

JANET SAYS:**Caribbean Council Only Vehicle for Friendship**

Mrs. Janet Jagan, told delegates at the inaugural meeting of the Caribbean Council that "this Organisation is the only vehicle for bringing the several territories of the Caribbean together to exchange friendships, knowledge and experience."

Mrs. Jagan, who along with Mr. D. P. D'Andrade, represented the country at the meeting which took place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, added that "no longer can we live in isolation from one another divided by language and cultural difference. Of necessity, we must draw closer together and join our efforts to make our Caribbean community a better place to live in."

Following is Mrs. Jagan's address.

"As the delegate from British Guiana it gives me great pleasure to be here at the inauguration of the new Caribbean Organization. For us it comes at a most significant moment. For today, in British Guiana, a new Government is being formed, under the first self-governing constitution in our long history as a Colony. There is now left for British Guiana only the final step to independent status, which we predict will follow shortly.

"Thus, the change-over from the Caribbean Commission to the Caribbean Organization, with all that it implies, on this day, is doubly significant to us and fills our hearts with joy.

MEANINGFUL BODY

"The Caribbean Commission has died a timely and honourable death to give life to its offspring, the Caribbean Organization. We welcome the new Organization and are confident that it will be a useful and integral part of our Caribbean Community. To make it a meaningful body is the task before us in the days which follow this impressive inauguration.

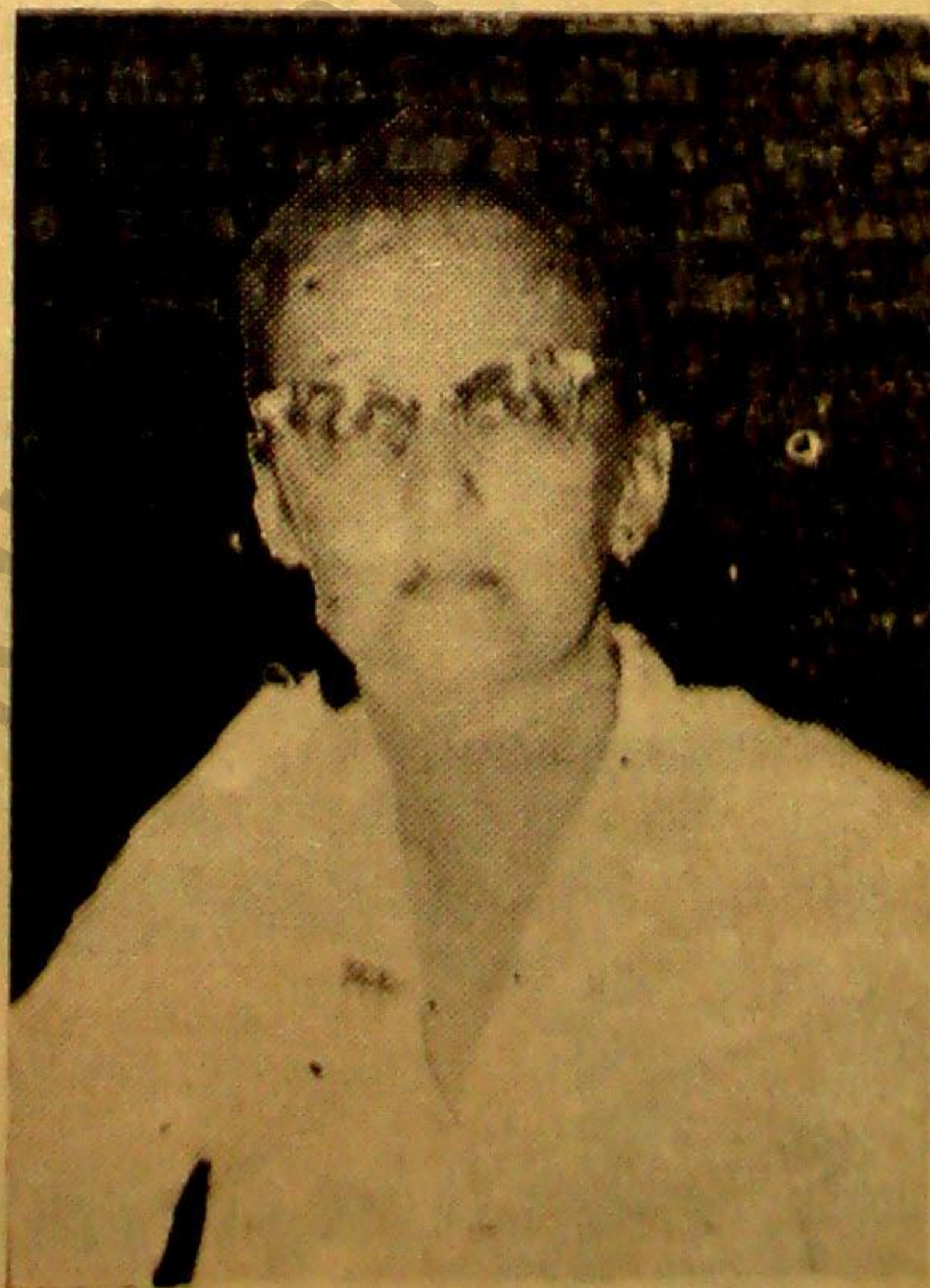
"At the moment, this Organization is the only vehicle for bringing the several territories of the Caribbean together to exchange friendships, knowledge, and experience. As the whole world, by the rapid advances in science, shrinks and geographical and national barriers lose their significance, so must it be in our

Caribbean Area.

"No longer can we live in isolation from one another, divided by language and cultural differences. We share the same geography; we share the same poverty and backwardness. Of necessity, we must draw closer together and join our efforts to make our Caribbean community a better place to live in.

CLOSER LINKS

"The Caribbean Commission has been the only means of do-



Mrs. Janet Jagan

ing so, and in that respect, it has served. However, the links must now be drawn closer and welded, and it was from this desire that the idea of a Caribbean Organization evolved.

"We feel that the discussions on the proposed Caribbean Plan

are of the utmost importance to the future of the Caribbean Organization. If we can succeed in evolving a sound and practical plan for economic and social development of the Caribbean region we will have succeeded in giving real life and meaning to the new Organization. But let us keep our plans practical so that we may soon have achievements, however small, to inspire us to bigger and better achievements.

EMPIRE BUILDERS

"For to us, the problems of the Caribbean are regional problems which can no longer be divided by the knives of the old conquerors and empire builders who cut this lovely Caribbean into zones belonging to different metropolitan powers. Geography and economic realities protest against this abnormal division. It is now our task to make a useful contribution towards the solution of these problems and to see that the new Caribbean Organization becomes a useful and accepted guide in our Caribbean Community."

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