

EQUALITY – THE BASIS OF POLICY

Straight Talk by Cheddi Jagan

The *Evening Post* in the issue of Thursday, June 1, 1961 carried an article by one Juan Gonsalves, head lined "Cuban Negroes Find Castro's Communism Costly".

We are all aware of the stream of propaganda now being directed against the Revolutionary Cuban Government, This propaganda was so intense that it fooled its own authors and disseminators into believing that the Cuban people were going to turn against their Government and join the invaders. When is this lying propaganda going to stop?

It is a great pity that the *Evening Post* joins in spreading such wicked propaganda particularly on this question of treatment of Negroes. Negro-White unity has been basic to the Cuban Revolutionary efforts. And the Castro Government is dedicated to and has accomplished much in wiping out all discrimination.

It has set itself as one of its most urgent duties the utter extermination of all segregation and racialism. Negroes hold important posts at all levels. Joseph North in his book, *Cuba, Hope of a Hemisphere*, says that "the head of the air force was a Negro; the Head of the Army is Negro, the Chief of the Oriente contingents of the armed forces, a Negro."

The editor should publish what some more important people saw and had to say. Professor Paul Baran, economics professor at Stanford University in his pamphlet *Reflections on the Cuban Revolution* says that he is thrilled by "the leaps that the Cubans are making in education, health, culture standard of living and dignity."

Professor C. Wright Mills, of Columbia University, author of important books such as *Power Elite*, in his book on Cuba, *Listen Yankee*, announces himself as for the Cuban Revolution and as recognising that anti-communism is counter revolution. This is important as Mills himself is not a communist. He explains in great detail in direct interviews with Cubans about what's happening there, and leaves no one in doubt that it was monopoly capitalism which kept Cuba enslaved.

There is Professor Douglas R. Dowd of Cornell University. Rejecting the monstrous picture of a "communist Cuba" that is peddled all over the world, he says:

"Why should there not be Communists participating in Cuban public affairs, as there are in most countries of the world, including most countries of the NATO alliance? The Cold War extends throughout the world, but not all countries have seen fit to follow the American example summed up in the term McCarthyism, annoying though such sentimentality must be to J. Edgar Hoover and Senator Dodd."

Every Cuban, as every nationalist leader everywhere, recognises the imperative need for the broadest possible unity. Che Guevara writes: "For the old, the very old imperial maxim of 'divide and conquer' remains today the basis of imperialist strategy."

Bias Roca, General Secretary of the Popular Socialist Party in Cuba, says: "The motto of the imperialists, of the sell-out governing class, of the reactionaries and exploiters of every kind

is: Divide and Rule. In logical contradiction, the maxim of the revolutionaries, of the representatives of the workers, peasants, and the people generally, the maxim of the Marxist Leninist is: Unite to triumph over the enemies of the nation, the people and the toiling masses. The maxim guided all our activity against the tyranny and has guided and guides today all our activity in the course of the revolution, its triumph and its development."

Cuba is not far from here. The editor of the *Evening Post* should send an observer to make an on-the-spot assessment. It's important for us.

Mr. Hurbert Matthews of the *New York Times* says that in all his 30 years of reporting he has never seen a situation more misunderstood and misinterpreted than the Cuban Revolution. Let's not just dish out the daily doses of propaganda and venom put out against the Cuban Government and people.

One last quotation. It's another one from Professor Dowd of Cornell University. He says:

"I do not believe that Castro and his supporters are angels, nor that their revolution is flawless or without serious problems, nor do I believe that Americans actions and attitudes have been those of devils. But I do believe that American values, and American needs, taken in conjunction with the past and present Cuban situation, point to a position sharply opposed to the one we presently hold."

(Printed in *Thunder*, 8 July 1961)

© Nadira Jagan-Brancier 2000

Cheddi Jagan Research Centre