

# Walking Alone?

By Janet Jagan

I have been asked to write an article for a special edition commemorating the first death anniversary of ~~former~~ <sup>the late</sup> President, Cheddi Jagan, to be entitled "Walking Alone". I'm really not sure that I can write such an article, because the reality is that I am not walking alone. Next to me are good comrades, first class ministers of the government I lead and many, many friends all over Guyana and the world who are backing me and all those associated with my Party. <sup>there is my family - my children and grandchildren</sup> This moral support, which is so important, particularly in view of all the happenings of December and January, help make my tasks easier and the responsibilities I carry, not such a heavy load.

I am no believer in the mythical, the mystical or the occult, but by association for over 50 years, Cheddi is by my side and the knowledge that I am, hopefully, carrying out his policies and works, helps. When I open a dictionary to <sup>consult on</sup> write this bit, there is his name on the inside cover of the book he used in university. His photographs are everywhere. The very house I live in was designed and built by him, and he was proud of it. The mangos ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> tamarinds <sup>trees</sup> in my yard were planted by him. When I see an orchid blossoming on a tree, I remember when he brought the plant from the interior on one of his many trips.

When we meet weekly in Cabinet, there is yet to be a meeting where his name is not mentioned; ~~when~~ constant references are made to his ideas and his plans. In the Party of which we were both founder members, it is the same. His advice, his views on a ~~particular~~ <sup>particular</sup> matter come up as frequently as a light is turned off or on.

One year after his death, I still receive letters from Guyanese here and abroad, as well as many others, recounting their talks with him, sending me photographs of him and expressing his views in documents, treatises, studies and just friendly letters.

When he died a year ago, he left behind a legacy that enriches our lives, that reminds us that on this earth there walked a man of unusual moral and intellectual stature who blended his ideas with a <sup>vibrant</sup> remarkable activism, not often seen in this special combination. As in life and so in death, ~~he~~ has become a part of our lives.