

The pretext for the riots and fire in February 1962 was the PPP budget with new taxation proposals. These same tax proposals were described by the New York Times as "courageous and economically sound" and by the London Times as also "courageous and certainly not far from what Guyana must have."



The opposition PNC in collaboration with the Trades Union Congress (TUC) financed and supported by the CIA and US trade unionists called a strike in 1963 which lasted 80 days. The strike was marked by continued violence and civil servants on strike were paid by funds provided by the CIA.

During the 1963 riots, violence was directed against Indians, anyone suspected as a government supporter, PPP legislators and ministers of the government. Indians in Georgetown were brutally attacked and beaten, sometimes in full view of the police.



Parliamentarian E.M.G Wilson being grabbed by police.

During this period Dr. Jagan met on numerous occasions with the Governor, the Commissioner of Police and the Commander of the British Troops and requested that the army be deployed on foot patrols all over the city, because the police were incapable of dealing with the situation.



Debating in Parliament during the 1961-1964 period.



Dr. Jagan unveils the monument to H. N. Critchlow at Parliament Buildings. Towards the development of a national people's culture, the PPP government instituted a national History and Culture Week; established a national steel band; gave annual prizes for literature and art, and initiated dress reform - the shirt jae.



Cheddi Jagan wearing the famous cotton shirtjace that he introduced into Guyana's fashion. It later replaced the woolen European suit for men's wear.



Burnham and d'Aguiar. The opposition forces were provided with covert and overt support by United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the effort to overthrow Dr. Jagan and his PPP Government.



While in Stockholm, at the first meeting of The World Council of Peace held from May 19-20, 1962, Dr. Jagan was invited to serve on the Committee.



Dancing at his sister's wedding in 1961.



On a visit to the Demba Bauxite mines in 1960



Radio broadcast by the Premier on February 14, 1962.



The development of new agricultural schemes with reliable drainage and irrigation facilities and the settling of thousands of people in these areas was accomplished during the PPP Governments, eg. Black Bush Polder and Tapacuma drainage and irrigation schemes. With the creation of the Rice Marketing Board and Guyana Marketing Produce Depot, markets and prices for farmers' produce were guaranteed.



At Launching of the "Torani".



A warm welcome for a well loved leader.



A Dependable electricity supply to Georgetown and outlying areas was established and electricity was made available to many rural areas including Anna Regina on the Essiquibo coast. Dr. Jagan at opening of Rural Electrification to the county of Essiquibo on November 11, 1964 (above).

3rd PPP Government - 1961-1964

With Fidel Castro in Cuba during the 1960's.



The PNC raised high the banner that under no circumstance were the British to consider independence under Jagan. They concentrated their attacks on the PPP and its leading members who were harassed, framed on trumped-up charges and jailed.



With US Secretary of State, Dean Rusk (below). On September 19, 1962 the following letter was sent to Alex Johnson, Foreign Secretary of British Home Office, from Dean Rusk. "I must tell you now that I have reached the conclusion that it is not possible for us to put up with an independent British Guiana under Jagan."



"I have no bitterness, no recrimination. A big moment in my life was in New York in April 1960 at the editorial office of the liberal American weekly, the NATION. Tears of joy welled up in my eyes as I heard Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. say that he was sorry for what he had done thirty years before, and that a great injustice had been done to me."



With Canadian Prime Minister Diefenbaker in October 1961



In Israel on a State Visit from Dec. 3-7, 1961

1961-1964, was a period of strife and disturbances, the principle object being to remove the PPP from government and to prevent independence while they were in power, even though it had been understood that the party that won the elections would lead the country to Independence.



At home with his family.



With Ben Bella, the popular Algerian leader (left) at the United Nations in the Sixties.



"I give my solemn pledge that my government will never discriminate against any person or persons on the ground of race, religion or political creed, that the essential freedoms will be preserved and we will respect the rights of all. Our Party has always been and will always be a multi-racial party. Within it there is room for all. Its leaders come from every racial group."



British Governor Sir Ralph Grey handing over Certificate of appointment as Premier to Dr. Cheddi Jagan in 1961. He wrote this about Dr. Jagan: "Whether he is a Communist or whatever you call him, Dr. Jagan is a sincere nationalist who believes he is destined to lead his country to the betterment of his people."



Photo of members of the 1961 Cabinet (L-R): C. V. Nunes, R. Chandisingh, F. Ramsahoye, B. Benn, C. Jagan, Sir R. Grey, B. Ramkarran, B. Singh Rai, E. M.G Wilson, C. R. Jacob, Jr., H. J. M. Hubbard, G. Bowman and L. Mann.



With his mother during the Queen's College Dinner organized by the Citizens Committee, on September 16, 1961 to celebrate his victory at the 1961 election.



With John F. Kennedy on October 25, 1961. "I went to see President Kennedy to seek the help of the United States, and to seek his support for our independence from the British. Kennedy was very charming and jovial. The United States feared that I would give Guyana to the Russians. I said if this is your fear, fear not. We will not be a Soviet base. I raised the question of aid. They did not give positive response."



On December 18, 1961 he addressed the 4th Committee of the United Nations calling for the British Government to decide on a date for independence. His address set a precedent at the United Nations in allowing other delegates from non-self-governing countries the right to address the UN as petitioners (above & below). When he addressed the United Nations his appeal was for independence, not only for British Guiana, but for all colonized people all over the world.



1961 Election Victory



Pre - 1961 election Radio Speech: "On Monday we will be voting to elect a people's government. Your vote then will decide whether this country becomes free and independent and, if so, when...The fact that you have the right to vote at all, the fact that your vote may make you free - these are monuments to the courage and to the efforts of the PPP...I believe in, and will cherish, parliamentary democracy with its expression of the peoples will at regular free elections. I stand by the provision of the new Constitution by which the fundamental rights of all, including freedom of conscience, and religion and expression are protected by the Courts. Indeed these provisions were inserted into the new Constitution at the request of my Party and for my people...I believe that my first charge is to raise my people from the mire of poverty in which for too long, they have suffered...Here I stand. Here will I stand until I die. It is for you on Monday, to decide whether you will stand beside me."



The 1961 general elections were contested by three parties - the People's Progressive Party, the People's National Congress led by Forbes Burnham and the United Force led by Peter d'Aguiar. The PPP won 20 out of the 35 seats despite the "gerrymandered" constituencies changes made by the British Government in 1960.



Photos taken during the 1961 Election Victory Parade (top, above & below).

1961 Victory message: "The people of British Guiana have given me the strength and authority to move forward on the course I have already charted. From this day forward we shall need the goodwill and hard work of all our people so that we may proceed to make our country a fit and proper home for heroes in the struggle for political and economic independence. Let there be an end to sectional racial quarrels and suspicions so that national unity may be restored."



"I have won my place in the political life of my country in three successive general elections. I have not come to power by revolution or coup d'etat. I believe in parliamentary democracy, by which I recognize the rights of opposition parties, freedom of speech, freedom of worship, regular and honest elections, an impartial judiciary and an independent civil service. I have been accused of plotting the destruction of freedom in my country. The truth is that those who accused me of this have themselves been responsible for the denial of freedom to the broad masses of our people. I have struggled for these freedoms and it was I who first proposed that a Bill of Rights guaranteeing every citizen his fundamental rights, including the right to hold property, but buttressed by an appeal to the courts, be entrenched in the new constitution of British Guiana."