

**STATEMENT BY MS. JANET JAGAN AT THE  
OFFICIAL FUNERAL CEREMONY FOR  
PRESIDENT CHEDDI JAGAN, PARLIAMENT  
BUILDING, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1997.**

We have all been deeply moved by the demonstrations of love, respect and genuine grief which we have seen demonstrated by so many Guyanese of all strata of our society, by all races and religious groups and from the young to the old. That in itself tells the tale of the man who today we mourn. I have known him longer than any, other than his brothers and sisters. I can testify to the very special qualities that have made him what he has become in the hearts of all Guyanese. He was, above all a fighter, a man dedicated to win advances, not only for the people of his native land, but for all humanity. He was a man who never gave up. When the odds were high against him, in the face of almost hopeless situations, he never lost strength, never lost the will to achieve his goals.

I can testify to his goodness, to his honesty and integrity, to his lack of concern for the material things of life, to his remarkable intellect, always seeking answers, always examining all aspects of a matter, always seeking the truth. He was constantly

**analysing -- looking at two, three or four sides of a problem in order to arrive at the correct answer.**

**My greatest regret at his death, aside from the loss of my companion of over a half century, the father of our two children and the grandfather of five, is that he was not given the time to complete his plans, fulfill his dreams.**

**He had many dreams for Guyana -- to eradicate poverty, to build a strong and independent nation, to consolidate the democracy he had struggled to restore, and above all, to unite the nation. He fervently sought unity and never succumbed to pessimism. He always knew that the battle for unity would be achieved. Today we are seeing his hopes come true.**

**Those who will carry on despite this great loss have worked under his leadership and know his direction. They have been his students.**

**Those who have stood by him faithfully all these trying years, struggle for the people's right, know his wishes, his dream, his plans. All of us will carry the torch he lit so many years ago.**

**We say farewell to our dear comrade, our friend, our hero. Cheddi, rest in peace. Your name will live on.**