

STRAIGHT TALK

AID WITH STRINGS

THE newspapers have told us that massive aid will now come to British Guiana. Having installed the puppet Government, the imperialists will now have to prop it up. They will do so first by pumping money into the country. When they fail to achieve their ends they will use force and fraud, as in many South American countries to impose their rule and maintain their puppets as dictators.

Various ruses are carried out in the name of development. But above all, the imperialists do not want balanced industrial and cultural development. They will lend money with strings mainly for infra-structure (roads, sea defence, harbour improvements, etc.). This type of development only while in the short term will provide jobs can later lead the country into a hopeless position.

We hear that the Americans propose to dredge the Berbice River and improve the harbour facilities in New Amsterdam. For the Demba bauxite operations, they propose to lend money to build a road from Atkinson to Mackenzie. This will only be providing the infra-structure to allow American capital (directly invested in Reynolds and indirectly invested in Demba) to reap the harvest at the expense of the Guianese people.

This is not real development. The imperialists are only helping themselves. They are committing their puppet Government to borrow money and build facilities which will facilitate their exploitation of our resources.

This kind of imbalanced development has led leading Latin American countries into a position where they have to borrow not for development but to pay back debts falling due. For instance in 1956 these countries borrowed \$450 million (U.S.) but paid out exactly the same amount as principal and interest on maturing debts.

A balanced agricultural and industrial development is vital. This is what we wanted and why we were and are opposed. But this kind of balanced development is unlikely to come about because of the hybrid, puppet Government now in office.

Mr D'Aguiar, the representative of the capitalists and imperialists already sounded a warning when he was in London. He said:—

"I believe that any country is backward because not enough money has been spent on public and social works. It would be unrealistic for the Government to involved itself into excursions in private industry. That should be left to those who are experts. British Guiana has got to generate confidence abroad to attract capital, but this will be impossible if the Government involves itself in commercial affairs. Mr. Burnham's programme in this regard is still not clear. Assuming that we form a Government I suppose it would be on a basis of an agreed line of economic action."

Guianese watch out. You may find British Guiana put in the same straight jacket in which Latin America today finds itself.

Bribery and corruption have not paid off elsewhere. It will not pay off here. The sooner the Guianese people realise this, and that they have been betrayed the better.

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