

Speech of Cheddi Jagan on receipt of Order of Friendship at the Kremlin on December 20, 1978.

Dear Comrades,

I wish on behalf of the People's Progressive Party and myself to express our deep gratitude for the Award of Friendship with the Peoples, which has been conferred on me by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

We deeply appreciate this high honour. And we gladly accept it as recognition of the role we have played in developing friendship with the land of Lenin and the heroic Soviet people, and also with the peoples of the whole world.

We deeply cherish our friendship with the Soviet Union. The Great October Socialist Revolution paved the way for ending exploitation of man by man; for eliminating national and cultural oppression; and for building a secure future.

Based on friendship and humanism, the first acts of the young Soviet states were the freeing of the nationalities, oppressed and dehumanized by exploitation and tyranny; the proclamation of the Peace Decree for an end to militarism and war and for an era of peace; the adumbration of a policy of peaceful coexistence and proletarian internationalism. A hand of friendship was extended to the workers of the world who were exploited by capitalism, and to the oppressed peoples who were suppressed by imperialist colonialism.

For us, friendship with the Soviet Union has a deep emotive content based on realism: the heroism and sacrifice of the great Soviet people – their defeat of the interventionists and the counter-revolutionaries who wanted to turn back the clock of history; their rescue of the peoples of the world from the jaws of Hitlerite fascism; their generous disinterested assistance to all those struggling for national and social liberation.

We are aware that in many vital areas – the Far East, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean – successes would not have been achieved without the sacrifice and help of the Soviet people. We vividly recall the dark days of the early 1960's when valuable Soviet assistance was rendered to the Guyanese people in the face of Anglo-American aggression and CIA intervention in our domestic affairs.

For us in the PPP and the vast majority of the Guyanese people, friendship with the Soviet Union has been and will continue to be a cornerstone of our policy. We deeply treasure our friendship with the Soviet people.

It is a happy coincidence that on the same date I am receiving this high honour, Comrade Leonid Brezhnev has been awarded the Order of Lenin and the Gold Medal of the Hero of the Soviet Union.

Permit me to take this opportunity to wish him a happy birthday, good health and long life so that he can continue his able leadership of the CPSU and the Soviet nation.

Long live the Friendship of the Peoples of the World!

Long live Friendship between the Peoples of Guyana and the Soviet Union!

Long live Peace and International Solidarity!

MIRROR

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CHEDDI GETS TOP SOVIET AWARD

THE Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has adopted the Decree of awarding the Order of Friendship among Peoples to the General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party, Comrade Cheddi Jagan for the "great contribution to the establishment and development of friendly relations between the peoples of Guyana and the Soviet Union" on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

This was announced Wed, night by the Soviet Ambassador to Guyana, Vladimir Kotenev, at Freedom House, Headquarters of the People's Progressive Party, during a reception to mark the 60th birthday of Comrade Cheddi Jagan.

The Decree is signed by the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Comrade Leonid Illich Brezhnev, and by the Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Comrade B. Georgadaze.

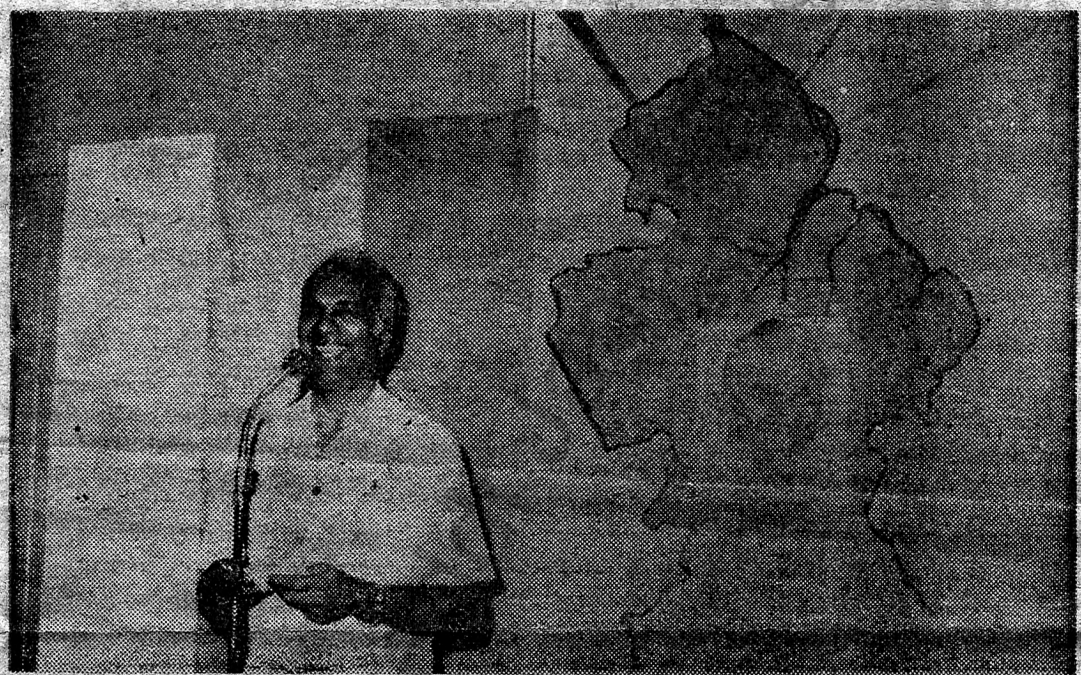
The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union sent the following message to the PPP General Secretary on the occasion of his 60th birthday:

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is forwarding cordial congratulations and fraternal regards to you on the occasion of your 60th birthday.

We know you as an untiring fighter for independence and social progress of Guyana, for the interests of the working people of your country, for friendship between the Soviet and Guyanese peoples and development of fraternal ties between our parties.

Your active participation in the struggle against imperialism, for Marxist-Leninist cohesion of the Communist Movement, your fruitful activities for many years in the peace movement have found well-deserved appreciation by the Soviet communists.

We wish you, Dear Comrade Cheddi, good health and further successes in your work for the benefit of the Guyanese people, in the name of strengthening of friendship between the peoples of Guyana and the Soviet Union."



"THE years of struggle have been very rewarding", said Comrade Cheddi Jagan now 60 years old and still going strong. In his reply Wednesday night during the celebrations to mark the occasion of his 60th birthday, when he received the pres-

tigious and high award from the Soviet Union, messages, gifts and congratulations, Dr. Cheddi Jagan said:—

"I am very happy for the recognition that has been given to me on my 60th birthday this deeply esteemed award — this

honour—I know, is accepted by us all as a contribution to the struggle our party has carried out..... and will continue to carry out. Our duty is to fight against imperialism and to build in Guyana a socialist state."

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Present at the function were PPP Central Committee Members, representatives of the various regions and groups of the PPP, representatives of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union, Progressive Youth Organisation, Women's Progressive Organisation, Guyana Peace Council, Association of Friendship Societies, Rice Producers Association and others.

Among those present were members of the Diplomatic Corps from the Cuban, Korean,

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Soviet and Yugoslavian, embassies and members of the Trade Mission of the German Democratic Republic in Guyana.

The Cuban Ambassador Ivan Caesar Martinez, in congratulating the PPP General Secretary said—

"We wish to congratulate our great Comrade and Friend, Cheddi Jagan. This comrade is having today twice 30 years of age—that is twice more younger than yesterday.

It is also a duty to us to recognise that the people of Cuba met Guyana through the struggle of Comrade Cheddi Jagan.

the Latin American revolutionaries, met Guyana through the struggle of Comrade Cheddi Jagan.

That is why, when Comrade Cheddi Jagan is twice younger than yesterday, in the name of the Political Bureau of our Party in the name of the Central Committee of our Party, in the name of our State and Government, in the name of all revolutionaries of Cuba, in the name of the working class of Cuba, in the name of the farmers of Cuba, in the name of the women of Cuba, in the name of students and youths of Cuba, in the name of Cuba internationalist fighters in different countries, in the name of all of them and in the name of ourselves, We wish Comrade and Brother Cheddi Jagan, a long life in the struggle for Socialism in Guyana. Patria O. Muerte!"

During the function leading members of the Party and organisations made speeches in congratulating the PPP General Secretary and presented gifts. The various groups and regions presented monetary contributions to the Party on the occasion of the 60th birthday of Comrade Cheddi Jagan.

One of the founding members of the PPP, Ram Karran officiated over the proceedings, making a moving tribute to the General Secretary on behalf of the Central Committee. And on behalf of the Central Committee, Clinton Collymore presented the complete works of Lenin to Comrade Cheddi Jagan.

R's most seriously handicapped people ("Category 3"), 4-out-of-5 have jobs.

They work only a six-hour day. But they get paid for eight-hours. They have lowered output-quotas. They get extra yearly vacations-with-pay.

Naturally, some disabled people can't work. Russian Republic has some 900 homes where they can be accommodated, if they can't live with their families.

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