

# Take the Co-op Road

## CHEDDI JAGAN

All phases of the cooperative movement were good, and everyone should try to use his influence to see that the movement was developed, Dr. Cheddi Jagan told sugar workers when he gave them a talk on 'CO-OPERATIVES' at the Lusignan Community Centre last week.



Cheddi Jagan

Dr. Jagan dealt with the origin of cooperation among men from the earliest days of human society when men defended themselves against wild animals by getting together. Men in those days had no guns or cutlasses. All they had were very primitive implements and weapons, and because it was difficult to get enough to eat men had to come together because wild animals also lived on the same things for which men hunted and fished. That first stage of society of people cooperating together was sometimes referred to as primitive communism. They shared things in common and did not live at the expense of others.

After this stage, man passed through slavery, then feudalism, and later capitalism from which has come socialism.

### Moving Together

Dr. Jagan said that in every country people wanted to build up the cooperative movement. In co-operation he said, you are getting to unite and move together.

In some societies, he continued, people are very in-

dividualistic and selfish. Some people think only of themselves and they may go beyond that and think only of their families. Outside of that they are not prepared to go any further.

But we must not think only of ourselves, Dr. Jagan went on. We must think in terms of the group, the community, and the country. Because if the community is well-off and the country is well-off, the family will be well-off.

### Encourage Ability

"We want in a society to encourage people who have ability, drive and push, as long as this is not done at the expense of other people.

"But some people are interested in money. Others are interested in doing something for their country and in the process get recognition for what they are doing.

"In this country we have heroes who get the C. B. E. But as we know, the bulk of them who get these awards are not interested in the welfare of the masses... but in some countries you find ordinary people who

have done something and are rewarded.

### End Exploitation

"In B.G., for instance, we still have a great deal of exploitation in one form or another. That is why some of us are politicians. We want to make a society where there would not be exploitation."

Some politicians, he said, were motivated by what they could get, while others were motivated by removing exploitation. And this was where co-operatives could play a part.

Co-ops could do a lot to prevent farmers' dependence on money lenders, who were living off the people.

### Art and Politics Combined

PAUL ROBESON recently announced his intention to remain in Britain for a few years. He will use Britain as the centre of his cultural activities and travel to other countries and back to his home—America—from time to time.

Explaining his position to the press, he said he hoped to help bring about better relations between the British and American people.

"There is another America besides that of Mr. Dewey—progressive America. I am proud to be part of that America. I want to play my part in establishing cooperation between that America and the people of Britain."

Dealing with other reasons which led him to decide to make London his cultural centre, Paul Robeson said that much of his political development had taken place against the background of life in Britain.

"Here I came in contact with the struggle of the Indian peoples and those of other Colonial countries. I speak of these matters not as a stranger, but because I have lived and grown up with them. It is natural that returning after nine years absence, I should plan to spend a good deal of my time working here."

### Negro struggle

On the question of why he had been prevented from coming to Britain all these years, Robeson said that this was linked to his deep responsibility to the Negro people in the United States and their struggle to become first class citizens—as in Little Rock or Montgomery, Alabama.

"I have been very close to the working class movement in America. I see the solution to these problems through the basic unity of the working class.

"My work as an artist is not in any sense divided from my political work. What I do as an artist is closely bound up with the struggle for a better world."

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