JAGAN SMASHES THE TORY LIE

Deposed Premier: Western Democracy Is On Trial

By DR. CHEDDI JAGAN

I WANT to answer in this article some of the charges made against the Government of British Guiana, and points in the British Government's White Paper.

We are accused in the White Paper of hindering the good government of the colony and of fomenting strikes for political ends.

We had established a trade union by legal action. For four years our union had tried to get recognition, but for years the employers did not meet this union. Since 1949 I had been proposing in the Legislative Council the Bill we introduced. The Bill is uncontroversial. It has been taken out of the American Statute Book of Roosevelt's era. Of course Roosevelt is a "Communist" now.

From 1949 we were asking the sugar employers for recognition. What was left for us to do? In our election manifesto we told the people: when you put us in power we shall introduce legislation to give your trade union power to bargain with the employers. This is the "violence" and the "plot" in British Guiana.

The Governor was opposed to it. All the officials in the cabinet were prepared to vote against it. In the British Government's White Paper we are accused of 'fomenting strikes for political ends'.

Another charge: Removal of the Bill on entry of West Indian countries. I was born from shaving Trinidadians. My friends were banned from British Guiana. We were coming to London. Trinidad and Barbados told us that we would not be allowed to pass through their airports.

From D. MITCHELL, Kingston, Jamaica

JAMAICANS SUPPORT B.G. DESPITE BUSTAMANTE

BEADED by the People's Educational Organisation, the Caribbean Labour Congress, the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions and the Jamaica Youth Movement, a mass campaign of solidarity with the people of British Guiana against the imperialist plot to overthrow the democratic Government of that colony, is spreading all over the country like wild-fire.

A broad National Committee in defence of the rights of the Guianese people and their democratic organisations was set up here on October 10th, with headquarters at 64 Barry Street.

In an after-dinner speech at a function held here recently, the Hon. William Alexander Bustamante, Chief Minister in the local Government, and a "boss" of the Union named after him (Bustamante Industrial Trade Union) apparently dizzy with the lot of champagne he consumed expressed full support for the latest actions of the imperialist forces in B.G. The British support "Chief" Minister was quoted in the "Daily Gleaner" as saying the people of British Guiana did not want self-government. They wanted to establish a Communist State (puritanism the Colonial Office).

This was soon to be followed by the "morally astounded" Frank Hill in his weekly little rag called "The Jamaica Youth Movement, a mass campaign of solidarity with the Guianese people and their democratic organisations was set up here on October 10th, with headquarters at 64 Barry Street.

Already several protest meetings have been held with thousands of working people attending and unanimously passing resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the British troops and warships from Guiana and the immediate return of the people's hard-won constitution to them.

The People's Educational Organisation is currently engaged in drafting a petition which will be widely signed and forwarded to the Colonial Office. Other plans include sending a delegation to the British Government here, Sir Hugh Page, asking him to convey the Jamaican people's indignation to the Colonial Office in London.

Confederation of Trade Unions led by Grantley Adams and Munroe, other unions being affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions from its earlier days. We want to create unity of the West Indian labour movement, because if there was to be a division simply because of different affiliations, it did not help the labour movement.

Richard Hart said that Smith was prepared to tell the W.I.T.U. that a Caribbean body should be formed and that we were prepared to support it equally with the I.C.F.T.U. We want unity in the labour movement in the West Indies, and we have a free press which is a decided advantage over the W.I.T.U. that a Caribbean body should be formed. We want the I.C.F.T.U. to come to the I.C.F.T.U. and give them the facts, and that they should take the initiative. We want unity in the labour movement in the West Indies.

The moment you begin to fight for the oppressed, every obstacle is put in your way. In my own constituency, at the last election, trespass notices were issued. I went to speak to my constituents and was charged before the Court for trespassing. That is the freedom in British Guiana and the West Indies.

So we said, the first thing we will do is to remove bands on all West Indian leaders. That was nothing new, it was part of the election campaign like many other things.

Another charge was that we were "Repealing the Act forbidding undesirable publications."

Who has the Declaration of Human Rights? All countries, we want our share of the same. We want to hold the Government accountable. We have no freedom of speech and it is part of the election campaign. We had a free press and supported it equally financially. West Indian people have very low wages, the labour movement is financially very insecure.

Mr. Lyttelton said that we all gathered in Barbados for a Communist plot to destroy the democratic government in the West Indies. We went to local authorities and told them what we wanted. We were fighting for the policemen and they were displaced workers. We told them we sympathised with them, and we did the same thing.

"Right of appointments." Anything the Government declare a publication undesirable, and give the Post Master General the right to open all letters, it is put across now. We want unity in the labour movement.

The P.P.P. is a broad movement, to fight for the oppressed. We have in our party all races, and partly elected on a property basis. That is democracy for Guiana and all West Indians.

The C.I.C. stands for Independance for the West Indies and Federation. It is actively campaigns for these aims politically. There are also projects in the fields of social welfare.

* Membership does are 5/- per year payable either in full or in two installments of 2/6d, each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign.

JOIN THE C.I.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post Office Savings Bank, Eye and Ear Hospital, New Providence (L.B.), 374, Grey Inn Road, N.W.1.

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