

Alleged Communist Plot in Guiana is just a smokescreen

# JAGAN'S CHALLENGE

## Democracy itself is in danger: appeal to people of West

The elected Prime Minister of Guiana, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, yesterday issued a statement on the "Challenge of British Guiana." Cabled to us from Georgetown, the statement says:

**THE** alleged Communist plot is obviously a smoke-screen. It is an excuse for destroying the progressive movement.

If there is a plot why have not charges been brought against us? Long before the elections we criticised the Constitution and pointed out its limitations.

The Governor and his official advisers knew that we intended to enact a series of progressive but controversial measures. These were:

Land reform, abolition of dual control, bulk purchasing of imports into the colony, a State lottery, and compulsory recognition of trade unions.

The Governor and officials knew as we did that in due course the Governor and the nominated Upper House would become exposed in the eyes of the people. The Upper House would have blocked most of the measures as it did in the Rice Farmers' Security of Tenure Amendment Bill.

Communism has been made the issue by the British Government, but this is nothing new. There is no more evidence of Communism now than prior to the elections.

The people voted with their eyes wide open. The action of the British Government therefore is in effect a challenge of the right of exercise of a free vote, the basis of democracy.

The party is a broad, democratic alliance of all classes struggling for self-determination.

Must the people be told: "Yes, you can vote but you have no right to vote for the Left Wing party."

This is the fundamental question which all democratic, freedom-loving people must ask themselves.

Once the right to vote is restricted then the foundation of democracy will always be on shifting ground.

Neither Communism nor the People's Progressive Party is on trial today. Democracy itself is on trial.

Western democracy will stand or fall to the extent that it faces the challenge that is British Guiana.

All liberal minded people must accept this challenge and rally to the support of the progressive movement in Guiana and for the preservation of democracy and civilisation.

## Police swoop on Ministers' homes

From ARTHUR CLEGG

POLICE, supported by more than 300 British troops, yesterday swooped on the homes of leaders of British Guiana's People's Progressive Party.

About 40 homes were raided. So was the party's headquarters in Georgetown and the houses nearby. Records were removed and the Governor stated that arrests will depend on the contents seized.

The party's paper Thunder is being sold and collections are going ahead to send delegates to London. Posters are being put up declaring "Troops go home. Might is theirs. Right is ours. Stand steadfast to boycott British goods."

Reuter reported that the raids



Dr. JAGAN

had been made because the police were "seeking documents and other evidence of a Communist plot."

As the general strike extended yesterday, the British Guiana Sugar Association announced that only one plantation was working fully, another almost fully, and 12 others either closed or partially affected.

It is also reported that quarry and sawmill workers are joining the strike.

But despite the raids and the lorryloads of troops patrolling Georgetown's streets, Reuter said

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## Clegg: we protest to Lyttelton

The following letter was sent yesterday by the Editor of the Daily Worker to Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs:

DEAR SIR — On Friday, October 9, Mr. Arthur Clegg, Daily Worker correspondent, arrived at the airport of British Guiana to report on the events in that colony.

The immigration authorities at the airport granted him a three months entry permit.

However, on his journey to Georgetown his taxi was stopped by police, his passport was confiscated, and he was taken back to the airport. A security officer there ordered, despite his protests, that his passport be made invalid for British Guiana and served on him an Order by the Governor denying him entry into the colony.

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His request for the right to appeal against the Order met with the reply that there was no appeal in British Guiana against the Governor's Order.

No reason was given for the Order and his request that he be allowed to protest to the Governor in person was refused. Nor were his protests that this Order and action constituted a gross violation of the freedom of the Press of any avail.

They also constitute a gross discrimination against the Daily Worker. The millionaire Press is granted facilities which are withheld from the working-class Press.

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I therefore request you to end this discrimination and to grant the Daily Worker the same facilities as are granted to other British papers.

Every other British daily paper has been able to send a correspondent. Some have sent more than one. But the Daily Worker correspondent is barred from entry.

Almost all the British papers with representatives in Guiana support the actions of the British

The Daily Worker is the only paper in Britain which consistently defends the rights of colonial peoples and has supported the demands of the people of Guiana against the actions and orders of the British Government and the Governor.

By excluding Mr. Clegg the Government is seeking to ensure that only one view will be presented to the British people—its own.

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Correspondents of American papers are allowed into the colony, and papers in the West Indies have reported that a member of the Colonial Office Press department has been sent out specially to smooth the way for them.

By contrast, the Daily Worker, a British paper, is excluded from reporting events on the spot.

This discrimination against the Daily Worker in the matter of reporting events in the Colony is not confined to British Guiana.

For example, earlier this year Mr. Clegg was publicly invited to go to Malaya by General Sir Gerald Templer, the High Commissioner. Yet when I wrote to him requesting him to carry out his invitation, that request was refused.

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I am, therefore, asking you to do away with this discrimination against the Daily Worker and, in particular, to grant Mr. Clegg permission to go to British Guiana.

In view of the events there it is of special interest to the British people that the conditions, views, aspirations and actions of the people of British Guiana are as fully known to them as is humanly possible.

The Government must not be allowed to defend itself by censorship and suppression.

Yours faithfully,

*P. K. Bonfield*

## POLICE SWOOP

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that everything remained calm and no disorders were reported.

Janet Jagan cabled from Georgetown:

"Police this morning raided the homes of some People's Progressive Party Ministers and officials."

## SURGERY GUARDED

"Those raided included Jagan, Prime Minister; Mr. B. Westmass, vice-president of the P.P.P.; Mr. Sidney King, Minister of Works; and Mr. Lachmi Singh, Minister of Health and P.P.P. headquarters."

"Two blocks, including party headquarters and Jagan's surgery, were heavily guarded by armed Royal West Fusiliers."

"Armed soldiers are patrolling the streets."

Reuter said that the raids were not all simultaneous and were continuing.

They were conducted under emergency regulations and to place both in Georgetown and Buxton, which lies in the Demerara sugar-growing area of the colony.

## CABLED ATLEE

Dr. Jagan's modest two-story house was cordoned off and searched shortly after 8 a.m. on Monday.

He told a reporter: "The police are looking for evidence to back their talk of a plot."

Mr. L. F. S. Burnham, the chairman of the People's Progressive Party, told Reuter that, as a result of Monday's Labour Party decision asking for a Government statement, he had sent a telegram to Mr. Atlee asking for an appointment in London next Monday.

An interview with Mr. Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, for that day has already been asked for by Mr. Burnham and Dr. Jagan.

The London branch of the Caribbean Labour Congress said that Dr. Jagan, on behalf of the People's Progressive Party, had asked it to organise a fund to assist the expenses of the delegation to London.

It has organised the Guiana Defence Fund, and Garber, Vowles and Co., 16 Sloane Square, London, W.1, have agreed to be the fund's solicitors.

An appeal for contributions has been made to several trade unions.

## ANSWER

THE statement of Dr. Jagan is a challenge to British democracy.

Unless the British answer his appeal and action to reverse the situation of democracy in Guiana they will not be held up their heads again.

Above all the Labour executive and the Council of the Trades Congress can no longer action in face of this appeal.

No obstacle must be in the way of Dr. Jagan presenting his case to the people. But no one wait till then. The move must be intensified out delay.

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Having destroyed the institution of British the Government is now an excuse to disband the People's Progressive Party to arrest its leaders.

Yesterday police, supported by the military, raided homes of 40 leaders of the party.

They were, according to Reuter's correspondent in Georgetown, "seeking documents and other evidence of a Communist plot."



People's Progressive Party answer Tory repression against colony

# GUIANA: GENERAL STRIKE CALL

From JANET JAGAN  
GEORGETOWN, Sunday.

THE People's Progressive Party of British Guiana today called for a colony-wide general strike against the repressive action of the British Government.

A leaflet issued by the party asked the people to also embark upon a campaign of non-co-operation and non-fraternisation, and to boycott all goods and supplies from the United Kingdom.

The leaflet said: "In this grave hour we call all Guianese to action. We must in every possible way express our strong opposition to what is being done in our beloved country.

To this end we must carry out a policy of non-co-operation with the present regime.

The P.P.P., the only party fighting for a truly democratic State in British Guiana and for the improvement of social and economic conditions of the working people, now calls upon all the people of Guiana to stop work, lay down their tools in a colony-wide general strike.

To embark upon a campaign of non-co-operation and non-fraternisation. Boycott all goods and supplies coming from the United Kingdom.

You voted in our party in free and democratic elections. Your right to vote has been challenged and forcibly withdrawn in part. In an unprecedented act, the British Government has done what has never before been done in any part of the world.

In an organised and disciplined manner, without violence or terrorism, resist and stand firm."

Dr. Cheddi Jagan, the dismissed Prime Minister, is preparing to travel to England in several days and has launched an appeal for funds.

## 'NO REVOLT'

The Conservative newspaper *Argus* here in an editorial today said: "In our view the danger of an armed uprising with which loyal elements of police and volunteers could not cope was remote, and we know of no organised plan for such a revolt.

The presence of British forces in the colony cannot but be the cause of constraint between our mother country and the Guianese. The sooner they can be withdrawn the better."

## Bevan's cold

Mr. Aneurin Bevan, who has a slight cold has postponed his conference arrangements for a time.

## Communist call to Labour: 'Act now—save Britain'

Daily Worker Reporter

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT MUST GO INTO ACTION NOW TO BRING DOWN THE TORY GOVERNMENT AND SAVE BRITAIN.

This is the message of a Manifesto issued this weekend by the Executive Committee of the Communist Party, and printed in full on PAGE TWO.

It is urgently necessary, says the Manifesto, to defeat the attacks the Tories are planning on the conditions of the British people.

They can be defeated—by a great united campaign in support of a policy of peace and the improvement of the people's living standards.

The Tory Government has launched a shameful attack on the rights of the people of British Guiana and against their democratically elected Government.

But the last word, on this as on all the other Tory attacks, remains with the rank and file.

The Manifesto calls on all the working

people of Britain to go into action in their places of work, their streets and their organisations to secure their immediate demands.

If they do so, they can make it impossible for the Tories to carry through their policy.

They can win a change in policy which will enable Britain to take her rightful place in the fight for peace, for the ending of American control, and for Socialism.

The Manifesto puts forward a twelve-point programme for discussion, which, it is suggested, could be the basis for uniting the whole Labour movement and saving Britain. The programme includes these demands:

Higher wages, unemployment benefits and pensions;

Withdrawal of British troops from British Guiana, Malaya, Kenya, and other colonies and dependent countries;

Top-level talks among the Great Powers to ease international tension.

## London rally



This large crowd in Hyde Park, London, yesterday, demanded the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Guiana. "Let the Government know the disgust ordinary people feel at their actions," said the chief speaker, Mr. Les Smith. The meeting was organised by the West London Committee of the Communist Party.





HANDS OFF  
SUPPORT  
GUIANA  
FUI  
GUIANA!  
SEAN

Dr. Jagan speaks to an audience at the meeting at the Holborn Hall, London.

### Indian envoy pays tribute

Daily Worker Reporter

Dr. Jagan is the first Indian envoy to visit London since the end of the Second World War. He is the first Indian envoy to visit London since the end of the Second World War. He is the first Indian envoy to visit London since the end of the Second World War.

## LONDON GIVES BIG WELCOME

### Jagan carried shoulder high

Daily Worker Reporter

LONDONERS gave Dr. Cheddi Jagan, elected Prime Minister of British Guiana, a welcome such as few other politicians have experienced when he spoke at the Holborn Hall last night.

The audience began to cheer long and a half hour before the meeting was due to start. At 7.15 the hall was packed to the walls with thousands of people and many more were waiting to be admitted to the hall.

The meeting was organized by the Communist Party of Great Britain, London branch, and attracted the largest audience in the city.

#### BASE TO FEET

When Dr. Jagan entered the hall he was greeted with a cheer that was heard in every part of the city.

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#### CHAIRING HIM

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## Janet Jagan's appeal

The following letter from Janet Jagan, Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly, was received by the Daily Worker yesterday:

I am writing to you to appeal to you to help me in my fight for the freedom of my people. I am writing to you to appeal to you to help me in my fight for the freedom of my people.