

HARK THE ROLLING OF THE THUNDER!
Lo the sun! And lo there under.
Riseth wrath, and hope and wonder.
--William Morris.

Vol. 4—No. 11.

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OCTOBER,

1953.

Price 4c.

Armed Intervention In Guiana.

On Thursday 8th October 1953, the day scheduled for the passing of the Labour Relations Bill, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and other British and British commanded troops, dashed across the Atlantic by warships and aircraft, landed at Georgetown the capital of British Guiana, the only British Colony on the mainland of South America. In London, Churchill announced that he was prepared to send more reinforcements. In the United States the organs of propaganda spoke of a "bloody revolt" in Guiana and the British People were told that this action of the ruling circles of Great Britain was taken in order to frustrate a communist coup. Landed ashore the troops asked passers-by "Where is the war?" "Where is the battlefield?" "Where is the half-a-foot of blood?" The Guianese women shopping in the markets rocked with ironic laughter. The working people were puzzled. As the hours crept on it became clear that the country was to be occupied, that this was no passing visit. "This" said the Guianese people with one voice "is the climax of the slander propaganda campaign against the People's Progressive Party. Against a defenceless people they have brought machine guns and tanks. This is their democracy."

"These guns" the conversations went on at street corners "can never kill the P.P.P. The Party will never die"

CALM AND FIRM.

The same afternoon, after the meeting of the House of Assem-

bly, the P.P.P. Assembly men were loudly cheered outside the Public Building. Party Ministers were lifted and carried into the Ministerial Building. As the dusk deepened so did the anger of the people. The bitter fact that British troops were to sleep in our country deeply annoyed the Guianese people. All night people walked the streets looking for the guidance of the Party. The Party cancelled all public meetings, for it was clear that the opportunity would be taken to create an incident and to do some shooting. The Party also issued a leaflet "On Guard" which pointed out the situation to the people and again called upon them to remain united, calm and firm. "If your leaders are arrested!" said the leaflet, "new leaders will arise." The Guianese people rallied in no uncertain manner to the call of the Party, demonstrating that the Party was the leader not only of its members but of all patriotic Guianese.

NEXT STEP

The next step was for Governor Savage, backed by the Navy and Army, local police and volunteers, to release the statement of Churchill Government and to declare a state of emergency, to dismiss the People's Ministers and to prorogue both Houses of the Legislature. The Party which was elected in the majority on April 27th, against every weapon of imperialism, short of arms, was put out of the Government by force of arms. The official statements were broadcast over

"Radio Demerara" for the entire day. Radio Demerara played "Rule Britannia" and martial music. An emergency order giving powers to the Governor, police and military to search and arrest without warrant was hastily published. Meetings and demonstrations were banned. All powers were given to the Governor, the representative of Whitehall. In effect the colonial authorities tried to cut off the leaders from the people, while collaring for themselves the Press and the radio, with willing stooges in certain pulpits. The American authorities in Washington expressed their full satisfaction, with the "timely action" of the British Government.

BACKGROUND

What is the background of this military action? On April 27th the Peoples Progressive Party, a broad democratic alliance against colonialism won 18 seats out of 24 in the lower (elected) Chamber of the Legislature. This entitled the Party to six seats in the Executive alongside 3 officials, one Minister from the State Council (nominated) and the Governor, who was head of the Executive. The Governor possessed the power to put items on the agenda and to postpone, as well as to veto any decision of any house. The Governor was not in practice bound to accept the advice of the Executive Council and often acted against such advice. Nevertheless the presence of the people's Ministers who openly opposed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12.

FROM PAGE 2.
er, London—"Br
a display of force
cessless people and
ly elected govern-
paralell even in
shameful history
imperialism. Our
re the people who
ning bloodshed.
people who are us-
ey are the people
to reimpose a plan-
on the colony.
honour of the Bri-
Movement is at
Labour Party Ex-
e T.U.C. General
by and watch the
ags of democracy
out by force in
a by the Tory Gov-
l be branded for

having unconstitutionally or
that the Government Party
was using improper means to
further its petition for constitu-
tional changes. The dispatch
of armed forces in the circum-
stances cannot but adversely
affect the civil liberties of the
people of the Colony."

NOTICE.

Due to present crisis we have
had to reduce the size of
"Thunder" to 8 pages.

Part of October "Thunder"
was already printed before
Landing of British Troops.

We regret that normal distri-
bution of "Thunder" to mem-
bers will be curtailed this month.

We count on your continued
support. —The Editor.

Appeal Fund.

The Appeal Fund to help
defray travelling expenses for
our Party delegates, Comrades
Jagan and Burnham to London,
is still open.

Send your Contribution to
General Secretary, P.P.P. 106,
Regent Street, Georgetown.

All persons holding Lists
should report to Party Head-
quarters as soon as possible.

Armed Intervention In Guiana.

Continued from page 1.

every imperialist move was
terrifying to those who derived
their authority not from the
people but from the colonial
office. The discovery of Tantalite
and columbite, strategic war ma-
terials much sought after by the
Americans, the discovery of iron
ore and other minerals stimulated
the appetite of the colonisers.
They hated a patriotic party in the
ministries of Local Government,
Mines and Forests, Education,
Health and housing, Labour In-
dustry and Commerce, and
Communications. Even the Gov-

even the obstructing instrum-
tality of the State Council
not comforting to them.

The People's Progressive Par-
ty was following faithfully
pledges in its Election Mani-
festo, which was nothing new,
many thousands were in the hands
of the Guianese people. The
adherence to its pledges irritated
the Government Officials.

As for the local employing class
led by the sugar producers, they
were known to be carrying on
activity subversive to the mini-
sterial set-up from before the
elections. The bill introduced by
the Minister of Labour, which
was published in our election
manifesto was designed to secure
recognition for unions with ma-
jority support. Aimed at the down-
fall of every company union,
this bill called forth opposition
of all the big firms employing
labour as totalitarianism, etc.

Various ugly rumours and
whispering campaigns were be-
gun "Russian forces," said the
fanatic Roman Catholics "are
massing at the Brazilian border."

The aim of the Minister of
Education to abolish dual control
of schools and to have these gov-
erned by a Government appointed
Board was enough for the church
hierarchy who announced that
"Religion will be abolished."

Arm in arm with the rich, there-
fore, the church fought the elected
Government of the people, joining
in the appeal not to Christ but
to London for help.

The Army and the police raided
Party Headquarters, and the homes
of Members. Terror reigned in
Guiana. In reply the sugar estate
went on strike, and small deposi-
tors withdrew their savings from
the P.O. savings bank. The people
stood firmly behind the PPP.

A new red flag was hoisted at
Party's Office. Slogans were put
up "Army Go Home". "We want
Peace". "Peace and Freedom" This is the
immediate cry of the Guianese
people for lasting happiness.

Printed and published at 13A, Bentinck Street, for CHEDDI JAGAN, 199 Charlotte
Town B.G. by CHARLES PACKWOOD 131, King Edward St. Georgetown, OCT., 1953.