

Five Years After

by Janet Jagan

I can only guess that a person's worth after death will, to some extent say something of his worth while alive.

I remain, as I have since 1950, a member of the Central Committee (formerly General Council) and Executive Committee of the People's Progressive Party. These two committees are the governing bodies of the PPP in between Congress, which is the highest authority of the Party and which elects, on a delegate basis, in our Party's democratic elections for the Central Committee.

Since Cheddi Jagan's demise in 1997, I have missed only a few of these meetings. What I find remarkable and significant is that at most of these meetings (Executive Committee meets weekly and the Central Committee quarterly) Cheddi Jagan's name comes up frequently. For example, we may be discussing a matter like race relations and the setting up of a Race Relations Council. Members will remember what he said on the subject and the manner in which he would deal with the matter.

We might be discussing financial matters and the specific item of debt relief. Dr. Jagan's views on this would be recalled and we would be guided by his views and experience.

His ideas and thoughts continue to influence the PPP. But not in any dogmatic or slavish way. He always sought the widest opinions on vital matters and was never afraid or reluctant to ask the views of those least expected to be consulted by him. His mind was never closed to new ideas and this attitude has pervaded the thinking of the Party's leading members.

On moral issues, the Party leadership is constantly reminded of his solid standing and unwavering adherence to the principles of honesty and integrity.

At the more personal level, can I but remember him when I eat a mango from the tree he lovingly planted or when I pet the same dog he petted the very night he took ill at State House?

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