

Cheddi & Janet Jagan
Wedding photo – August 5, 1943

*Cheddi & Janet
Jagan*

The year was 1918, when on March 22, in a rural village in Guyana, the remarkable life of an ordinary sugar worker's son began. His name was Cheddi Jagan, and before his time was over he would change the course of his country's history by first struggling to liberate it from British colonial domination, then by waging a 28 year long struggle for the restoration of freedom and democracy, and finally by ascending to the Presidency as Guyana's first democratically elected Head of State.



Alongside Dr. Jagan in all these struggles was his American born wife, lifelong friend and political partner, Janet, who left the USA for life in Guyana where she remained until her death on March 28, 2009. She was a woman of a number of firsts in her long history of involvement in her adopted country's politics.

She was to reach the pinnacle as first woman Head of State in December 1997, following the death in office of her husband on March 6, after first serving as Prime Minister.

Bachelor of Science Degree
Awarded to Cheddi Jagan on January 31, 1942

Central Y M C A College
Chicago

The Board of Directors, by virtue of the authority vested in them,
and upon recommendation of the Faculty, have conferred on

Cheddi Jagan

the degree of

Bachelor of Science

and have granted this Diploma as evidence thereof

Chicago, Illinois, January 31, 1942.

Fu Knight

Chairman, Board of Directors

Donald W. Steward

Registrar



Edward J. Sparling

President

William F. Cramer

Dean

*Degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery
Awarded to Cheddi Jagan on June 13, 1942*

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, CHICAGO

ON RECOMMENDATION OF THE FACULTY OF THE DENTAL
SCHOOL, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY HAS CONFERRED
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY ON
CHEDDI JAGAN

WHO HAS HONORABLY FULFILLED ALL THE REQUIREMENTS
PRESCRIBED BY THE UNIVERSITY FOR THAT DEGREE. DONE AT
EVANSTON THIS THIRTEENTH DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR OF
OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY TWO



James M. ...

Charles ...

Dean ...

...

Enmore Tragedy



Cheddi Jagan addressing workers in 1948

"The Enmore tragedy affected me greatly. I was personally acquainted with all the young men killed and injured. The funeral procession, which was led by my wife, other leaders and myself to the city 16 miles away became a tremendous mass protest demonstration. At the graveside the emotional outbursts of the widows and relatives of the deceased had been intensely distressing, and I could with difficulty restrain my tears. There was to be no turning back. There and then I made a silent pledge - I would dedicate my entire life to the cause of the struggle of the Guyanese people against bondage and exploitation." Cheddi Jagan

PPP 1st Election Victory

People's Progressive Party Scores First Victory in Municipal Elections

Mrs. Janet Jagan Heads Polls in Werk-en-Rust Four-Cornered Contest

Mr. John Gonsalves Re-elected for Charlestown-Albouystown

A tumultuous applause by hundreds of people in the Town Hall and its compound last night expressed the joy of the masses, when Mrs. Janet Jagan, People's Progressive Party candidate, was returned at the head of the polls in a close finish for the Werk-en-Rust—Worimanville seat in the Georgetown Municipality.

But the jubilant crowd boomed in a milder tone as the Returning Officer, Mr. E. A. Adams, Town Clerk, declared Mr. John Gonsalves, veteran politician, duly re-elected as representative of the Charlestown—Albouystown ward for another two-year term.



Mrs. Janet Jagan, who scored the first victory for the People's Progressive Party.

Mrs. Jagan, who had sought Legislative honours in November, 1947, and tasted defeat in Georgetown Central District, ran true to form yesterday, following her own statement on Wednesday night that she would win.

THE RESULTS

The results are:

Werk-en-Rust—Worimanville: Of a total electorate of 740 voters, 610 exercised the franchise. Mrs. Jagan polled 196, Mr. Celestine de Freitas 178, Mr. Claude Merriman 174 and Mr. Oscar Beresford 54. There were 12 spoilt votes.

Charlestown—Albouystown: Of an electorate of 485 voters, 399 cast their votes. Of this total, Mr. John

Gonsalves secured 190, Dr. R. S. Hansman 101, the Hon. D. P. Debidin 90 and Mr. H. S. Carthy 4. Spoilt votes:—14.

KEEN INTEREST EVINCED

It was the hottest day of the elections in which women suffragettes turned up at the polling station in large numbers, rubbing shoulders with hundreds of men. From the time the gates flew, interest was keen and some 50 persons had dropped their choice in the ballot boxes within the first 10 minutes.

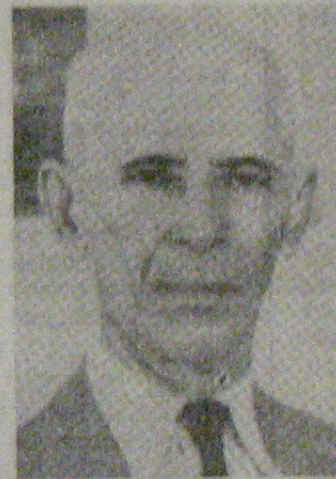
A steady stream of traffic was maintained throughout the day and at 5 o'clock, when the doors were closed for the count, scores of men and women had already congregated outside.

By 6.30, the second act was all over and though many people claimed to have seen the P.P.P.'s victory signal through a window, they remained orderly until they got the declarations from the Returning Officer himself.

Those in Mr. Claude Merriman's camp, however, did not seem too dismayed and still had a ray of hope, for as the Returning Officer, in making the announcement, called this candidate's name first, there was applause. But it was not for long and as Mrs. Janet Jagan's name and number were announced the crowd, both inside the hall and outside went wild. The ovation was deafening and the other names were scarcely heard at the Press table, as the applause was kept up for some minutes.

It was the natural reaction of a crowd which had been waiting anxiously for 90 minutes to hear the news a supporter said. This same crowd, however, had earlier surged on the door when a constable was about to open it for them to enter the hall. They smashed the glass door and injured the constable, who could not have opened it fast enough to let the throng inside.

Now inside, they hummed and hissed and made it impossible for the Returning Officer to announce the results of the Charlestown contest. Mr. Adams asked them to be quiet so that he could proceed with his business. This they granted him, but no sooner had he called the name of the victor, Mr. John Gonsalves, than the noise started again. This time a few persons clapped, but booms from the dissatisfied crowd drowned this poor applause and it



Mr. John Gonsalves, veteran politician, who was re-elected in Charlestown—Albouystown.

went on for some time. The result was that the proceedings came to an abrupt end and no speeches were made.

Mr. Adams said last night that in view of the behaviour of the crowd he had definitely made up his mind not to allow the public access to the Town Hall today. He would, however, arrange to see if he could get a loud-speaker installed for the benefit of those in the compound. Candidates and their supporters would be allowed inside the building.

MR. MERRIMAN SAYS THANKS

Mr. Claude Merriman, who did not get an opportunity to speak, handed the following statement to the Press—

"My first duty is to thank that por-

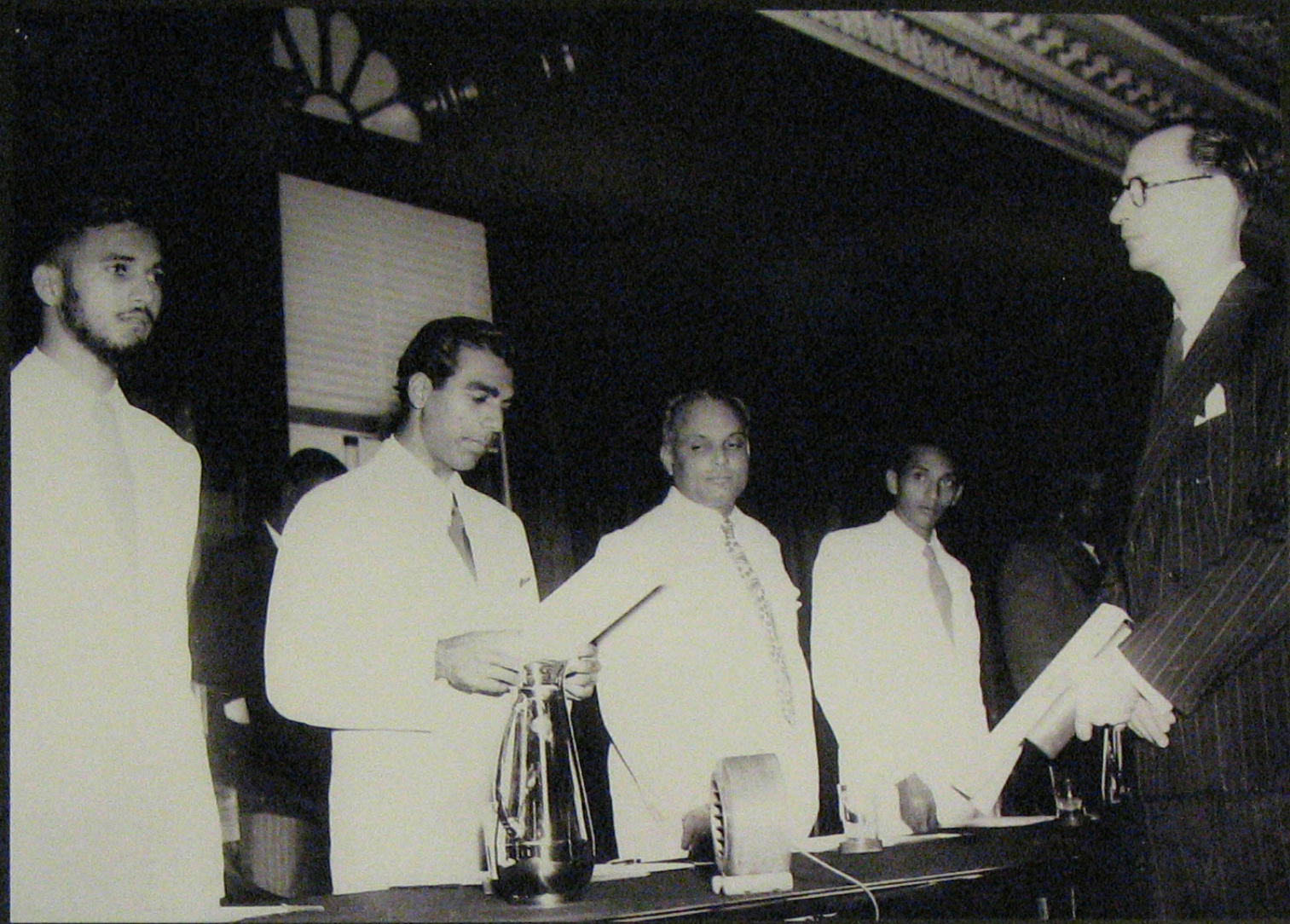
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By Argony, Dec 1, 1950

Swearing in 1953



Victory at 1953 Elections

The year 1953 was one of great historical importance to all Guyanese. It was the year of the first Guyanese people's victory of the 20th century, when, organised and led by the newly-formed People's Progressive Party, a resounding success was obtained at the first elections ever held under universal adult suffrage. Led by the PPP, the people's demands for self government had been partly won with Guyana (then British Guiana) having one of the most advanced constitutions in the British Empire.

From April to October 1953, Cheddi Jagan headed the 1st PPP elected government and was Minister of Agriculture.

WELCOME ADDRESS

GIVEN BY

Shahdara Municipal Committee

TO

Dr. CHEDDI JAGGAN & Mr. L. F. S. BURNDAM,

Leaders of People's Progressive Party, British Guiana.

Dear Friends!

Your circumstantial arrival in India reflects upon us our own deficiency of not having already reached you with our offer of full co-operation in your fight against the colonial oppression by yet lingering curse of Imperialism as disgraceful blot on the later half of this century. Freedom of all peoples irrespective of race, colour and creed, is a fundamental article of faith with us and we believe that freedom is indivisible, and therefore, it is our duty to fight on, till every people have come into their own. Then alone can the world embark on the much needed tasks of social re-construction. All nations believe in the movement for the maintenance of peace in the world but surprisingly a common fight against colonialism which is one of the chief factors that threatens world peace is yet not organized collectively by all the nations. We hold colonialism is the first problem to be tackled without which it is rather an impossibility to realise the dream of a happy new world.

You have emerged out successful in your struggle by winning the confidence of your people of whom you are now the symbol. We assure you, our Friends, no power on earth can defeat your cause now. We have learnt this by experience. Your task is already done and it is now the duty of all civilized people of the world to take to their hearts your cause as their own. We believe the dignity of the civilized world will not tolerate the disgrace of an assault on democracy where-ever it is inflicted by what-ever powers.

Are they not the men to oppress you who from time to time have been demanding from us the sacrifice of blood of our lives for the good cause of democracy. We stand shoulder to shoulder in all your tasks. **SUCCESS is OURS.**

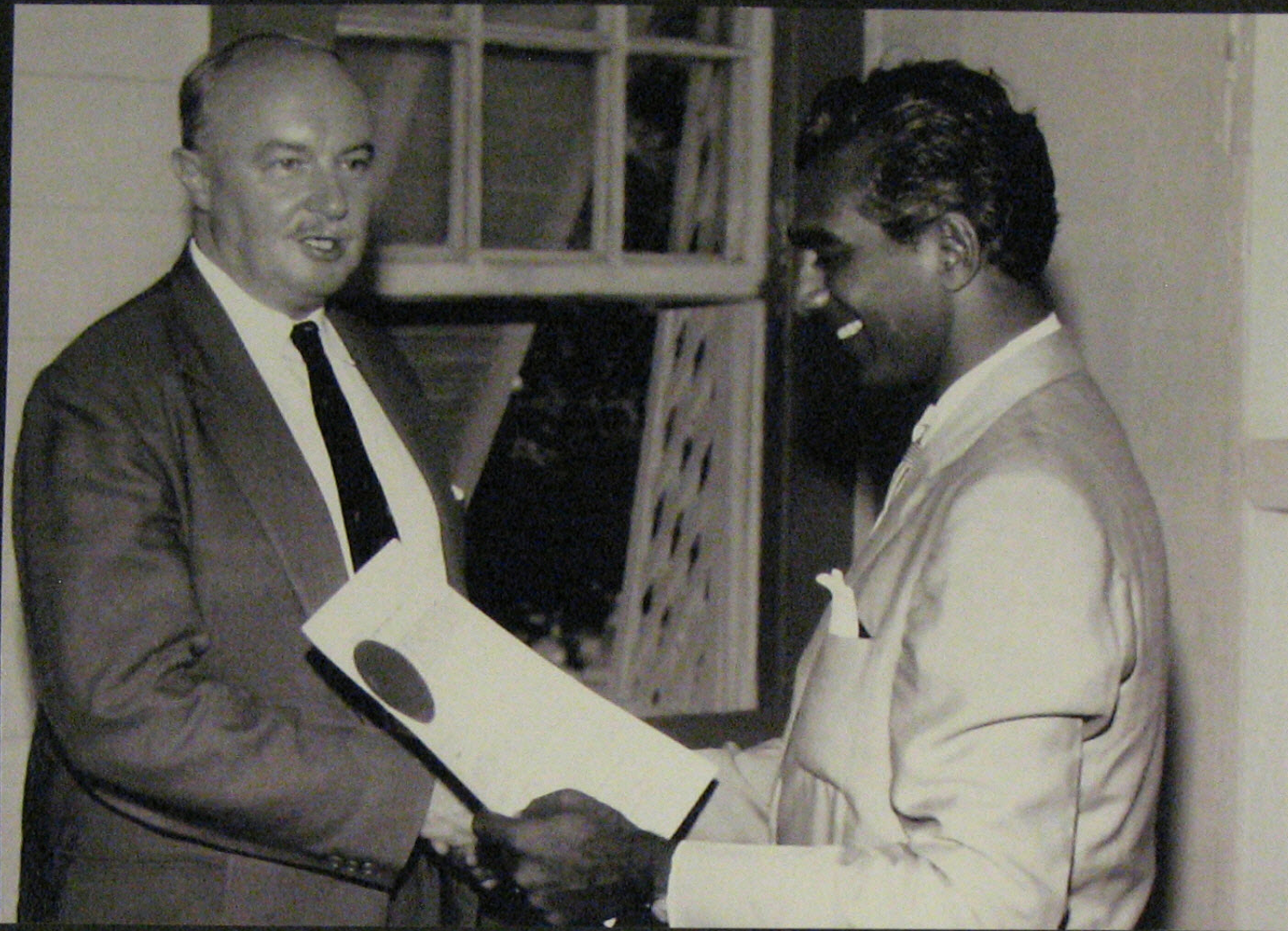
This is a small town-ship in the suburb of Delhi, the capital of India with meagre resources. We feel we have failed to give you a befitting reception but believe it is here before you the feelings and good wishes of thousands of intellectual and manual toilers, and labourers clinging to this address presented to you this evening which will go far to give courage to the people of British Guiana to cast off their bondage of slavery.

We are yours Fraternally,

**The President and Members of the
Shahdara Municipal Committee.**

Dated 26th Nov. 1953.

Swearing in as Premier of British Guiana

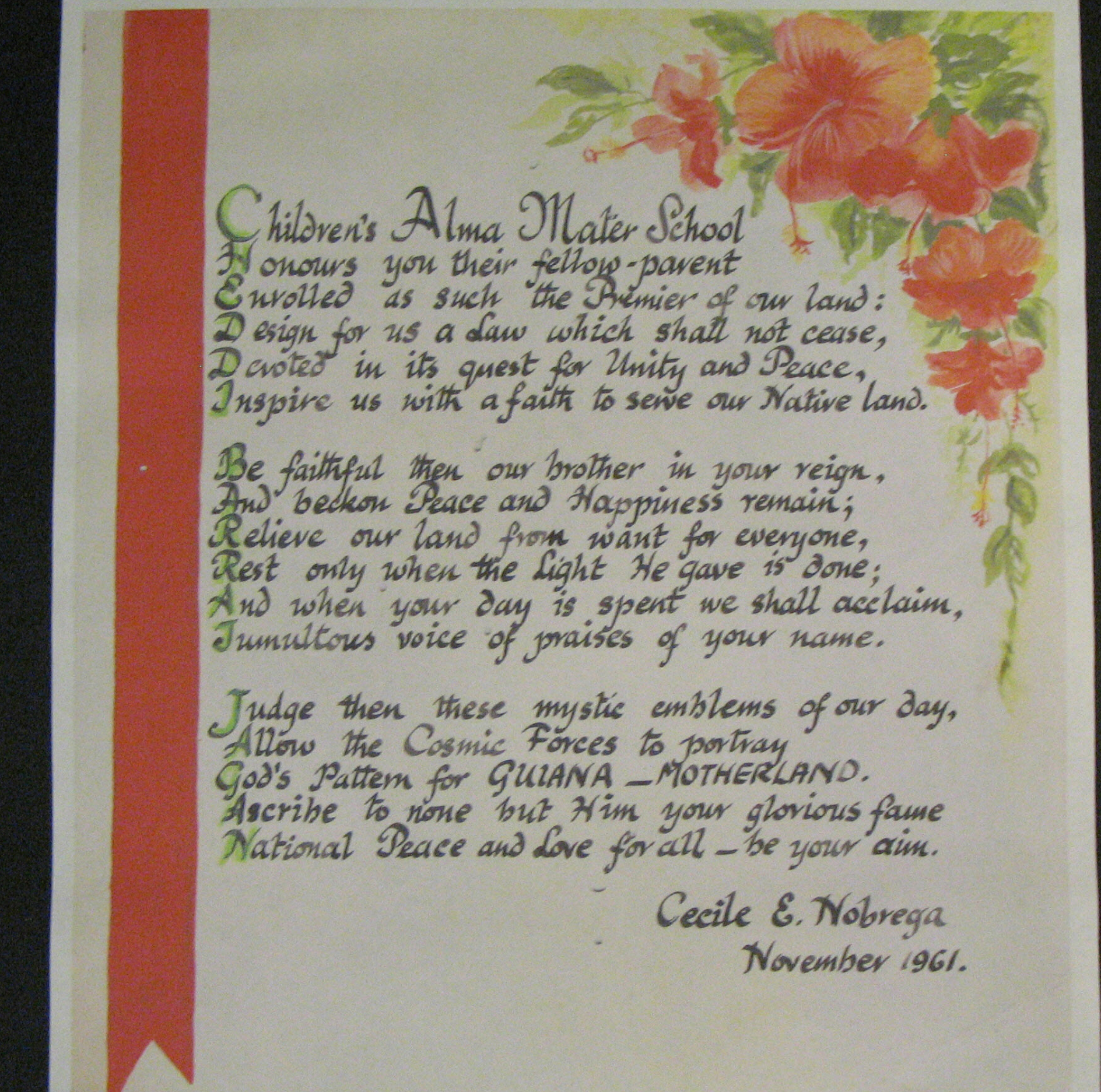


Victory Message by Dr. Cheddi Jagan after the PPP won the General Elections on August 21, 1961.

"The General Election is over and the people of British Guiana have given our Party an overwhelming vote of confidence. They have accepted my invitation extended to them in my last pre-election broadcast and have ranged themselves beside me. In this way, they have given me the strength and authority to move forward on the course I have already charted."

"From this day forward we shall need the good-will and hard work of all our people so that we may proceed to make our country a fit and proper home for heroes in the struggle for political and economic independence. Let there be an end to sectional racial quarrels and suspicions so that national unity may be restored."

"There is work ahead. Let us get on with it."



Children's Alma Mater School
Honours you their fellow-parent
Enrolled as such the Premier of our land:
Design for us a Law which shall not cease,
Devoted in its quest for Unity and Peace,
Inspire us with a faith to serve our Native land.

Be faithful then our brother in your reign,
And beckon Peace and Happiness remain;
Relieve our land from want for everyone,
Rest only when the Light He gave is done;
And when your day is spent we shall acclaim,
Tumultuous voice of praises of your name.

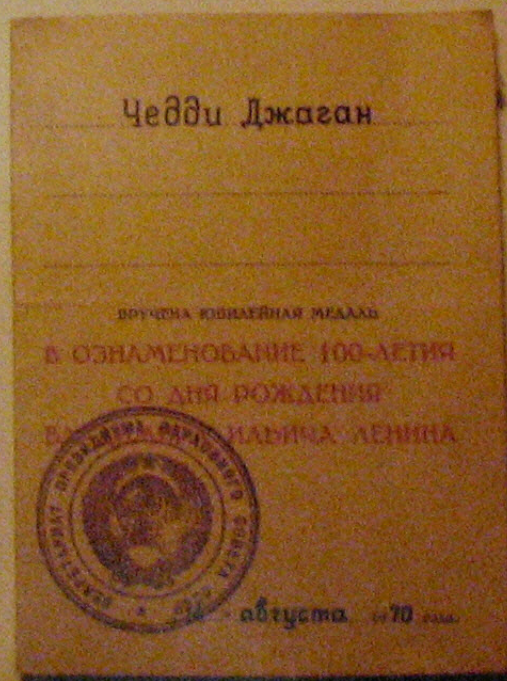
Judge then these mystic emblems of our day,
Allow the Cosmic Forces to portray
God's Pattern for GULIANA - MOTHERLAND.
Ascribe to none but Him your glorious fame
National Peace and Love for all - be your aim.

Cecile E. Nobrega
November 1961.

To celebrate 100th Birthday of Lenin, USSR

Presented to Dr. Cheddi Jagan & Janet Jagan in 1970

Awarded to all persons in state service on the occasion of Lenin's 100th Birthday, April 1970. (There are three different versions of this medal: a military version, a civilian version and a "for non-Soviet citizens" version.) These medals were awarded to 5000 members of foreign delegations.



Cheddi Jagan



Janet Jagan

Order of Friendship with the Peoples of USSR



Order of Friendship
with the People
USSR



Order of Friendship with the Peoples of USSR

Presented to Dr. Cheddi Jagan - March 22, 1978

The Order of Friendship of Peoples (Russian: Орден "Дружбы народов") was an order of the Soviet Union, and was awarded to persons (including non-citizens), organizations, enterprises, military units, as well as administrative subdivisions of the USSR for accomplishments in strengthening of inter-ethnic and international friendship and cooperation, for economical, political, scientific, military, and cultural development of the Soviet Union. It was established on October 17, 1972, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Soviet Union. It was abolished in 1991.



*Gold Star of International Friendship,
German Democratic Republic (GDR)*

DER VORSITZENDE DES STAATSRATES
DER
DEUTSCHEN DEMOKRATISCHEN REPUBLIK
VERLEIHT

CHEDDI JAGAN

IN WÜRDIGUNG AUSSERORDENTLICHER VERDIENSTE
UM DIE
FREUNDSCHAFT UND ZUSAMMENARBEIT DER VÖLKER
UND UM DIE
ERHALTUNG DES FRIEDENS
DEN
ORDEN

STERN
DER VÖLKERFREUNDSCHAFT
IN GOLD

BERLIN, DEN 22. MARZ 1988



E. J. Jagan



Order of the
German Democratic
Republic

Embassy
of the
German Democratic Republic
BOTSCHAFT DER DEUTSCHEN DEMOKRATISCHEN REPUBLIK



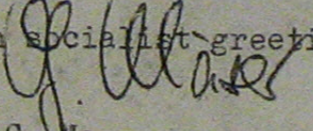
March 20, 1988

Cde. Dr. Cheddi Jagan
General Secretary
People's Progressive Party
Freedom House
41 Robb Street
Georgetown.

Dear Dr. Jagan,

It is a great pleasure for me to inform you officially that upon the proposal of the Polit Buero of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, you have been awarded the Order of "The Grand Star of International Friendship" in gold by Comrade Erich Honecker, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany on the occasion of your 70th Birthday.

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and on my own behalf permit me dear comrade Dr. Cheddi Jagan to convey to you hearty congratulations.

With socialist greetings

G. Maaser
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

Gold Star of International Friendship, (GDR)
Presented to Dr. Cheddi Jagan - March 22, 1988

The Star of Friendship of Nations was an order awarded by the German Democratic Republic (GDR). Established August 20, 1959 it was given to individuals of exceptional merit who had contributed to the "understanding and friendship between nations and preservation of peace". The Star of Friendship of Nations was given in three classes: 1st Class - Grand Star of Friendship of Nations in Gold (Großer Stern der Völkerfreundschaft in Gold).

The Chairman of the Council of State

of the

German Democratic Republic

awards

CHEDDI JAGAN

the order

GOLD STAR OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

for exceptional services rendered in
the cause of friendship and cooperation
between nations and in the cause of peace

Berlin, 22 March 1988

E. Honecker

Order of Solidarity, Cuba

Presented to Dr. Cheddi Jagan on May 20, 1988



EMBAJADA DE CUBA

Cro. Cheddy Jagan
Secretario General del Partido Progresista del Pueblo de
Guyana.

EN OCASION DE ARRIBAR A SU SETENTA ANIVERSARIO, EL PARTIDO
COMUNISTA DE CUBA A NOMBRE DE TODO NUESTRO PUEBLO DESEA EX
PRESARLE LAS MAS SINCERAS Y FRATERNALES FELICITACIONES.

LA ABNEGADA LABOR DESEMPEÑADA POR UD. EN ARAS DEL PROGRESO
Y LA FELICIDAD DEL PUEBLO Y DE LOS TRABAJADORES DE GUYANA,
EN LA DEFENSA DE LAS IDEAS DEL MARXISMO LENINISMO Y EL SO-
CIALISMO Y EN LA LUCHA ANTIMPERIALISTA, LE HAN HECHO ACREE
DOR DEL MERECIDO RESPETO DE TODAS LAS FUERZAS AMANTES DE LA
PAZ, LA JUSTICIA, LA DEMOCRACIA Y EL PROGRESO NO SOLO EN GU
YANA SINO TAMBIEN EN LA REGION CARIBENA DONDE SU APORTE PER
SONAL AL IMPULSO DE LAS IDEAS REVOLUCIONARIAS ES BIEN CONO-
CIDO.

EL PARTIDO Y EL PUEBLO CUBANO QUE HAN TENIDO EN UD. A UN -
VERDADERO AMIGO CUYA CONTRIBUCION AL DESARROLLO DE LAS RELA
CIONES ENTRE NUESTROS DOS PARTIDOS Y PUEBLOS HA SIDO DECISI
VA, LE PATENTIZAMOS EN TAN SIGNIFICATIVA FECHA NUESTRA INVA
RIABLE AMISTAD Y SOLIDARIDAD POR SU NOBLE LUCHA A FAVOR DE
LA INDEPENDENCIA, CONTRA EL COLONIALISMO, EL NEOCOLONIALIS-
MO, EL IMPERIALISMO Y OTRAS FORMAS DE EXPLOTACION Y OPRESION
EN ARAS DE UN FUTURO DE PAZ Y DESARROLLO PARA NUESTROS PUE-
BLOS.

POR TODO ELLO EL CONSEJO DE ESTADO DE LA REPUBLICA DE CUBA
HA DECIDIDO ENTREGARLE CON MOTIVO DE ESTE ANIVERSARIO LA OR
DEN DE LA SOLIDARIDAD, CUYA IMPOSICION SE LE HARA EN EL MO--
MENTO Y LUGAR OPORTUNOS.

LE DESEAMOS QUE DISFRUTE DE PLENA SALUD Y EXITOS EN LOS ANOS
VENIDERS.

COMITE CENTRAL
PARTIDO COMUNISTA DE CUBA.



Order of
Solidarity -
Cuba





EMBAJADA DE CUBA

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Cde Cheddi Jagan
General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party of
Guyana

ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR 70th BIRTHDAY, THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY ON BEHALF OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE WISHES TO EXPRESS OUR MOST SINCERE AND FRATERNAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

THE PAINSTAKING TASK THAT YOU HAVE DEVELOPED IN HONOR OF THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE AND OF THE WORKERS OF GUYANA, IN DEFENDING THE IDEAS OF MARXISM-LENINISM AND SOCIALISM AND IN THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE HAS TURNED YOU INTO A MAN WORTHY OF A WELL GAINED RESPECT FROM ALL THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE PEACE, JUSTICE, DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS, NOT ONLY IN GUYANA BUT IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION AS WELL, WHERE YOUR PERSONAL EFFORTS TO FORWARD THE REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS ARE WELL KNOWN.

THE CUBAN PARTY AND PEOPLE, WHO HAVE FOUND IN YOU A REAL FRIEND WHOSE CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOP THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR PARTIES AND PEOPLES HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE, WANT TO STATE TO YOU, IN SUCH A SIGNIFICANT DATE, OUR INVARIABLE FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY FOR YOUR HONEST STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, AGAINST COLONIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM AND OTHER FORMS OF EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION IN ORDER TO REACH A FUTURE OF PEACE AND GROWTH FOR OUR PEOPLES.

BECAUSE OF ALL THESE REASONS, THE COUNCIL OF STATES OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA HAS DECIDED TO AWARD YOU ON THIS BIRTHDAY WITH THE ORDER OF SOLIDARITY, THAT WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOU IN PROPER TIME AND PLACE.

WE WISH YOU ENJOY GOOD HEALTH AND SUCCESS IN THE COMING YEAR.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA.



EL CONSEJO DE ESTADO
DE LA
REPUBLICA DE CUBA

Ha Otorgado *la Orden "De la Solidaridad"*
A: *Cheddy Jagan*

por Acuerdo No. *741* de *27* de *enero* de 19 *88*

Ciudad de La Habana, a *27* de *enero* de 19 *88*

Registrado al No. *040 F° 182 T° 1*

Expediente No. *01367470*

Sección de Condecoraciones

[Signature]
Secretaría del Consejo de Estado

Oath of Office of President of Guyana

Dr. Cheddi Jagan - October 9, 1992



OATH OF OFFICE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

I, CHEDDI JAGAN, do hereby solemnly declare that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the People of Guyana, that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana without fear or favour, affection or ill-will and that in the execution of the functions of that Office I will honour, uphold and preserve the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

*Taken and subscribed by me
this 9th day of October, 1992*

Cheddi Jagan
.....
C. Jagan
President

*Administered by me
this 9th day of October, 1992*

K. M. George
.....
K. M. George
Chancellor of the Judiciary.



*" Now, all of us together,
whatever our party, political
affiliation, whatever our race or
ethnicity, whatever our creed,
must put our shoulders to the
wheel."*

*"It is time to embrace each other
and work arm in arm to rebuild
our beloved Guyana."*

Swearing in Ceremony at State House, October 9, 1992

*" After I had been declared the
winner of the Central Demerara
Constituency at the 1947
General Elections, I said: "We,
the People, have won!"*

*Forty-Five years later I can
now say once again: "The People
have won."*

*" We went to the elections with
the slogan: "Time for Change:
Time to Rebuild." We have
attained the first objective of a
change in government."*

