

Swedish band says goodbye

By DAVID CUFFY

LEAVING this afternoon on their way back to Sweden after a four-week visit here are brothers Lars and Mats Hansson, leaders of the Swedish soca band, Soca Rebels.

Formed in 1990, the eight-member band plays only soca music at all its appearances on the entertainment circuit in Sweden. In addition, a steelpan is one of the front-line instruments.

The love for this country's indigenous music, according to Lars, took root when they heard, for the first time, Crazy's "Nani Wine."

This led to the band cutting its first record, in 1991, "Farmor Svang" — the Swedish version of "Nani Wine". The decision proved to be a wise one as the song became popular, receiving a great deal of air-play both in TT and in Sweden.

The following year, Crazy was invited to tour Sweden with the band, and in 1993 members released a four-song album simply titled,

"Soca Rebels". The four selections on the disc are: "Soca Nation", "Party Hearty", "Dis Is Trouble" and an instrumental version of "Soca Nation".

The songs were written by Lars except "Party Hearty", which was composed by the band's drummer, Anders Howerdal.

Lars and Mats said their four-week visit was made to establish contacts with local entertainers and promoters, and to acquire some of the latest releases of soca music to add to the band's repertoire.

Members of the Soca Rebels are: Lars Hansson — lead vocals, guitar and steelpan; Anna Bernmalm, Lotte Wieslander and Cia Andersson — vocalists; Mats Hansson — keyboards; Bjorn Hansson — bass; Mikael Uneman — percussion and Anders Howerdal — drums.

The band will be appearing at the World Athletic Championships and Stockholm Water Festival, scheduled to take place in Sweden next month.



MEMBERS OF the Swedish soca band, Soca Rebels.