

Brazil

11th December, 1975

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham,  
Leader of the People's National Congress,  
"CONGRESS PLACE",  
New Market Street,  
GEORGETOWN.

Dear Comrade,

I am attaching to this letter a copy of a Declaration of the Communist Party of Brazil concerning the struggle of the people for democracy, which I feel should evoke a favourable response from you, even though it may not be the response sought in the Declaration.

The People's Progressive Party takes the view that the situation outlined in the Declaration clearly demands the attention of all political forces and institutions (including governments) which value human dignity and peace and which support the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

As you will have noted, the PPP, true to its undertaking to support all policies and actions which are progressive and anti-imperialist, or which tended to weaken imperialism anywhere in the world, and this region in particular, supported the recent vote in the UN Committee by the representative of Guyana in favour of the motion condemning Zionism as racism. A few weeks ago the PPP also supported the call by an official and leader in the PNC for the Guyana Labour Movement to stop taking assistance from international organisations, such as the CIA-financed and controlled AIFLD. Recently, too, the PPP repressed support of your statement that the McIntyre Report "did not go far enough."

The PPP has also, for its part, vigorously rebutted the recent attack by Christian Bishops on Socialism. In the course of that rebuttal, it was pointed out: "The PPP, taking a principled position with 'critical support', opposes these moved by the reactionary forces. Socialism cannot be equated with capitalism. And we categorically condemn any assertion from whatever quarter that socialism is a tyranny. On the contrary, for the PPP, socialism means freedom from capitalist tyranny and the exploitation of the vast majority by a tiny minority."

Within the last few years there has been rapid social changes in many parts of the world - changes in favour of socialism and against imperialism - and this has generated a momentum which, the PPP feels, is the duty of all parties calling themselves revolutionary, to sustain and even to accelerate. The PPP does not believe that this historic process can be halted, but it can be diverted and made to slow down, at the cost of continuing suffering by the people.

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It is in this context that the plight of the Brazilian workers and peasants, and the martyrdom of many members of the Communist Party of Brazil, must be viewed. If their "cri du coeur" is not heard and a positive response made by those in a position to do so; if the Marxist-Leninist concept of international proletarian solidarity is not to be ignored; if help is not forth-coming - help in any form, and in all forms - for those undergoing unspeakable torture and deprivation of their most elementary human rights, the spark now flickering dimly underground will go out and Latin-American fascism in Brazil, Chile, Bolivia and elsewhere will gain even greater ascendancy and seek to extend its hegemony,

That the allegations of torture and other excesses by the police and military forces in Brazil ever since the army coup of 1964 are true is no longer in doubt despite official denials, and the PPP does not feel called upon to cite proven instances. People are arrested and taken to secret dungeons and are never heard of or seen alive again. Others are tortured to death, or madness, or maimed for life.

The terror that has been unleashed in Brazil against Brazilian freedom-fighters can and should be ended. If it is not, it could over-spill its borders.

It is with these considerations in mind that the PPP seeks to enlist the sympathies of the PNC to save the lives of those imprisoned, and calls on the governing party to express its strong disapproval of fascism, especially as it has been manifested in Brazil.

Yours sincerely,

*Cheddi Jagan*

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General Secretary,  
PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY.

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