

COUNSEL: Members of the Commission I propose calling Mr. Rosane, Personnel Officer of the Denerara Bauxite Co.

MR. CARTER: Before Mr. Rosane is called let me make two points. The first point is that I hope by now you could have got some of the transcripts for Monday, but I understand it is not forthcoming. I think it is important that sometime we get the transcripts so that we can correct them, and I hope by this week end we could get a number of those transcripts and over the week end we can correct them and any amendments can be raised on Monday morning. That is the first point. I don't know what the position is. I understand from Mr. Beekie that they are not quite ready. They are not up-to-date. Even if we can't get up-to-date at least possibly for the first few days, but if it runs on too long, the evidence would not be fresh in our minds and we ourselves may not remember. The second point is this. Mr. Rosane has very kindly prepared some figures for us and I should give the Commissioners two copies so that you may be able to follow the evidence which is being led by Mr. Rosane. These may be retained in your possession Sir, for further consideration. Also my learned friend has a copy, my learned friend on

either side of me.

COUNSEL: Your name is Robert Rosane, and your official position at Denba is Director of Personnel. So it is within your jurisdiction to keep records of the Personnel employed at Denba, local and foreign.

WITNESS: Only local.

COUNSEL: Now Mr. Rosane, could you from your records or from your own knowledge roughly tell this Commission that around the relevant date 25th May, this year, the local Personnel employed at Denba was about how many persons?

WITNESS: Nearly four thousand.

COUNSEL: And I gather from you that you have now got a break down of that Personnel according to ethnic origin.

WITNESS: We do not keep that kind of record.

COUNSEL: But I am wondering if, from your experience and general observation of the plant and personnel generally, if you could give this Commission some idea - roughly not accurately - of about what fraction of this total local

/Personnel.....

Chairman: Mr. Carter these are being made to have here Stenographers and you will have the transcripts as soon as they are ready.
Some difficulty in obtaining the transcripts as a tape records was used and this proved inadequate arrangements were made. R. Rosane duly sworn & states as follows.

Personnel were people of East Indians origin: one quarter, one fifth, one sixth, or roughly ^{what fraction:} from your observation.

WITNESS: I would say 8 per cent.

COUNSEL: Now, some of these live on the Mackenzie side of the river. But the greater part of these eight per cent, or as a matter of fact your entire ^{local} personnel, ~~(some live on the Mackenzie side of the river at the compound, but)~~ the greater part lives on the Wisnar side? ~~the greater part of the local personnel employed. From your observation.~~

WITNESS: I would say between onethird and one half of our employees ~~group~~ live on the Mackenzie side of the river, and the rest of them live at Wisnar and Christianburg.

COUNSEL: Much obliged Mr. Rosane. And of course there is an efficient ferry service to and fro from Wisnar to Mackenzie? There is a launch service taking employees across the river?

WITNESS: A number of small ^{one} boats

COUNSEL: Now before we ^{roughly} get down to your records, May I ask you, Mr. Rosane — ^{Hawley} you were ^{you} Personnel manager ~~for roughly about how long~~ before the 25th May?

WITNESS: About 2½ years.

COUNSEL: Now during that period do you recall any occasion where there were either racial clashes or incidents of a racial background among the Personnel employed by Denba?

WITNESS: Not to the best of my recollection.

COUNSEL: Now apart from sitting at your desk as Personnel Manager, I think that you do visit and go around the Company's plant in their various departments having a look, or for some reason examining the Personnel. In making those rounds Mr. Rosane, have you ever come across any quarrel or racial incident of any magnitude between or among the Personnel employed in these departments?

WITNESS: I have made no such direct observation.

COUNSEL: And I take it as being unquestionable that in the recruitment of Personnel at Denba there is no such thing as any racial consideration, or racial favours, or any thing of that sort. A man would be recruited according to his ability, isn't that so?

WITNESS: Yes Sir, That is so.

COUNSEL: Among your Personnel at Denba, perhaps you might be in a position to help this Commission. Does Denba have its own Police force, paid or on /the payroll.....

the payroll of Demba?

WITNESS: ^{There} They are 104 strong at the moment.

COUNSEL: And that is on your payroll, you pay? ^{the exact number}

WITNESS: We pay the bills. They are supernumerary constables who are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Police.

COUNSEL: And of course they wear police uniform, don't they?

WITNESS: That's right, with a special Demba Insignia, and as far as we know they are subject to enjoy all the powers of a Policeman.

COUNSEL: And they are subject to discipline and control as any other Policeman under the Commissioner of Police in the Police department?

WITNESS: As I said I am not familiar with the details and procedures.

COUNSEL: I accept your answer. I do not want you to venture an opinion in a matter in which you have no specialised knowledge. Now you say that the force has about 104?

WITNESS: Yes, at that moment.

COUNSEL: I am wondering, Mr. Rosane if from your records you could give us some idea of what was the strength of your force around the 25th of May this year?

WITNESS: I have no certain records here.

COUNSEL: But I will accept your opinion roughly that there might be a slight increase or there might be a slight decrease, what will your estimate be.

WITNESS: Approximately 94.

COUNSEL: Are you in a position to tell us whether these 94 Supernumerary Constables were under the supervision and control of the Superintendent of Police in that district, Mr. Hobbs?

WITNESS: When?

COUNSEL: On the 25th May, to the best of your knowledge.

WITNESS: I can't be certain.

COUNSEL: And of course you have Major Lanham actually on the premises of Demba. What is his position?

WITNESS: He is the Demba Security Officer when he is Mister Lanham.

COUNSEL: I see, but when he is Major Lanham, what is he?

WITNESS: When he is Major Lanham he is the officer who Commands the B.G. Volunteer force at Mackenzie.

COUNSEL: I appreciate that fine distinction. And Mr. Rosane I am wondering if you are in a position to give any information, You may qualify it, as far as you know, because we expect to get the proper officer in due course. Are the services of these Supernumerary Constables, around 94 in number, available only for Darba or could they be used otherwise?

MR. CARTER: Sir, I do not want to interrupt my friend, but he and I know that Mr. Lanham is going to be here on Monday. I think one of these answers made by the witness is not entirely accurate. I am sure that when Major Lanham comes we can have a full opportunity of knowing just what the functions of these men are. We would know under what jurisdiction they come, to what extent he is responsible for them or to what extent Mr. Hobbs is responsible for them. I don't think it is fair to this witness to ask him questions of this type. After all this witness is concerned generally with personnel and local personnel. Now it would be better for us to get the best evidence, and we can't get the best evidence of the Security Guards from this witness. He is willing to co-operate and assist us, the witness is obviously trying to assist, so surely we can reserve these questions for Major Lanham who will be here on Monday.

COUNSEL: Members of the Commission I agree entirely with my friend and I think that it came from my lips that the proper officer will in due course give evidence, and I also put it to the witness as far as he knows. But I don't wish to proceed with this line of ~~cross~~ examination, because I agree entirely with my friend that we must get through with the best evidence. I apologise to you Mr. Rosane for carrying you into fields outside of your jurisdiction. Now from your records can you tell us around ~~or between~~ May 25th and ~~say a few~~ days afterwards how many refugees came over to Darba from Wisnar?

WITNESS: I have no record.

COUNSEL: Now, do you have any records of refugees ~~in any form~~ or evacuees? *in any form.*

WITNESS: You have been presented with a list.

COUNSEL: Now you have this number of 365 individuals, you describe them as what?

WITNESS: Employees. They are employees of Darba who left their work ~~over~~ the period ~~in~~ after the 25th May, people who ~~were~~ employed with us temporarily or permanently ^{for left} as refugees or evacuees.

COUNSEL: So this figure 365 represents employees who have left the employment /of Darba.....

of Demba. Would you explain this?

WITNESS: Between 24th and 25th of May and the 8th of July we had a somewhat disturbed employment situation at Demba's operation at Mackenzie. We had many employees and people that worked during that period. A number of employees left their jobs either temporarily or permanently for reasons known to us, or ~~they~~ ^{they} were evacuated as a result of the disturbances. In so far as I was aware there ~~remained an individual~~ ^{are Sh.ka} number of employees who left their jobs temporarily or permanently for reasons not known, ^{it is} and assumed by us because of social circumstances in the community. From my point of view as an employer that was all we could know. We had no system of interrogation of absentees. In so far as we have been able to interpret our absentees, we believe that the total of 365 represent the number of employees affected.

COUNSEL: Just let me get this clear, you are saying that these 365 persons absented themselves from - in other words the disturbances at the time was the cause of this. Does this number include also the Wisnar side?

WITNESS: As from the Employer's point of view I do not have any records showing those from Wisnar or Mackenzie.

COUNSEL: I see, this number represents the total. Well the document speaks for itself and members of the Commission I wish formally to tender the summary prepared and submitted by Mr. Rosane on behalf of the Demerara Bauxite Co. ^{Document admitted & marked. D} Now Mr. Rosane you are aware that these evacuees sought shelter on the Demba ^{+ E} Compound, particularly the Trade School and the Sports Club before they embarked for Georgetown?

WITNESS: Yes Sir.

COUNSEL: Now as Personnel Manager Mr. Rosane, would you care to make a comment or observation, or statement ^{as} regards the efficiency of the East Indian employees on the Plant? What I am saying - if you see my point, from your point of view as employer of Demba. Did you find the Indians as efficient in their respective Departments.

WITNESS: Yes.

COUNSEL: Would I be correct to say Mr. Rosane that at the moment there is not a single person of East Indian descent apart from Supernumerary Constables on your Pay Roll at Demba?

WITNESS: That wouldn't be correct.

COUNSEL: Well can you help this commission, tell us how many Constables, employees, how many of them?

WITNESS: I can tell you we have 86 former evacuees working.

COUNSEL: 86 refugees of Indian descent?

WITNESS: No, 86 refugees.

COUNSEL: No. You told me earlier that you hadn't any breakdown on the question of race, but you're not in a position to say of this 86 how many are Indians?

WITNESS: I don't know sir.

COUNSEL: Before I leave this point, from your own observation of these refugees who have come back as personnel on the plant, can you from your own observation as recent as yesterday or day before, give us some idea whether you have seen any East Indian employees in the Plant?

WITNESS: I think perhaps there are names on the list I have given you, which will give some indication if it is important to you, Mr. Singh.

COUNSEL: Yes, those returned to work strike you as Indian ^{Did. who} ~~in origin~~ ^{kind of.}

WITNESS: I know one refugee known as Baichulall - I am certain he is working at the moment,

COUNSEL: Did you ever go over to Wisnar to look around?

WITNESS: I went only once.

COUNSEL: Now let us move to an important point. Are you in a position Mr. Rosane to tell this Commission of any plans by your Company to re-employ Indians who have ^{left} their employment?

MR. CARTER: I see my friend is being carried away a bit now.

COUNSEL: Members of the Commission, the basis of my question is to find out from Mr. Rosane if his company has any arrangements to sort of reserve the places occupied by East Indians with a view to their re-employment in the future.

MR. CARTER: I ask the Commission to rule on this question. My main objection to this question is that it doesn't fall within the terms of reference, if I may borrow a term of reference from my learned friend Mr. Shepherd. The terms of reference are very limited. I don't think within the most liberal

interpretation of these terms of reference is this question to be considered relevant. To inquire into the recent disturbances which took place at Wisnar Christianburg/Mackenzie up the Demerara river, to investigate the conduct of the Security Forces during the said disturbances and to determine the number of deaths etc, and to report thereon. So far as the word loss is concerned Sir, certainly this means physical/capital loss nothing else. It means it must be read in conjunction with the words, surrounding ^{it} injuries, loss and damage suffered, in the said disturbances. It must refer, I submit, to injuries suffered, the loss of homes and damage.

COUNSEL: Members of the Commission I am basing these questions on the question of loss which forms an essential term of reference. If these people cannot go back ^{to their work.} it is a loss.

CHAIRMAN: We have before us evidence as to the actual loss to those concerned. The other matter would be out of our terms of reference.

COUNSEL: Much obliged. Mr. Rosane my last question. Are you aware of any help in any form given by Demba to assist in the quelling of the disturbances or rescuing evacuees, what I want to say?

WITNESS: You mean from my personal observation.

COUNSEL: What do you know, if you don't know please don't answer. When I say Demba I am speaking about taking them to the trade school, giving them refreshments and so on.

WITNESS: They had the help of a number of employees who were embodied in the Volunteer Force. We tried primarily to keep our operations going. As you know at the Plant the operation is continuous. It was a struggle for management and workers to keep things from stopping.

COUNSEL: I appreciate that Mr. Rosane.

WITNESS: We did our utmost to comply with all the requests and requisitions of the Security Forces.

COUNSEL: Thank you Mr. Rosane, that all from ~~Mr. Rosane.~~ Mr. Rosane.

MR. CARTER: In addition to this I understand that you provided refreshments for the evacuees at the Trade School and the Sports Club?

WITNESS: To the best of my knowledge Mr. Carter, these services were provided by ^{voluntary} groups within the community. From my personal observation

/at the time

at the time the food was prepared, bottles were found, babies' milk and so forth, but this was not ~~an~~ Official Demba operation

CARTER: I see. This was not an official Demba operation.

WITNESS: We did co-operate with the volunteer ^{force} ~~force~~ ⁱⁿ ~~for~~ providing transportation.

MR. CARTER: Did the Company contribute to the relief operations in money?

WITNESS: Substantially.

CARTER: And you put all the hospital facilities at the disposal of the evacuees too?

WITNESS: The hospital at Mackenzie is always available.

CARTER: They were taken advantage of by those who were injured during the disturbances, and the R.H. Carr was also made available?

WITNESS: By Sprostons.

CARTER: I would just like to highlight some figures, just to bring to the attention of the Commission the significance of certain things. Now the total number of evacuees on the 27th of May was 342, that's the first column ^{of} ~~and~~ the first statement, ^{submitted} Now between the 27th of May 1964 and the 6th of July, 175 returned, is that right?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

CARTER: 175 of the evacuees returned to Mackenzie.

WITNESS: Just one point. 23 of the total number did not evacuate on the day of the disturbances, 23 stayed on. And in addition 143 returned.

CARTER: Well the Sun Chapman incident was on the 7th - the night of July 6th and 7th, and then the figures show those who left after the Sun Chapman

WITNESS: 102 have left their work on or about the time of the Sun Chapman incident so far as we are concerned. And 89 employees have returned to work at some time since the Sun Chapman incident, and at the moment 86 who were evacuees are employed.

CARTER: Now then of the others, leave of absence has been given to 163?

WITNESS: We told all of the 365 employees that they would have leave of absence until such time as they could return to work, based on the social stability of the area. We told them they could terminate voluntarily if they wanted. We did not encourage this. 116 voluntarily have terminated their services. 163 have not yet done so and remain on leave of absence.

/Mr. Carter: Now this

CARTER: Now this is more or less what Mr. Sugrin Singh wanted but in a different way. Are you aware that the Company sent over also three land rovers and a truck to assist in the rescue operations?

WITNESS: I was not personally aware of this.

CARTER: Perhaps we can get that from someone else. Thank you very much.

MR. SHEPHERD: Mr. Rosane, you live on the right bank of the river going towards the mouth that is to say on the Mackenzie side?

WITNESS: Yes Sir.

SHEPHERD: Now ~~just a matter of what you were~~^{you} physically able to observe, during this disturbing week end of the 24th and 25th of May. You were in your office ~~on~~ the right bank of the river. You weren't on the Wisnar side?

WITNESS: I was not personally on the Wisnar side.

SHEPHERD: Did you personally witness what was going on in the Wisnar/Christianburg Area, in the sense of, were you ~~there~~ able to observe how people were conducting themselves?

WITNESS: Not personally.

SHEPHERD: At the material time you were on the other side of the river. This is where you live of course?

WITNESS: At the moment Sir I was working 24 hours a day.

SHEPHERD: I daresay you were pretty busy. You are of course Director of Personnel and thus you personally supervise all matters connected with personnel at Mackenzie including Sprostons.

WITNESS: I have nothing to do with Sprostons.

SHEPHERD: You have nothing to do with Sprostons, Sprostons employees are not included on this list. But the Sprostons employees are not numerous at Mackenzie?

WITNESS: Not in comparison with our staff.

SHEPHERD: And you have lived there for 2½ years - had lived there for 2½ years prior to May, 1964?

WITNESS: Yes Sir.

SHEPHERD: And your knowledge and experience is much more extensive than mine, I may say. My question you see, is directed towards verifying information of which I have heard and which is probably common knowledge, but which extends prior to my arrival here. But I was interested, and no doubt the Commissioners /were.....

were, at your statement that the people had lived in complete harmony. Was this the word? At least that there had not been racial disturbances between the people on the Demba side prior to May this year.

WITNESS: I believe I was asked about social disturbances in the Plant. I hardly feel qualified to talk about social problems in general. I hardly feel close enough to the people in the Community ^{myself}.

SHEPHERD: Well by social harmony I don't mean social harmony in the Wismar/Christianburg area, though you know much more about it than I do. I mean within the employment field of the Company at Mackenzie. You said something surely about there being harmony amongst the workers prior to May, and is not that exemplified by your figures Mr. Rosane? I see for example that some of these people who are now ~~were~~ among the evacuees had worked there for as long as 27 years with the Company.

WITNESS: Yes Sir.

SHEPHERD: And it is obvious isn't it that employees of the Company who would remain in service for as long as 27 years, were experiencing not only reasonable conditions of employment, but on the job at any rate reasonable harmony with their fellow workers. ?

WITNESS: Yes Sir.

SHEPHERD: And I suggest that this is borne out by these figures. Here we have Rancharitar, I don't know who he is, 27 years continuous service. Woodford on page 2, 22 years. On the next page Mendonca 22 years. Sew Charran 27 ~~y~~ years. Many of them, Mr. Rosane, employees with very considerable years of service with Demba at Mackenzie. On the job therefore harmony ruled. Naturally they may have been, what shall I say, Trade Union matters. But as personal officer you are satisfied ^{Satisfied} that there ~~were~~ ^{were} harmonious relations prior to the 25th May?

WITNESS: Yes Sir.

SHEPHERD: And that observation applies I suppose for the whole period of ~~the~~ 2½ years during which you were Personnel Director?

WITNESS: Yes Sir.

SHEPHERD: Then as to the social behaviour of people on the other side of the river, you have very little to say based upon your personal knowledge and experience. Is that what you have said?

WITNESS: That is true Sir.

SHEPHERD: At any rate when these events blew up on the 24th and 25th May
it would be correct to say that the suddenness - ¹ in using the word that has
been used by other witnesses - the suddenness and intensity of the out-
break came to you as a shock?

WITNESS: It was certainly unforeseen.

SHEPHERD: IT was unforeseen by you as Director of Personnel? ~~It was~~ ^{it}
unforeseen by the other Resident Directors at Mackenzie?

WITNESS: I couldn't say.

SHEPHERD: At any rate Denba and its resident directors so far as your
knowledge goes had no reason to anticipate this violent social outbreak.

COUNSEL: Members of the Commission I don't wish to interrupt my friend, but
this witness cannot speak of what was the impression of the other directors
of Denba. He has already said in answer in as far as I know: " that is within
my own personal observations, and I suggest that this question is not proper.

SHEPHERD: I disagree with the submission. As a director at Mackenzie he
and the other directors meet together I presume to discuss matters, and it
is relevant and indeed essential to know whether the Company had reason
to suspect an outbreak. The relevance of it of course is this. The evidence
materially placed before you is that although there were signs of risin
tension, the suddenness and intensity of the outbreak came as a complete
surprise to all responsible people who would be expected to know of the
social situation at Wisnar/Christianburg. It is highly relevant, and I
would be surprised ladies and gentleman if you did not examine it very
carefully yourselves. I don't quite understand why my learned friend
Mr. Sugrin Singh is objecting to this very relevant question. It is a
question without any sinister motives. I want you to see the whole picture.

MR. MC DONALD: My own problem is the phrasing of the question Mr.
Chairman. I don't see how Mr. Rosane can speak for the other directors,
but perhaps he could be asked if they agreed with his views.

SHEPHERD: I would be glad to adopt such a course. It would be much more
usual ^{form} possibly in a court, but this tribunal has a right to decide. Had
any other director at Mackenzie during your discussions mentioned the
possibility of such a violent outbreak?

WITNESS: I ^{can't} ~~can't~~ remember any such mention. It was certainly unlikely.

SHEPHERD: It was just not as it were on the agenda. You agree?

WITNESS: That is right.

SHEPHERD: It was nothing which even the shrewdest director of a mining Company would have considered it necessary to trouble himself about, is that your view or not?

WITNESS: I would hesitate to associate myself with the views of the other directors.

SHEPHERD: Well you see, it is common knowledge. I don't know why this has to seem shrouded in a veil of uneasy ~~words~~. It is common knowledge throughout British Guiana that this was an outbreak quite unheralded and quite unexpected. Though certain shrewd forecasts were made by Police Officers as to what might happen, even Police Officers themselves were stunned. And I am simply putting it to you that even the directors of Demba who live on the spot were stunned by the violence. You can see that there isn't anything sinister about this, Mr. Rosane.

WITNESS: No I am not objecting to this Mr. Chairman. Speaking for myself I personally believed before that day that the Mackenzie/Wismar/Christianburg area had the makings of an integrated peaceful Community.

SHEPHERD: An integrated, peaceful community?

WITNESS: But that didn't happen.

SHEPHERD: Now you have touched upon the Security arrangements of Demba.

Entirely from the Personnel point of view, naturally in a large organisation such as yours separated from the capital of the country by 60 miles or so.

CHAIRMAN: Mr, Shepherd, members of the Commission would be grateful if you would put your question directly rather than *...with introductory comments*.

SHEPHERD: Rather ~~than with introductory comments~~. This would be rather difficult because they will seem disjointed, but I'll do so as you wish. Your company was large enough to need security arrangements of its own?

COUNSEL: Members of the Commission I rise to object to this question because we have it from counsel representing Demba authoratively that the proper officer would be called and as a result of which I refrain from proceeding with any examination on that point. And what is good for me

/is also

is also good for counsel for the police. In other words let us refrain from asking this witness to speculate on the security arrangements until the proper officer comes at the time.

SHEPHERD: I don't agree. The proper officer as my learned friend calls him, though an officer of the Volunteer Force is an employee and not a director of Derba. The Personnel Director appoints, suspends, dismisses, discharges personnel, including personnel such as Mr. Langham. If he is not the person to speak about the engagement of security forces I don't know who is. There is no speculation here. The rules of procedure you have laid down are as follows: Counsel will first examine the witness after which he can be examined by interested parties. I wish to conduct my examination in my own way, as long as it is not contrary to the rules of procedure laid down by the Commission.

COUNSEL: I am very sorry that my friend has any feelings that ~~we~~ want to sort of stifle cross examination. But the point I was making, and I had hoped that I was making myself clear, is that in my examination, in chief, call it that, we were touching on security and the operation of security forces at Derba, and I was reminded by Counsel, and the objection was upheld by you, that let us leave those questions which are outside the ~~ambit~~ ^{ambit} of the witness, because they gave the undertaking that the proper officer would be here to answer the question properly. From that point I refrained from asking any questions about security operations and mechanism of the Volunteer Force. Having done that, I fail to see how ~~my~~ ^{my} friend could trespass on that domain again.

SHEPHERD: I am not trespassing on any domain whatsoever, except the terms of reference which you ladies and gentlemen must consider. I am not going to ask this Director of Personnel anything about the operations, but only about matters on which he has personal knowledge.

CHAIRMAN: Of which he has personal knowledge. We are of the opinion that you may ask him questions concerning his personal knowledge.

SHEPHERD: You have personal knowledge about the recruitment, and you have personal knowledge about the functions of the security forces?

WITNESS: Yes I have.

/Shepherd: The.....

SHEPHERD: The security forces employed by Demba are part of the personnel of Demba?

WITNESS: They are paid by Demba.

SHEPHERD: They are paid by Demba you said. Didn't you?

WITNESS: Yes I said it. I would try to clarify the position as I understand it. We have on our budget an amount of money which is spent on wages to be paid technically by the Police Force to the 104 supernumerary constables. We have a very close working relationship between the constabulary Officer Mr. Lancham and the, Local head of the Police force in respect to the supernumerary constabulary. The regulations ^{guiding this constabulary} ^{to their responsibility} are laid down in the various laws of this country as to the Commissioner of Police. We use the supernumerary constabulary essentially for protecting the assets and the working arrangements of the Company. The constabulary is responsible in certain matters to the police and in certain matters to the Demerara Bauxite Company. From my point of view I am concerned with the maintenance of law and good order in so far as Demba's operations are concerned. I exercise this through the subordinate security officer who works in close relation with the Local B.G. Police Supt., and they have joint control of the 104 men in the constabulary.

SHEPHERD: That is extremely clear Mr. Rosane, and precisely what I wanted you to say, no more and no less. And all this you know from your personal knowledge. Now Mr. Rosane this is not the same type of question and if you can't answer it please don't hesitate to say so. At any time during your two and half years as Director of Personnel ^{had} you as the person responsible for security, delegated no doubt in greater part ^{of your duties} to another, ~~had~~ you any reason to complain to the Police as to the general security arrangements for this part of British Guiana?

WITNESS: Not to the best of my knowledge. We have had intimate discussions with the Police with respect to the allocation of the forces' responsibilities but there were certainly no complaints.

SHEPHERD: And in these discussions you have personally played a part, because you are the Director of Personnel?

WITNESS: Yes of course.

/Shepherd: Now it

SHEPHERD: Now it is no secret I think that evidence has been given here, such as you have said, that on the whole there was racial harmony. Were you aware of any increase in tension either within the Derba works or socially beyond the river?

WITNESS: I was aware that we had a work disturbance. I don't know if that is what you mean.

SHEPHERD: It is quite adequate for my purpose, Mr. Rosane. I am quite happy to accept your reply. You were of course very busy after the outbreak on Sunday the 24th of May weren't you, you were working 24 hours a day in your office?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

SHEPHERD: Could you tell the Commissioners whether during this period any member of the Council of Ministers came to see you?

WITNESS: Personally?

SHEPHERD: Yes.

WITNESS: No sir.

SHEPHERD: Did any member of the Council of Ministers telephone you?

WITNESS: No sir.

SHEPHERD: So far as your knowledge goes, did any member of the Council of Ministers arrive at the Derba Works to pay an official or indeed an unofficial visit during the period of the 24th to the 26th May?

WITNESS: Between the 24th and 26th of May, not to my knowledge.

SHEPHERD: Now as to operational details I must limit myself to what you know personally, as we have the ruling of the Commissioners on this subject. Personally you are aware that Derba made available at once hospital facilities launches, jeeps for the use of anyone who ^{needed} ~~need~~ them after the 24th?

WITNESS: Yes, hospital facilities.

SHEPHERD: Vehicles of any description, launches?

WITNESS: I can't speak from personal observation.

SHEPHERD: But is it within your personal knowledge and belief, Mr. Rosane that your Company did ^{loan} ~~lend~~ launches and vehicles for the purposes of evacuating refugees?

WITNESS: As far as I know.

/Shepherd: Thank.....

SHEPHERD: Thank you.

COUNSEL: In re-examination I wish to ask you two questions Mr. Rosane. I think you might help this Commission. Are you aware of a strike or a temporary hold up on the rail road department of your operations, which came to an end and settlement on ~~Sunday~~ ^{Saturday} the 23rd of May, two days before the incident at Wisnar? A strike or a temporary hold up on the rail road alone?

WITNESS: We had a strike situation in operations that were broader than the rail road.

COUNSEL: It may have been broader than the rail road but was that the one that came to an end on the Saturday before the disturbances?

WITNESS: I believe it was the Saturday.

COUNSEL: Are you aware of an incident - you may not know it of your own knowledge, but let us talk about a rumour - that some employees of the Company had used the words cannibals or hooligans in respect of the attackers in the Wisnar tragedy? Did you hear that?

WITNESS: I think it first came to my attention from the newspapers.

COUNSEL: From the newspapers. Newspapers usually get their information, at least the assumption is that they get correct information.

MR. CARTER: In this country?

COUNSEL: After reading it in the papers, did you as Personnel Manager sort of enquire where all this was happening, who called who cannibals and so on?

WITNESS: -- Yes sir, we were quite concerned about this.

COUNSEL: And am I correct in saying - I have got some instructions and these instructions may not be correct, or may be correct, or may be half truth. Is it correct to say that this reference to the attackers as cannibals in their behaviour towards the Indians caused a little hold up, it may not be a strike at Mackenzie?

WITNESS: That is correct.

COUNSEL: So you see my information is not altogether wrong, you may describe it as fishing my learned friends. Now can you help this Commission on this point Mr. Rosane, by telling us the name of the employee whether local or foreign who was alleged to have made this statement?

CARTER: All that counsel is asking here was subsequent, some time after the disturbances. Certainly this is not leading up to the disturbances. It

doesn't affect damages or loss. I think it would be a good thing for what I know about this, is to keep personalities out because it is not at all relevant, and I ask my friend to withdraw the question, and possibly I can speak to him privately about it if he insists.

COUNSEL: Members of the Commission, on ~~an~~^{the} occasion I am very much surprised my friend has raised this point, because this Commission is concerned with injuries, damage, loss, and if there is an allegation by a person on the spot that the attackers behaved like cannibals, not only is it relevant although it occurred after the incident, but it forms part of the res gestae, and in law on both grounds it is admissible, because it serves to explain by some one on the spot what he observed, and who has made this allegation. I ask you to rule on this point.

CARTER: I don't think that my learned friend who is a practitioner of so many years experience could describe this as part of the res gestae. This is something that happened subsequent to the disturbances. There was a rumour and this has never been traced as far as I know.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Singh, members of the commission would like to know if you propose to call this person concerned to give evidence?

COUNSEL: I do, sir.

CARTER: But how is it going to help this Commission decide on the disturbances if some comment was made some time after on the behaviour of the people?

COUNSEL: I was explaining to members of the Commission that officer or employee must have observed.....

CARTER: Conclusions.....

COUNSEL: I am on my feet, Mr. Carter. He will give evidence to justify any such comment. We are interested in truth.

CARTER: May I with your permission sir, in view of the questions asked by Mr. Surin Singh - it does not really arise out of cross examination, may I have permission to examine just on these issues which have ^{been} raised by Mr. Surin Singh? So far as the strike referred to prior to the disturbances, which ended on the 24th of May, that is the first question which Mr. Surin Singh raised, did not strike have any political or racial over tones? This ^{is} ~~this~~ the wild cat strike?

Mr. Rosane: Not to the best of my knowledge. As far as I know it was just an

industrial dispute".

MR. CARTER: " This was quite removed from what happened at Wismar or Christianburg. Now in regard to this statement about an employee calling persons cannibals - you will submit the name of that person to the Commissioners. Did you ever speak to that individual as to whether he made that statement?"

WITNESS. " I personally know about 15 names called or mentioned in connection with that statement. To the best of my ~~certain~~ knowledge all such 15 persons were tracked down and the statement was denied in all such cases. It is false to associate anyone with that statement"

MR. CARTER. " So that in speaking to various members of the community there are 15 persons connected to this statement, and each of those 15 persons denied having made that statement. ?"

WITNESS. " To the best of my knowledge."

DR. DRAYTON. " This temporary hold up at McKenzie which took place following on the rumour somebody told some other people ^{that they were being called.} calling hooligans and ^{accusation} cannibals, when exactly did the ~~hooliganism~~ take place? How long after May the 25th?"

WITNESS. " It was a very imprecise sort of experience. We had a number of people in the community who were quite disturbed about it. We had a number of employees who continued to work, we had the majority of our employees who did not go to work. I am sorry but I am unable to comment on the specific dates and times, but there was ^{considerable} considerable hold up in that subsequent week. The majority of our employees did not work during that subsequent h

week."

MR. CARTER. " I want to get some clarification here. Is this the week commencing June 1st?"

WITNESS. " That is right"

CHAIRMAN. " These people who have been evacuated, how long have they been paid for?"

WITNESS. " It varies. ^{new} ~~New~~ people were obviously paid for the time they were on the job".

Others have received varied benefits from the rather complicated benefit plans of the Company".

CHAIRMAN. " As a result would you say that the majority of the evacuees received pay?"

WITNESS. " Because of the wide range of the benefits available we had employees leaving on the 26th of May who would receive about 30 days, and others would receive more... employees who have been with us for a number of years, and employees in responsible positions. These would receive substantial benefits".

CHAIRMAN: " Would you say if there was anyone who had not terminated his service who had worked with you for a number of years, would they have received any benefits?"

WITNESS. " I don't believe that we are still paying benefits to employees who are still on leave of absence."

COUNSEL. " Thank you very much. Mr. Rosane" I wish to call the administrator of the Government hospital, Mr. Indar Persaud"

INDAR PERSAUD, ~~I being sworn~~ ^{State} ~~take oath and say~~ as follows:

COUNSEL, " Your name is Indar Persaud?"

WITNESS. "Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " And you are the administrator of the Public Hospital Georgetown?" .

WITNESS. " Yes"

COUNSEL. " And you have been in that position for the past five years?"

WITNESS. " I have"

COUNSEL: " Now you remember around the 25th 26, 27th, of May this year?"

WITNESS. " I do Sir"

COUNSEL. " Did you receive an unusual number of admissions to the institution?"

WITNESS. " I wouldn't say unusual"

COUNSEL. " But can you tell us, from your records to be specific, did you admit any of the evacuees from the Wismar area?"

WITNESS. " Yes" Sir"

COUNSEL. " How many did you admit?"

WITNESS. " We admitted 14 and we treated 13 at least and sent them away" " Could I qualify that? I say at least because some of them gave addresses other than Wismar"

COUNSEL. " So that from your records you couldn't accurately say they having given addresses other than Wismar. Did you have any deaths amongst those admitted?"

WITNESS. " I haven't any reference here that I recollect."

COUNSEL. " Did these people go in the pauper section of the hospital or did they pay fees?"

WITNESS. "Some did, others were admitted in the general wards"

COUNSEL. " You object to the epithet pauper?"

WITNESS. " I don't"

COUNSEL. " I think that's all from this witness"

MR. SHEPHERD. " No Questions"

COUNSEL. " Have you prepared any record for this Commission?"

WITNESS. " I have"

COUNSEL. " May I have a look at them?" You have prepared this statement from your records. Members of the Commission I wish to tender this as exhibit "F" in two copies. That's all".

MR. SHEPHERD." No questions"

MR. CARTER. " No questions"

COUNSEL. " Mr. Persaud, can you supply us with the charts or records with the names of the doctors who dealt with these persons?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " Could you do that as early as possible. Is there any additional information that you can supply from your records or is it all here?"

WITNESS. " If you want it now I can give it to you early".

COUNSEL: " I will be very grateful if you will expedite the matter?". "Member of the Commission I suggest we take the adjournment".

CHAIRMAN. " ~~Just a minute~~".

MRS. MOOTOO. " Mr. Persaud of those who were admitted can you tell if any had already been treated?"

WITNESS: " As far as my records show one had been previously treated?"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Then all the others were fresh cases?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Thank you"

ALIMA KHAN being sworn states as follows:

COUNSEL. " Alima Khan you are now living at 54 Robb and King Streets, Georgetown?"

WITNESS. " I am stopping there"

COUNSEL. " And you had a son named Richard Khan who is now dead?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " You used to live at Wismar at the Valley of Tears with your husband^a and your five children?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

COUNSEL. " Now on the 18th of May the Monday before, anybody came to your house?"

WITNESS. " Yes, a fellow named Ishmael"

COUNSEL. " Indian fellow?"

WITNESS. " No a Black fellow, named Ishmael Johnson"

COUNSEL. " He said anything to you?"

WITNESS. " Yes he asked me where my father was . My father, was not there"

COUNSEL. " Your father was called Mowzam? He asked you where your father was and what you told him?"

WITNESS. " Not here"

COUNSEL. " He asked you about anything else?"

WITNESS. " He asked me about my son Richard. I told him Richard has gone to school in town"

COUNSEL. " Richard went to Georgetown High School. After he had made these inquiries what did this man Ishmael Johnson tell you?"

WITNESS. " He told me he understands that Richard has gone to Cuba"

COUNSEL. " Now let us come down to this riot. Did he tell you anything about the riot?"

WITNESS: " No he never told me anything about the riot"

COUNSEL. " Did he tell you of any story to happen?"

WITNESS. " He did tell me about the Apan Jaat "

COUNSEL. " Now later on in the week did anybody come back to your house? "

WITNESS. " A next black fellow "

COUNSEL. " You know him? "

WITNESS. " George came to my house "

COUNSEL. " And what happened? "

WITNESS. " He asked me for a drink of water and I handed him a glass of water "

COUNSEL. " What next happened? "

WITNESS. " Afterwards he told me that bad things would happen "

COUNSEL. " Now let us move on to the morning of the 25th, Where were you? "

WITNESS. " The Monday morning at 2.45 to 3.00 O'clock somebody threw a bomb downstairs "

COUNSEL. " You live upstairs? "

WITNESS. " In my own building "

COUNSEL. " Your building is on what lot on the Valley of Tears? "

WITNESS: " No lots "

COUNSEL. " Now as a result of the bomb was there any fire in the place? "

WITNESS, " Yes, the family ran out and put out the fire "

COUNSEL. " And your flooring was scorched? "

WITNESS. " Yes "

COUNSEL. " Now did you go back in the house? "

WITNESS. " Yes "

COUNSEL. " Did you notice anything strange about the house? "

WITNESS. " Plenty smoke about "

COUNSEL. " And did you smell anything about the house? "

WITNESS. " Gasoline"

COUNSEL. " You have African neighbours?"

WITNESS. " All about are Africans"

COUNSEL. "And when you were putting out ~~this~~ fire, did they help you put the fire out?"

WITNESS. "No. I made a ~~S~~cream and no one came"

WITNESS. " After the explosion under your house, about 15 minutes later, did you hear anything else?"

WITNESS. " Yes, there was another bomb at a fellow named Paul Nirgin's house"

COUNSEL. " How far from you?"

WITNESS. " Five lots after my house"

COUNSEL. " At 7. a.m. did your husband leave to go to work?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " Across at Mac Kenzie. Now about this bombing, did you go to the station and make a report?"

WITNESS. " Yes, on the Monday morning. They refused to take the report"

COUNSEL. " You asked them to assist you to go back home and they refused to take you back home?"

WITNESS. " The same time the riot started on the road and in the market"

COUNSEL. " And you say you asked the police to take you back, and they refused to do, so. Therefore you remained at the station?"

WITNESS. " Yes I stayed at the Station"

COUNSEL. " Did you get to your home that day?"

WITNESS. " Later I heard that there was a riot in the Valley of Tears and I screamed"

COUNSEL. " That was where your house was, right?"

WITNESS. " Yes. And three policemen accompanied me to go home"

COUNSEL. " Now about this time where was Richard Khan?"

WITNESS. " I left Richard and Hassan home"

COUNSEL. " You met them at home when you went?"

WITNESS. " No. I didn't see them when I got home . There wasn't any more house. The whole place was down flat on the ground. Burned down."

COUNSEL. " When you went there and saw this house burned down flat. What did you do next?"

WITNESS. " I held on to a paling and screamed, and was left there unconscious".

COUNSEL. " And then what next happened?"

WITNESS: " I found myself in a police jeep"

COUNSEL. " And then eventually where?"

WITNESS. " While they carried me to the police *station.* a crowd came to the jeep and started to hit me. They picked up bottles and hit me on the head - Banks bottles.

COUNSEL. " While you were in, the police jeep how many policemen were in the jeep?"

WITNESS. " We had three policemen in the jeep".

COUNSEL. " Did the policemen do anything?"

WITNESS. " They said they cannot help - we got to have Apan Jaat".

COUNSEL. " Did any one of the three policemen try to help you?"

WITNESS. " None"

COUNSEL. " Then what happened, you reached the Station, right?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

COUNSEL. " And from the station later on you went where?"

WITNESS. " Over to Mac Kenzie"

COUNSEL. " Now while at Maz Kenzie did you

^{get}
hear a message?"

WITNESS. " Yes I got to understand that
Richard Khan ^{was} is dead"

COUNSEL. " Who told you this?"

WITNESS. " Father Pink"

COUNSEL. " Through Father Pink at about 11
o'clock you learned that your son Richard Khan died
where?"

WITNESS. " At the Mac Kenzie Hospital"

COUNSEL. " And on the morning of the 28th of
May you saw the dead body in Lyken's Funeral Parlour
in Georgetown. It that right?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

COUNSEL. " And you also heard that your
husband was beaten?"

WITNESS. " Yes, he spent 3 weeks in Mac Kenzie
hospital"

COUNSEL. " What is his name?"

WITNESS. " Mohamed Inshan Khan "

COUNSEL. " Now how far do you live from
Ramnarace?"

WITNESS. " I don't know Ramnarace"

COUNSEL. " Did you try to hide in the house
of any neighbours?"

WITNESS. " No, I was at the station"

COUNSEL. " And you estimate your house and
everything as how much?"

WITNESS. " Over thirty thousand dollars with
everything"

COUNSEL. " You lost everything?"

WITNESS. " The crowd even pulled ^{off} ~~cut~~ my
married ring"

COUNSEL. " Did that happen in the presence of
the Police?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " Anything else you know about, what you saw not what you heard?"

WITNESS. " The night while I was at the station they came to throw a bomb in the station"

MR.SHEPHERD: " I want to know what she saw or heard they came to bomb the station. I don't know what that means"

COUNSEL. " They who came?"

WITNESS: " A negro fellow ran around the yard?"

COUNSEL. " You saw him?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

COUNSEL. " I want you to tell me what you saw- you were in the station, You saw a black fellow ran around, about how many Policemen were at the station that time?"

WITNESS: " Plenty. One of them shot the fellow in the belly, the fellow with the bomb"

COUNSEL. " You don't know which policeman?"

WITNESS. " No"

COUNSEL. " Is there any other incident you know off, personally of your own knowledge"

WITNESS. " No"

COUNSEL. " That's all from this witness"

MR.SHEPHERD. " So 3 policemen accompanied you to your home?"

WITNESS: " Yes"

MR.SHEPHERD: " And you were taken by launch to MacKenzie?"

WITNESS: " Yes. Soldiers and police took me across"

MR.SHEPHERD. " Did you see your husband beaten?"

WITNESS: " On the 25th of May I did not see him, after he left for work".

MR. SHEPHERD. " Did you see your son shot?" I am just asking, was he shot? I don't know?"

WITNESS. "No Richard was beaten to death?"

MR. SHEPHERD: " Did you see him beaten?"

WITNESS. " I never went home"

MRS. SHEPHERD: " You say the crowd took your marriage ring?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR. SHEPHERD: " Who took your marriage ring?"

WITNESS. " Boys, girls, and men started to cuff me up".

MR. SHEPHERD. "Who took your marriage ring?"

WITNESS: " I didn't know who took it"

MR. SHEPHERD: " Were there lots of people about?"

WITNESS: " Lots of People"

MR. SHEPHERD: " I have no other questions to ask this witness at this time"

MR. CARTER. " Are you known by any other name than Alima Khan?"

WITNESS. " Yes, Mabel"

MR. CARTER. " No other name?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR. CARTER. " Did you receive any injuries?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR. CARTER. " I'm sorry. I though you said that you had been taken to the hospital. Did she say that she had been taken to the hospital ?"

WITNESS. " No. My Husband was there"

MR. CARTER. " Did you go to the hospital at any time? To see your son?"

WITNESS. " No. I didn't get to go to Mac. Kenzie Hospital"

MR. CARTER. " You say you came down by which boat?"

WITNESS. " The first boat in the morning?"

MR. CARTER. " The Barima?"

WITNESS. " It was a big boat. The first boat"

MR. CARTER. " Did you ask the police to take you to the hospital?"

WITNESS. " I asked them to take me across to see my son"

MR. CARTER. " But ^{you didn't} you didn't want to go for treatment?"

WITNESS: " It was night when they took me across to Mac Kenzie and when I got the news it was about 11 o'clock, and I asked them to take me across to see my husband and my son Richard"

MR. CARTER. " And what happened, did they take you?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR. CARTER. " You were not yourself sufficiently injured to warrant treatment?"

WITNESS. " No. I have been seeing Dr. Persaud at Wakenaam"

MR. CARTER. " Who is Essick Mohammed? Is he any relative of yours?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR. CARTER: " Were there many Indians living in the Valley of Tears?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MRCARTER. " Did any of them come to your help?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR. CARTER. " Am I correct to say that they were very afraid? At the time this happened they were all scared?"

WITNESS. " The morning when the bomb was thrown nobody at all came to help?"

PROF. DRAYTON! Mrs. Khan, you said you have five children. You only told us about two of them Where

were the other three?"

WITNESS: " The other three went to school in the morning shift"

PROF. DRAYTON. " When your husband left for work that morning did you go along with him?"
You left the other two children in to the house, you said soldiers and police took you home. What time did they take you to Mac Kenzie?"

WITNESS. " I can't remember"

PROF.DRAYTON. " It was after six o'clock?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

PROF.DRAYTON. " Where did you go?"

WITNESS. " At Mac Kenzie Trade School?"

PROF.DRAYTON. " At the Trade School you heard that your son Richard was dead, were there any disturbances at Mac Kenzie?"

WITNESS: " No"

PROF.DRAYTON. " Well, why were you afraid to go on the road?"

WITNESS. " It was in the night, and I was afraid to go on the road"

REV.MCDONALD. " Did you say that there were about 25 people in the compound, you said you saw a man running around the compound, can you tell us about what time that was? Was it night?"

WITNESS. " Around 8. 0'clock in the night"

REV.MCDONALD. " Was this fellow who was running around the around the station compound shot in the belly by a policeman? Did he fall?"

WITNESS. " The place was dark and I couldn't see"

MRS.MOOTOO. " You said that your son was in High School in Georgetown. When did he come home?"

WITNESS. " He sat his exam and came home to

spend two weeks.

MRS. MOOTOO. " Did he spend any time with you?"

WITNESS. " Yes. He spent seven days home"

MRS. MOOTOO. " How old was he?"

WITNESS. " 19 year^{Sold}"

MRS. MOOTOO. " You said your younger child

Ishmael had run home from school, and ^{was} been picked up in a jeep and brought to the station" *but we did not see the child till I went to Hakeyo*

COUNSEL. " Now can you assist us Mrs. Khan by bringing that child someday next week, that eight year old child?"

WITNESS: " Yes"

COUNSEL. " That's all from this witness"

MR. SHEPHERD: " How old would Richard have been if he was alive?"

WITNESS. " 19 years"

MR. SHEPHERD. " He was in High School, in Georgetown?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR. SHEPHERD. " What was he doing in Mac Kenzie?"

WITNESS. " He went home for a holiday"

MR. SHEPHERD: " Did he have any work? What work did he plan to do?"

COUNSEL. " Members of the Commission these questions are completely irrelevant. While Counsel has a right to ~~cross~~-examine, this is a child gone to his mother for a holiday"

MR. SHEPHERD. " I understand, I apologise. And when he was in Georgetown where did he stay?"

WITNESS. " He was stopping at one of his aunt's."

COUNSEL. " We call Shirley Mohamed!" *being duly sworn.*

SHIRLEY MOHAMED, being sworn, make oath and states as follows:-

COUNSEL. " Mrs. Mohamed you are living at the

moment where?"

WITNESS: " 314, Middle Road La Penitence"

COUNSEL: " With your husband and how many children?"

WITNESS: " Husband and ^{three} two children" "One died".

COUNSEL: " Now up to the 25th, 26th, of May where did you live?"

WITNESS: " Half -mile Wismar"

COUNSEL: " You and your husband and three children, the last child on the 25th of May was how old?"

WITNESS: " 7 months"

COUNSEL: " Your husband worked at MacKenzie?"

WITNESS: " At Demba"

COUNSEL: " And you stayed at home to look after your children. Now ^{Before} on the Saturday or Sunday ^{did} before did you hear anything or anything dawned on you?"

WITNESS: " A man by the name of Bertie Williams ^{was} who used to visit me!"

COUNSEL: " How close was Bertie Williams to you and your family?"

WITNESS: " He was very close to us. He came to me on the Friday 22nd, and my husband asked him to stay with us, and he said that this is a different time now, and there will be burning out and a lot of things"

COUNSEL: " That's Friday the 22nd, the Friday before the Monday?"

WITNESS: " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL: " What next happened?"

WITNESS: " Well after he told us so, he never slept with us again. Well on Sunday night when they

started to burn the house"

COUNSEL. " Who started to burn the house?"

WITNESS. " The black people"

COUNSEL. " Where they started to burn the houses?"

WITNESS. " At Half Mile"

COUNSEL. " That's near you?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir. Crowds were passing and burning the houses, at Half Mile"

COUNSEL. "Yes, after this what happened next?"

WITNESS. " We started to keep watch on Sunday night.

Answer
All the neighbours one Bertie Williams wife was at me, and her husband came and told her to go home and why she can't keep herself at her own place"

COUNSEL. " Did he use any expressions?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir, he told her to go to her ~~fuck~~ ^{F-17.} ing house and stay there"

COUNSEL. " And then what happened?"

WITNESS. " Some boys came around, and just then Coporal King came up and searched the boys and didn't find anything on them, and he told them to go home and sleep".

COUNSEL. " What next happened?"

WITNESS. " Coporal King and about six policemen went to Ramnarace place at about 2. p.m. and Ramnarace gave them beers, and they said they will look after him".

COUNSEL. " ^{where} Where there police and volunteers?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " Well what next happened?"

WITNESS. " We kept watch right through the night.

In the morning my husband went to work and I sent

lunch for him" about 8. o'clock, then I got ready to go to the market , and a black lady next to me asked me where I was going? I said that I was going to the market , she then said that I must not go out on the road, I must lock up and stay in my house?.

COUNSEL. " And you did lock up?"

WITNESS. " No sir, my children were at the next door neighbour, ^S and I went outside and left my door open, then I saw the negroes removing from the East Indian houses and I was afraid".

COUNSEL. " And what you did next?"

WITNESS. " I went for my baby and children who were at the neighbour's. And then I went to some Chinese people and asked them if I can stay and they said it is alright. I can stay, but I mustn't peep out".

COUNSEL. " Yes, what next happened?"

WITNESS. " At half past ten on Monday morning her husband came home from work and told me to stay and I mustn't be afraid. Well then a group of black boys came up and went to a house where a black man was living with an East Indian lady. They pushed down the post of the house and the house fell and they bored the lady in the belly!"

COUNSEL. " You saw that?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " Did they burn the house?"

WITNESS. " No" "It was a negro chap's house"

COUNSEL. " After that?"

WITNESS. " I was peeping from my neighbour's place , ^{then} when I saw about seventeen volunteers come up, and the lady was shouting and her children too and

passed
36-35

the volunteers straight ~~away~~ *on*

COUNSEL. " Do you know the name of the lady?"

WITNESS. " Yes, 'Barker'".

COUNSEL. " That name sounds a little funny?"

WITNESS. " Well the lady was married to the
negro man Barker".

COUNSEL. " Oh, I see, Well after that what
happened?"

WITNESS. " Well they went to the one mile and
the black boys came back and they were saying that
they should go to Rammarace Store first"

COUNSEL. " That's the shop and business?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " Yes go on?"

WITNESS. " One Negro woman by the name of Yvonne
Hart said all who got coolies in their house put
them out or we will burn them out too".

COUNSEL. " Did that statement affect you in any
way?"

WITNESS. " No , the people didn't put me out,
the girl told me to stay inside. Well after that
they went to Rammarace and called him out".

COUNSEL. " You could have seen from where
you were?"

WITNESS. " Yes just opposite".

COUNSEL. " About how many feet?"

WITNESS. " ~~To~~ *From* where I was standing to where
you are standing". (15 feet)

COUNSEL. " Yes go on"

WITNESS. " They pelt down the house and they
took an iron bar to open the gate, and then they
opened the shop and started to loot the place.
And after that they threw oil and light the place

on fire. Then Ramnarace came out of his place and started to pray"

COUNSEL. " And that crowd was about how many?"

WITNESS. " About ninety ~~SIX~~ people".

COUNSEL. " You know some of the names?"

WITNESS. " Yes, Yvonne Hart, and a boy called Jubilee. Well after the fire started to blaze Ramnarace came down ~~stairs~~ ^{stairs} and asked them not to trouble him, and he gave the crowd some money?"

COUNSEL. " He took out the money from where?"

WITNESS. " From his pocket, and the wife gave some too, and he asked them to leave him alone and they asked him for his wife."

COUNSEL. " And what happened?"

WITNESS. " I saw one of the crowd throw her on the ground and jumped on her"

COUNSEL. " You saw one of them go on her?"

WITNESS. " Plenty of them, ~~but~~ ^{would go} when one came off the other was going on"

COUNSEL. " How old was this woman?"

WITNESS. " About thirty years".

COUNSEL. " Has she got children?"

WITNESS. " No"

COUNSEL

COUNSEL: " What happened next?"

WITNESS. " Well immediately after that the heat started to catch on to the Wong's house and the crowd started to throw water"

COUNSEL: " Before we leave Mr. Ramnarace did you hear any shouting from Mr or Mrs. Ramnarace?"

WITNESS. " Yes, Sir, Mrs. Ramnarace was shouting and her husband was standing with his hands full of blood"

COUNSEL. " Did any police or volunteer pass there at the moment?"

WITNESS; " No, they were more in front"

COUNSEL. " Did they come up later?"

WITNESS. " No"

COUNSEL. " Well then from Walter Wong's house the fire went over to you?"

WITNESS. " Yes, the black people started to come in Wong's house and move out the things and they caught me in the corner standing with my baby".

COUNSEL. " They came in ^{the} your house and caught you standing in a corner?"

WITNESS. " Yes, the same Bertie Williams came in and took the two children whoswere holding on to me and put them outside , and I asked him to save us". And he said this is no ⁷ ~~fraking~~ time to save anybody".

COUNSEL. " This same fellow who used to occupy a room in your house. You still had your baby?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

COUNSEL. " What next happened?"

WITNESS. " We walked out, ^{we saw} ~~as~~ the crowd was removing the things from my house, ~~and~~ I ran in with my childfen in a black girl's yard and I asked her if I can stay, and she held my hands and put me out ~~of~~ the yard".

COUNSEL. " You husband come home yet?"

WITNESS: " No. Well after, ^{that} I walked down ^{and} a group of negroes boys came and surrounded me with my baby in my hand. One of the crowd held my dress and tore it down"

COUNSEL. " What part did they tear?"

WITNESS. " The upper of my dress, and just

the skirt was left".

COUNSEL. " Yes, I know this is embarrassing to you, but we want to hear everything"

WITNESS. " They took away my baby, and after that one of them slapped me behind my neck, and I asked them to leave me because I don't trouble anybody. And they said it is we who troubled the people at Buxton, and then some of them said let's throw the baby down, and they were squeezing my baby all the time".

COUNSEL: " And the baby died, may I have a look at the baby's picture?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir. The baby died"

COUNSEL. " What next?"

WITNESS. " They said they will throw the Baby in the fire, and I begged them not to throw the baby ~~because~~ ^{because} if they throw the baby they will have to throw all of us"

COUNSEL. " Did any police or volunteers pass at this time?"

WITNESS. " No they were standing not too far away"

COUNSEL. " How many feet away were they standing from you?"

WITNESS. " I can't really say, but they could have heard me bawling"

COUNSEL. " Can you - I know this is a bit embarrassing to you - what were the words you used when you were holering?"

WITNESS. " Ow, all you help me".

COUNSEL. " Now they had your baby. They had wanted to throw the baby in the fire and you begged them. All this time your husband wasn't

home or didn't come back from work?"

WITNESS. " No"

COUNSEL. " Now Mrs. Mohamed tell me did any male member of that crowd try anything?"

WITNESS. " Yes, at the time when they were holding me one tried to throw me down. Then a boy by the name of Jubilee he told them to leave me ~~along~~ *alone*, that I am good people. They then threw back the child at me and I caught her. Then the rain started to fall."

COUNSEL " Then what next happened?"

WITNESS. " All of them started to run and shelter. And I went down the hill and I met a girl - Yvonne Hart, and she told me that I musn't walk so or else I will meet with another crowd. I must go towards Silvertown".

WITNESS. " I took her advise and went. Then whilst passing a shop a group of boys were sheltering there, and they said "you better pass quick before the rain is over or else you are going to see what we will do to you". "I met two policemen standing underneath a house sheltering from the rain"

COUNSEL. " Did you talk to them?"

WITNESS. " Yes. I asked them to follow me to the station, and they said I must go along my way and search for Cheddi"

COUNSEL. " Did they accompany you?"

WITNESS. " No"

COUNSEL. " Now ~~where~~ ^{were} you all this time without any upper garment, and you were ~~wet~~ ^{wet}?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir, after that I went into a shop and the black man put me out".

COUNSEL. " ~~Then~~ ^{Supposed} what next?"

WITNESS: "They pushed me out of the shop in the rain"

COUNSEL. " This time you still had your seven months baby in your hands?"

WITNESS: " Yes"

COUNSEL. " What happened next?"

WITNESS. " I went across and I stood up by the boat landing by the market. After a while my brother-in-law came along with a boat and I asked him to carry me to Mac Kenzie. We were under the Pullman shed when the men were going in to work"

COUNSEL. " Just a minute. The Pullman shed at quarter past twelve?"

WITNESS. *Yes* "And we stood up crying and the men passing said we must carry our so and so"

COUNSEL. " What words they used?"

WITNESS. " They said we must move out coolie ~~Ress~~ from here and get out before we finish you"

COUNSEL. " Any police ^{where there any Vol.} there or volunteers over at ~~MacKenzie~~?" " Was there any policeman present when they were saying so?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

COUNSEL. " Did the policeman ^{say} ~~said~~ anything?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR. SHEPHERD. " They were saying what? I don't quite hear. That they were saying so and so, what does that mean?"

COUNSEL. " You said in evidence that these men passing back to work said carry your coolie ~~Ress~~ from here. And there were policemen and Volunteers there and they didn't say anything. Did these policemen do anything?"

WITNESS. " No "

MR.SHEPHERD. " Then there were words of abuse, hurled at this witness and nobody interfered, right? "

COUNSEL. " That's right "

MR.SHEPHERD. " Thank you "

COUNSEL. " Now from there ^{where was} were you taken [?] where? "

WITNESS. " A Demba constable jumped out of a van and took me to the constabulary headquarters "

COUNSEL. " And from there you went where? "

WITNESS. " To the Trade School "

COUNSEL. " And from the Trade School you went to Georgetown? "

WITNESS. " Yes "

COUNSEL. " And your baby died where? "

WITNESS. " They took us to the industrial site "

COUNSEL. " Has your baby recovered from that squeezing since? "

WITNESS. " The baby died "

COUNSEL. " Is this a picture of the baby? "

Members of the Commission I wish to tender this as an exhibit. I'm going to deprive you of this for a little while, but we will return it to you "

MR.SHEPHERD. " Why? It's very nice to have a bouquet of photographs, but they hardly seem very relevant. I don't object at all, but it is just a matter of relevancy "

COUNSEL. " Members of the Commission, I am surprised at my friend. This baby has been referred to in this evidence.. a seven months baby "

MR.SHEPHERD. " I think..... "

COUNSEL. " I'm still on my feet "

MR.SHEPHERD. " Well so am I. May I make a submission now? "

CHAIRMAN. " You are taking objection to this photograph being tendered in evidence?"

MR.SHEPHERD. " No, I would simply ask what it represents that is relevant. It is a beautiful baby, and I am a father, but I cannot see any evidence of injuries on the baby, and could I be informed why it is relevant?"

COUNSEL. " I explained that this witness has said that this baby was squeezed. Number two, this is the picture of the baby, and she has submitted this photograph and I am respectfully submitting that it is relevant, and I am surprised at my friend asking this question. He knows that in other ~~trials~~ ^{enquiries} a picture of that nature is admissible in evidence"

CHAIRMAN. " It will be admitted. It is marked EXHIBIT "F"!"

COUNSEL, " Much obliged to you, Sir. Mrs. Shibley Mohammed, the house in which you were living in the Valley of Tears, did it belong to you?"

WITNESS. " I lived at 1/2 mile Wismar"

COUNSEL. " Sorry. Did it belong to you?"

WITNESS. " No, we were renting it"

COUNSEL. " Now tell us about your husband, what was he doing while all this was happening there?"

WITNESS. " My husband was working in the mines, and they told him from headquarters what was happening in Wismar, and he took a jeep and he came down. He came down about half past 10".

COUNSEL. " He came home?"

WITNESS. " Yes, but I didn't see him. He was crossing the river at about 11 o'clock and he got beaten. I saw him about 7. o'clock in the Wismar police Station".

COUNSEL. " That was ~~before~~ ^{after} you ~~embarked~~ ^{went.} to MacKenzie?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

COUNSEL. " That's all from this witness"

MR.SHEPHERD:" Do you know any of the names of the volunteers who passed by?"

WITNESS. "No"

MR.SHEPHERD."Would you recognize them if you saw them again?"

WITNESS. " I don't know"

MR.SHEPHERD." I am referring to the volunteers who passed by before the lady was bored on the belly as you put it. Wasn't it before the lady was assaulted that the volunteers passed?"

WITNESS. " The lady was hollering when the volunteers passed"

MR.SHEPHERD." How many?"

WITNESS. " About 17 of them"

MR.SHEPHERD." 17 . Were they marching? Were they walking 2 and 2?"

WITNESS. " In three sets"

MR.SHEPHERD." In three sets?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR.SHEPHERD:" Were there any other people about?"

WITNESS. " There were many people standing about?"

MR.SHEPHERD." About what time is this?"

WITNESS. " In the morning about half past ten".

MR.SHEPHERD."This was Sunday?"

WITNESS. " No Sir, on the Monday"

MR.SHEPHERD:" Did some black boys come out and interfere with you?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MRS.SHEPHERD:" How long after?"

WITNESS. " About 1 hour after"

MR.SHEPHERD:" And was this in your house?"

WITNESS. " I ran in somebody's house"

MR.SHEPHERD: " Was it the neighbour's house?"

WITNESS. " Yes, The neighbour's house"

MR.SHEPHERD: " Was anyone in the house?"

WITNESS: " Yes Sir, When I went in I saw a man"

MR.SHEPHERD: " A man was there. What man was that ?"

WITNESS. " A kind of a red man"

MR.SHEPHERD: " A red man?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR.SHEPHERD: " And what was the red man doing?"

WITNESS. " He was standing up in the kitchen, and he told me to hide. And then the owner of the house came and she held my hand and put me out and I begged her ^{to allow me} to stay but she still put me out"

MR.SHEPHERD: " The black fellows who tore your dress you say, was ^{the skin!} it in the house or outside?"

WITNESS. " Outside"

MR.SHEPHERD: " And you hollered?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR.SHEPHERD. " And what did the red man do? When you hollered?"

WITNESS. " I left him in the house and when I came out I didn't see him again."

MR.SHEPHERD: " Didn't he come out and help you?"

WITNESS, " No"

MR.SHEPHERD: " Did he run for help any where?"

WITNESS. " No Sir"

MR.SHEPHERD: " Did he run to fetch the police?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR.SHEPHERD: " Did you see any police about?"

WITNESS. "Just down the ~~Hill~~-foot of the hill."

MR.SHEPHERD. " Did the red man run and ask the police to help you?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR.SHEPHERD:"And how many police were there?"

WITNESS. " More than three"

MR.SHEPHERD." What sort of uniforms were they wearing? A blue uniform like that constable?"

WITNESS. "Yes, and they were volunteers too"

MR.SHEPHERD:" And volunteers too?"

WITNESS: " Yes, they had on khaki"

MR.SHEPHERD:" How many constables and many volunteers?"

WITNESS: " I saw 2 police but I cannot say how many volunteers"

MR.SHEPHERD:" Do you know their names?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR.SHEPHERD:" Could you recognize them if you see them?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR.SHEPHERD." Have you reported this before to the police?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR.SHEPHERD." It was the same day that the Demba Constable jumped out of his van and took you to the Trade School?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR.SHEPHERD:" Did you say anything about this to the constable?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR.SHEPHERD:" Did you ask him to take you to the police to make a report?"

WITNESS . " No"

MR.SHEPHERD:" When were you taken to Georgetown?"

WITNESS. " Tuesday morning"

MR.SHEPHERD:" Did you make a report of this to the

Police in Georgetown?"

WITNESS. " No. I was taken to the Industrial Site"

MR.SHEPHERD: " There is a police station there?
Isn't there?"

WITNESS: " I don't know"

MR.SHEPHERD: " Did you ask any one to take you
to the police station?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR.SHEPHERD: " Well why not? After this event did
you make any attempt to go to the police?"

WITNESS. "No"

MR.SHEPHERD: " But did you ask any one to take
you to the police?" "When you got to Georgetown did
you make any attempt to^{go to} the police to make a report?"

WITNESS. " NO"

MR.CARTER. " Did you make any attempt to get
medical treatment for your baby?"

WITNESS. " At the Industrial Site"

CARTERESQ. " What attempt did you make?"

WITNESS. " I carried her to the doctor"

MR.CARTER. " You carried her to the doctor at
Mac Kenzie hospital?"

WITNESS. " No. There was a doctor at the Indus-
trial Site at Georgetown."

MR.CARTER. " Did you make any attempt to see
the doctor at Mac Kenzie?"

WITNESS. " No" When we were carried to the
constabulary we were locked in a room there. There
were about 15 of us, all East Indians?"

MR.CARTER. " Do you mean that this was the police
station at MacKenzie,, or was this something differ-
ent?"

WITNESS. " This was the Demba Constable's
Office".

MR.CARTER. " Did you go to the Constable and tell him that your child was injured and you wanted help for her?"

WITNESS. " No, we hardly saw anybody until the night when they carried us to the Trade School and then they took me over to Wismar Police Station. Two policemen³ took me over there"

MR.CARTER. " You made any attempt then to get treatment for your child?"

WITNESS. "No, then we went back to the Trade School and soldiers gave me a blanket and some baby clothe^{rs}s, and the next day we came to town and saw a doctor"

MR.CARTER. " When you came to town, that was the first time you saw a doctor. What is the name of the doctor who examined the baby?"

WITNESS. " Dispenser Frederick Williams"

MR.CARTER. " This was in Georgetown? Did a doctor see your baby?"

WITNESS. "The dispenser saw her first and I told him what happened to the baby, and after a doctor came to see her"

MR.CARTER. " Which doctor saw the baby?"

WITNESS. " Dr.Ramjohn. I don't know his name, but I believe it was Dr.Ramjohn"

MR.CARTER. " Did you ever ascertain the cause of death of the baby?" " Did the doctor tell you what caused the death of your baby?" " A death certificate must have been issued. Have you gotten a copy of that death certificate?"

WITNESS. " I left the industrial site Saturday- and went to my father in West Ruimveldt, and Sunday^a after Sunday afternoon she got worse, and I carried her

to see the doctor at the industrial site"

MR. CARTER. " The same Dr. Ramjohn?"

WITNESS. " Dr. Jaikaram. They told me that if she doesn't feel better I must carry her back. So I took her on Sunday afternoon, and the doctor told me to carry her to the public Hospital"

MR. CARTER. " Do you know which doctor saw her there?" " Did you go with her in the ambulance?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR. CARTER. " And did you go in the hospital with her?"

WITNESS. " Yes, we left her there in the afternoon and went back the next morning and we had to go away for a while and when we came back the baby was looking worse and after a while they told us that the baby was dead".

MR. CARTER. " And after the death of the child, did you receive a death certificate telling you the cause of death?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR. CARTER. " I wonder if Counsel to the Commissioners could possibly get that certificate, so that you could know the cause of death of that child"

MR. SHEPHERD: "May I say that I have had no instructions at all about *this*"

MR. CARTER. " No, I meant Mr. Sugrim Singh"

MR. SHEPHERD: " No, but from the police point of view this is a very serious matter and there should have been a report, and an opportunity for criminal investigations. If there is any assistance that can be given to the police this is the time to give it. We don't want any further

delay. If this is true it is evidence of a crime of murder". This is an entirely new event so far as the police force is concerned, and my object in referring to evidence that has been put in is that we are here to be objective, and if crimes are committed reports must be made to the police and investigations made and the proper persons charged. Appeal to sentiment is not enough. We must have clear evidence and an opportunity as soon as possible to conduct the criminal investigations"

COUNSEL. " Members of the Commission, May I allay my friends anxiety by telling him that there are scores of such cases and these people were disabled from giving information to the police who had to leave this area, but what strikes me most members of the commission is that I am not asking any questions a this .

There is a Volunteer Officer Major Langham at MacKenzie who is a witness summoned by me, and has forwarded a statement. And I am told by the head of the Volunteer Force Mr. Celso De Freitas that that statement is in the hands of my learned friend and has not been handed to me so that I can cross-examine this witness on the facts of that statement. It is not yet delivered to me. So I'll have to ask this witness to come back again for further cross-examination." Why is this statement being kept?"

MR. SHEPHERD. " The statements required by the Commission will of course be available to the Commission whenever they require them. But I really had to ask my learned friend to desist from

whispering in my ears for a moment, because I was losing the trend of what was happening. I certainly can provide any statements from any volunteer Officers' that have been made if I had some notice. I had only this moment heard of what my learned friend was attempting to convey to me. There are adjournments you know when he can discuss things with me, and I'll do what ever I can to facilitate matters".

COUNSEL. " This is an investigation as I say to discover the truth. Counsel for the Demerara Bauxite Company has placed at my disposal documents containing the relevant information. I have made a request as Counsel to this Commission for Major Langham to send up a statement for several days now, and the Head of that Department informed me that that statement is here for me and I haven't got in up to now and I need that statement!"

MR.SHEPHERD: " If he asked me during the adjournment..."

COUNSEL. " I have asked him, having heard from Col Celso DeFreitas, an I went over to my friend just now ..

MR.SHEPHERD. " The whole matter can be settled quite amicably, really."

MR. CARTER. " Mrs. Mohammed, what was the name of the child?"

WITNESS. " Bibi Swabria Mohammed"

MR. CARTER. " Do you remember the date when the child died?"

WITNESS. " The first of June"

MR.CARTER. " You say that when the trouble started there were some black people who were

moving out of Indian homes?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR. CARTER. " Were they renting these homes from Indians?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR. CARTER. " Because by that time houses owned by Indians were being burned?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR. CARTER. " Apart from Ramnarace, did you see any other Indians at about that time when you were being attacked , or Mrs. Ramnarace was being attacked?"

WITNESS. " No", there were other Indians in the place but they were locked in their homes"

MR. CARTER. " Did you see any of them on the road?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR. CARTER. " Did you see the volunteers or the police accompanying any Indians from half mile?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR. CARTER. " Did your husband ever return to Wismar to work at Mac Kenzie?"

WITNESS. " No"

MR. CARTER. " He has resigned from the job?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR. CARTER. " And he is being compensated?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR. CARTER. " How long did he work for the company?"

WITNESS. " About five years"

MR. SHEPHERD. " Could I ask one more question of this witness before she leaves? On the 25th you were taken across to the Wismar police Station at about 7 o'clock, I think, to see your husband?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

MR.SHEPHERD: " Did you go into the police station to see your husband?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR.SHEPHERD. " Did you make a complaint then about these events?"

WITNESS. " No Sir, there were plenty of people there in the station, all over the place"

MR.SHEPHERD. " Did you say that your baby had been crushed?"

WITNESS . "No Sir"

MR.SHEPHERD: " But even then the baby was suffering?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MR.SHEPHERD: " I don't doubt for a moment the truth of what you have said but I want to know why you didn't do something about it when you were in the police station at Wismar"

WITNESS. " We were punishing, and we couldn't go upstairs because of the crowd"

MR.SHEPHERD. " You saw your husband though, did you?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

MR.SHEPHERD: " How was your husband when you saw him?"

WITNESS. " He had bruises in his head, and his clothes were torn".

MR SHEPHERD: Was he able to talk to you?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR SHEPHERD: Did you tell him about the baby?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR SHEPHERD: Didn't he say you should make a report at once?

WITNESS: No sir, he came over and the whole place was in confusion.

MR SHEPHERD: No more questions. As to the report of Major Lan her, I am afraid I haven't it here, but I will have it by tomorrow.

COUNSEL: My anxiety is simply that I was told that the report is in my friend's possession, and was sent for me. Maybe out of that report I would need some facts to examine the witness, but I haven't got it. We will have to recall these witnesses, and perhaps this might have saved time.

MR SHEPHERD: I am sorry. If I had been informed, you could have had it the first thing this morning.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Singh, have you only just now made enquiries about this report?

COUNSEL: No, I was told by Mr DeFreitas that he was asking the Counsel to deliver this report to me. I want to make the matter ~~as~~ a matter of principle.

This is a commission of enquiry and all relevant documents in my possession I am prepared to place at the disposal of my learned friends, and what they do have I expect conversely to do so, they would do so. *Not when the ~~enquiry~~ is over... the statement or the enquiry* or their main witness comes in they will produce this plan. They are keeping ~~it~~ *the* ~~it~~ *enquiry* till the end of this trial when the commissioner comes.

MR SHEPHERD: We have no plan sir, except those supplied by Deiba before you. Are the police expected to produce plans?

CHAIRMAN: We were told that the day we visited the area, that there was a plan made up showing the damage.

MR SHEPHERD: I don't know who told you that sir, because I wasn't there at the time, but I know nothing of such a plan. I think it was probably a schedule he meant, and not a plan. This is the first I've heard of a plan.

COUNSEL: Members of the commission, I must tell you that the Police Force are represented and Volunteer Force by Counsel.

COUNSEL: The Denorara Bauxite Company *is represented also* by counsel. We got all the statements from the Denorara Bauxite Company. Up to now I haven't got a single statement from any member of the Police or Volunteer Force. They will hand in all these

statements when the enquiry is through.

MR CARTER: I mean just anticipating that members of the Vol. Force. would be called
I have a well documented statement on this. I don't know this. Suppose

If
these volunteers would have to be called and if this is ~~going to happen~~
you will see the difficulty to have them to ~~travel~~ ^{all travelling} to Georgetown. So at this
stage I am going to ask the commission to bear this in mind for a future date,
for we may have to spend a few days at Mackenzie ^{take evidence.} But if you insist on bringing
these people down well then we will have to cooperate with you.

COUNSEL: I didn't want to rise again. I went to the extent of calling at
Messrs. Cameron and Shepherd. I want to my friend but I must admit we
didn't discuss the question of time. My instructions are that these state-
ments should have been handed in since Monday's sitting so that we may have
them available to cross-examine witnesses. There it is, the enquiry is going
on and I don't have any statement in my possession.

PROF. DRAYTON: What is your estimated ^{cost.} of your belongings?

WITNESS: Sir, well I can't really tell, I can tell you what and what we had.
A bed, \$168., a dinette set; valued \$ 175; a machine that we didn't finish
paying for, an arborite table, a cabinet, a vanity, rocking chairs, and another
table, and four welcome chairs.

MR SHEPHERD: Before this very interesting witness goes I would say that the
statements of *Ms. Hagle* would not throw any light at all on what happened
to this lady and her child if I am deluded

COUNSEL: Members of the Commission that maybe so in the Counsel's opinion,
but it may not be in the opinion of the counsel for the Commission.

Call Kowsillia Gopie. — *duy Every Sleets*

COUNSEL: Now Kowsillia Gopie you are living at Success, E.C.D.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

COUNSEL: And you are a school teacher?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

COUNSEL: On the 26th May this year you were residing at Wisnar?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

COUNSEL: With your husband called Johda Gopic?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

COUNSEL: He worked at the Mackenzie plant?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

COUNSEL: And did you do any teaching down there?

WITNESS: No sir.

COUNSEL: Now on Monday the 25th May he didn't come from the terminus around 6.15 what happened?

WITNESS: Well my husband left for work, around 6.15. That was the usual time he left for work. And my little daughter and myself remained home.

COUNSEL: What next?

WITNESS: Around 9 a.m. Mr John Hodge my landlord, came and told me that I must get out from his place.

COUNSEL: Where is that?

WITNESS: Bruce Alley.

COUNSEL: What you did.

WITNESS: I started to cry and asked him to wait until my husband comes home.

COUNSEL: Just then what happened.

WITNESS: A group of about 14 people came in, men and women.

COUNSEL: What kind of people?

WITNESS: Negroes, all were people I know.

COUNSEL: What next happened.

WITNESS: I was standing by the door, they pushed me and went inside the houses and searched for my husband. One Joyce Bacchus and Jack a well known butcher at Wisnar, they asked me for my jewels and money, and I told them I don't have any. Then Joyce Bacchus went to my vanity and took out \$15.00 in cash and a watch band valued \$35., all in my presence, and a chain valued \$12. I had my daughter Padnawtie in my hands with a pair of gold bangles and Joyce Bacchus pulled it away. This bangle valued \$15.

COUNSEL: And did Joyce Bacchus tell you anything about your husband?

WITNESS: Yes sir, She told me that I must't expect to see my husband? Johda Gopic alive again.

COUNSEL: Yes, at 11 a.m. later did you see anything.

WITNESS: Yes, I saw my husband coming home with his head all over in blood and his pants torn. He came in and told me to lock the door and keep inside. Just then I peeped through the glass window and saw Jack with 4x4 greenheart wood in his hands, and one John who was working with my husband had a long knife in his hand.

COUNSEL: What did they do?

WITNESS: They came to my house, both of them. I went to Yvonne Ross's house when my husband told me that they were coming. After that I heard a window smashed and the door opened, and a voice saying he is not here. Another voice said to look under the bed. I heard him scream.

COUNSEL: Did you see your husband come out of the house or crowd?

WITNESS: No, Ross told me that my husband was lying near the fence. That was about 11 a.m., and he was there until 3.30 to 4 p.m.

COUNSEL: What next happened?

WITNESS: Well, I remained at the Ross's place. I heard the sound of a car and I asked the neighbour what is happening and she said they had taken Gopie away.

COUNSEL: What did you do afterwards?

WITNESS: Well, I went to close the door, when a group of women approached me again. Rev. Heyliger the minister of the ^{Pilgrim Holiness} ~~Brother~~ Church was there, I asked him to help me and he didn't answer me. Joyce Bacchus, Irene Brown, Mrs Beckles and a woman called Penny, took away my radio, clothes, ice flask, travelling bags, etc.

COUNSEL: What happened next?

WITNESS: Just then the landlord came and nailed two boards on the door with the rest of the things in the house.

COUNSEL: Yes, what happened next?

WITNESS: Three policemen came and took me to the station.

COUNSEL: Did you see your husband there.

WITNESS: No, he was already taken to the hospital.

COUNSEL: Now, while you were at your home did any police or volunteer pass?

WITNESS: While I was in the jeep there was a girl they were raping near a shop.

COUNSEL: Wait a minute how many police were in the jeep?

WITNESS: Three policemen, and about four volunteers, at the back of the jeep.

COUNSEL. " What was the name of the Chinese shop where the girl was being raped?"

WITNESS. " Leu Brothers Shop"

COUNSEL. " Did the jeep stop there?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " Did the girl shout or anything?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir, she was shouting for help and hollering Oh my daddy, Oh my daddy"

COUNSEL. " From where this jeep stopped to where this raping was going on, Mrs. Gopie was how far?"

WITNESS. " Not far at all"

COUNSEL. " Did the police do anything?"

WITNESS. " No Sir, they told the girl that in a few seconds they will be back"

COUNSEL. " When the jeep drove off and left the girl there did any policeman or volunteers attempt to come out of the jeep?"

WITNESS. " No Sir "

COUNSEL. " Well you went to the Station. Did you meet any other East Indian people there?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " How long did you stay there?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " Now tell us what happened at the Station?"

WITNESS. " The police were receiving boxes of terrylene shirts, pants, length, etc.,"

COUNSEL. " Did you see this?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir, they were taking these things to the middle room near the toilet".

COUNSEL. " Now in respect to you while you were at the station Mrs. Gopie its embarrassing but tell us what happened?"

WITNESS. " Nothing didn't happen then. It was

when I went back to MacKenzie in early June. That's when I went back to collect my things. I was the only female who went back with 32 men,, East Indian men".

COUNSEL. " Did you go to the police station?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir, I went there and asked for protection to collect my things at the landlord's home in Blackett's Alley. And the Sergeant refused."

COUNSEL. " Now what next happened?"

WITNESS. " I told Mr. Fields the Lieutenant- The British Officer- that the Sgt. refused to give me protection to go for my things, and he send 6 soldiers with me to collect my things at Blackett's Alley"

COUNSEL. " Did you collect any of your things?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

COUNSEL. " Yes, what next?"

WITNESS. " I told Mr. Fields I saw two people John the boy who had the knife in his hand and Joyce Bacchus at the station. I told the police that these were two of the people who attacked my husband and didn't even listen to me"

COUNSEL. "What next happened at the Station?"

WITNESS. " I told Mr. Fields and he took me to the Wismar police station to the Sergeant. And Mr. Fields told him that I would like to go and identify some people and the Sergeant said that he wouldn't like me to go - because that will spark off another trouble"

COUNSEL. " Did you give a statement at Wismar Police Station?"

WITNESS. " No, at Brickdam, I gave names of persons who attacked my husband"

COUNSEL. " Did anything come out of these state-

ments?"

WITNESS. " No Sir"

COUNSEL. "Now Mrs. Gopie let us go back to the Station, while you were at the station at Wismar do you recall any incident that happened there?"

WITNESS. "No Sir, that is when I went to the C.I.D. Mac Kenzie Police Station, the night after the Sgt. refused to let me go and identify the man to the soldiers"

COUNSEL. " Now go slowly and tell us what happened at the Mac Kenzie Police Station"

WITNESS. " I went and aksed oneMr. Brown, a well known police man stationed up there, for two bags to sleep under the station"

COUNSEL. " What time wa that?"

WITNESS. " Around 7.30 p.m."

COUNSEL. " You didn't have anywhere to sleep?"

WITNESS. " No Sir, I was going to sleep with the other people who came back to collect their things"

COUNSEL. " Did you get the bags?"

WITNESS. " No Sir" "Mr. Brown asked me if I wouldn't like to spend the night with him"

COUNSEL. " Yes, after that happened?"

WITNESS. " I told him he take his blasted eyes and pass me, and I walked down the steps, and went back downstairs"

COUNSEL. " What next?"

WITNESS. " Around 8.30 p.m. the same night a ~~man~~ ^{I hold a} called Sack - ~~I told him~~ ^{a little later} the story, ~~then~~

I heard someone called for Mrs. Gopie. Well I went and I saw a person had on a white shirt, black pants and the voice said that I can get two bags here- the person was very dark - at that time I

didn't know that it was the same Mr. Brown. I went in the room for the bags and shortly afterwards the door slammed"

COUNSEL. "Who slammed the door?"

WITNESS. " The police chap the Mr. Brown. At that moment it dawned on me that it was the same Mr. Brown."

COUNSEL. " Go on"

WITNESS. " Sir, he was squeezing me and my dress was torn in front and I started to scream."

COUNSEL. " In other words did he make advances to you?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir, he held my breast"

COUNSEL. " What else did he do?"

WITNESS. " Suddenly after screaming I heard a policeman pushing the door- another negro policeman".

COUNSEL. "Well after this policeman pushed this door did this policeman say anything?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir, he said "Brown is that you?" and then I pushed my way through the door"

COUNSEL. " That's all from this witness. Members of the Commission I'll ask this witness to come back tomorrow for cross-examination".