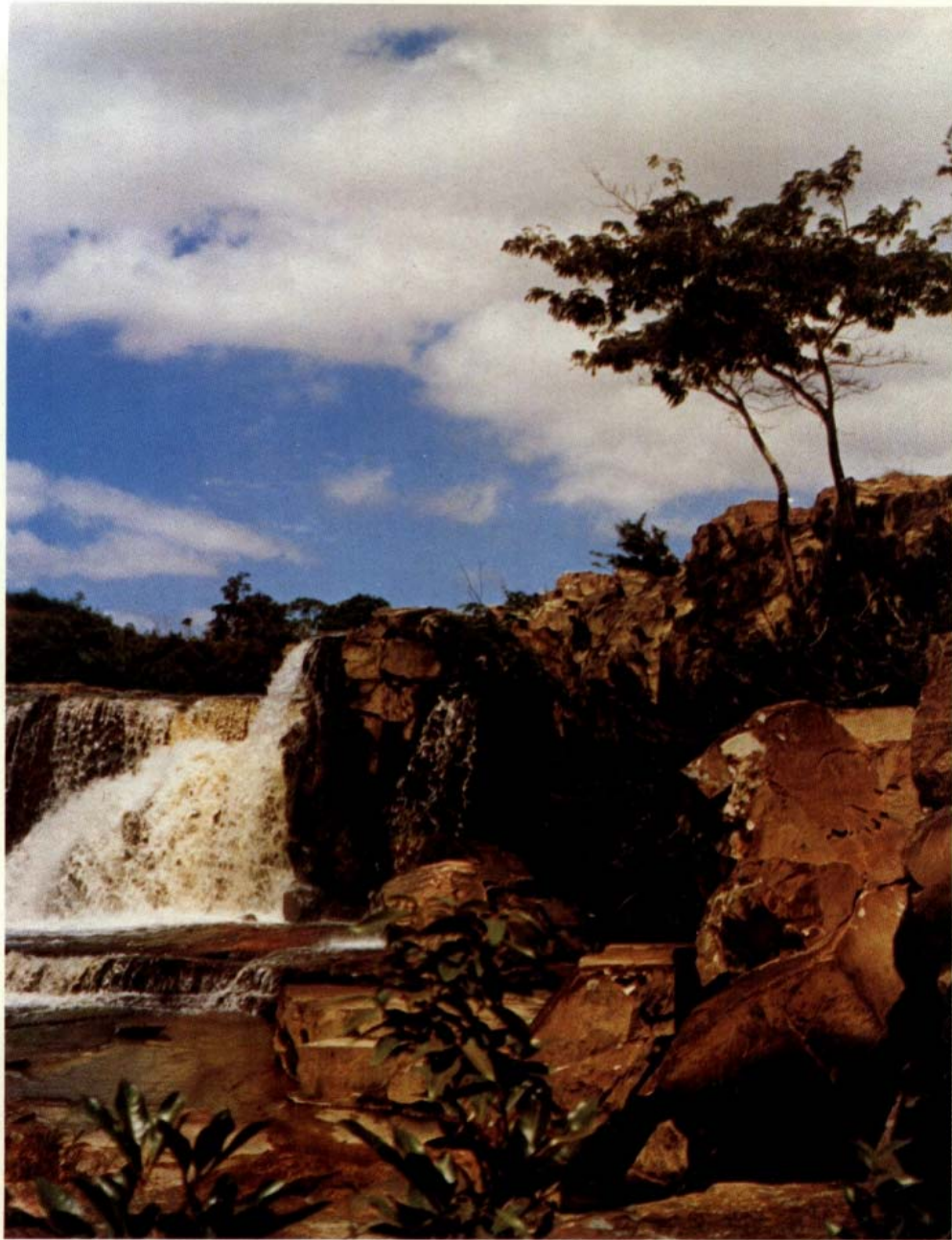
by Adrian Thompson



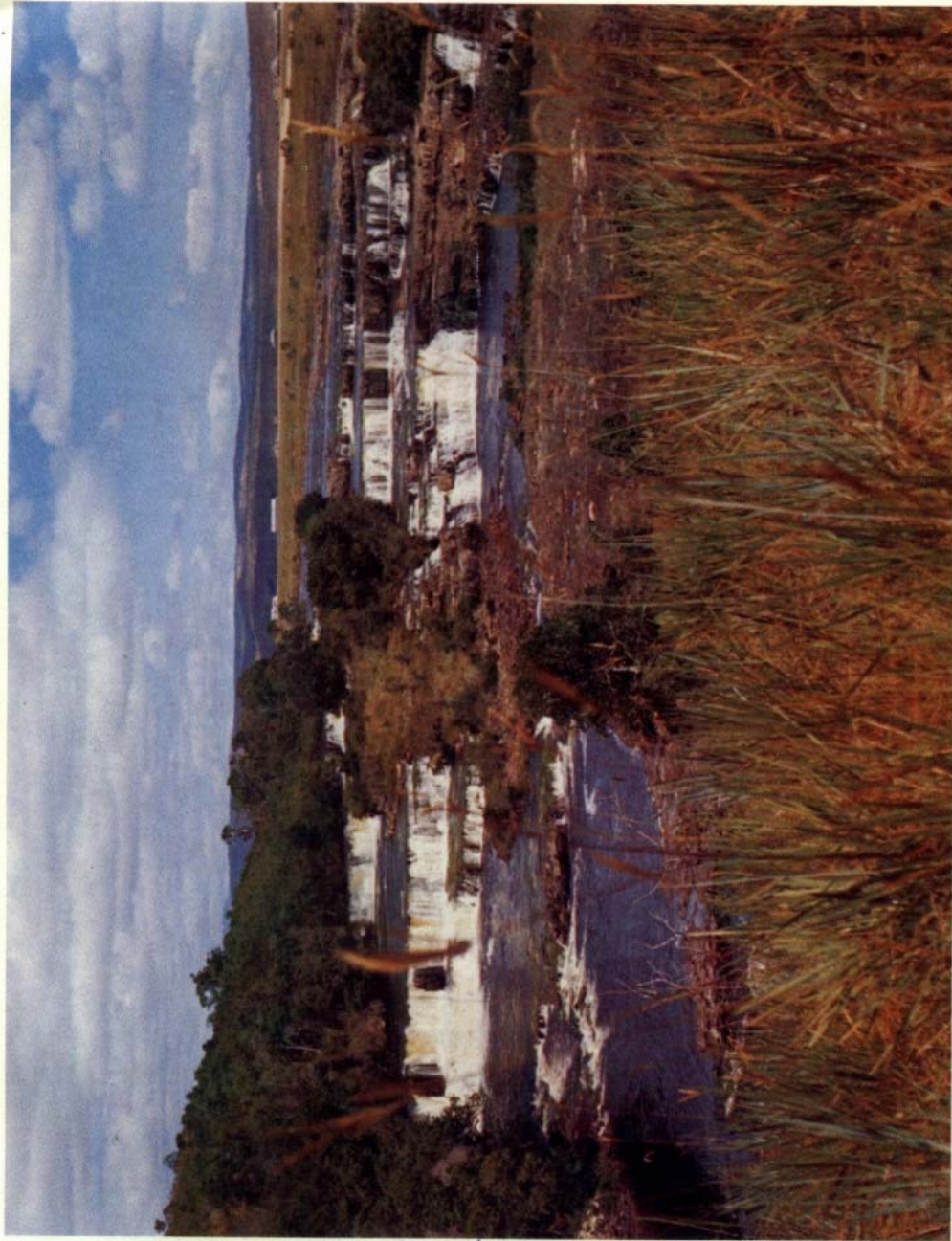
1 John Daniels Falls



2 - John Daniels Falls on the Ikarak River, a remote tributary of the Potaro River. The Falls were named after an Amerindian porkknocker who used to dive for diamonds while his partners hand-pumped his air supply.



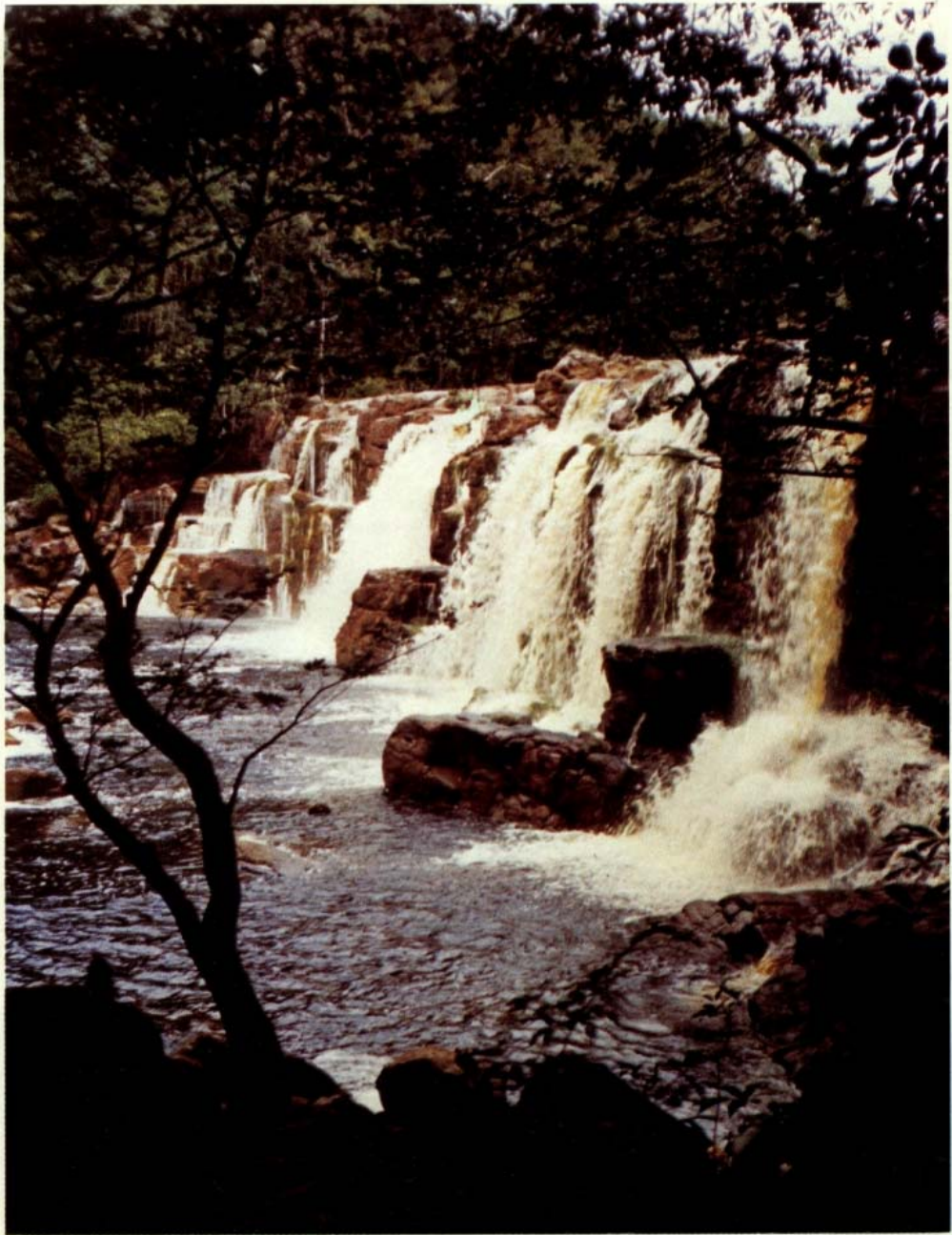
3 Orinduik Falls



5 Orinduik Falls on the Ireng River on the western boundary between Guyana and Brazil. This river forms one of the northernmost streams of the Amazon River system. The name is derived from the Amerindian name for an aquatic plant found at these falls.



6 Takagka Falls, Ireng River, Rupununi District. The rocks in the foreground are red jasper, a semi-precious stone.



7 Bad Woman Falls on the Potaro River, was named after the women who used to follow the porknockers.



8 Maipuri Falls on the Karowrieng River, a tributary of the Upper Mazaruni. A nearby trail leads to the site of some ancient petroglyphs or rock paintings.



9 Chinakuruk Fall on the left bank of the Kako River, Upper Mazaruni.



10 Wantuana Falls, located on the Sukabi River, a tributary of the Ireng River.



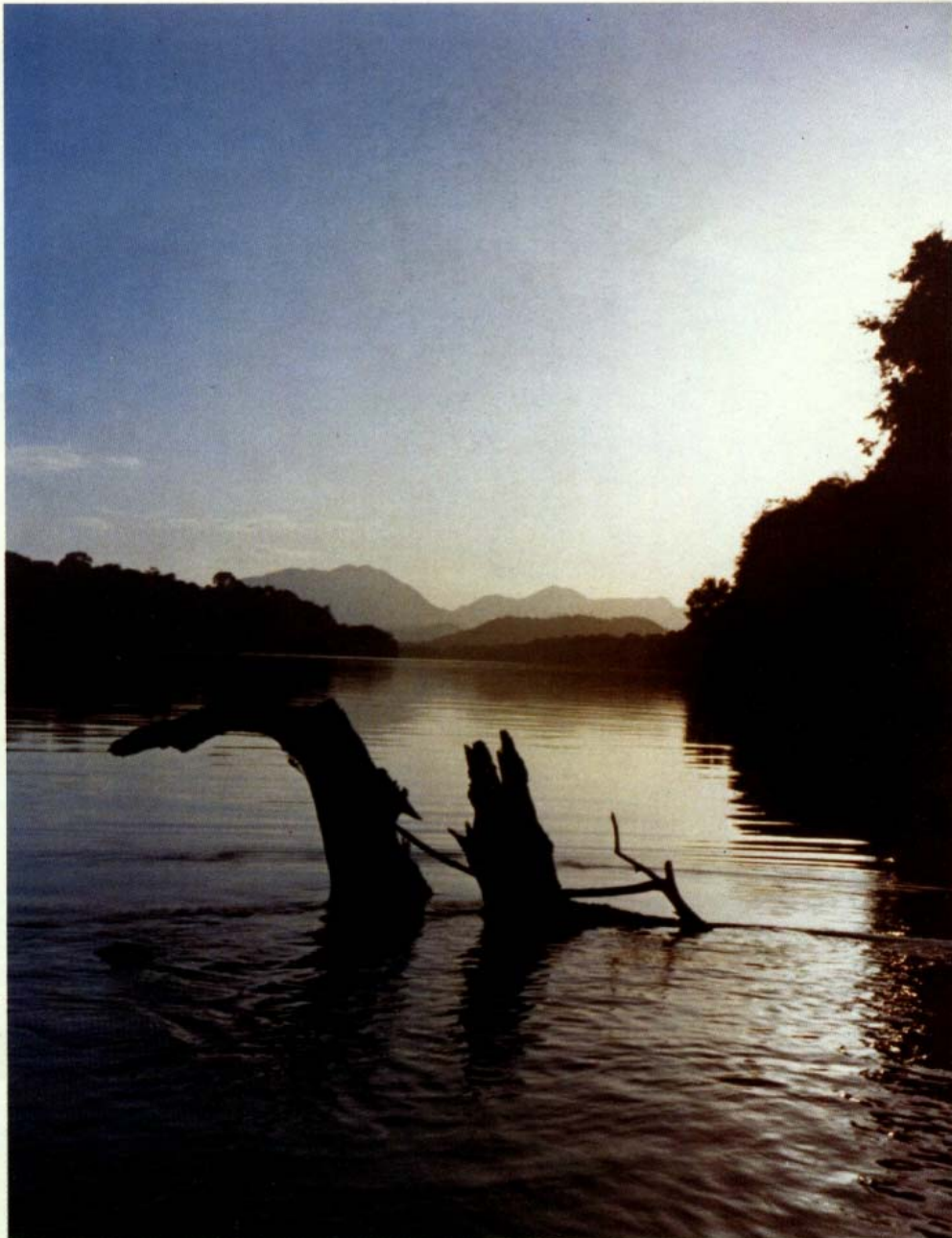
11 View of the Ireng River and the Pakarima Mountains.



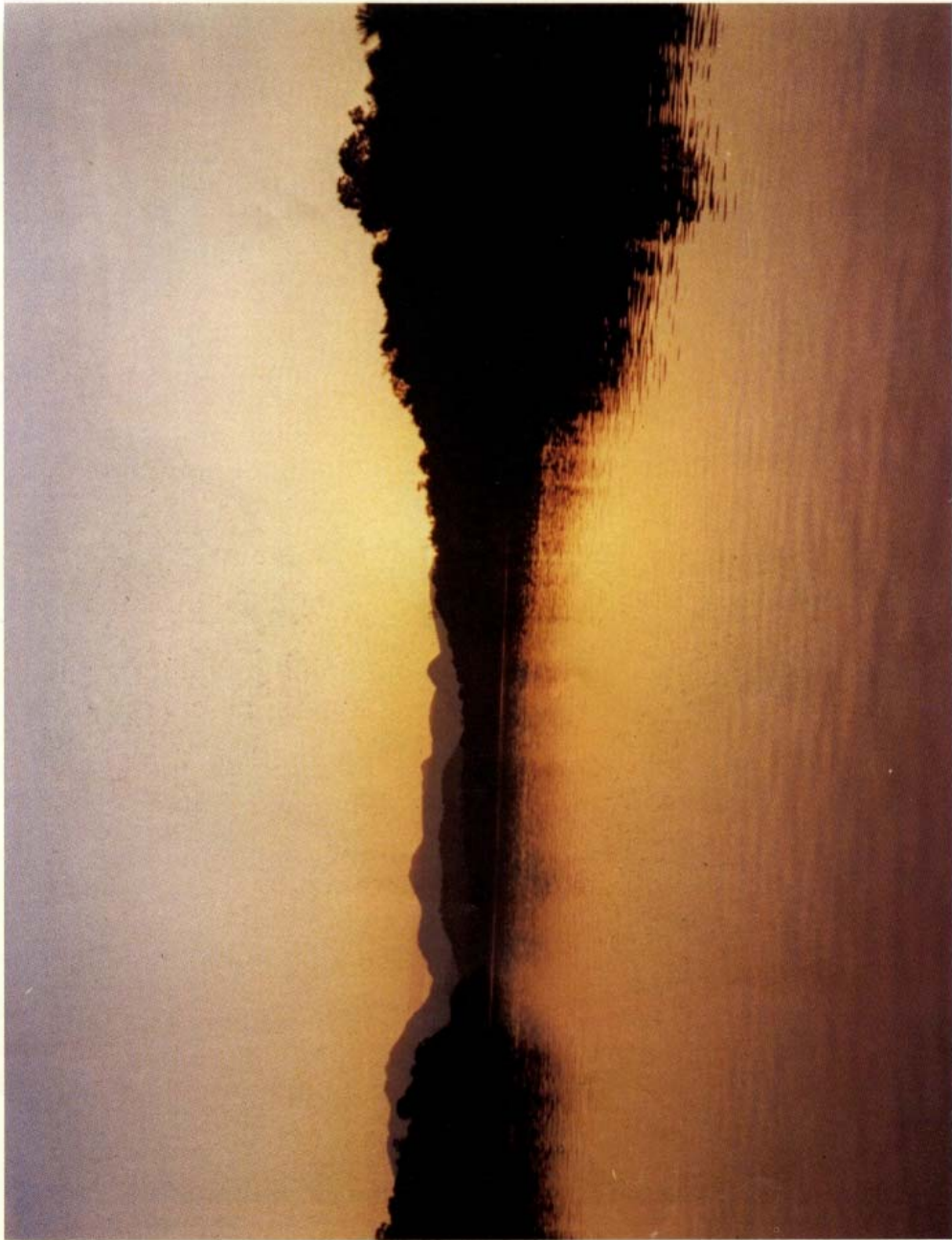
12 View of the Ireng River



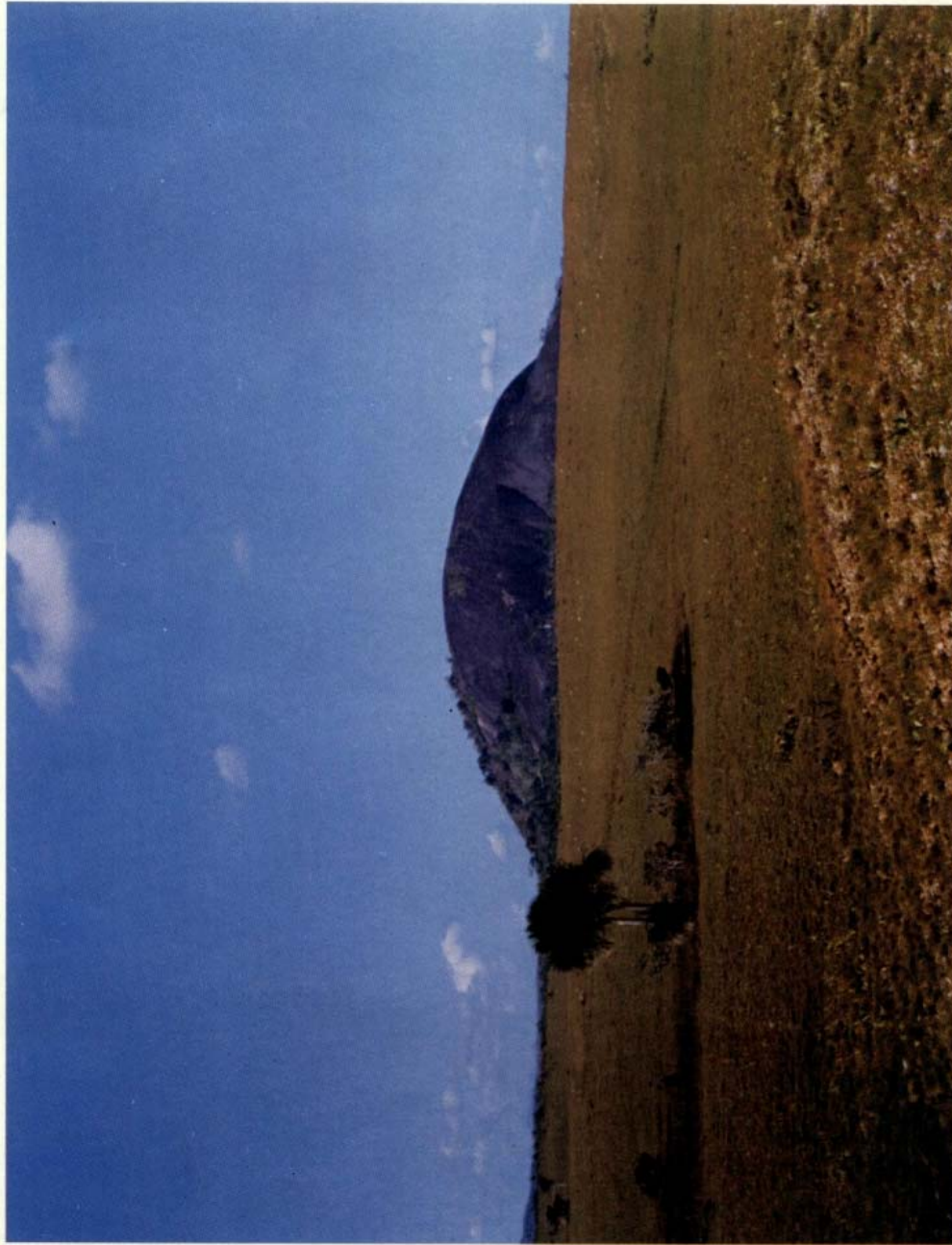
13 The Kako Mountain and Kako River, a tributary of the Upper Mazaruni River. This river is fed from Mt. Roraima and Mt. Kukenaam. Rain often hides the mountain sides in this area which receives the heaviest annual rainfall in the country.



14 Evening shadows on the Rupununi River.



15 Sunset in the Rupununi River.



16 Shea Rock, Rupununi District. This national landmark which forms part of the eastern boundary of the South Savannah is an unusual outcrop of igneous rock.



17 North Savannah, Rupununi District.



18 Ikarak River, Potaro District.



19 Rock pool, Karisparu, Potaro District. Typical trailside creek of the tropical rainforest.



20 Sunset at Orinduik, Rupununi District.



21 Swamp. Tribute to the intricate vegetation so often trodden underfoot in disgust.



22 Rockface — (Yellow) Colonies of golden lichens abound, very much like deposits of precious metals.



23: Rockface — (Red). Ground water leaching through red moss bleeds upon white sandstone.



24 Foam. The froth-laced face of a river becomes an opalescent mirror of fluent sigmoidal patterns.



Robert J. Fernandes son of Mr. and Mrs. John Fernandes Senior was born in Georgetown, Guyana in 1947. He attended Sacred Heart R.C. School and St. Stanislaus College. A keen footballer during his school days, he eventually represented his country at international level.

His contact with the interior dates back to school holidays spent on his father's wood grant in the Demerara River. In later years he made several journeys into the interior where his main purpose was to visit and photograph waterfalls in remote areas.

He has had five exhibitions of his work to-date in Guyana and has also taken part in Carifesta '76 in Jamaica.