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On this, Election Eve, I want to remind you why, in your interest and that of Guyana, you must vote on July 16, and why that vote must be for the PPP.

In spite of all its bragging, all its boasting and breast-beating, the People's National Congress is today a frightened party. It is a party afraid of the people. Had this not been so, why would it wish to use the army and police to work once done by its former dedicated comrades? Why would it want to unleash violence on its opponents? Why would it want to silence criticisms by threatening journalists and their newspapers as well as broadcasters? Yes, the PNC is today so afraid of the people that it dares not hold a free election in this country.

Why is the PNC afraid of the people? Because the people have found out that the PNC is not a party they can trust. The people have come to appreciate that had it not been for the PPP even the restricted policy of nationalisation and the limited friendship with the socialist bloc countries would not have been a reality.

Once formidable friends are today openly expressing their disappointment and disgust with the ruling clique of the PNC, a clique whose bank accounts are growing as fast as their thirst for power and their contempt for the people. Yet, in their despair, when this clique cannot talk foolishly about feeding, housing and clothing us by 1976, they seek to make out that the PPP is in disarray and slanders its leadership.

Those who seek to villify the PPP and its leadership must ask themselves one simple question: if, as the PNC wants them to believe, my party no longer speaks for the majority of the Guyanese people, how come that paid thugs of the PNC, in addition to armed policemen and soldiers, have to be deployed to systematically harass people throughout this country who are refusing to be bribed and silenced by the PNC.

If the people had really believed the PNC propaganda, then why the violence at political meetings? Why the massive exercise to disenfranchise thousands of our supporters? Why the concerted plan to repeat the Guyana version of Watergate as we experienced in 1968?

Today, except for the leadership of the Trades Union Congress, as distinct from the masses of workers, the PNC is under attack from all sides . . . the Church, organised and unorganised workers, housewives, complaining about rising food prices and scarce food items, while building contractors cannot get cement. Some people cannot even be buried in tombs because of a shortage of cement. Members of the legal profession, academics of the University of Guyana, the businessmen, the landless, and more recently even ASCRIA, have all been exposing the deceit, the incompetence and callousness of the power-drunk clique who want to perpetuate themselves in power.

Money galore, your money, is being spent to propagandise the PNC and its leadership. The Ministry of Information has been reduced to a PNC information agency. The Chronicle is another PNC mouthpiece. Slogans after slogans are being rolled out to fool the people about 'bright tomorrow' while thousands are joining

the unemployed market of more than 25 per cent of our work force, while the auditors are having a hard time with accounts from the Ministries, and while the Ombudsman's office is being reduced to a farce. But no amount of PNC propaganda can erase from the minds of the thousands of sufferers that on the basis of past performance, the PNC cannot be trusted.

How do you go about trusting a party which pretends that it is interested in peace and not conflict, when the people, thanks to policemen who have since been forced to leave the force had to learn about the infamous X-13 Plan? How can the PNC be trusted when, while its leadership talks like a parson on free radio time, the party is using violence as an instrument to terrorise its opponents and destroy the peace of family life, of religious, social and trade union affiliations?

It was ASCRIA that reminded the people on June 27 last that the PNC directed and started election violence in 1973.

It was men of the calibre of the former Lord Mayor of Georgetown, Mr. Archibald Codrington, who have spoken about the "Watergate-Type" scandal of our elections.

It was the PNC leadership that has been described as 'callous and remorseless and as 'racist and Demagogue'. And those who have so exposed the PNC's leadership have not been, nor are they now, the friends of the PPP. These were British and American advisers to friends of the PNC.

It was the respected historian, Dr. Gordon Lewis, well known for his works in the West Indies, who recorded that it was the PNC that resorted to street violence in 1962, and that it was the PPP that throughout, accepted the Electoral framework, and thereby "exploded the American myth that no Marxist party can come to power in a western society by benefit of free elections."

It was not the PPP that was blamed by the former Police Commissioner, Mr. Peter Owen, of having a centrally-directed thuggery, but the PNC.

People who do not know better have slandered the PPP and its leadership. But even these people are now realising that it is the PNC, the so-called party of peace, that has broken up Hindu and Muslim religious groups, and deliberately sowed seeds of division among various sections of our community. It is the PNC that has, by its vicious propaganda and thuggery, caused divisions among families and forced poor people from both the city and the country areas to lie to themselves to suit the party and its leadership, and in order to get jobs.

To say that there is today widespread fear and disillusionment in the country is merely to repeat what is well-known. It is not the PPP that has brought Guyana today to the brink of economic disaster with a debt burden of more than half a billion dollars to be repaid by the suffering workers. It was the PNC with its fat-salaried technocrats who don't know a thing about the sufferings of their own poor comrades than less the supporters of the PPP who they now seek to fool.

But, and I repeat but, it was the PPP that forced the government to invite the friendship of the socialist countries and to pursue a policy of nationalisation with a promise to work for a socialist society.

It was the PPP that forced the PNC regime to eventually increase the price of rice bought from the farmers. It was the PPP that was responsible for exposing and putting an end to a lot of eye-pass by the security forces against innocent and humble people in our village communities. It was the PPP that first exposed the PNC as a party of violence and corruption which so many other parties, organisations, sections of the press, and individuals are now seeing for themselves. It was the PPP that called upon the people after 1964 for a continued struggle against the growth of a fascist dictatorship in Guyana. While a lot of people, who are today finding out the PNC monster they have helped to build kept quiet. The PPP kept on the pressure and, in spite of the few opportunities who have fled, maintained the struggle.

Tonight, I ask you to join with me in ensuring that the PPP can put an end to the years of misrule, years of corruption, and outright incompetence and vindictiveness, to which Guyana has been subjected for more than eight years.

If you really want to end your nightmares, your fears, your poverty, if you really want to prevent this country from becoming a dictatorship, then you have to vote against the PNC on July 16. You have had enough of sweet talk and slogans, of threats and abuse. Now is the time to act.

Your vote is secret. Do not worry about those who tell you otherwise. You must vote on July 16. And that vote must be against a two-thirds majority, against a one-party state, against violence and corruption, against the interference of the freedom of the judiciary and the press, against the police and army being the tools of a power-drunk clique of cousins and friends.

Yes, you must vote against the PNC. You must vote for genuine peace and national unity, genuine socialism and economic progress. You must vote for democracy. You must vote for the PPP.