

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. CHEDDI B. JAGAN

AFTER BEING SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT OF THE COOPERATIVE

Your Honour the Chancellor of the Judiciary; Honourable George Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Honourable Barnel Campbell, Attorney-General of St Vincent and the Grenadines and Personal Representative of Prime Minister James Mitchell; Your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Honourable Mr Desmond Hoyte and Mrs Hoyte; Honourable Mr Hamilton Green and Mrs Green; Your Honours of the Religious Communities; Esteemed Members of the Observer Teams; Chairman and Members of the Elections Commission; Prime Minister designate Mr Sam Hinds and Mrs Hinds; Colleagues of the victorious PPP/CIVIC slate; Ladies and Gentlemen:

After I had been declared the winner of the Central Demerara constituency of the 1947 general election, I said, "We the People have won". Forty-five years later I can now say once again The People Have Won.

In 1948 after the shooting of the Enmore Martyrs I pledged to dedicate my life to fighting against exploitation and bondage. In 1953 after struggling for and attaining universal adult suffrage, we won an overwhelming victory of 18 out of 24 seats. This was an expression of national, racial, ethnic and working peoples' unity.

After Guyana gained Independence I wrote in 1966, in my book "The West on Trial" the following: "The struggle will be long and hard, sacrifices there will be many, but time and history are on our side, and win we shall". We have been vindicated and the results of the October 5 elections prove that victory was inevitable.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we will once again build national, racial, ethnic and working people's unity. The unity of our entire nation is our goal. We went to the elections with the slogan "Time for Change, Time to Rebuild"; we have attained the first objective of a change of government. Now all of us together, whatever our party political affiliation, whatever our race or ethnicity, whatever our creed, must put our

shoulders to the wheel. It is time to embrace each other and work arm-in-arm to rebuild our beloved Guyana, and we can do so now that confidence is being restored as witnessed by the dramatic fall in the exchange rate just today. We must move forward together and make into reality our motto - One People, One Nation, One Destiny.

In this exciting adventure I expect the fullest cooperation not only of our many friendly countries and our overseas brothers and sisters, but also the progressively-minded personalities and organisations, investors, experts and advisors. We do so without rancour, without recrimination, without victimisation, without in any way trying to cast blame. In this regard I hope to develop a constructive relationship with Mr Desmond Hoyte and the leadership of all parties in order to deepen our democratic process and accelerate our economic development.

Allow me to congratulate the Commissioner of Police and the Chief of Staff and their forces for firmly maintaining law and order in this challenging time. I want to assure them that they can always count on the full cooperation and support of my government in the exercise of their constitutional duties. As true patriots and genuine internationalists we hope to play a vibrant role not only in rebuilding Guyana but also in establishing a democratic and humane world order, an order, based on the rule of law, the eradication of poverty, and human development.

I salute the major western countries for overseeing the electoral process and I affectionately embrace our many supporters for their support, patience and calm.

Long Live National Unity! Long live Guyana!

I thank you very much.