

Building a Peaceful and Prosperous Guyana

("Viewpoint" by Cheddi Jagan on GBS, June 12, 1992)

This opportunity is taken as some commentators say, that the opposition has no programme—a position difficult to understand in the case of the PPP since here are so many documents and statements.

Let me refer to a few: a 35-point programme approved by the PPP's 1991 Congress; my speech to businessmen at the Hotel Tower, published as "OUR FOOTSTEPS AND OUR VISION FOR A FREE GUYANA"; reports of meet-

ings in the last two years with American businessmen in the office of the Latin American and Caribbean Action in Washington; my address to the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, widely circulated by CANA; my answers to questions by the Stabroek News on politics, ideology and international relations, published as "TRACING OUR PATH IN A CHANGING WORLD"; a wide-ranging interview with Stabroek's Editor-in-Chief,

David DeCaries; an article in the same paper pointing out how we would cope with racial/ethnic insecurity; our weekly policy answers to questions by the Sunday Stabroek.

It's a pity the state media did not give adequate coverage to them.

The PPP's Congress document, "WHAT IS TO BE DONE", formed the basis of our Draft Manifesto. This was discussed in detail with the CIVIC candidates on the PPP/CIVIC slate, and will be published soon. Let me outline some main features of our Programme.



Cheddi Jagan

We want a broad-based government on the basis of winner-will-not-take-all. The PPP/CIVIC is an his-

toric development, based on alliance/partnership politics and racial/ethnic, class and ideological balances.

Our policies will be formulated by consensus through dialogue and discussions, in and out of Parliament.

I'm glad to see that some of our long-held basic tenets are being enunciated by specialists of development.

The Commonwealth Study Group, led by Professor McIntyre, noted that the ERP would not succeed without political and public support. This fits into our equation of democracy and development.

We will put an end to bureaucratic/command type of government and management, and ensure not only representative democracy at every level — national, regional, municipal and village — but also participatory democracy. At the workplace, workers and their trade unions will be involved in decision-making and management, at the community level, Citizens Committees will mobilise initiative and creativity for economic growth and human development.

World Bank experts recently enunciated what we

have been saying for a long time; namely, to achieve success, there must be efficient management and good governance, what we call a clean, lean and accountable government.

There will be a mixed economy with emphasis on balanced industrial-agricultural development, based on market forces and a partnership between foreign and local enterprise, and between capital and labour.

We applauded the many Commissions, headed by Willie Brandt, Julius Nyerere and others, calling for North-South co-operation. We are

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happy that the World Bank and the IMF are now emphasising the interdependence and partnership of the developed-industrialised North, dogged by repression and stagnation, and the underdeveloped South, with poverty and famine.

The new president of the World Bank recently said that aid to the Third World would be linked to a poverty eradication programme.

The PPP/CIVIC will emphasise not simply economic growth, but human development. This means meeting the people's basic needs—food, clothing, shel-

ter, education, medical care, clean air and water — and ensuring the fullest enjoyment of their freedoms.

The state will play its role for social justice and economic justice. I'm glad to see that the World Bank in its WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 1991 confirms our position that "it is not a question of state or market: each has a large and irreplaceable role."

The two UN Covenants on human rights will be fully honoured. And we will sign the Optional Protocol to the Covenants, giving every

Guyanese the right to approach and invite the UN Commission on Human Rights to address any alleged violations of freedoms.

The working people will be further protected by a Labour Code and legislation for union recognition for collective bargaining.

With public confidence and the people's fullest participation, the PPP/CIVIC plans to build, with a national-democratic programme, a peaceful and prosperous GUYANA.

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