The Curaçao Asphalt Lake

Schottegat - Buskabaai

a short history

excepts from VRCurassow – Circus

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Introduction

Over a century ago, Shell Oil started the Isla refinery on Curaçao island, where C.P.I.M. Curaçaosche Petroleum Industrie Maatschappij refined heavy Venezuelan crude. During the 1940-1945 WW-II the output of high-octane aircraft fuel went to the Allied forces in Europe. After Nazi Germany had lost, the product went to the Pacific war theatre.

Because of the crude's heavy characteristics, a large amount of asphalt remained after refinery. This was deposed in the dyke-enclosed Buskabaai; in fact, a commendably procedure as in Puerto Rico or Virgin Island refineries it was just released into the sea. However, the resulting Asphalt Lake just remained sitting there until in the 1980s Shell Oil left Curaçao and sold all installations to the Netherlands Antilles for the sum of 1 guilder.

On the neighboring island of Aruba, around the same time Standard Oil opened the Lago refinery. In WW-II the output first went to the African war theater. A similar deposit of asphalt was not found in Aruba, even though it may be there. But as the African war theater mainly used tanks and ground transport, which used a lower-octane fuel, the amount of asphalt residue may well have been appreciably smaller. The same goes for shipping in the Pacific where the war operations moved to later.

The following items have been collected from the Curaçao Political Circus, starting in 2003. The quoted passages are linked to the site, where the original links can be clicked on.

A Lake of Black Money
Aqualectra suddenly turns out to have acquired all rights to the **asphalt lake** the Isla refinery has built up in many years of operation. FOL wants to know how and when exactly they *got* those rights (we were rather curious ourselves.) FOL emphasizes it was a, and we quote, “criminal act of blackmail”.
2005-02-10

Very interesting choice of words. **Blackmail: “**the act of getting money from people or forcing them to do something by threatening to tell a secret of theirs or to harm them.” Begs the question, what crime? Where's the public prosecutor?

Filthy Mess
After a long struggle between several applicants, to nobody's surprise the exploitation of the infamous “asphalt lake”, a Shell legacy, was awarded to Hapo BV. Other applicants say this outfit has no experience in that sort of work at all, but who cares? Hapo, part of Poost Trade in the 'Transportation Equipment and Supplies' business, was represented by Aqualectra director Steven Martina (Son of Don, worthy predecessing party leader of Charles Cooper) who's now become an insurance company director. (Same racket.)
2006-07-04

Asphalt Lake



Not so far from *eilandsraad*
another Pit of Filth
Google Earth Isla

No Harm Done
At least, *Milieudienst* tells us that the removal of the Asphalt Lake, now in progress, is guaranteed safe and will not result in any extra pollution in no form whatever. Too bad *we* can only hope that, for once, *Milieudienst* is telling the truth; because the dug-up mess will be used in the BOO plant, about which we've been told long ago it has been designed for much lighter grades of fuel.
2007-07-01

You wouldn't Want to Know
One day after an air scrubbing system had been introduced that was supposed to clean the fumes coming out of the "asphalt lake" which now is being cleaned out, Curaçao Drydock personnel went on strike because of the unbearable stench. As yet, nobody has made an effort to analyze these fumes.
2010-04-15

Reading between the Lines
After all the strife and struggle on the infamous Asphalt Lake, the last we heard that work had to be stopped because of the hellish stench. In our criminal innocence, we figured this was temporary. But now it turns out work has been stopped completely! Nobody told us so, and we only find out because the newspapers publish a story that Brazilian Petrobras wants to distribute asphalt products from Curaçao and just maybe *they* can use the asphalt. The last thing we heard, the filthy stuff was supposed to be used in (oops) BOO. What I suppose it boils down to: sleep on, dear journalists - and never ask difficult questions.
2010-08-25



asphalt lake (Google Earth)
As a good friend of mine, showing me a joint, once remarked:
"See how the shit comes sort of oozing out?"

Green Dream
Sounds good: replace Isla refinery with a 'zero emission' town-even if such a thing can a priori not exist. The initiators think to clean up the ground (very doubtful) and build some version of Utopia, Green Town, where everything, yes, every little thing, will be recycled (no cremation), where only non-polluting energy will be allowed (read wind and solar generators, no doubt somewhere else) and where fossil fuel cars are forbidden. There will be a trolley. It's so politically correct, it makes you want to commit suicide by jumping in a CO_2-filled pond with a lumpy chunk of coal around your neck. All this will result in 10,000 jobs, accommodate 10,000 families *and* double government income. Hurray! taxes will be abolished?
Their proposal how to get rid of the horrible asphalt lake is frightening in its simpleminded nitwittedness: just fill it up with concrete. Really! So where then does the asphalt go? And later, let's turn it into a roller-skate rink; not a parking lot, that's an obvious no-no.
(I was warned that they might well take this seriously... I'll take the risk!)
The guys who thought it up are right in one thing though: **do not sell the refinery to PdVSA**, because twenty years from now we will have to buy it back—for a price. This dream may turn out not green, but grim.
Next day in another press release it turned out to be not much more than another bad case of that infamous Curaçao chronic disease, megalomania.
We are still waiting for those no-good much-vaunted windmills to be replaced by working models; if they pay so well, why wait for years? Electrical cars turn out to be expensive flops. All these ideas may have *seemed* viable ten years ago, but not anymore. Worst, all these things depend on heavy government subsidies, so we'll have to keep on paying taxes after all... Ah well, it was just a dream (sheboom, sheboom).
Somebody figured that if San Francisco got rid of their extensive public transportation system and gave everybody money to grab-a-cab, they'd be saving money.
2011-01-26

The Asphalt Lake

Review of all Asphalt Lake circus acts since 2003:
— 2005: Aqualectra somehow acquires "rights" to the lake. FOL states it's a "criminal act of blackmail". Question rises: Who and how has Aqualectra been blackmailing? (Nothing more is ever heard from FOL or Aqualectra; more matter for wondering.)
— 2006: Hapo BV (one totally unexperienced applicant from several) wins the right to "exploit" the asphalt lake. Hapo is represented by Aqualectra's Steven Martina.
— 2007: *Milieudienst* environmental dept. guarantees that removing the Asphalt Lake is completely safe and will do no harm. The *extremely heavy* contents will be used for BOO (which has been designed for *light fuel* grades.)
— 2010: A start is made to remove the tar and sell it to Petrobras Brazil for asphalt. DOK/CDM workers complain about the "hellish stench" exuding; work is stopped and resumed after installing an air filter. It has to be stopped again in one day, because DOK/CDM goes on strike in protest; exit Hapo or whoever it is.
— 2011: The last proposal is to fill up the lake with concrete; a very good reason to take Green Town's green ideas with a heavy dose of salt.

The Mud Thickens
An anonymous source, so I don't have any means of confirming it (many thanks anyway!) writes me (edited from Dutch):
"It's even worse [than described]. Shell was also prepared to clean the asphalt lake at a cost of around USD400million. But Curaçao/NA governments thought they could do it cheaper, and Shell paid them the amount after signing a secret agreement. This led to serious trouble between Shell-NL and Shell-UK: the British were furious that the refinery had been given away for free, and even worse, that all that money had changed hands without any guarantees that the asphalt lake would indeed be cleaned up."
This explains why Shell will never be sued by the Curaçao government (and why well-meant actions like this will never lead anywhere—a waste of energy. Like I have said elsewhere, much less blame attaches to Shell Oil than it gets.)
2011-11-28

This Dream Is Green
There has been a meeting on Green Town that would replace Isla refinery. Most interesting item was that Shell wanted to and would have cleaned up the entire mess, but that then PM Maria Liberia-Peters wanted to take over exploitation, so we got stuck with it.
The initiators may deserve more respect than the Isla-PdVSA-government triad, but seem to be boondoggled by naïve idealism, political over-correctness and a blindingly green philosophy. Then, one wonders what the statement "clearly the majority of the population wants the refinery to change" actually means in practice. Newspaper *Antilliaans Dagblad*'s comment "it all seems too good to be true" just about sums it up. A pity, but no death-knell.
2011-11-28

Doubtful, yes. To explain why it's included: it was an anonymous email from somebody who had taken good care to use a temporary untraceable address. At the time I used desktop-based email and lost the original in a crash (switched to to web-based email then, live and learn); but the source would still be doubtful. Why I have confidence in its reliability is, why should anybody take the trouble to send me that information? My reasoning is, he/she was not allowed to let this get any further but decided to do so anyway. Bottom line, I don't see how this would result in any advantage to that person.

Remains to Be Seen
During the budget presentation in *staten* MFK PM Shorty stated that "in the coming months" a Memory of Understanding will be signed with Venezuela. After more negotiations between Isla refinery and Venezuela PdVSA decisions will be taken on renewing and upgrading the refinery.
Both Aqualectra will switch to lighter grade fuel oils as well as BOO for which it was designed anyway; most breakdowns seem to be caused by the fact that burning "pitch"—as in asphalt lake—is cheaper. But Shorty claims that fuel prices will go down and, as a result, our energy prices will be 30% lower. About time, too. If and when; "it will take at least half a year."
2011-12-22

By “Shorty” is meant Curaçao's ex-PM Gerrit Schotte.

Back With That!
In an interview with Reuters writer Brian Ellsworth PS Wiels states that Shell oil has caused the island permanent (unspecified) damages of 40 to 50 billion dollars and that there are plans to sue in Holland to get this back. By a coïncidence (?) just about what many want Holland to pay in compensation for the slavery business to presently living descendants; lawyers keep telling me it can't be done—at least not by process of law.
To the contrary, a very good case can be made that the descendants of Africans living in the Americas generally are much better off than their counterparts who staid in "free" Africa; rather outrageously, they'd have to thank slavery for that.
Worse, this has been tried before and got nowhere. Shell put a condition when they left and the government signed; that's all there is to it. Shell even offered to clean up the infamous asphalt lake, but our politicians preferred to have Shell pay 400 million, which then disappeared without a trace while the lake's still there. Politicians know about this and have been blackmailing each other with the knowledge. Forget it, Wiels.
2012-10-26

Activity
So they *are* working on getting rid of the infamous asphalt lake! We know because yesterday the factory turning asphalt into oil fuel exploded, killing one worker and injuring four others, of which one is in critical condition.
One again, Shell is blamed to have dumped the asphalt "but never cleared it away." In itself true, but it's not because Shell didn't want to or offer to. Our information is that $400 million Shell did pay for that was squandered or even stolen by our politicians.
The HAPO factory processes 200 tons a day, and there are two million tons, so it will take them over 27 years to get rid of it all. Former Aqualectra director Martina, now minister of economic affairs has ties with HAPO.
2013-03-14

Don't Ask Me
I don't know. Just that RdK Isla and Global Oil Management Group have signed an agreement for 5 years of asphalt production, meant for the USA market. 300 contractors are needed in the starting phase.
If this means we will, finally, get rid of the Asphalt Lake we're not told.
2023-06-08

Black Name-Calling: Shell Fires Back
Shell Oil officially states that, after in 1983 they found a way to process the contents of the "asphalt lake" they had reduced it by 1/3 in 1985. However, the Curaçao government stopped this a few years later, after take-over (estimate is it could have been completely processed in a mere ten years).
Shell also states they left the refinery well maintained and personnel well-cared for, and that responsibility for the present conditions lies with the present owner: our esteemed government.
Shell's statement was triggered by a Dutch Nova Zembla TV-documentary about the Isla refinery pollution.
Shell never mentions the $400 million they bestowed on our beloved leaders for cleaning up—which never happened.
Neither does Shell mention the enormous pollution they caused while working the refinery here. But hey, times were different then in the first place; and they took good care when selling the refinery for 1 guilder that their responsibilities are over.
And by the way, when will Daft Dictator Wiels start to sue Shell for "40 to 50 billion" dollars? He's got more chance suing Shorty's Gang of Bandits of which he formed part.
2013-03-23

D-Day
Today it's 70 years ago that the Allied forces stormed the beaches in Normandy to end the dictatorial fascist regime of Nazi Germany. Many people don't even know any more what it's all about. Please read it up. We here may have had a narrow escape just now and the danger hasn't gone by any way you figure.
Curaçao made a lot of money during that war as all Allied fuel in the European war theater was refined here. We're still left with the asphalt lake, but the money has been spent long since by successive governments going on the spree.
2014-06-06

Taking the Easy Way Out
The *Raad van Ministers* [ministerial council] did not get the fiat of SBTNO (whatever that's supposed to mean—the devil take all those acronyms) for the new director they proposed at Buskabaai nv. Well, that's easily fixed: they made him the *interim* director, without giving his name—would be telling... That's transparent democracy, folks!
Buskabaai manages, if only after a fashion, the infamous Asphalt Lake. Check here as well.
The Board of Buskabaai nv doesn't agree with this slippery scheming and is protesting; they had an entirely other candidate. That's democracy, folks! Or am I repeating myself? Well, I'm not the only one.
2014-09-04

Oh, Those Chinese
Rumors reached us that "the" Chinese have offered to dismantle that entire refinery and get rid of the junk—all for free. Which sounds like that 3 billion dollars cost is all bull. Surely those Chinese expect to make money there.
A real problem is the tar acid lake next to the asphalt lake. It's worthless poison; nobody knows what to do with it and of course, nobody wants to have it. But before 1850 petrol was worthless (only good to make snake oil from); and Shell didn't know for forty years what to do with the asphalt lake. And Uranium? Wasn't worth anything before 1940.
2014-11-18

Stuck with the Lake
BOO electricity plant will switch over to natural gas from asphalt, which should reduce pollution to 20%. No surprise there! Especially as the plant was designed and built by Mitsubishi (with slave labor, but that's another story) for *light* fuels, and for opportunistic reasons had to be adapted (after a fashion) to what you'd call heavy stuff later.
One result is that for the time being, it looks like we're stuck with that asphalt lake. Ah well, we're used to that Pond of Pollution by now. Family member.
Best part is, Isla refinery will switch over to natural gas for fuel as well.
2015-03-11

Dirty Business
This morning, Justice dept. raided both the Isla Refinery and the Asphalt Lake recovery outfit, plus the home of its director; seven addresses in total. Rotterdam has been investigating complaints since 2013 about oil fuel sold to ships, contaminated with waste oil products. Like asphalt?
The practice is forbidden because of pollution, potential engine trouble and crew health concerns.
Not guilty until convicted, you say? I say "pshaw!"
I have also very little doubt several members of our government, who after all don't care if their own people get poisoned, know about this. Like Werner, and other Wielses. Meanwhile, they keep fobbing us off with gammon and spinach about clean LNG-burning refineries.
This Asphalt Lake guy Karel Aster is director of our national oil and gas company KPG, started under ex-PM Arsjes. Another likely prospect is Rupert Arrindell, board member of Isla Refinery and KPG. Stay tuned.
2016-04-19

Looks like nothing much ever came of all this.

Got It
Asphalt Lake director Debrot doesn't understand what all the ruckus is about. "We keep to all local and regional laws" (such as they are). Sure. Just ask SMOC. And Isla's Gijsbertha's states it's nothing to do with the refinery. [It just happens to be done in there, this illegal mixing.] No doubt we'll see. Ten years ago, I wouldn't have dared say "no doubt". But times, they're a'changin'. Good.
Other suspects are Taryna company and a certain mr. Schep.
Says Debrot "You pay less for a KIA than for a BMW. Depends on the quality." *Ees troo, señor.*
2016-04-20

No Doubt Whatsoever
On the quality of the products of Asphalt Lake Recovery, says director Debrot (so it's not Aster? It will come out in the wash). All products are checked by sworn-in inspectors. Ever heard of "perjury"?
It's a Belgian company sold the polluted fuel to ships. So where did those Belgian get the stuff?
I for one agree with Debrot; I for two have no doubt whatsoever.
2016-04-20

Addendum and Correction
Aster, whose house has been raided in what turns out to be called the "Andante" case, is angry about it. He says the raid was "unnecessary and very offensive." Tough. But I was wrong, he is no board member of our national oil company KPG. He says he's only a small shareholder of Asphalt Lake Recovery, but still happens to be director.
Apart from three other private addresses, Elias's United Trust office has also been raided. Elias, called "the richest man in Curaçao" who I see as a slick wangler, is the organizer of the Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival and recently helped the Cuban government to some free propaganda by inviting the Rolling Stones over there, all costs paid. He of course denies any involvement, it just so happens that his company is merely a "fellow director". Hmmm.
PdVSA's Curaçao offices have been raided as well, as only to be expected.
TIP: Why not raid P*Ss party headquarters as well? All those Wiels guys *must* have left tracks.
2016-04-20

Drama Galore
No doubt more will follow: ex Asphalt Lake director lodges a complaint against former subcontractor Herman Piso, who's said that the company mixed poisonous stuff from Holland with the asphalt they processed. That's defamation! We'll see.
Don't know why Aster is so angry, he himself claims he's only a small shareholder of Asphalt Lake.
This is a good way to rid of poisonous stuff which would otherwise cost a lot of money, and of course to make an extra buck by selling it instead!
2016-04-22

Noted
Isla refinery declares they have nothing to do with the Asphalt Lake scandal, even though the installations of that company are on the refinery premises. They also deny the cops have raided the Isla offices.
2016-04-23

We Got Off Cheap

> "I would have truly enjoyed showing her the islands. How the big aluminum plant and the oil refinery of Amerada Hess blacken the stinking skies over St. Croix. Maybe she'd like the San Juan Guayama and Ybucoa areas of Puerto Rico where Commonwealth Oil, Union Carbide, Phillips Petroleum, and Sun Oil have created another industrial wasteland where the toxic wastes have killed the vegetation, where hot oil effluents are discharged into the sea and flow westward along the shoreline in a black roiling stench, killing all sea life.
> She might be impressed were I to cruise into Tallab[o]a Bay and describe to her the one and a half billion tons of untreated wastes from Commonwealth-Union Carbide which put a two-foot coat on the bottom of the bay. Or we could take a tour up into the mountains and watch how the trade winds carry the bourbon-colored stink of petrochemical stacks through the passes all the way to Mayaguez, ninety miles from the refineries."
> *The Scarlet Ruse*—John D. MacDonald, 1973, p 256/7.

Now compare this with "our" Asphalt Lake. Yes, it's filthy and I wish we never had it. (On the other hand, I'm overjoyed we got rid of German Nazism and Japanese imperialism.) But Tallaboa Bay contains **750 times** as much goop.
And in fact, when Shell left Curaçao 1/3 of that filth, which they had thoughtfully contained with a dam, had been cleaned up already. It's just because of the laxness of our successive *Nos mes por [gana sen]* governments that it's still around.
2016-08-21

Burn, Asphalt, Burn
The refinery's steam boiler problem is further explained. In 2016 new boilers were installed, but they are not fit for burning asphalt as fuel. As that is used anyway, they have to be cleaned and repaired more often.
The old boilers used by Shell also burned asphalt, but could handle it.
So what clumsy fool bought those new boilers, and probably got a nice fat cut?
2018-02-06

Wetlands
There are several proposals to start artificial ("constructed") wetlands to process raw sewage, thus ending the stinking Chut/Shute farce. One (by Green Force) is planned for Buskabaai, where it will have the Asphalt Lake as neighbor (good huh?); cost 11 million guilders.
Another one is by the University with the Longest Name in the World, or shortly UoC, who however lack the 325,000 guilders to test it out. A third one is by a guy who tested it out in concrete vats in his back yard. He says it cost him 7000 guilders but figures that would be reduced to a couple of hundred if plastic were used. I figure he's completely wrong there.
2018-10-03

Scam
Asphalt Lake Recovery, licensed to empty the Asphalt Lake have discovered an easy way; they mix the goo with diesel fuel or something similar and sell the result as fuel oil. Too bad their product is full of heavy carcinogens, but little do they care. Hey, money is moolah.
They do this together with Belgian company Oilchart International. Both seem to have small doses of conscience.
2018-10-22

Out of Control
The Belgian environment minister had licensed Oilchart to sell the Asphalt Lake filth, "under certain conditions"—which obviously were not checked on in any way.
2018-10-23

Half True
Asphalt Lake Recovery lets it be known that the Asphalt Lake is not a waste product, but a crude oil product. What's in a name? A black lake by any just as bad, to paraphrase the Bard, as the expression goes.
Besides, it's not the asphalt, it's what it's Oilchartmixed with. ALR blames Belgian Oilchart. Time will tell.
2018-10-24

Tell Us About It
SMOC's Peter van Leeuwen casually mentions in passing that the present state of Isla prohibits a restart. First the general condition must be improved, which costs; then the use of pitch fuel must be stopped. This is conform the Texas E&D Technologies 2017 report.
Foundation Clean Air Everywhere, Amigu di Tera and Defensa Ambiental have joined SMOC, who also refer to the court's decision of August 2019, and to the government's promised transparency and sustainability.
The pitch fuel comes from the asphalt lake, of course.
2020-11-02

Good? Bad?
We get to read that end June/begin July a definite agreement will be signed with some party on the take-over of Isla refinery. This is not the first time, by a long way. It's expected (not hoped) that by 2020-QIV the funnels will smoke again. But the use of pitch crude, say, asphalt, as an energy source will be stopped and instead LNG will be used.
Also, we now read that there are three candidates left: one from South America, one from the Middle East. The other one? you ask. So do we.
We're further told that the refinery is in a pretty good competitive position because so many have been closed down, and Isla still is in a decent state. Nevertheless, it's expected reboot will take until end 2023.
And now the fossil-fuel LNG is called "sustainable"? Also, does this mean we're stuck with the Asphalt Lake *in secula seculorum*?
2022-04-26

Sounds Great—But Wait
Yup, it will take a few years. No doubt about that. But it's a definite start, and for once, in the right direction.
It's the *Daily Mail* quoting an article in *Nature*: an enzyme has been found that will consume PET plastic, which constitutes 12% of the mountains of garbage filling our landfills and drifting around in the seas. And fast, too.
Now the *Daily Mail* certainly is not the worlds's most reliable source, but *Nature* is another matter.
Building on this discovery, an end to the Asphalt Lake and Isla refinery ground pollution looks definitely possible. If in the future. I have been speculating on this in the past.
2022-05-03

Dirty Oil
Many people find that *all* oil's dirty, but it certainly applies to the Venezuelan crude, the reason we're the not really proud owners of the asphalt lake. No matter! Our genius PM Prickie wants the Kingdom to start negotiations so we can get the stuff to process. Where? In the Isla refinery, which Prickie still maintains will be up and running one of these decades.
The Bearded Weirdo also thinks oil will be of import for at least thirty more years. I can only agree with him there; certainly looks like it more and more.
2023-03-17

“The Bearded Weirdo” is our honorable PM Pik Pisas, affectionately *AKA* Prick Pias.

Poison Sellers
Naturally, you can expect no better from many trade organizations. They can make an extra profit, they'll go for it. In this case a Belgian dealer in ships' fuel, who made a habit of buying poison from the Asphalt Lake and mixing it with lighter fuels (which are doubtful in themselves), to sell to ships. They were first fined €30,000 (peanuts!) but may now get a fine of €3.7 million; plus 3 years in jail for the director.
What we here have to ask ourselves, aren't the exploiters of Asphalt Lake just as guilty?
2023-06-13

Always Late
Buskabaai NV has not delivered yearly accounts since 2018. Don't act so surprised, it's another SOE so what did you expect?
Buskabaai is supposed to be clearing and exploiting the infamous asphalt lake. They expected to recover 75,000 tons/year, but their subsidiary (? not clear) did not manage to deliver 20,000 tons. At this rate, it won't take the expected 5 years but at least 20. No matter, it has been sitting there since WWII so what's the hurry?
Buskabaai is contemplating suing ALR Asphalt Lake Recovery nv because of the delay. That I want to see.
2022-11-14

Ambitious
The first steps for a sanitation of bottom and groundwater pollution on Isla refinery terrain, it's called. The plan is called *Horizonte Nobo*. On the aerial photo accompanying the article, we see the Asphalt Lake is still there in all its glory.
35% of the terrain available will be used for "green industries". Like this, and this?
Please don't misread me. I'd certainly love to see those things fixed.
2023-05-17

Acquitted
The Antwerp company accused of mixing poisonous chemicals in their fuel has been acquitted. They bought their stuff from Asphalt Lake, who mixed it with Fuel No. 6. But the court judged that this was not a waste material, but raw stuff which could be made into a usable product.
If they did make it into a usable product I couldn't say. The case concerned only the product bought from Asphalt Lake Recovery, who thus still seem to export a poisonous waste product.
2023-07-06

Really? Let Us Hope So
Buskabaai director Martina tells Antilliaans Dagblad that 5 years from now, the Asphalt Lake will, finally, be gone. The asphalt will be dug up and sold for road maintenance. (To Global Oil, by any chance?) The resulting holes will be filled with "clean soil"; where that comes from is anybody's guess. Another hill of our landscape gone, no doubt.
Antilliaans Dagblad adds that the asphalt is a residue of Shell's refinery process to produce jet fuel in WWII. Only, there were precious few jet planes around in that time.
2024-08-09

Not First Time, Nor Last
Belgium company Oilchart International's department in Barendrecht, Holland is convicted of mixing chemical waste into marine fuel and illegally shipping it to Belgium. The poison comes from, among other sources, garages in Curaçao.
At least this time not from the asphalt lake.
The fine was a mere €150,000.
2024-12-13

“Garages” means car workshops of course.



Shell Comments

Shell has declared that, in 1985, they left the refinery in a 'good condition'.
Work then had already started on processing the asphalt-lake, which had been cleared for about 30%.
(It has been stopped after take-over by Curaçao island.)