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**EDITORIAL****JANET JAGAN REDEEMS GUYANA AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

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President Janet Jagan's visit to the United States, September 17 through 24, was primarily to address the 53rd United Nations (UN) General Assembly. This she delivered on Tuesday, giving Guyana the international exposure it so badly needs.

She spoke about the will of the Guyanese electorate being thwarted by the opposition People's National Congress (PNC), through their refusal to recognize the People's Progressive Party (PPP)/Civic Administration and the President of Guyana. It is clear, she noted, that the Guyana Government cannot continue to tolerate the PNC's denial of the PPP/Civic presence, and calls for the international community and the UN's support on this matter. International exposure of the PNC's sickening and bullying tactics in trying to make the PPP/Civic Administration ungovernable, all because they lost the free, fair, and transparent national elections in 1997, will redirect global focus on the PNC's actions in the coming months. President Jagan's assertions at the UN on this PNC-driven debacle are significant and timely, for any further recalcitrance on their part can hinder and delay the outcome of the constitutional reform process that is now underway.

With reference to world conflicts, the President explained that peacekeeping is inadequate in itself to resolve these conflicts. There may be the need to apply preventive diplomacy, peace-making, and peace-building to assess the determinants of these conflicts. But, she argued, that this perspective of not focusing solely on peacekeeping, can also be utilized within each country.

For instance, this approach is being clearly used in Guyana. We see the shuttling CARICOM diplomacy, albeit not preventive as it is ex post facto. The facilitator from Barbados has now begun to intensify the dialog between the warring parties. Despite the PNC's stubbornness, the PPP/Civic Government, on significant policy measures, makes sincere attempts to consult with the PNC as well as the other opposition parties. The President's agreement to limit the Administration's term of office to three instead of its constitutional five years, may seem as an unnecessary compromise. But all these developments constitute laying the embryonic formations of peace-building and peace-making which, historically, have contributed to progressive long-term societal outcomes. This is the kind of politicking that's going on at the highest levels in Guyana.

Peace-building is not only associated with the military and the police, as some people seem to have a perennial obsession with the militarized role of the security forces. As Janet Jagan pointed out, peace is not just the absence of war. She added that true peace becomes a reality when it is founded on sound economic and social development. The use of peace-building and peace-making to produce enterprising long-term outcomes for Guyana, therefore, is premised on improving the quality of life of all Guyanese. But she

believes that for developing countries, the most important barrier to this peace is poverty. The President called on the UN to reduce worldwide poverty by 50 percent by the year 2015. Enormous assistance



would be required from the advanced nations, and they should have a vested interest in decreasing poverty, as poor countries are significant markets for their exports. Con-

sider the fact that about 40 percent of the net income of transnational US corporations is derived from third world countries. The multilateral financial institutions present a tremendous hindrance to lessening global poverty.

It may be useful to add that under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) agreement, the capacity of governments to control business and their economies, will be conceded to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and transnational corporations. GATT in setting up the WTO in 1995, was not so much concerned with regulating trade, as to place individual governments under the control of private capital. The 120 countries that are signatories to GATT, must reduce tariffs, stop farm subsidies, treat foreign corporations the same as local corporations, comply with all corporate patent claims, and heed the decisions of the WTO which has the authority to enforce these agreements through trade sanctions. The provisions in the GATT agreement in establishing the WTO needs reexamination against a background of high levels of poverty in developing countries. Sustaining democracy, especially for those countries where democracy is fragile, becomes problematic if the GATT agreement is not reconsidered for poor nations.

President Jagan made a strong plea for advancing the vision of a New Global Human Order, an idea that was integral to the late Dr. Cheddi Jagan's ideological framework. She believes that this is the way to diminish the gap between the North and South. Establishment of a New Global Human Order requires a level of international cooperation and reorientation of ideological thrusts that have rarely been seen in the developed world. Most advanced industrial nations are solely motivated by the pursuit of profit and rapid capital accumulation. The implementation of the New Global Human Order concept, however, may still have some feasibility potential.

Foreign investment needs to be controlled and administered to create interdependence rather than dependence. In this modern complex world of today, the rich and poor countries have more gains to be exacted from interdependence. The logistics of how this could emerge need to be calculated. This perspective involves promotive interdependence where a society's goal attainment mutually assists the other society's goal achievement.

The whole concept of Dr. Cheddi

Jagan's global vision requires lifeblood from government spending, that is from both poor and rich governments. The international economic climate is geared to reduced government interventions and, therefore, spending. Also, the moral outlook of Jagan's global village is completely opposed to the core of capitalism. Capitalism promotes profit making and exploitation. Jagan's global proposal should not be discarded. The best days ahead for it has to be in Guyana, and indeed, the Caribbean.

The global village would become more of a reality in an economic system driven

by a mix between capitalist and interventionist principles, rather than be solely operationalized within a capitalist economic system. This mix is scarce on the international scene. Therefore, a useful starting point for activating the global village concept, has to be initially rooted nationally. Guyana can be the cradle for this experiment, as Dr. Cheddi Jagan was an advocate for a mixed capitalist and interventionist economic system. Jagan's death should be a motivator for the promotion of the global village concept.