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5th July, 1962

Dear Mr. Jha,

You will recall that following my statement to the Fourth Committee on 18th December, 1961 (U.N. document A/C. 4/515) on the question of Independence for British Guiana, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom issued a statement on 16th January, 1962 (A/C. 4/520) that a Conference would be called in London in May 1962 to discuss the date and arrangements for independence for Guiana. You will recall also that on 23rd February, 1962, you decided not to press the Resolution on the question of independence for this country in view of the promise of a Conference in May.

2. The Conference was at first deferred to July, and now tentatively to September, on the ground that it should have before it the Report of the Commission that has just completed its inquiry into the February 16 disturbances. To delay independence because of the disturbances would be to put a premium on disorder and violence and would be a breach of the promise given to the Fourth Committee and a denial of the right of the people of Guiana to independence.

3. I should be very grateful if you would sponsor an appropriate resolution urgently in the Committee of Seventeen calling on the United Kingdom Government to hold a Conference immediately to decide on independence for Guiana. I should also like to invite the Committee to visit this country to carry out a first hand investigation into the steps which are apparently now being taken to perpetuate colonial rule here.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) Cheddi Jagan

PREMIER

Mr. Chandra S. Jha,
Chairman, Committee of Seventeen,
United Nations, N.Y.

