

Honor to Janet Jagan

By Diego Hugo Meneses

Let me quickly inform you how and why I am here, in this important event to commemorate Comrade Janet Jagan. In 1979 one of the bloodiest dictatorships in Latin America and the Caribbean was overthrown by the Sandinista Popular Revolution, quickly the government of the U.S.A., Ronald Reagan, commences its open and terrorist offensive against our small country, Nicaragua. Projecting the Sandinista revolution as a potential enemy, a threat to the national security of this country, founding the contra revolution, mining our territory and our seaports, establish the commercial embargo and developing an international campaign of isolation to the Nicaraguan People. War that caused more than 30 thousand people dead.

Parallel to that and by initiative of the Sandinista Front we decided to go out to the world and explain our political project, to consolidate bonds of brotherhood with our friends in the outside and to reaffirm international solidarity towards our struggle. Logically

one of the first friends who we ~~will to~~ visit was the People's Progressive Party (PPP) of Guyana.

Representing the Revolution and the FSLN, I ^{HAD}~~have~~ the honor and the virtue to know the couple, Cheddi and Janet Jagan; with Cheddi I was able to spend more time and experiences. He went to Nicaragua during the contra war, expressing his solidarity with the Sandinista Revolution, he was to do more international work at that particular time. Nevertheless I remember Janet seating at her desk writing, working in her office all the time, running all over assurance the success of the party convention in 1988, and remember with a lot of appreciation having me as guest in her humble but peaceful and lovely home.

Janet Jagan used to talk all the time, about the importance of political education to strengthen the ideological foundation, base, of the party, she used to talk about the scientific analysis an how to approach different political phenomenon, national and international, she was always concerned and worry about the aggression on Nicaragua, the invasion to

Granada, the Cuba embargo, the struggle in El Salvador and all the liberations and class struggles in the world.

There ^{is} ~~are~~ a lot to say about Janet legacy and ^{HER} ~~image~~, but I was asked to talk about how I remember her. The big question now is on how I do really remember Janet Jagan and how I vision her; the leader, the militant, the combatant, the revolutionary, the lady who got to become the first woman president of Guyana.

I would say Janet is the most admired and popular woman in Guyana and the Caribbean, the country and region where she carried out all her political life. She was a Founder member of one of the most progressive political parties in the region, the PPP, woman of firm convictions, a visionary and idealist, anti colonialist, antiracial, anti-imperialist, socialist and internationalist.

I remember Janet during a PPP congress in 1988 when she presented her report with a lot of confident and vision, calling all the militants of the party to stand firm with the ideals of the PPP because political victory was to be sooner. Four years later they achieve the electoral victory of the Party with the election of President Cheddi Jagan.

For Janet her dream did not end with the party achieving the government, for her that was just the beginning, because her cause was the cause of the workers, the woman's emancipation, for the unity of the Guyanese families and her main cause, for world peace, she kept leading and struggling till she died.

Janet was a visionary always visualizing socialism with liberties, a system with liberties, full of creative initiatives, diversity, and above all a socialism with rights, with the right for the people to think and to think different. She always manifest that freedom was in those who think differently.

Our History need heroics women like Janet, who not only think but act in the defense of the freedom, working to transform history, like many leaders, like Bolivar, Sandino, Marti, el Che, heroes and martyrs that never gave up their fight, those who are to be forever in the history of our peoples. Those who left all the commodity for a humanitarian and idealist struggle, for the new man, Janet is one of them she was an extraordinary woman with a very strong tide to the mass struggle, she

was against the bureaucracy, she was a very solid lefties idealist woman.

Janet is present in the struggle for justice, for liberties, for freedom and above all for peace in the world, we know you'll be always in our everyday struggle, and you rest in the heart and the future of your people, the Guyanese people.

Janet not only face the prison but she a clandestine life many times in her life, I was in Guyana when Mr. Forbes Burnham died and 1985 and that experience was hard, Cheddi and Janet disappear from public life just to protect the people, but they kept working and leading the party and the people from the catacombs.

Janet says:

“In the '60s I could not be seen for years. I couldn't be seen or they would start attacking, burning, killing. I had to just lie low for a long time.”

We say now Janet you ~~are lie~~ high in our hearts and in our every day struggle for justice and peace, thank you Janet for your lessons of perseverance, humbleness, and for you legacy. RIP