

THE OUTCOME OF FAITH AND DETERMINATION OF AN HONORABLE LEADER

By (The Late) Diah Singh

With Dignity, Courage, Honor And Pride A Great Leader Prevailed With His People Side By Side!

DOCTOR CHEDDI BHARAT JAGAN is that messiah. Over four decades he could have remained in the United States and lavished himself and dependents with all the opportunities, wealth and luxuries which were available to him as a successful professional. Instead, he journeyed back to his beloved homeland with an admirable bride by his side to open freedom gate.

A Man Of Courage, A Man Of Faith A Man For His People Opened Freedom's Gate.

Realizing his origin as a son of a sugar plantation worker, he followed the predetermined path with a sense of dignified commitment to a just cause – to free his people from the bondage of cancerous colonialism which in those days was known as a modified form of slavery. Starting from the grass roots of preordained domain with all the prerequisites of ideal conditions favorable for the working class struggle, Dr. Jagan launched the campaign for "Freedom of his People" under the supposedly powerful British rulers.

A Man Of Wisdom, A Man Of Strength A Man For Freedom Has Gone The Length.

In his quest for salvation of his people, Dr. Jagan stunned a great portion of the world by taking a giant stand struggling relentlessly against the most powerful colonial power. Being a very articulate, disciplined, dedicated and honest leader during that period of time and pursuing such a delicate course with risks, his personality and credibility stood out above other leaders of high esteem in the Caribbean and surrounding areas.

Due to the heightening of tensions of the Cold War and working class struggles around the world, Dr. Jagan became a victim of unfortunate circumstances and was deemed by his people to be "the champion of the working class struggle and their messiah", and by the colonial powers "an irritating thorn in their sides".

A Man Of Dignity, A Man Of Pride A Man With His People Side By Side.

Realizing the caliber of the opponent they were up against, the British diverted their strategy by concentrating on a number of Trade Unions and encouraged surrogate and other factions in the country to enter the political arena and oppose him. As the struggle took a drastic turn, its intensity increased with political and economic pressures bearing down on the work forces of the sugar industry, farmers and other labor, countrywide.

During this period of time, Dr. Jagan became more steadfast

in his resolve, and support for his line of struggle grew tremendously. With the inclusion of the middle class, businessmen, professionals and intellectuals who became active in the political framework, the future of Guyana began to take a different shape.

A Man Who Encouraged Others To Sow Good Seed A Man Who Opposed Corruption And Greed.

Time for stocktaking by the British came when they discovered that Dr. Jagan as an individual, was a "force of one" to reckon with. After realizing the caliber of the man confronting them, they did not hesitate to take action which they deemed appropriate by tightening the screws to pressure his supporters into subjection, and at the same time, testing the components of his mental and physical structure by jailing him and other important leaders of his party.

A Man For His People Was Banned And Jailed A Man For Democracy Who Was Derailed.

The British used devious strategies to curtail Dr. Jagan's humane activities, struggling peacefully for legitimate human rights of all Guyanese. This period of time and related events could be considered as the test of faith, hope, courage, dedication and endurance between a leader, his people and the supposedly irresistible masters.

During the peak of the struggle against colonialism, Dr. Jagan established a solid political base in the country and educated the people politically which gave them a sense of loyalty to the cause. He also expanded his involvement to cover a wider sphere in the neighboring areas and became popular in the international political arena, which increased his credibility as a popular national leader well equipped mentally and physically to cope with the enormous tasks ahead.

Thus far, his achievements were recognized locally and internationally with high praise from supporters and sympathizers, but was met with contempt from foes. At this point in time, the American government, which was allegedly already involved for some time in the process of destabilizing the Government headed by Dr. Cheddi Jagan, became more involved when Arthur Schlesinger Jr. who, as President John F. Kennedy's adviser, advised the president to take appropriate steps to get Dr. Jagan out of office and replace him with Burnham, who was a racist and demagogue and who could serve their purpose well to maintain colonialism.

With the emergence of a younger generation of dynamic, aggressive and intelligent youths getting involved in the struggle, the political arena grew to such a proportion that it changed the *modus operandi* considerably. The struggle intensified rapidly to cope with the variety of strategies of the destructive nature by the British and their allies who directly or indirectly strove to destabilize the popular party, Peoples Progressive Party, its supporters, sympathizers and leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

A Man Who Deserved To Be Head Of State A Man Who Realized Good Things Come To Those Who Wait.

The turning point came in 1964 when the British went in motion with a decisive military operation to break the back of the Party by rounding up most of its worthy activists, and incarcerated them for up to two years and disarmed its supporters by taking all their licensed fire arms and self protection equipment.

The farmers who formed the economic and political base of the P.P.P. were completely disarmed, even though they had been legally permitted to own firearms for the protection of their properties, livestock and farms. This resulted in burning and looting by thugs from Burnham's Party (which was the opposition at the time) and racial disturbance throughout the country. People could no longer protect themselves and their families so many began to emigrate to England, Canada and the U.S.A. The ousting of Dr. Jagan, became a reality through a system of Proportional Representation, a scheme resulting from every effort thinkable, designed by the British Government in a very fraudulent manner, to lessen the number of seats of densely populated Sugar Estates Housing Schemes.

The Schlesinger recommendation was implemented in 1964 with Cheddi Jagan ousted from office and replaced by Forbes Burnham. Dr. Jagan being a man of peace, who always accepted, abided by, and advocated democratic rule in Guyana and elsewhere, became the opposition leader and continued to lead the Guyanese people in the struggle for Freedom.

Independence came in May 1966 as a result of Dr. Jagan's struggle and it was accepted without mention of his name. However, it should not be regarded a true independence since the Burnham government suppressed the people and allowed them very little freedom, if any.

A Man Who Struggled For Independence Which Came A Man Who Accepted It Without Mention Of His Name.

In this new era of Guyana's politics with the People's National Congress in Government, an unpleasant turn was taken in the government embarking on a program to annihilate the rice farmers who were the economic base of the country. It destabilized the industry and imposed unwarranted hardships on procedures, which affected that sector of the population directly and the entire country indirectly to a certain extent.

The government plunged the country into chaos by implementing policies, promoting racial discrimination at all levels, replacing competence with incompetence, thus resulting in mismanagement, rampant corruption and fraud. It terrorized the P.P.P. supporters and sympathizers, forced people into subjection with terrorist activities and killed the innocent at random by organized henchmen.

A Land Where Some Sow Destructive Seed A Land Where Some Destroy With Corruption And Greed.

With the beginning of this new direction and the government's destructive actions, the country kept regressing at a rapid pace with the people getting more frustrated, so that many of them had no alternative but to seek refuge abroad. Mass emigration

became the order of the day which resulted in the flight of capital, professionals, intellectuals, businessmen and skilled personnel – a complete brain drain.

Along with the brain drain occurring, the P.N.C.'s international financial backers kept pouring large sums of money and other forms of support into the country, only to realize that as fast as they were entering they were being diverted secretly out of the country into secret hideouts. This amount could be estimated into hundreds of millions of US dollars, with no accountability by their respective departments and handlers. As a result, Guyana is in a precarious financial position.

A Land Of The Oppressed Once In Poverty And Plight A Land Of A People Who Fight For Their Birthright.

Time clock kept ticking away while mass exodus only made a disastrous situation worse. A World Bank rating placed Guyana as one of the poorest countries in the world with its people surviving on hand-outs being provided by relatives from the U.S. and other countries. Guyana was being referred to as a "barrel economy" and the government and people operating a "black-market system".

A Man Who Lit The Political Torch In His Hand A Man Who Waved An International Political Wand.

The election process came into being once in 1991 with the government maintaining the status quo, that is the reintroduction of fraudulent voter's list. However, this was not accepted by any opposition party in the country and agitation and protest became the order of the day. The International community realizing the complexity and explosive nature of the situation in Guyana had no choice but to get involved with the U.S. Canada and British taking the lead to advocate "democracy and free and fair elections" after twenty seven years of suppression of the people by an illegitimate government.



The Late Diah Singh and his Wife, Balkumari with Cheddi

What stands out brilliantly and must be taken into special consideration, is the role President Carter of the U.S. played in his resolve to ensure that the process for fair and free election be observed in its entirety. Election day finally came on October 5, 1992, and the results kept coming in which the P.P.P/ Civic was in the lead. The P.N.C.'s destructive elements went into motion once again, realizing their days were over. They resorted to their weapon of destruction by "violence" and looting of businesses and properties. They also went to the length of defrauding ballot boxes

and ballots which were the regular established practice in their previous elections.

Notwithstanding twenty eight years of rigorous pursuit for Freedom for his people, Dr. Cheddi Jagan's health and longevity prevailed, as well as his resolve in the struggle for "Freedom and Democracy".

**A Man Who Regrouped To Take His Rightful Place
Prevailed In The October 5th Presidential Race.**

Diah Singh wrote this as a victory speech (Florida Reception) shortly after the 1992 election in Guyana. Son of Mooni Singh, he was born at Supply, Mahaicony, Guyana, and became a follower and close associate of Cheddi Jagan from the early age of sixteen. He was the longest political detainee at the infamous Sibley Hall prison where C.V. Nunes became his mentor (and Amnesty International took up his case). He left Guyana during the PNC dictatorship and was 'exiled' in the US, but maintained contact with the PPP and Dr. Cheddi Jagan. With Karshanjee Arjune, he was a co-founder of the Association of Concerned Guyanese (ACG), New York. He returned to Guyana to serve the PPP / Civic government. Diah Singh passed away in 1996, survived by his father, six brothers, three sisters, his wife Balkumari, two sons and two daughters.

PEACE



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To All The Jagan Family
And All The Guyanese
Community.**

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Will Always Be Our Hero**

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and Grandchildren,
And The Nation Of Guyana On Their Tremendous Loss*



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