

## PPP'S FOUNDATIONS FOR PROGRESS DESTROYED BY PNC

Fellow Guyanese,

Soon it will be time for another important decision -- which party to vote for. Fortunately, you are now in a better position to judge; you have had experience of 7 years of the PPP in office and 8½ years of the PNC in power.

I have deliberately used the words: "the PPP in office" and "the PNC in power" to make one point clear -- when we were in the government, Guyana was not independent; we had very limited powers. Not so with the PNC.

Yet we scored many successes, some of which are today taken for granted -- independence, republic, nationalisation, recognition of socialist states, Guyanisation and so on. Yes, we pioneered them. And we had to fight every inch of the way as well as suffer to achieve them.

In the economic field, we blazed a revolutionary trail. We severed some of the shackles with which sugarism bound our nation and stultified our development. The PPP removed the brakes on agriculture; we released the land, long "bottled up", and we embarked on a comprehensive scheme of drainage and irrigation.

Because of these and other measures too numerous to mention, our agricultural policy proved successful; it wasn't just propaganda as we have nowadays. The farmers were happy - they got many benefits, good prices and were meaningfully involved. And the workers and consumers too were satisfied - they were able to get a good supply of inexpensive foods.

But our concern was for industry as well as agriculture. So we set up the Industrial Development Corporation and an Industrial Estate at East Ruimveldt. We nationalised the Demerara Electric Company and began the programme of rural electrification.

The river front land at Garden of Eden, now used by the Guyana Defence Force for farming, had been cleared for glass and cement factories.

Unfortunately, these and other factories from socialist countries including a Cuban-financed \$32 million hydro-electric scheme at Malali, were blocked by the British government.

But despite that, the foundations for a post-independence industrial future were laid. We got the United Nations to carry out several vital surveys.

In the monetary field, we established the Bank of Guyana and were the first government in a British colony to impose restrictions on sterling.

We had a proud pro-labour record. The now famous "Kaldor" budget of 1962 had as its aim the redistribution of income; we wanted the shifting of the tax burden from the poor to those who could afford to pay.

The PPP government pioneered free medical care and established a network of health centres; we began a country-wide programme of immunisation and the environmental sanitation scheme. We extended pure water supplies.

In the sugar estates the logies were tumbled down; they are now only a memory.

In Georgetown, we started cheap subsidized housing for the working people, with a minimum rental of five dollars and a maximum of seventeen dollars per month, something the PNC government has not yet done despite all its propaganda about housing.

Towards the development of a national people's culture, we set up the University of Guyana derogatorily dubbed "Jagan's night school" by the PNC; 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 jac.

And we brought down the symbol of foreign domination, the Georgetown Golf Club. Its lease was terminated for a people's national park.

And in our draft independence Constitution, we inserted a Fundamental Rights section, including the right to vote at age 18.

Yes, ours was a new vision and a new approach. We made far-reaching innovations. We truly laid the foundations for change and for a free society.

That was the foundation which the PNC inherited. And what has it achieved with its

unlimited powers and all the advantages it had?

You have been told of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent, about a high growth rate, and so on. But what has it all really meant for the "small man"? For him, success is measured in terms of jobs, standard of living, peace of mind and security - security in old age and security at home and in the streets.

For the large majority of Guyanese housewives, life has become a nightmare. If it is not high prices, it is shortages. Almost anywhere I go, it's always the same cry: "Doc, things bad."

A few weeks ago, a former PNC activist stopped me at the north-western gate of Bourda market, opened her shopping bag and cried out: "look wha \$5 buy; wha you guine do about it?"

And the unemployment situation worsens daily. It's commonplace to find an advertisement for one job bringing out no less than 300 to 500 applicants for interviews.

And the results of the daily frustrations of living are plain for all to see -- a growing crime rate, a bigger prison population, more mental cases and suicides, more emigres.

Thousands, seeing no hope in the future, want to get out as fast as they can. The queues for passports and visas to emigrate are never ending; they get longer and longer.

Of course, you are asked to have faith in the future. The new PNC Development Plan, you are told, will solve all your future headaches; by 1976, you would be fed, housed and clothed.

To those of you who have been seduced into believing this propaganda, I say: "remember 1961." Then you were told that under a PNC government, there would be free milk and cassava; that not a soul would go to bed hungry. Remember how the last \$300 million D-Plan was to have put us on the "New Road" and the "Highway to Happiness." The new plan will fare no better; it will land us in a deeper hell than we are now in; things will definitely get worse - the inevitable result of the course charted by the PNC.

Don't let the big figures mesmerise you. Spending huge sums of money alone does not make for real progress. For more important is the economic planning strategy and what is given priority and emphasis. This means a sound philosophy, correct policies and a revolutionary, anti-imperialist programme.

We have always said that the root cause of our ills was foreign ownership and domination. Unfortunately, political independence and republican status with the PNC in power have not materially altered the situation from colonial days.

The PPP believes in scientific socialism, not the PNC's illusory cooperative socialism.

We say: nationalise the commanding heights of the economy; we are against playing the so-called "partnership" game with imperialism.

We say: put emphasis on industry and agriculture and not on infrastructure. And to achieve this we advocate a foreign policy based on the closest cooperation with the socialist world.

Our land reform policy will place the land in the hands of the tillers.

And we will deal ruthlessly with corruption and discrimination.

We believe in the fullest development of our human resources and the meaningful involvement of the workers, farmers and intellectuals.

We give you these broad outlines of our programme because it has been charged that we are irresponsible and have nothing to offer.

They also say that we are planning violence, that we want to disrupt the peace. Be sure you are not fooled by these falsehoods. You know very well who, to serve personal ends, started the violence in the 1960's.

Recall the terrorist plan, X-13, and the large quantities of detonators found buried

in a certain yard. Remember Peter Owen, former Commissioner of Police, describing in 1964 the PNC as "an organized thuggery which is centrally directed." In fact, you also know that it is the sense of responsibility of the PPP leadership which has preserved the peace -- responsibility in the face of gross discrimination against, and provocation of, our supporters, the pulling down of their homes, constant police harassments, arrests and raids as well as the unleashing against workers of terror, tear gas and police dogs.

With the PPP, you know where you stand; we are consistently behind you.

Ever since the mid-1940's, we fought relentlessly against terror and intimidation to win for you the right to vote. Don't let the professionally-trained riggers deprive you of this sacred right. Turn out as never before. On Monday, July 16, record a massive vote of no-confidence against our common enemy, the PNC, and send them reeling out of office. Vote solidly for your party, the PPP.

(First PPP 1973 General Election broadcast delivered by Dr. Cheddi Jagan  
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