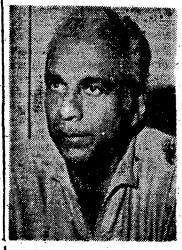
Nelson Mandela_A life of dedication

Slavery in the Common-wealth Caribbean 150 years ago cannot be complete without the unconditional re-

lease of Nelson Mandela.

That was how I concluded my tribute to one of the greatest freedom fighters of our time. The occasion was a rally at Freedom House, Georgetown, sponsored by the Committee of Solidarity



with the Peoples of Southern 70th birthday of the leader of the African National Congress (ANC).

To Botha and his racist/ fascist regime, Mandela is a terrorist. He was prepared to release Mandela 'on condition that (he) give a commitment that he will not make himself guilty of plan-ning, instigating or committing acts of violence...but will conduct himself in such a way that he will not again have to be arrested ... 'A member of the former

South African Liberal Party saw it differently: 'I want to tell P.W. Botha, if speaks to Nelson Mandela, he speaks to a reasonable man, not a violent man — one of the kindest most honest peace-loving men'.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has declared that there can be no solution to the prob-lems of South Africa without Mandela.

COMMITMENT

For me, what is most significant is his courage and indomitable spirit. Nearly 26 years of imprisonment would have broken others committed. Taking a principled position, he has ditional release.

struggle against apartheid universal, All shades of m litical opinion are committed to firm solidarity with the

Black people of South Africa.
This sympathy and solidarity is based on Guyana's own experience with racism. Blacks and Indians, whose ancestors came from Africa and India as slaves and indentured immigrants respectively, were deemed inferior not only because of cultural traits, but also because of physical features.

Mandela's commitment and ciple

JUSTIFICATION

In a forceful, highly-politi-al defence, like Georgi cal defence, like Dimitrov and Fidel Castro Mandela in previous trials became the accuser. It was white supremacy, he charged, and the inequality and lack of respect for the dignity of the Blacks that led to the poverty, malnutrition, disease and a high rate of infant mortality.

dedication meant separation were closed by legislation, he coming isolated at home and from family and abandon- chose to oppose it by violence overseas.

imprint into our history that we let an old man die in jail while there was the opportunity to negotiate with him on the aspirations of his people?"

More and more foreign companies, including the wellknown IBM and General Motors, have pulled out of South Africa. And the "constructive engagement" policy of the USA is now in tatters.

And fearlessly, he told the The United States and the Court that because 'all other United Kingdom have refused The United States and the means of opposing the print to impose mandatory sanctions. ciple of White supremacy But increasingly, they are besupremacy But increasingly, they are be-

> Fed up with the filibustering on sanctions by the Thatcher and Reagan administrations, the moderate Bishop Desmond Tutu "To hell with the blurted: West"

INSURANCES Mranwhile, the West is manoeuvring. While conceding that there should be a transition towards a government led by the najority, George Schultz, US Secretary of State, declared that transition "should be followed by insurances for the rights of the minority groups such as the white".

As regards "irsurances", Zimbabwe and Kenya demonstrated that fears about the post-independence fate whites were unfounded.

The leaders of the South African liberation movement tration which had deemed have repeatedly stated that their the ANC to be a organisation was forced to of white racism with black racestablish contacts with it. ism. What they are fighting for is a democratic state of one man one vote. And the ANC's close association with the Communist liberation party of South Africa, led by white Joe Slove, implies that the democratic state would have as

Mandela admitted that he had

And Winnie Mandeia told the in peace with you but give us back the land that is ours and which we struggle for. Give it back to us and let us share it".

The Emancipation from

Mandatory sanctions must The country's largest Afri- be imposed, apartheid must caans-language daily has ask- be destroyed and Mandela

Straight Talk By CHEDDI JAGAN

which he was punished.

IMPRISONMENT

He was jailed in 1955 for alleged treason and sedition inspired by international communism. This was root-ed, firstly in South Africa's Suppression of Communism Act, under which any criti-cism of Apartheid was deemed communist; secondly, in Mc Carthyism in the USA cold-war anti-communist hysteria - under which famous Black leaders, actor which and singer Paul Robeson, and Black scholar Dr. W.E.B. Black scholar Dr. W.E.B. Dubois, had been hounded and their passports confiscated.

In that same year, US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles had declared the 'panscheel' principles of the Bandung Conference, non-alignment and peaceful co-existence as 'immoral'.

In 1962, the ANC leaves was tried for leaving the same of the sam

country illegally and inviting workers to strike, and was sentenced to a 5-year term of imprisonment.

While in prison he was in 1964 'charged under the Sabotage and Suppression Act for conspiring to commit acts of sabotage in preparation for guerilla warfare and an armed invasion of South His sentence for Africa'. declined favours and a con- attempting to overthrow the government was life impri-

ment of his profession: a life rather than accept Black of hardship and service, for inferiority. A policy of nonviolence would be both unrealistic and wrong for African leaders. Accordingly. the ANC would no longer ... disapprove of properly con-trolled sabotage'.

Mandela's position has been justified. The World Council of Churches and other overseas religious groups recognised the necessity for armed struggle in certain circumstances and rendered solidarity and support to the African National Congress African National Congress (ANC). And the U.S adminis

LIBERATION

positive There are other developments showing a marked shift in the balance of forces in the liberation struggle. Thousands of white South African youths are fleeing the country to avoid its priority social justice. military service; many prefer to face a 6-year jail sen- been "influenced by Marxist tence rather than enter the thinking". army and face the prospect of getting killed or maimed in ruling whites: "We want to live Angola and Namibia. Stuart Saunders,

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Capetown, denounced the white minority egime, stating: We have suffered under a state of emergency for too Slavery 150 years ago must be long and have suffered for commemorated by and with the 40 years enforced and statu- freedom of Nelson Mandela. tory apartheid'.

ed: "Do we really want to must be freed.