

Thursday 21.11.61.

MR. SHEPHERD: Sir I ^{would} like to refer to yesterday's ^{press} ~~evening~~ ~~press~~ release which I obtained. I would also like to refer ^{once again} to the present premises, ~~It~~ ^{to the road} which has only one passage way, with the back entrance closed, and everybody uses the said front entrance to pass in and out.

CHAIRMAN: Please Mr. Shepherd, I would ^{ask} think you rather not say anything ^{about} of the present premises, if so ^{you could} you should have mentioned ^{this} about this since Monday, and this question would have been given full consideration, but as it stands now, please do not mention any thing about the locality, because this question was already ^{been} settled.

MR. SHEPHERD: ^{with respect Sir, I must refer to} Mr. Singh, I think that the Town Hall which is closed and ^{which} ~~which~~ ^{has been} made available to another ^{unofficial} ~~unofficial~~ ^{inquiry} ~~inquiry~~ ^{committee} ~~committee~~ much more convenient would be better for the inquiries.

CHAIRMAN: This building has been given to us by His Excellency The Governor, and I think that we all should appreciate this.

MR. SHEPHERD: ^{I would refer Sir, to the question} Mr. Singh, what steps ^{have} must be taken with the respect to the publication in yesterday's paper. This is a release from the Premier's Office ^{itself} an excerpt of which I read yesterday and which appeared in Sunday's Chronicle. ^{I now have the actual release, I obtained from the Govt. Inf. Service & which I submit now}

CHAIRMAN: We are very glad that you have drawn our attention ^{to} concerning this publication and we will take the necessary steps ^{to see that this type of thing does not occur.}

MR. SHEPHERD: As you wish Sir.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shepherd we are not in a possession of the statement made by Major Langham and I understand that he is the witness that is supposed to be here today.

MR. SHEPHERD: ^{I am.} We are not in a possession of the statement, but they ^{have} ~~they~~ ^{have} instructed me only an hour ago and I have been informed that it ^{has been put} ~~was in~~ the post and it should have been delivered ^{early} personally, this morning. I am sorry it has been delayed.

CHAIRMAN: It has been advertised in the newspapers, ^{that} The statements ^{have} ~~is~~ to be submitted, and up to now we cannot get ^{this} statement. The army has complied; we know that it has been made available, and yet they will keep it., We have no statement even from the police, and volunteer force. We would like to once again ^{state} say that our procedure is very clear, and that all statements should be submitted to the counsel, and the

counsel, would then call the witness, after which the witness would be examined by interested parties, and be re-examined by the commission,

MR. SHEPHERD: I haven't even a copy, which I could provide now. I am sorry this has happened. It might be appropriate for the counsel to take the ^{Commandy Officer} Commissioner first, and the officers second.

CHAIRMAN: That is for the British army?

MR. SHEPHERD: I am speaking of the volunteer force.

CHAIRMAN: We are trying to facilitate Major Langham by having ^{him} it heard first, seeing that he is coming all the way from Mackenzie, and we would have ^{put ourselves} ~~gone~~ a little, ^{bit} of course, to have him here, but we have not got his statement here up to day.

MR. SHEPHERD: As counsel Sir, I have not ^{interfered} ~~interfered~~ with these statements. This has been entirely in the hand of others, and I have not ^{ever} a copy which I can show you at this moment. I could only suggest that I would pass on a message, to the proper quarters and Major Langham's evidence would ^{come in} ~~fall~~ ^{due} ~~be~~ into course to facilitate his return to Demba, where his services ~~have~~ ^{are} always been required fully. I'll see that a message is set to the ^{Commandy Officer} ~~Commissioner~~ and the statement will be here within an hour.

CHAIRMAN: We ~~need~~ our first witness for today, and that is Mr. Toolsie Persaud. Mr. Toolsie Persaud ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{sworn in} ~~is sworn in~~ by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Where do you live?

WITNESS: 15 Lamaha and New Garden Streets.

CHAIRMAN: And your occupation?

WITNESS: Company Director of Messrs. Toolsie Persaud Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: Now, your business includes dealing with Lumber?

WITNESS: Yes Sir.

CHAIRMAN: You have a grant at Christianburg?

WITNESS: I have a timber depot at Christianburg

CHAIRMAN: You usually visit the depot at Christianburg?

WITNESS: Yes Sir.

CHAIRMAN: When you visit the depot, where do you stay?

WITNESS: We have a road extends to Rock-Stone, and I would normally stay at Rock Stone; that is our central point where the logs would go though from the Forest to Christianburg.

CHAIRMAN: That will be at the Essequibo river?

WITNESS: Yes, 21 miles west of Christianburg,

CHAIRMAN: I want you to cast your mind back to the 23rd May or round about 21st to 22nd. Can you remember if you paid a visit around that time to Christianburg? What date was it?

WITNESS: It was a Saturday; 23rd May.

CHAIRMAN: You went to your timber depot? At what time did you reach there?

WITNESS: I was there most of the afternoon, from midday until evening.

CHAIRMAN: You returned or where were you?

WITNESS: I was there; mostly to supervise the discharge of a very expensive machine.

CHAIRMAN: Now after you finished supervising it did you go to the Wismar area.

WITNESS: Yes. It was about 9 o'clock after completion when my superintendent and 5 other workmen wanted some meals and a place ^{to} overnight in order for some of them to join the ferry next morning ^{to} for Georgetown. I went to make arrangement for them.

CHAIRMAN: Where did you go?

WITNESS: I do not know the place, but I was told that it was owned by a gentleman named Lam.

CHAIRMAN: You went to a hotel?

WITNESS: Yes, I was informed that this gentleman carries on an hotel, and a restaurant.

CHAIRMAN: When did you get there?

WITNESS: We got there around 9 o'clock. One of our men and an Indian chap got burnt with acid on the road, just in front of this restaurant.

CHAIRMAN: And he went in with you all to Mr. Lam.

WITNESS: Yes, while he was outside he got burnt.

CHAIRMAN: After you went inside what happened?

WITNESS: We saw a lot of people in there. They were about 5 or 6 chaps inside.

CHAIRMAN: Were they hostile?

WITNESS: The chap who got burnt, we arranged for his transportation to the hospital, and immediately after that some 15 or 20 chaps came in the restaurant using threatening languages to myself and the other workmen.

CHAIRMAN: What happened?

WITNESS: The crowd started to increase, and in a ^{short} while, they started

to stone the place.

CHAIRMAN: What was their temperament?

WITNESS: They were hostile. While I was in there some of the chaps took out knives and toy guns and started to attack. I ~~didn't~~^{don't} know what ~~happened~~^{happened} to my men, but I escaped through the back and found shelter somewhere else.

CHAIRMAN: Where?

WITNESS: Christianburg.

CHAIRMAN: Did you suffer any injuries?

WITNESS: No.

CHAIRMAN: What was the atmosphere like when you went up?

WITNESS: I noticed no tension but my foreman had told me there was going to be trouble.

CHAIRMAN: Did you tell any one?

WITNESS: I didn't tell any one what had happened. My foreman had said things would be happening.

CHAIRMAN: When he said things would be happening did you feel it was any particular group of people?

WITNESS: Yes but myself and my men thought it wouldn't be safe to stay there.

CHAIRMAN: Did you feel it was becoming dangerous for Indians?

WITNESS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Did you make any complaints?

WITNESS: No.

CHAIRMAN: Why? You had to come back through the alley way and buildings were burning, and yet you made no complaint to the Police?

WITNESS: I got down in the morning about midday, but discovered the situation to be normal.

CHAIRMAN: Did you think it best as manager of a very big firm, not to complain to the police at all?

WITNESS: No.

CHAIRMAN: Did you suffer any losses on your property during that period?

WITNESS: At Christianburg. It was around 25th July, on a Saturday evening. One Mr. Barton told me that our installation tank had lost 2,000 gallons of duty free gasoline and my watch-house was burnt.

~~Contd.~~

CHAIRMAN: ^{amount - 5 -} What amount would you put you lost at?

WITNESS: About \$1,000:

Mr. P.N. SINGH: Did you say your foreman gave you this information?

WITNESS: Yes.

P.N. SINGH: What is the name of your foreman?

WITNESS: Mr. Durants.

P.N. SINGH: Of what extraction is he?

WITNESS: African.

P.N. SINGH: When you arrive at Wismar did you notice anything?

WITNESS: Nothing at all.

P.N. SINGH: Was there any tension in the area? Did you at any time feel any tension?

WITNESS: No.

P.N. SINGH: You say you left on Sunday :

WITNESS: Yes, Sunday morning.

P.N. SINGH: How did you get down?

WITNESS: By launch.

P.N. SINGH: What time did you leave Wis ar?

WITNESS: Seven O'clock.

P.N. SINGH: At the time when you left Wismar did you notice anything?

Places burning?

WITNESS: Yes.

P.N. SINGH: About how many?

WITNESS: On Friday there was a fire.

P.N. SINGH: Where?

WITNESS: I couldn't tell exactly where; that was Friday 22nd.

P.N. SINGH: Did you notice any other fire?

WITNESS: No..

P.N. SINGH: Did you make any inquiry then?

WITNESS: No..

P.N. SINGH: Did you information reveal the source of the fire?

WITNESS: Well it was clear, I was told that people's places were being burnt.

P.N. SINGH: You were told that people's places were being burnt while you were at the restaurant. You also said that there were five

other workers besides the superintendent. How many were Indians?

WITNESS: How many were Indians? There were three Indians.

P.N. SINGH: Who were they?

WITNESS: They were Crane operators.

P.N. SINGH: You said that they took out knives, what kind of knives were they?

WITNESS: I can't say but they were 8 to 10 inches long.

P.N. SINGH: Besides yourself, what other people were there? Were there any other Indians?

WITNESS: No.

P.N. SINGH: You said that these men appeared as if they were going to attack you, is that true?

WITNESS: Yes.

P.N. SINGH: Do you know the names of them?

WITNESS: No, but I think I could remember the leader.

P.N. SINGH: Do you think you would be able to recognise him?

WITNESS: Yes, because he did a great deal of talking.

P.N. SINGH: What was he talking about?

WITNESS: He said that he would finish every Indian he saw. Perhaps he had been drinking.

P.N. SINGH: What impression you got when you heard the words used by this man?

WITNESS: I cannot say exactly. I figured that he had been referring to the disturbances in the country.

P.N. SINGH: You said that you were in no way assaulted.

WITNESS: No! I was not; but one of my employees was burnt.

P.N. SINGH: At that time while at the restaurant, did you have a word with Mr. Butters.

WITNESS: No.

P.N. SINGH: What was his employment?

WITNESS: He was one of my Mechanical Superintendents.

P.N. SINGH: Now was Mr. Butters assaulted?

WITNESS: I cannot say.

P.N. SINGH: Did he not report to you?

WITNESS: Well he told me the next day that he had a bit of a scuffle with the men.

P.N. SINGH: Did he say why?

WITNESS: No he gave no reason.

P.N. SINGH: Did you ever hear him say that it was in the interest of your protection that he was assaulted.

WITNESS: No I have never heard him said it.

P.N.SINGH: Thank you.

DR. DRAYTON: When did you leave Georgetown for Christianburg?

WITNESS: I left on Friday morning by plane.

DR. DRAYTON: You spent all day at Christiarburg?

WITNESS: Yes.

DR. DRAYTON: Did you hear of the disturbances in the area on Friday night?

WITNESS: No.

DR. DRAYTON: No. ?

DR. DRAYTON: What is the name of the labourer burnt with acid?

WITNESS: Deodat Narine.

DR. DRAYTON: You mentioned that while in the resturant you saw men with knives, and in reply to Mr. Singh's question, you said they were eight to ten inches in length? Did they have guns?

WITNESS: Yes, but I think they were toy guns.

DR. DRAYTON: Why?

WITNESS: If they were real guns I think they might have made use of them.

DR. DRAYTON: Not necessarily. Do you form theimpression that they were six-shooters?

WITNESS: I can't say.

DR. DRAYTON: Do you know a revolver?

WITNESS: Yes, I have seen one.

DR. DRAYTON: Do you own a gun?

WITNESS: No.

DR. DRAYTON: Do you think you could tell the difference between a toy gun and a real pistol?

WITNESS: No! There is very little difference.

DR. DRAYTON: So you really cannot say if they were toy guns.

WITNESS: I had theimpression that if they were real guns they might have used them.

DR. DRAYTON: There is one question that interests me. You say that when you reached Georgetown you told no one of what you had seen at Wismar. On reflection on the date and time would you say that you acted responsibly as a member of the community? Would you say that this was responsible action? You might have saved the community.

WITNESS: I will say this, that on Sunday Mr. Carl Austin telephoned my home to say that I was missing. I had a long chat with him and I told him what had taken place in the area.

DR. DRAYTON: What time on Sunday was this?

WITNESS: It was about 2.00 p.m. I told him what took place there and that I travelled by launch to Georgetown. I had in fact, told him what took place and my brief experience there, and that was all. I did not report it officially to the police station.

DR. DRAYTON: You told Carl Austin about the situation up there and your experience? Did you tell anybody else? Did you discuss it with anybody else?

WITNESS: No.

DR. DRAYTON: This last point. This duty free gasoline what was it used for?

WITNESS: For the trucks in the forest. It is also used for speed-boats.

DR. DRAYTON: How far was it stored?

WITNESS: It is immediately along the river bank at Christianburg.

DR. DRAYTON: Thank you

MR. SHEPHERD: Now this question arises

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shepherd if you would just allow the members to finish.

MR. SHEPHERD: I am very sorry.

MRS. MOOTOO: You said you didn't recognise any of the people who attacked you at the restaurant. Did any other members of the party recognise anybody?

WITNESS: No.

DR. DRAYTON: How long did your foreman work in this area?

WITNESS: About, 20 years. But he himself did not recognise anybody. There was one person whom I can recognise if I see him. I was told afterwards that his name was Banga Mary.

Cont'd:

Mrs. Markov was the leader of the crowd.

DR. BRAYTON: By one of your party?

WITNESS: Yes! I would say he was the leader ^{of the crowd.} ~~in the shop.~~

MRS. MOOTOO: What made you think he was the leader?

WITNESS: He did all the talking. ^{and} ~~well~~ I considered his actions ^{to be} ~~that~~ of a leader.

MRS. MOOTOO: How was he armed?

WITNESS: I didn't see in all that confusion. I didn't take any notice.

MRS. MOOTOO: Did you recognise the person who threw acid on your workman.

WITNESS: No.

MRS. MOOTOO: The incident of the acid was ^{it} reported to the police, ~~you~~ ^{witness} ~~yes~~.

~~don't know who the police officer is?~~

Mrs Markov Do you know the name of the Police Officer?

WITNESS: I can't remember his name at all.

MRS. MOOTOO: Thank you very much.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did Carl Austin ring you up?

WITNESS: He rang my home and I spoke to him.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did he seem concerned about your safety?

WITNESS: He rang and told me he got a report from Wismar that I was in the place where this trouble started, and that I was reported missing, and I spoke to him of the incident. I told him I was there and told him of the incident and he seemed relieved. ^{He rang up because} He was trying to get my brother ^{to inform that} ~~to inform that~~ ^{I was missing.} ~~that~~

SHEPHERD: He was anxious to inform your family. He had heard of what took place on Saturday night. The Police did make a report to him?

WITNESS: Well I don't know if a report was made.

MR. SHEPHERD: You never reported the incident officially?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SHEPHERD: No further questions, thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Call Kawaii Persaud. ~~by Sworn~~ ^{states as follows}

MR. SHEPHERD: I think sir, shortly after I spoke to you about this statements

*of May 1964 & other volunteers. They were delivered by a Clerk
It was delivered by the volunteers from the Solicitors who instruct me.*

CHAIRMAN: I have received it. ~~Call George Woolford.~~

The next witness George Woolford was sworn. ^{States}

CHAIRMAN: What is your name?

G. WOOLFORD: My name is George Woolford.

CHAIRMAN: Where do you live?

WITNESS: I live at lot 37 Buxton Village, East Coast Demerara.

CHAIRMAN: Speak up loudly, every body would like to hear you. ~~What work~~

do you do?

WITNESS: I am working with the People's Progressive Party.

CHAIRMAN: You work with the People's Progressive Party?

WITNESS: Yes Sir, I do.

CHAIRMAN: Previously you lived at Wismar?

WITNESS: At Wismar.

CHAIRMAN: Say yes Sir or No. Sir. What work were you doing there?

WITNESS: I was Kiln Operator at Demba.

CHAIRMAN: For how long?

WITNESS: For 23 years.

CHAIRMAN: Why did you leave Wismar?

WITNESS: Because my living quarters were burnt down.

CHAIRMAN: Oh, your living quarters were burnt down. Was it on the 27th May, 1964.

WITNESS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: You are a member of the People's Progressive Party?

WITNESS: Yes.

WITNESS: You contested a seat at the Upper Demerara River?

WITNESS: Yes Sir.

CHAIRMAN: What do you know happened before the 27th May, this year?

WITNESS: Yes, before the 25th May, 2 weeks before, there were rumours of the P.Y.C. coming up to Wismar to poison the water.

MR. SHEPHERD: What was that?

CHAIRMAN: To poison the water.

WITNESS: Several persons met me on the road and told me that they were rumours that the P.Y.C. were going to poison the water.

CHAIRMAN: What you told them?

WITNESS: I said I did not have any knowledge of ~~what they said.~~ ^{that}

MR. SHEPHERD: ~~Oh, Oh!~~

CHAIRMAN: What then.

WITNESS: I took a bucket and went to draw some water, ^{That day when} ~~but~~ my neighbours told me not to draw the water, because it has been poisoned.

CHAIRMAN : What you did?

WITNESS: I dr~~o~~w the water and later went to the Police Station and told

Mr. Batterfield what happened, but he told me that was not true.

CHAIRMAN: Yes? *When was this?*

WITNESS: On Saturday night

CHAIRMAN: This was on Saturday night?

WITNESS: Yes! On Sunday morning about 5 o'clock I heard a loud explosion.

CHAIRMAN: Can you remember where?

WITNESS: Yes. It was at Third Alley.

CHAIRMAN: When?

WITNESS: This was on the 24th May, 1964.

CHAIRMAN: Yes?

WITNESS: When I heard the explosion, I went to a neighbour and we went outside to watch the place where we heard the explosion. One Hackett lived in the house.

CHAIRMAN: What happened?

WITNESS: Mr. Hackett was not at home; he was at a house, where a child was dead, helping to make the coffin.

CHAIRMAN: Was he your friend?

WITNESS: Yes he was. He came later to me and asked me to give him meals for the day and I gave him meals and the night myself and Hackett went to keep watch at Senator Ramjattan's house. We started to watch from about 6.30 p.m. until next morning.

CHAIRMAN: What time in the morning?

WITNESS: Until 5.30 in the morning. About 7 that Sunday night, while we were watching, there was a big fire up D'Anjou hill. The house was the house owned by a man who works at the alluminum plant, named Ragnauth. Immediately after that, we saw another fire up the hill, it was a fellow who claimed that he was in a latrine, when some boys went and saturated the latrine with gasoline and caught it afire. About 9 o'clock that same Sunday night there was a loud explosion down south Wismar. Some boys in the theatre, after hearing the explosion ran out and then about 4 o'clock that Sunday morning there was another loud explosion some where around *Chandley* ~~Cholmerville~~ Hill. It was a shop owned by a girl named Doris. That was the last of the incidents *for* which I know

CHAIRMAN: What time did you leave?

WITNESS: I left about 6 o'clock for work. I worked until 3 o'clock. When I came out from the compound I met 6 men and 2 women at the gate. They told me, "Woolford we came to tell you that you must not go over to Wismar because they were burning and looting, and the fellows who are doing the burning are strangers, and they may not know you". I said I am going, & one of the 2 women said "man you are too strong headed". Eventually, I listened to them, and took their advice. I went and I stayed at Mackenzie at a sister of mine. The next morning which was Tuesday I went to work. I passed several crowds on the road, and they said to me, "Woolford you must stand clear, you are going to see what we are going to do with the Indians".

CHAIRMAN: This is the Tuesday morning?

WITNESS: Yes, I came back Tuesday morning at 3 o'clock from work. I drew my pay packet from the Royal Bank. I then met another crowd there. They said "For your own safety keep at Mackenzie, do not go to Wismar". While I was going to my sister's residence on that day I saw a crowd of women by the Mackenzie primary school, they said to me, "Woolford try and save yourself".

CHAIRMAN: You were warned to save yourself, as a result, what did you do? Did you leave Mackenzie? You did not go to Georgetown?

WITNESS: Well not until the night.

CHAIRMAN: Nothing happened before you left by the boat for Georgetown?

WITNESS: No one threatened me, and no one beat me.

CHAIRMAN: Then the night you left by the R.H. Carr for Georgetown?

WITNESS: Before I left ^{on} Wednesday I took up one of the ^{company's} ~~compound's~~ telephone and dialed 555, that was about 9 o'clock.

CHAIRMAN: What is that number for?

WITNESS: That ~~is~~ ^{is} when you want to call the police for the area.

CHAIRMAN: When did you leave for Georgetown? The Tuesday or the Wednesday?

WITNESS: Wednesday. I phoned the police and fortunately, I was able to speak to Mr. Hobbs. I said I needed some protection to go to Wismar to get some of my belongings, from my house. He said to me that there is no policeman now, and I can call back later. That was about the morning I made another call about 11.15 that same day. He said that there is no police. I left and went to Demba office to draw my leave and pay money.

Mr. Hobbs then came over to me and said "I was just coming to look for you to tell you that we can offer you no protection". When I went to draw my leave and pay money, I saw the manager of Demba, and I told him my position. He told me "not to take my time" as there is leave coming. *terminate my service and to take the leave take*
was due to me.
I then came away that night by the R.H. Carr about 6.30. *but as my leave is coming to take my time.*

CHAIRMAN: You returned to Mackenzie any time?

WITNESS: No.

CHAIRMAN: You did not go back since then? You did not go back in July.

WITNESS: No Sir.

CHAIRMAN: You were not attacked and beaten in July?

WITNESS: Yes Sir, that was in 1963.

CHAIRMAN: You heard explosions on Sunday; you saw fires during the Sunday morning. Did you make any efforts to contact the police?

WITNESS: No.

CHAIRMAN: Why?

WITNESS: The fire was not on us.

CHAIRMAN: In the meantime you were waiting for it to come on you?

You could have been the representative of the area.

WITNESS: You see, Sir, if we had gone to contact the Police our house might have been burnt down too.

MR. SHEPHERD: The P.Y.O. is the People's Youth Organisation?

WITNESS: It is an arm of the People's Progressive Party.

SHEPHERD: Which arm?

WITNESS: It is a Youth arm.

SHEPHERD: Is it a big organisation?

WITNESS: It has a few people well.

SHEPHERD: There were rumours that the P.Y.O. had come to Wismar to poison the water. Did you believe that rumour?

WITNESS: No.

SHEPHERD: Did other people believe the rumour?

WITNESS: Yes.

SHEPHERD: What is the P.Y.O. chiefly made up of?

WITNESS: A balance of East Indians and Africans.

SHEPHERD: They were many people who believed the rumour at Wismar.

WITNESS: Yes.

/Shepherd: But

SHEPHERD: But I put it to you that many Africans believed the ~~rumour~~, because the P.Y.O. had been reported causing disturbances. You agree?

WITNESS: You see, Sir, there are people in the area who are super-sensitive; when they want to do something, they get the people worked up.

SHEPHERD: How long had the P.Y.O. been a bogey?

WITNESS: I can't say how long.

SHEPHERD: When were you beaten?

WITNESS: In July 1963.

SHEPHERD: Are you a member of the P.P.P.

WITNESS: Yes, I am.

SHEPHERD: What work do you do?

WITNESS: Canvassing.

SHEPHERD: How long have you been employed by the P.P.P.

WITNESS: Since I came down in May.

SHEPHERD: In May you were told not to return to Wismar. Did you remain on the right bank of the river? Did you later go across to the left side?

WITNESS: If I had got the Police protection. I asked for I would have gone to Wismar.

SHEPHERD: Did you see strangers around when you were going to work on Monday morning, May 25th.

WITNESS: There were a lot on the road.

SHEPHERD: You left for work at 6 a.m. Describe them. How were they dressed?

WITNESS: Khaki pants and khaki shirts, white shirt and black pants.

SHEPHERD: About how many groups?

WITNESS: Three or four.

SHEPHERD: About how old?

WITNESS: About 20 - 25

SHEPHERD: Were they marching like soldiers?

WITNESS: No.

SHEPHERD: Did you report this to the Police?

WITNESS: No. *Said you were*

GARTER: You are taking time off from the Company? What do you mean by "taking time"

WITNESS: To give up my job. I was advised by the company to look for some other work.

P.N. SINGH: You said on the 21st you were told to stay clear of Wismar.

Who used these words "stand clear and you will see what we will do with the Indians" Do you know their names?

WITNESS: Yes, Daphne Gittens, Pearlie Cooper, Jean and the men Stanley Hope and Walcott.

P.N. SINGH: These people; where do they live?

WITNESS: They live at Wismar.

P.N. SINGH: Do you know a man ^{my uncle} named "Banga Mary"?

WITNESS: Yes.

P.N. SINGH: Did you see him there?

WITNESS: Yes, he was up there.

P.N. SINGH: Where and when did you see Banga Mary?

WITNESS: On the Thursday night before the disturbances.

P.N. SINGH: That would be the 21st May, 1964. Where did you see him?

WITNESS: I saw him at Lee ^{Tang}'s shop.

P.N. SINGH: Where?

WITNESS: At Lee Ling's Shop at Wismar.

P.N. SINGH: You were about to say that he told you something. What did he tell you?

WITNESS: He told me nothing then, but about 2 weeks before, he told me that bad things involving the People's Progressive Party would happen at Wismar.

P.N. SINGH: Where were you at that time?

WITNESS: I was standing in front of ^{Lee} Tang's shop at First Alley.

P.N. SINGH: I suppose you went on to ask him what were the bad things that would have happened at Wismar.

WITNESS: No, ^{because} I did not believe him. ~~because I did not believe him.~~ At that time things were very quiet. The only cause of worry was the lack of water.

P.N. SINGH: Did you see him subsequently?

WITNESS: Yes, On Thursday at Lee ^{Tang}'s Shop.

P.N. SINGH: Did you speak with him?

WITNESS: Yes.

P.N. SINGH: What was the nature of the conversation?

WITNESS: He said that members of the P.P.P. were in danger and that I would see what would happen to me. I tried to continue on my way but he

held on to my cycle and demanded that I pay attention to him. I later saw P.C. Brown and called him to my assistance. (He is stationed at Mackenzie Police Station). P.C. Brown asked me what was the matter and I told him that Banga Mary was molesting me. Following my complaint he gave Banga Mary a push and informed him that my political affiliations were strictly my concern. He added that if he was present when they are beating me they would have to beat him as well.

P.N. SINGH: Save and except for the burning did you see anybody being beaten?

WITNESS: No.

P.N. SINGH: When you heard this explosion, did you see any Policeman or volunteer around?

WITNESS: No.

P.N. SINGH: You said that Hackett was not home because he was making a coffin for a little child that had died. Did you know how the child died?

WITNESS: No.

P.N. SINGH: While you were going to your sister's home you said that a group of women warned you of your going to Wismar. Who were they?

WITNESS: They were residents of Mackenzie and Wismar.

P.N. SINGH: Did you hear any mention of the Sealey's incident at Buxton?

WITNESS: No.

P.N. SINGH: When did you hear of it?

WITNESS: I heard of it a few days before the disturbances.

P.N. SINGH: Thank you.

DR. DRAYTON: Mr. Woolford on the Thursday before the Monday 25th, did you hear of any threats being made against the Indians of the Wismar Area,

WITNESS: Yes.

DR. DRAYTON: What threats did you hear?

WITNESS: Well, they said that they would start beating the Indians. Banga Mary made such a statement personally to me.

DR. DRAYTON: Apart from Banga Mary, was there any other stranger that visited the area and gave advice of coming events?

WITNESS: No.

DR. DRAYTON: So you did not know of the visit of Robert Jordan?

/Witness. Yes

WITNESS: Yes, I did know of the visit of Jordon, but I did not consider Robert Jordon as a stranger to Wismar since he has a house there.

DR. DRAYTON: Did you hear of statements made by him the previous week?

WITNESS: Not personally, I heard rumours.

DR. DRAYTON: So you heard rumours, did you hear that the P.Y.O. had poisoned the water and that this information had led to tension in the area?

WITNESS: Yes.

DR. DRAYTON: Did you make a report to the General Secretary of your party, telling her of the rumours and of the tensions in the area?

WITNESS: No.

DR. DRAYTON: Did you not think that you should have reported the matter?

WITNESS: No, I did not think so.

DR. DRAYTON: Are you not ^{the} Chairman of the Party's group in that area?

WITNESS: Yes.

DR. DRAYTON: Yet you did not think it was necessary to report.

WITNESS: No, I only report matters in relation to party matters.

DR. DRAYTON: Now the whole of Monday and Tuesday you were at Mackenzie, did you hear of or see any of the victims that had been taken across the river?

WITNESS: No.

DR. DRAYTON: Did you visit the schools where the refugees were stationed?

WITNESS: No.

DR. DRAYTON: You at no time had anything to do with what would have been part of your constituency if you had won the seat in 1961.

WITNESS: I think of going if I had the Police protection.

DR. DRAYTON: When you heard that big things were going to happen you didn't do anything about it. You didn't say anything to anyone?

WITNESS: No Sir, that is a matter for the police.

DR. DRAYTON: What is your address? Where do you live?

WITNESS: Wismar Lot 14, Yaw's Yard.

MR. MCDONALD: Now I wonder - you were a P.P.P. candidate in 1961. Mr. Jordon was a P.N.C. candidate. Was there any other candidates in that constituency?

WITNESS: Yes a U.F. man name ^{by the way} Thomas Aaron.

MR. MCDONALD: Were they just three of you?

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CHAIRMAN: Where was your wife at that time?

WITNESS: My wife left the house and went away to the Trade School. Then we were taken to Georgetown the Tuesday morning and about one o'clock to Plantation Industry. I stay there until the last day of June. Then on Monday I went to the office, I see Mr. and Mrs. Fraser. He said I could go back and work. I went back to start to work on that day.

CHAIRMAN: Yes?

WITNESS: Well I work Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

CHAIRMAN: Where did you stay?

WITNESS: Well I stay the 3 days at the Guest House.

CHAIRMAN: Did you visit your home?

WITNESS: I went back to my home.

CHAIRMAN: What did you see?

WITNESS: Nothing in the house.

CHAIRMAN: What happened after?

WITNESS: Well I started to work from Monday to Thursday.

CHAIRMAN: Yes?

WITNESS: I noticed when I went to the front step to escape I saw a crowd of negro boys.

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

WITNESS: So I told my son what are we going to do now.

CHAIRMAN: There was no escape at the front door neither at the back.

CHAIRMAN: What happened?

WITNESS: The last I could have remembered that I was beaten, and I believe I was unconscious.

CHAIRMAN: You believe?

WITNESS: Yes Sir, I was unconscious.

CHAIRMAN: What injuries you suffered?

WITNESS: A cut on my face, and a chop on my belly, and then I became unconscious.

CHAIRMAN: What happened?

WITNESS: I think I spend 11 days at the Mc.Kenzie hospital and then was transferred to the Mercy Hospital.

CHAIRMAN: How long did you spend in Hospital?

/ WITNESS:...