

PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY

CABLE ADDRESS: "PPP"

FREEDOM HOUSE

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BRITISH GUIANA.

Chairman — B. H. BENN
Treasurer — RAM KARRAN

General Secretary — JANET JAGAN

August 29, 1963

Editor
New York Herald Tribune
New York City

Dear Sir,

Today I saw a copy of a copyrighted article by the New York Herald Tribune, Inc. printed by the Los Angeles Times and written by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak. The article deals with the British Guiana situation and contains a number of false statements. I refer particularly to the so-called evidence of Anne Jardim — "In her briefcase was evidence of \$120,000 in recent fund transfers from the Soviet Ministry of Education to Freedom House, headquarters of the Jagan's People's Progress Party and of a \$1 million indirect loan to Jagan from Fidel Castro's National Bank of Havana".

For your information I enclose copy of a press statement which I issued at a press conference at which representatives of the local press and overseas newsagencies were present. I also enclose copies of photostats of those produced by Ann Jardim in Washington. I would appreciate if you would confirm with your own copies that these are the same. I also enclose copy of a letter from the Manager of Barclay's Bank, Georgetown. And just in case you may doubt the accuracy of this photostat (As many US pressmen seem to have a reluctance to believe the truth once it does not match with certain preconceived ideas), I would urge you to check direct with the Bank.

I take this trouble, in the interest of truth and the hope that some newspapers will take the trouble to correct an untruth.

Just before closing, a small note. The article states — "Meetings by anti-communist opposition parties are harassed by bomb throwing goons". Have you ever tried to ascertain the number of Government buildings which were dynamited by the opposition and the number of people beaten up by hooligans of the opposition? You would find the figures very interesting.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Jagan
General Secretary, PPP

cc Editor, Los Angeles Times

Senator Anne Jardim called a Press Conference in Washington on August 12, at which time she displayed documents which she claimed were authentic. The documents alleged to prove that the P.P.P. had received the sum of \$127,000 direct from Moscow over a short period of two months in this year.

A United Force statement printed in British Guiana stated:

"The documents displayed by Senator Anne Jardim in the USA are authentic. The United Force is in a position to prove that the P.P.P. has received, over the short period of two months in this year, over \$127,000 direct from Moscow. We are in a position to give the exact amounts transferred from Moscow to Freedom House; the exact dates upon which those amounts were received; the exact sources from whence they were received and the exact method utilised to transfer the money."

This allegation, as you know, was denied by the Premier. In reply to this, the United Force in its Press Release printed on August 16, stated:

"The Premier, the Hon. Dr. Cheddi Jagan, is reported to have denied that the P.P.P. is receiving money from Russia. He has implied proof of this made available to the Press in the U.S.A. by Senator Anne Jardim are false, and he has called her a liar.

In the same breath Dr. Jagan has stated that he will request the Banks to order an inquiry into whether the documents in the possession of Miss Jardim are authentic.

The fact that the Premier's statement is a contradiction in terms seems to have eluded him. If Miss Jardim is a liar; if the documents in her possession are false, then why the need for the Banks to find they are false? The United Force now openly and without fear, calls the Premier of this country a liar".

This, of course is a serious charge, moreso, when a political party asks newspapers to publish statements that the elected Premier of the country is a liar.

It was to get the truth that the P.P.P. has called this Press Conference at which the documents displayed by Senator Jardim in the U.S.A. could be examined openly in British Guiana. The documents which were presented to the Press in the U.S.A. are now presented to you.

We also exhibit a letter from the Manager of Barclays Bank, D.C.O., Georgetown from which the alleged documents were supposed to have originated. You will note that the Manager refers to my visit to him today at which time I presented the Jardim documents. In his letter he states categorically that "no such transactions have passed through our books."

The documents are clearly forgeries. An outrageous fraud has been perpetrated on the Press and public; both here and abroad. We present to each representative of the Press photostatic copies of all the documents involved in this grave deception by the United Force. We also wish you to note that the United Force deliberately refrained from exposing these documents in British Guiana, as their non-authenticity would have been soon established. It is also important to note that last year, Mr. D'Aguiar, Leader of the U.F. claimed to have documents of a similar nature. He made announcements in London at the Constitutional Conference, but failed to produce the documents in British Guiana when challenged by the Premier.

The only conclusion which can be arrived at is that false documents have been prepared to bolster stories intended to bring into disrepute and the contempt the Government of British Guiana and the P.P.P.

At the conclusion of this Press Conference I will hand over all relevant documents to the Criminal Investigation Department for their examination and consideration of any action which may be required.