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Some years ago, during one of capitalism's cyclical crisis, an artist portrayed a picture of Karl Marx smiling as the stock market dropped. Years later, capitalism is again in deep crisis. A crisis with profound consequences for the working class. Janet and Cheddi are not laughing, because this crisis is no joke. Together, with Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin, they can say, I told you so. Indeed.

Years ago, a Guyanese dentist fell in love with a lovely working class girl from the industrial Midwest City of Chicago. Working together in a hospital, he decided to return to Guyana, where he was being called into service by the people. She followed and the rest is history. Two lives joined together in the struggles of the working class in Guyana and on the international level – living examples of proletarian internationalism.

I stand before you as an unrepentant communist paying tribute to a revolutionary proletarian woman who was a lifelong committed fighter for the liberation of oppressed people. She spent her life in struggle for the overthrow of capital over labor.

As a result of my assignment in the movement, it was a distinct honor to serve as a guide to comrades from the national liberation and world communist movement. Among them, Chris Hani, Joe Slovo, Moses Mabhida, Alfred Nzo from the South African Communist Party and The African National Congress and of course Janet and Cheddi from the Peoples Progressive Party of Guyana.

Both Janet and Cheddi were rigorous theoretician of the international communist and working class movement – great intellects, whose contribution to theory was more than remarkable. Janet was tireless in fighting for the emancipation of women and contributed to a theoretical understanding to women's oppression.

She was well respected, not only among the women of Guyana, but also throughout the Caribbean.

The movement in Jamaica valued the contributions of Janet and Cheddi. The Workers Party in particular, had a tremendous respect for the father of Caribbean Marxism and paid close attention to the unfolding struggles in Guyana.

In every meeting that Comrade Janet was present, it was a pleasure to talk and listen to her. Janet, by the way had lost her American accent. I enjoyed the many conversations we had, that ranged from various Caribbean personalities to the ideological questions that surfaced from time to time in our region.

We have had our share of tragedies – Michael Manley's Jamaica and New Jewel Grenada. But

(no subject) Page 1 of 1

long before that, and before the Falklands, there was Guyana, in which the democratically elected government of Cheddi Jagan was ousted from power. If we had stopped British imperialism then, the Caribbean would have been a different place and, Guyana would be a different place.

With the passing of Comrade Janet Jagan that generation of Caribbean revolutionaries is coming to an end. Along with the national democratic leaders, they have left an everlasting impact on the region. There is a lot that they have banqueted to us. There is an abundant legacy that the current generation of revolutionaries can sieved through. With that in mind, we wish the last remaining giant, of that period, Comrade Fidel a long life, just to let it last a little bit longer and say to history, Jane Jagan, Presente.

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Former member of the
Communist Party USA.
A friend of comrades
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