

Dr. Jagan, Ashton Chase and C.R Jacob along with other PPP parliamentarians are seen leaving the Parliament after tearing up a proposed Bill aimed at taking away the power of the Election Commission in 1968.



The December 16, 1968 elections, were, as predicted, rigged. The PNC which by this time had dumped its coalition partner the United Force, claimed 55%, gave the PPP 30% and the UF 7%. Extensive fraud, including fabricated padded voters' lists, extensive proxy voting, fake votes and ballot box tampering led to the fraudulent elections.



In July 1969 the PPP was accepted into the World Communist Movement. This photo was taken when Dr. Jagan and Clinton Collymore attended this historic meeting in Moscow (above).



Shaking hands with M. Suslov, (above) Politbureau member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in July 1969. Looking on is President of the USSR, Nikolai Podgorny.



Cheddi Jagan is welcomed home in 1969, after a visit to the Soviet Union. The PPP began transforming itself into a Marxist-Leninist party. As part of the organizational change, the leader of the Party, Dr. Jagan was elected General Secretary of the PPP.



"His unpretentious dignity and humility were part of his being. His stately posture, his gracefulness and his famous warm smile were part of the aura, the charisma of this outstanding man." Janet Jagan

With Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India.



The People's Progressive Party led by Cheddi Jagan consistently and militantly led the struggle for Guyana's independence from Britain from 1950 onwards. The British Government backed by the USA maneuvered to prevent independence from being declared when the PPP was in office and manipulated the PPP out of office in 1964. The People's National Congress carried the unpatriotic slogan "No Independence under Jagan" and gave no support to the struggle. The Colonial Office announced the Independence date for May 26, 1966 and on that date the Union Jack was lowered and the new Guyana flag was raised. Cheddi Jagan, despite the reprehensible actions of the British and US Governments and the PNC to prevent Independence while he was in office, attended the ceremonies and welcomed the final break with colonialism, but stated that May 26 would mark a new phase in the struggle against neocolonialism.

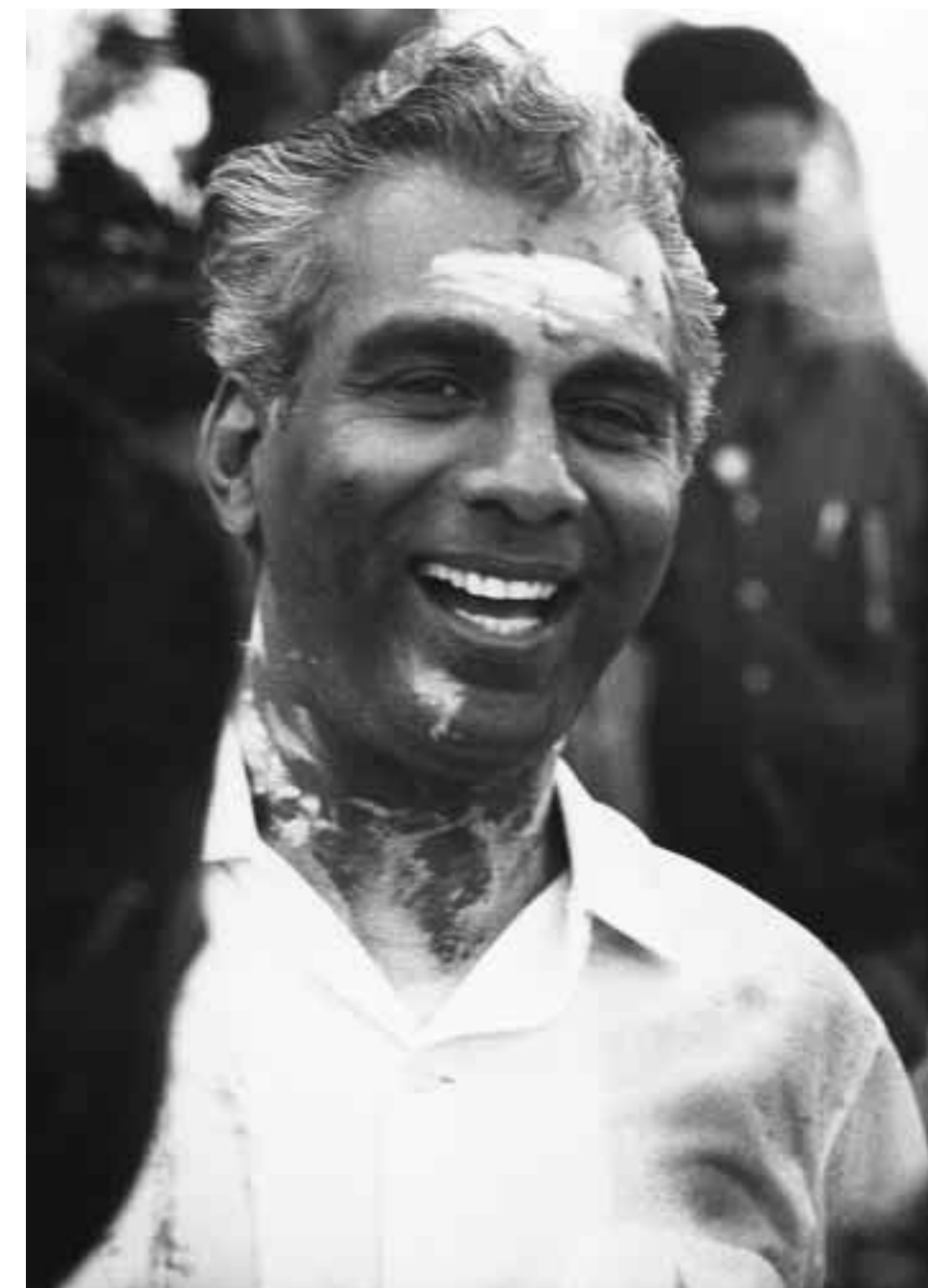
"Independence finally came on a platter to the PNC in 1966. Since then, under the past administration, it has been 26 wasted years. All we have to show are the symbols of Independence - the flag, the national anthem and the coat of arms. For the vast majority, Independence has meant misery, pain and helplessness... This is not how it could have been." Cheddi Jagan 1993



The PPP appointed its then General Secretary, Janet Jagan to the Elections Commission, preparing for the first elections (1968) after Independence. By May 1967, Mrs. Jagan reported in the Party's official organ "Thunder" that plans were already being put in place by the PNC to rig the elections.



In 1968 Dr. Jagan led a protest march to protest the many irregularities in the National Registration for voters which denied thousands of their right to vote. Units of the Police and Army were called out to stem the protests.



Cheddi playing Phagwah in 1964 (above).

1964 - 1969

During 1965, Dr. Jagan began his monumental book "The West on Trial." He sat down quietly at a table and started assembling papers; then sat down for long hours in the day and night to write. His powers of concentration were indeed impressive. His daytime writings were frequently broken by internal party meetings, fulfilling his duties as leader of the PPP and going around the country side talking to Party members and supporters, helping them understand what had taken place and keeping their spirits high.



"Those who say that we are irrelevant, that we are finished, should be reminded that the same tune was sung after the dark days following the rape of our constitution in 1953 and the breakaway by the right and left opportunists in 1955 and 1956. But we won in 1957 and 1961. Today, though defrauded and cheated, we remain the strongest force in the country. Difficulties there will be; the battle will be long and hard. But win again we will. History and time are on our side!" Cheddi Jagan 1966



Historic photos of Dr. Jagan debating in Parliament (above) and of PPP Parliamentarians. L-R: Cheddi Jagan, Brindely Benn, Ramkarran, H.J.M. Hubbard, C.R. Jacob, Jr., C.V. Nunes, F. Ramsahoye, E.M.G. Wilson (below).



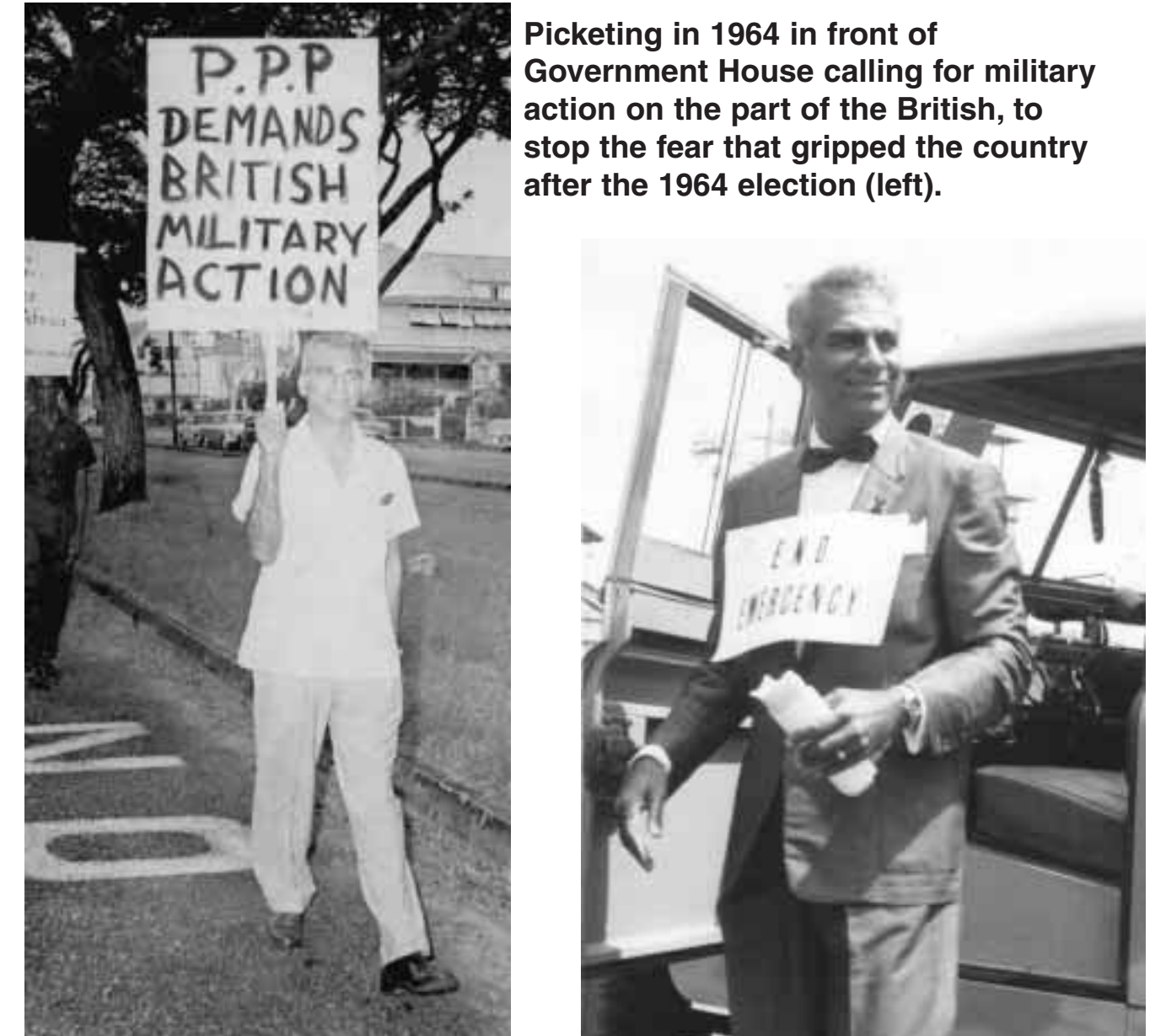
Cheddi Jagan loved the simple pleasures of life. He believed that diet and exercise were very important, and exercised every day of his life, sometimes even twice a day. He loved working in the yard and planted many fruit trees. He got great satisfaction in watching the trees and plants grow and produce. How he enjoyed his home grown mangoes! He had a favourite dung tree and used to delight in picking the dung which he took to Freedom House and gave the workers there, along with sugar cane he had cut.



Dancing with Miss Guyana 1967, Shakira Baksh.



The PPP went into the 1964 elections under protest, gaining more votes than it did in 1961 - 45.8%, the largest number for any single party. The PNC received 41 percent and the UF 12 percent. Four other splinter parties contested. The Governor refused to follow the normal convention by asking Dr. Jagan to form a government. Instead he called in Burnham who joined with d'Aguiar to establish a coalition government. This alliance was manipulated to ensure that Dr. Jagan and the PPP were not allowed to govern, even though the two parties vowed at election time that they would never team up with each other.



Picketing in 1964 in front of Government House calling for military action on the part of the British, to stop the fear that gripped the country after the 1964 election (left).

Calling for the release of the PPP detainees, arrested in 1965 (above and below). The struggle to free the 34 detainees was intensified with countrywide petitions and protests, with the detainees being released in July 1966. Three important issues were faced by Cheddi Jagan during 1966 - the continued imprisonment of PPP leaders at Mazaruni Prison where they were held without trial; the May 26th Independence of the nation and the Venezuelan border issue.



Leading PPP supporters in a protest march against the PNC-UF coalition's budget. Dr. Jagan accused the Coalition government of the PNC and the United Force of selling out the interests of the Guyanese people when it agreed to establish the Venezuela - Guyana Border Commission. Dr. Jagan stated that the border dispute was settled years ago and the setting up of the Commission was a serious retreat as it gave the Venezuelan claim the status it never had before.

PPP supporters are seen protesting against the imposition of Proportional Representation in London when Dr. Jagan came in 1963 to meet with Duncan Sandys. At the constitutional conference the British, giving open support to the opposition forces led by Burnham, and following the orders of the US Government, changed the electoral system from first-past-the-post to proportional representation and amended the Constitution to provide for new elections one year ahead of that provided in the Constitution under which the People's Progressive Party had won the elections in 1961. Elections were ordered for 1964 by the British who reneged on a previous agreement to grant independence before any further elections. The change was designed to keep Dr. Jagan and the PPP out of office.



With United Nations Secretary General, U Thant on September 13, 1963 (below).



In January 1964, Cheddi Jagan (British Guiana), Alexander Bustamante (Jamaica), Dr. Eric Williams (Trinidad), and Errol Barrow (Barbados) met at the Meeting of the "Big Four" in Jamaica (below).



The PPP rejected the imposition of the Sandy decision with a "hurricane" of protest", which began with a countrywide Citizens Freedom Rally on January 31, 1964 (below).



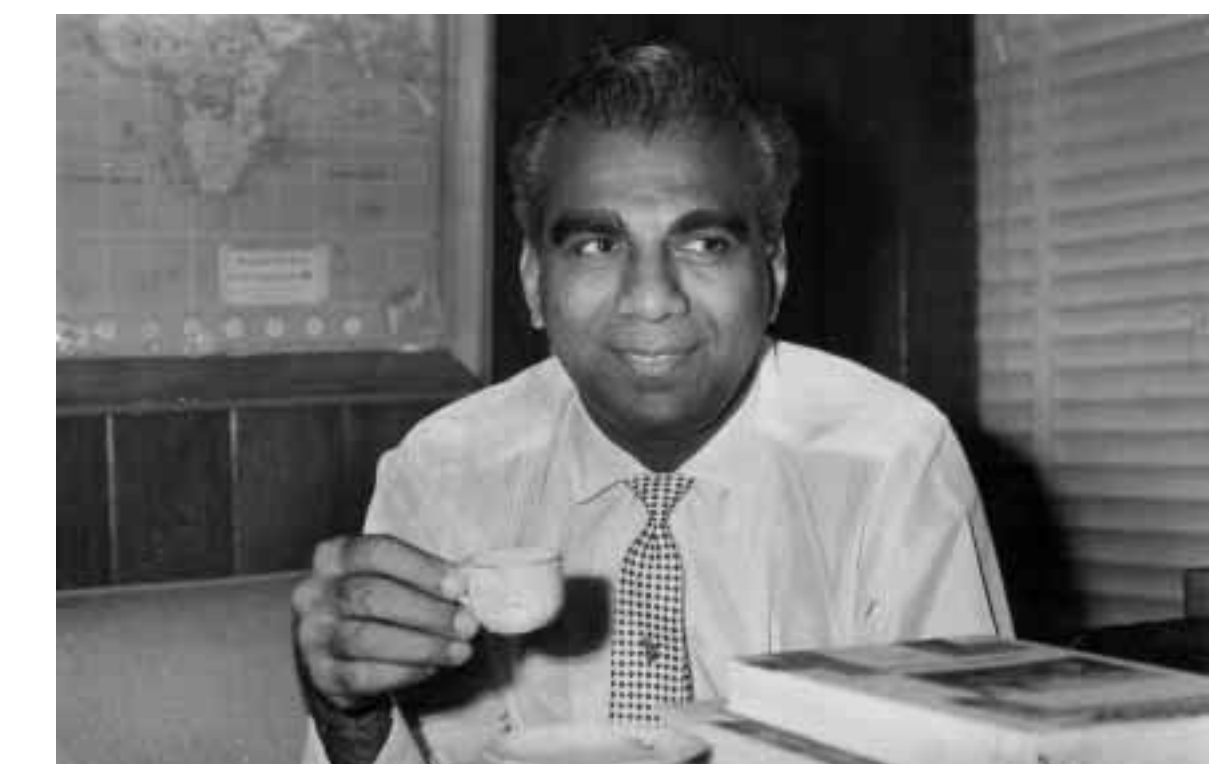
1964 was a year of increasing violence culminating in the uncontrollable murders, rapes and burning of buildings at Wismar, with the British Police Commissioner being responsible for lack of protection to the hundreds of Indo-Guyanese in that area who had to evacuate en masse to survive. Over 200 houses and business places were destroyed and about 1,800 persons were made homeless. A large number were beaten, some of them to death; others had to flee for their lives. Women and children were raped and otherwise savagely maltreated. Altogether in 1964 some 2,668 families involving approximately 15,000 persons were forced to move their houses and settle in communities of their own ethnic group. The large majority were Indians. Over 1,400 homes were destroyed by fire. There were over 100 murders resulting from widespread bombings and burnings.



Janet Jagan was made Minister of Home Affairs after the death of Claude Christian. She served only one year, resigning on June 1, 1964 after the Police Commissioner refused to follow her instructions to protect the lives of hundreds at Wismar.



Janet Jagan in London in 1962 protesting against Proportional Representation, and calling for freedom in British Guiana (above). On Dec 17, 1962 the first issue of the "Mirror" newspaper was printed. It came into being because the entire media was hostile to the PPP Government. She was the editor of "Mirror" from 1973, until she was sworn in as President of Guyana on December 19, 1997.



Cheddi Jagan's dream was that all Guyanese should have a chance at higher education and so in 1963 the University of Guyana was opened, running on a shoe string budget. Critics called it "Jagan's Night School" because its classes were run at Queen's College (a High School) after school hours.



With Deputy-Premier, B. Benn in London (above) and with other PPP members (below).



"As a passionate anti-Colonialist, I am interested in the independence of my country - political independence; as an anti-Imperialist, I am interested in putting an end to the domination and subjection of the economy of my country; as the Democrat, I am interested in preserving the liberties and freedom of the people - not only in preserving but in enlarging them; as a Socialist, I am interested in the creation of a new society which will lay the basis for the ending of exploitation... It is because I have stood up for the working-class, that they have voted for me. I have not put a bayonet on their backs and said 'Come vote for me.' I am interested in creating a free Guiana and a new society - a society free from exploitation, a society of equality and brotherhood where truly human relationships will prevail." Cheddi Jagan

