Comments on The Political Situation

by Janet Jagan

The Daily Chronicle of October 22nd wrote—"The Government was not mandated to demand independence. Independence was not an issue at the last elections." What a shameful situation exists when Guianese writers could make such false claims and prostitute all their ideals in order to take battle against an issue that all peoples of all ages have fought for!

Where in the world is there another colonial territory that does not want its independence? I can recall once at a Student Assembly and Burnham in London didn't want independence! No! They wanted self-government, not independence. But when the issue became so hot during the elections, and everyone was jumping on the bandwagon calling for independence, Burnham and company had to get into step. So we then had the famous cry of Burnham—"When Jagan goes to London to ask for independence, I shall go on the same plane," or words to that effect.

PNC's New Line

Well, all the shouting of the elections is over, and the PNC leadership, which obviously was forced into that stand during elections, so as to satisfy a section of militant and thinking following, now has a new line—"We don't want the Jagan-type independence." In reality, the PNC is little different from the United Force on the issue, for basically, the two parties are hostile to independence.

If Burnham had had any political sense, instead of sitting down on the pavement and saying "Grey must go," he would have shouted—"We want full independent status. No more powers to colonial governors and no more Colonial Office Governors. In fact, we don't want any more Governors. We want a wholly elected system of Government." But no, Burnham only thought of saying "We want a Guianese Governor," when some of his followers realised how utterly stupid was the cry "Grey Must Go". And this, of course, was after he had missed the bus.

Silly Rumbling

The rumbling from the opposition is getting so silly that one wonders where they will end. We have D'Aguiar now claiming he got the PPP to say that they would remain in the Commonwealth after independence. The trouble...
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with D’Aguiar is that he is a “sometime” politician, and hasn’t been around much until this year.

Maybe he should look at the January 5, 1957 issue of Thunder and observe a list of questions and answers given by the Party Leader “Does our party intend to sever connection with the Commonwealth upon the achievement of independence in British Guiana?” Answer “While we present our colonial status, we do not advocate severance from the British Commonwealth after our independence so long as this relationship is to our mutual advantage and benefit.

WORLD PEACE

If the Commonwealth, with its enlarged and enlarging membership recognises the equality and complete independence of its members and consults them on all major questions of policy, it can evolve into a force for good, for the preservation of world peace.”

Next we have Mr. Stephen Campbell of the United Force complaining that when he goes to the Legislative Assembly and objects to the Governor’s address at the opening of the Legislature, what happens? Why, he is horrified that when the vote is taken, the opposition gets the minority of votes and all is carried. After four years, one would imagine that he and his party would finally realise that democratic government is based on this very principle. If he and his party are not prepared to accept the counting of votes, then it must mean that they are in favour of dictatorship, and one fears, that is really what they believe in.

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