

CIA And PNC CREATED THE VIOLENCE

QUESTION

Dr. Jagan, *The PNC is claiming that the PPP has brought <sup>violence</sup> and*  
~~Mr. Burnham has declared that~~ the PNC has brought peace to Guyana.

Would you like to comment on this?

ANSWER

It depends what you mean by peace. There is peace with progress, dignity and freedom. There is also peace with starvation, insecurity and fear. And finally there is peace of the graveyard.

Take Germany under the nazi party of Adolph Hitler. There was peace and order for a time. But it was <sup>in</sup> an atmosphere of repression, intimidation and terror. Ultimately there was mass slaughter.

*What about*  
~~Incidentally, the PNC's leadership now claims~~ that the PPP was responsible for the strife and disturbances. ~~But~~ The fact is the violence was the handiwork of <sup>PNC which</sup> ~~the~~ ~~who~~ could no longer win at free and fair elections.

In the 1957 election, the <sup>PPP-</sup> faction led by L.F.S. Burnham won only three seats out of 14 seats.

In 1961, the PNC lost the elections.

After losing the election, the PNC leader L.F.S. Burnham made a deal with the US government. This was exposed by Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Special Assistant to President Kennedy in his book, A Thousand Days, John F. Kennedy in the White House, when he wrote:

"Thus far our policy was based on the assumption that Forbes Burnham was, as the British described him, an opportunist, rascist and demagogue intent only on personal power . . . . Then in May 1962 Burnham came to Washington . . . . Burnham's visit left the feeling, as I reported to the President, that 'an independent

British Guiana under Burnham (if Burnham will commit himself to a multi-racial policy) would cause us many fewer problems than an independent British Guiana under Jagan'. And the way was open to bring it about, because Jagan's parliamentary strength was larger than his popular strength: he had won 57 per cent of the seats on the basis 42.7 per cent of the vote. An obvious solution would be to establish a system of proportional representation."

The American columnist, Drew Pearson, in a syndicated article pointed out that the late President Kennedy applied pressure on the Macmillan government to withhold independence and to change our electoral system.

The British government could not easily succumb to this pressure. This was because of its commitment made at the Constitutional Conference held in London in 1960. Then Burnham's demand for proportional representation and my demand for independence were rejected on the understanding, however, that whichever party won the 1961 elections would lead the country to independence.

Consequently, the strife and violence, fomented and financed by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to provide the British Government with an excuse.

All of this is now public knowledge. The New York Times, on February 23, 1967 headed a story by Neil Sheehan: "CIA is linked to strikes that helped oust Jagan". The London Sunday Times on April 16 and 23, 1967 carried two stories by the Insight Team, headed "How the CIA Got Rid of Jagan" and "Macmillan, Sandys backed CIA's anti-Jagan Plot". In the first story it is said: "As coups go, it was not expensive: over five years the

CIA paid out something over \$250,000. For the colony, British Guiana,  
the result was about 170 dead, untold hundreds wounded, roughly \$10 million-  
worth of damage to the economy and a legacy of racial bitterness."

The second story said: "Although known at first only to Macmillan,  
Sandys and the two top security men in Britain, it inevitably become known  
to a number of British officials in Guiana". The latter no doubt included  
the British Governor, the Commissioner of Police and the Head of Security  
Branch, and explains why my government could not get the full backing and  
support from them, *and the army and police which they controlled.*

Incidentally, the Times story also stated: "The CIA insured one  
ex-Jagan supporter for \$30,000 dollars in 1964".

Clearly, violence was the result of the conspiracy of the UK and US  
governments and the Guyana political and trade union leaders to overthrow  
the legally-constituted PPP government.

There is peace now because the perpetrators of violence are now in  
seats of political power.

But what kind of peace has been brought to Guyana? It's terror, not  
peace.

The rights of the Guyanese people - the right to travel, the right  
to demonstrate peacefully, the right to strike, the right to a fair trial,  
the right to vote - are being trampled. All this is being done against the  
background of a wage freeze, increasing cost of living, economic bankruptcy,  
growing unemployment, disillusionment and frustration.

To keep the workers quiet, intimidation is practiced on a wide scale.

Police dogs are used against strikers and picketers. And the latest is *Police and soldiers* the use of the Riot Squad with guns against strikers, who are mostly government supporters.

Under these circumstances, the PNC government, unable to win a fair and free election, has resorted to rigging mainly through a fraudulently compiled electoral roll. And at the same time, it is hatching plots about violence by the PPP in order to cover up its misdeeds.

The Guyanese people must realize that the PPP is the only party of the working class. And only a PPP government can bring lasting peace, progress and prosperity to Guyana.

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