

SPEECH BY DR. CHEDDI JAGAN, GENERAL SECRETARY
OF THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY IN HELSINKI ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, CALLED BY THE FINNISH ANGELA
DAVIS DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

Dear Friends,

I join you in saluting our sister and comrade Angela Davis, one of the greatest fighters for freedom. We must let our voices come through loud and clear - Angela Davis must be freed.

This heroic fighter is facing death. What is her crime?

She is being persecuted not only because she is black. She is facing death because of her beliefs, because she is black and a communist.

She is facing the electric chair because she sees all too clearly above the mumbo-jumbo of emotionalism, because she sees Jimcrowism as an integral part of the capitalist system; because she sees the necessity for black-white unity to bring down capitalism; because she sees as state-monopoly capitalism as predatory imperialism causing death on far away Vietnam and holding in subjugation millions of people throughout the world in hunger, disease and backwardness; because she sees that for Americans to be free, for US Blacks to be free, the world must be free, that US imperialism must be fought at home and abroad.

Yes, that is her crime; that is why they want to kill her. They want to kill her because of her commitment to free the world.

We in the Caribbean and Latin America salute Angela Davis for her courage, her intellect and her beauty. We know that the enemy she fights is ruthless and devoid of moral principles. It does not hesitate to lie, to brainwash, to murder and assassinate. Right now it is planning computerized warfare to kill and maim millions. And it is tricky and deceitful. For the benefit of its multinational corporations, it tells us to forget our national independence and sovereignty, and to substitute ideological frontiers for

geographical frontiers. Our territories are to be regionally integrated so that the goods of the U.S. multinational corporations can flow freely without barriers across our frontiers. In the name of partnership, they are encouraging our nationals and governments to participate in their companies, the better to exploit us and maintain their exploitative system. During the first post-war decade for every dollar the North American investors brought to Latin America, they took out 3 dollars. During the period 1950-65, there was a net outflow of \$7.5 billion. Since 1967 the net annual outflow was more than \$1 billion per year. Yet, they tell us we are partners in defense of freedom and democracy, the same kind of democracy they are fighting for in Vietnam! Saigon they have propped up with dollars in layouts and bombs, and the blood of the American and Vietnamese peoples, one corrupt and venal dictator after another. And now President Nixon talks about an 8-point peace plan, including elections. But what kind of elections? What assurances and guarantees are there against rigged elections as in Guyana and Trinidad. In Guyana, voters lists padded with dead, underage and non-existent persons, proxy voting, overseas voting and ballot box tampering are the means used to maintain the U.S. puppet regime in power. The transcript of the fringe-winning Granada film "The Making of a Prime Minister," which exposed the rigged 1968 general elections stated that "a hanged man voted in the Guyana election; so did children." Gus MacDonald, research editor stated. "It is my firm conclusion that the election inside Guyana were neither fair." Humphrey Taylor, Director of Opinion Research Centre declared in the film: "Obviously, I don't know what happened in Guyana, but so far as Britain is concerned, the compilation of the register was a totally dishonest and corrupt operation. And as we have clearly established, the great majority of the people listed do not exist. Thus I would think is unprecedented for a Commonwealth country as far as I know; and it's, you know, a pretty awful and disgraceful episode.

In Trinidad, voting machines manipulation help to keep the US-puppet regime in power.

The world is told that there will be international supervision of the elections in Vietnam. That we had too. But despite its mild structures, all that the Commonwealth Team of Observers did was to give international respectability to what Harold Wilson had called the "fiddled constitutional arrangement" which was pushed through as the 1964 general elections.

We know also about frameups in Guyana. Members of our party have been harassed, persecuted and framed. In our so-called democratic state, the whole state apparatus, including the police and judiciary, they used to carry out the political objectives of the US puppets.

Listen, dear sister, Our hearts are with you. Your cause is our cause. We are confident that their prison bars hold no terror for you, will not break you.

Let us all pledge that we will not rest until Angela is free.