

OPEN LETTER BY DR. CHEDDI JAGAN, TO DELEGATES AND  
OBSERVERS OF THE SPECIAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE  
COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

Your Excellencies,

On behalf of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana, I extend to you a warm welcome and best wishes for a pleasant stay in our country.

Your meeting is taking place at a time of an important anniversary - the 40th Anniversary of the Afro-Asian Conference held in New Delhi in 1947, which, together with the Bandung Conference of 1955, laid the foundations of your great movement.

Your previous Meeting in Guyana in 1972, at a time of imperialist aggression against the heroic Viet Nameese people, took many revolutionary decisions, including the seating of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam and the Royal Government of the National Union of Cambodia.

Today, the situation also calls for revolutionary actions. Imperialism's offensive is contributing to underdevelopment, backwardness and misery through the systematic transfer and misuse of human and material resources from the third world. More than US\$200 billion is plundered each year in the form of profits, dividends, royalties, interest, unequal international trade, etc.

This tribute has led to growing poverty and hunger and has contributed to the fuelling of the nuclear arms race, thus imperilling our civilisation.

Meanwhile, many countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean are reeling under a massive foreign debt. Caught in a debt trap, they are being subjected to pressures which endanger their independence.

The time for unity and co-operation - South/South and South/East - and militancy is now. This is the only way to counter imperialism's divide-and-rule and club-and-carrot methods and to foil its plans for changing the Movement's non-aligned position to one of neutrality.

The time is now also to reiterate the guiding principles of your Movement, namely, the commitment to struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism, including zionism and against all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, interference and domination, for the attainment of a New International Economic Order, disarmament, peace, detente, peaceful coexistence and social progress.

Towards this end, Brazil must be fully supported in its decision to suspend indefinitely interest payments on its huge debt.

Militant solidarity must be extended to Nicaragua and other revolutionary-democratic states which are struggling to maintain their independence and territorial integrity.

All-round support must be rendered to the FMLN of El Salvador and other liberation movements which are fighting for national and social liberation. The fascist-racist regime of South Africa must be liquidated and Namibia must be freed.

The Contadora process holds the best prospects for lasting peace in Central America.

The peoples of Chile, Paraguay, Haiti, and Guyana must be assisted in their struggles for the restoration of democracy and the observance of human rights.