

Georgetown, British Guiana
Nov. 23, 1963

Editor
Time & Tide
London

Dear Mr. Editor,

Forgive a woman's fancy. I generally do not take the trouble to reply or correct the many instances of false reporting that I so frequently see, but I could not resist this one.

This is just a personal note to give you an idea of the type of reports you receive and what they are worth. It's an old issue of Time and Tide which just came to my hand, dated 9-15 May. Note page 9 under the caption "Mrs. Jagan Disappears". I was in British Guiana at the date of your publication, having left on April 25th for Canada and New York to fill two engagements for my husband, Dr. Cheddi Jagan. My departure and reason for travelling was announced in the press. I was to give an address at the Winnipeg Press Club on April 26th and attend a dinner in New York on April 27th. I fulfilled both engagements and returned to British Guiana on May 4th. I travelled alone, without my children. Yet your report stated that I had secretly gone to Canada with my children.

Another note. Dr. Jagan does not carry a gun. I am referred to, among other things, as being highly unpopular. The voters who returned me with an abundance of votes in the 1953 and 1957 elections might not agree with that assessment. Nor would the thousands of people I see every month who come to me for advice and help.

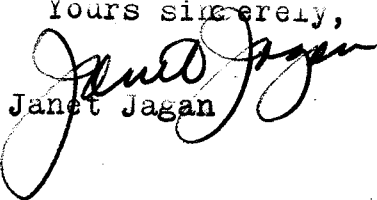
As to the note at the end that economic stagnation and political upheaval are the results of our period in office, facts speak louder than comments. From 1957 (when we went into office) up to the present, over 100,000 acres of new lands have been put under cultivation resulting in the creation of a more balanced economy and a greater degree of self sufficiency. For example, exports in 1960 totalled \$120 million, a gain of 15% on 1959. Sugar, rice, coconuts, edible oil, ground provisions, livestock, milk, poultry, fisheries production have been steadily increasing since we came into office in 1957.

The set-backs of the last two years arising out of carefully manipulated disturbances supported, strangely enough, by employers and trade unions financed by U.S. funds have resulted in the "political upheaval" your reporter refers to. The desire of people in many parts of the world for their country's independence has caused "political upheavals". Certainly British Guiana is not unique in this.

Throughout the article is the red herring of communism. We stand accused for the deadly sin of trading with Cuba and allowing our citizens the freedom to travel where they wish.

No doubt I would be wasting my time if I attempted to refute the allegations of "bombs and military training". Suffice it to say that even our most bitter enemies did not accuse us of dynamiting the dozen-odd Government buildings and installations which were attacked earlier this year.

Yours sincerely,


Janet Jagan