

Jagan - Notes on Dr Rodney's
funeral.

(1)

Dear Comrades, Brothers & Sisters:

For all of us, this is a sad occasion. A great son of Guyana has been cut down in the prime of his life. ^{This is} a great loss not only to his party, the WPA, but to the nation.

On behalf of the PPP, I wish to express our deepest regrets and heartfelt sympathies to Walter's mother, wife, children and relatives, and to the Executive and members of his party, the WPA.

The greatest tribute we can pay to Walter Rodney is not just to mourn. ~~We must pledge to follow his example. Whatever differences one might have with Walter, on one thing there was no doubt: he was totally committed. Despite threats and persecution, he was fearless and militant. We~~ ^{like him, because we must become totally} ~~If there was any weakness, it lay in his zeal, his exuberance and~~ ^{impatience} ~~impatience to remove the oppressors and exploiters from the backs of the people.~~ ^{must organize and fight} ~~impatience~~ ^{We} ~~impatience~~ ^{must fight}

^{Dr} Why did Rodney become a victim of the assassins of the ruling classes at this particular time? ~~The answer is clear; they see now~~ ^{because they saw} as never before a grave threat to their political power.

During the past 3½ years, they have witnessed the withering away of the support of the governing PNC as was so clearly manifested during the 1978 Referendum; they have seen the growing contradictions within the TUC, and between the TUC and the regime which it had helped to bring to power; and above all, they have been shocked by working class and racial unity as manifested in the eventful days of July-September 1979 when coastal-rural and urban workers joined their comrades in the Interior -- a unity the like of which was witnessed only in the early 1950's.

The viable options of the imperialists and their ^{local lackeys} ~~local puppets~~ are running out. They have bankrupted the country; consequently, they cannot afford to carry on the policy of dividing and ruling through bribery. Nor can they so readily exploit the fear of racial insecurity. And so they move from tear-gassing and victimising workers to assassinating them and their leaders. They have become desperate; they will stop at nothing to maintain their political class power. We have the experience of the early 1960's; we know of the ruthlessness of which they are capable.

In their desperation, the imperialists and their collaborators here not only aim to eliminate important leaders. No doubt they also cherish the hope that the sordid murder of Walter Rodney will trigger off a wave of terror and counter-terror, of personal violence which could be used as the excuse for the declaration of a state of emergency and ~~the~~ ^{another} postponement of the elections, ^{and for the imposition of more}

~~blatant~~ ~~harsh~~ ^{dictatorial methods.}
Freedom and democracy are threatened as never before. All who cherish democracy and human rights must close ranks and organise to put an end to ^{terroristic} tyranny and oppression.

They ~~has~~ ^{has} assassinated Dr Rodney. But they ^{not} ~~will~~ ^{succeed in} ~~will~~ ^{trilling} what he stood for.