

ORGAN OF THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY

# THUNDER

Jack Braxton  
The People's Party  
William George



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PROGRESS  
PROSPERITY

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## Independence and the Future

by CHEDDI JAGAN

At long last an independence date has been fixed for Guyana. This must be welcome news for all Guyanese. Our jubilation, however, must be tempered by the act of betrayal of the Labour government and the P.N.C. which claim to be socialist and to speak for the working class.

The British government failed firstly to grasp the opportunity to help work out a satisfactory solution to the deep-seated political problems in the country. Secondly, it retained in the constitution the electoral system of proportional representation, which its leaders had before condemned. What does all this signify? The significance is clear. The Constitutional Conference was a farce. The British Labour government merely carried out the orders of Washington. It has transferred power, not as it should to the people of Guyana, but to the U.S. puppet.

The very nature of this

transfer of power means nominal independence. The trappings of political power have been transferred, but economic and cultural domination will still remain. The Anglo-American imperialists will make sure of this by their economic and military aid.

On this point of nominal independence, my experience in Jamaica in January 1964 is quite revealing. Many Jamaicans to whom I talked put it this way: "Doctor, we have our own Governor-General, national flag, anthem, coat of arms, but everything else has remained the same."

### CHANGE OF SYSTEM

What Jamaicans, and indeed Guyanese, need is not merely a formal transfer of power, but a transfer which will be meaningful, which will lead to a change in the economic system of imperialist exploitation and subjugation.

Guyana will now embark upon a new stage of neo-colonialism. The Guyanese people as a whole must now gear themselves for a new stage of struggle to combat the sell-out of our country. They must now concentrate on these objectives.

Firstly: Get rid of the props of colonialism. The British Army must go and the agreement on the two U.S. bases must be cancelled. There can be no freedom with foreign bases and foreign troops.

Secondly: Get rid of foreign economic control. The government and the Guyanese people must take over the commanding

heights of the economy & extend the public sector. There should be strict control of currency so that profits made at the expense of the starving population are not allowed to flow out of the country. There should be rigid price control to protect the workers from exploitation. Foreign investors should not be allowed, whether directly or indirectly to extend their economic controls in Guyana.

Thirdly: The Guyanese people must aim at a truly national outlook. We must not become imitation Americans as the Puerto Ricans and Canadians have been forced to become. We must force our own Guyanese culture and consciousness.

Fourthly: Whatever constitutional shortcomings there may be, the puppet government must be forced to uphold the constitution. It is quite likely that as the government becomes more unpopular and loses support, it will move to

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# Independence and the Future

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suppress even more the constitutional rights of the Guyanese people and deny free and fair elections in the future. Recent examples in Latin America which have fallen under U.S. influence are glaring for all to see. This must not be allowed to happen here. Independence of the constitution, the Guyanese people must demand immediately the revocation of

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# INDEPENDENCE AND THE FUTURE

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le état de émergency and the release of all détenés.

Fifthly: There must be continuous agitation for a truly democratic constitution which is in keeping with the needs of the people and written by a representative Constituent

Assembly. The system of proportional representation, which in our situation is aimed at placing power in the hands of the fascist and reactionary United Force, must go. And to get a truly representative government, all persons over age 18 must vote.

## NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

On December 12th at the Special Conference the following nominations have been received for the elections at the forthcoming Party Conference. In keeping with the rules of the PPP, these are published in 'Thunder' for the information of members.

Chairman — C. V. Nunes, Fenton Ramsahoye.

Leader — Cheddi Jagan

First Vice Chairman — C. V. Nunes, R. Chandisingh, F. Ramsahoye, H. J. M. Hubbard, Joe Jardim.

Second Vice Chairman — C. V. Nunes, R. Chandisingh, Dr. Ramjohn, J. Jardim, F. Ramsahoye, Harrylall.

General Secretary — J. Jagan

Assistant Secretary — R. Chandisingh, C. R. Jacob, Jr., C. V. Nunes.

Organising Secretary — C. V. Nunes, Mooneer Khan, C. R. Jacob, Jr., R. Chandisingh.

Treasurer — Ramkarran, C. R. Jacob, Jr.

General Council — Maccie Hamid, Derek Jagan, Mooneer Khan, Rudy Luck, Reepu Daman Persaud, Fenton Ramsahoye, Yacoob Ally, R. Mandal, Mavis Fraser, Robert Dindial, Mahendra Nauth, George Robertson, E.M.G. Wilson, Desmond Shepherd, H.J.M. Hubbard, E. Stoby, Harrylall, K. Zaman Ali, Dr. Ramjohn, Pandit Misir, Dalchand, Ivan Remington, Ashton Chase, Sydney Joseph, Pandit Tiwari, Haripersaud, Balchand Persaud, D. Ramlakhan, Jairam Karran, R. Chandisingh, J. Jardim, Pandit Ramlall, Edgar Ambrose, Harry Persaud, Nasrudeen, G. Bowman, Isaac Sankar, David Gulliver, Khaman Sankar, Zaheerudeen, M. Kuppon, Kamal, C. R. Jacob, Jr., C. C. Khanhai, Vincent Teekah, Victor James, Mohamed Yasin, C. V. Nunes, G. Thomas, R. Findley, Ramkarran, C. Belgrave, R. B. Areghi, Rajkumari Singh, H. W. Thomas, G. Henry, Roshan Ali, Janki Persaud, Baljeet, A. Doodram, Harold De Mattos, Jagmohan, M. A. Shakkor, Pt. Sama Persaud, Puran, M. Aba Bakr.

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Sixthly: The struggle must be joined to prevent the government's attack against the working class. There are already indications of the anti-working class character of the government. Recently, even Ministers of the government have resorted to snooping on the workers. From Ministers' lips have come capitalist slogans that the workers are idling, that there are too many unnecessary strikes. The Trade Union movement must be strengthened and protected from the onslaughts of the pro-imperialist government and the collaborationist trade union leaders.

Seventhly: Discriminatory practices, nepotism, corruption and the squandering of public funds by the government must be exposed.

During the last 12 months, we have witnessed the squandering of public funds on an unprecedented scale. Except for road and house building, the economy is at a standstill. The rice industry is facing ruin. Production has been curtailed while the government diverts expenditure from productive (drainage and irrigation) to non-productive fields (roads and public buildings). The budget is likely to be a permanent state of deficit.

When the time comes to fill the gap, it will be done at the expense of the working people. We know to our horror of the giveaway concessions to big business by the abolition of the capital taxes put on

by the PPP government in all-age schools up to the G.C.E. level has been slashed.

Eightly: There is today more than ever the need for working class unity. This must be done by combating racism and adopting the class slogan "unity and struggle." We must relentlessly attack and expose the United Force as an anti-national, anti-democratic, pro-imperialist, big-business party.

At the same time we must join in united action against rapacious landlords and big-business capitalists wherever and whenever the people's vital interests are threatened. Our aim is still to work for a political settlement which will mean a broad-based government, truly national, democratic, anti-imperialist and socialist in character.

We are now entering a new challenging period, a period which no doubt will be filled with many difficulties. The opportunists, waverers and traitors will now find one excuse after another to desert. But like the betrayals and splits during the first Interim government (1953 — 57), these will now serve in this second Interim government period only to purify our ranks.

Let those who proclaim our imminent down-fall be told that although defrauded and cheated, we will remain the strongest force in the country. Difficulties will be; the battle will be long and hard. But win we must. History and time are on our side!

DECEMBER, 1965