

Backing Obama

by Janet Jagan

The American scene deserves the greatest attention, particularly at this stage when the Democratic Party's presidential nominations have come to a close and with Barack Obama now the official candidate for the November elections. Despite some half-hearted shuffling around major issues, like the Iraq war, the Republican Presidential candidate John McCain, still reflects, more or less, the outgoing President George Bush's position on most issues. Therein lies the strength of candidate Obama. Most non-Republican Party voters want a change – not a mild change, but a significant change.

In the final analysis, leaving aside Obama's charisma and promises of vital changes, I believe Hilary Clinton lost because of the vagueness of some of her positions and the perception that she would carry the

Presidency in much the same way as previous Democratic Presidents; i.e., progressive and probably clean governance, but not attacking, and over-turning the real evils of the American system, with

erally bristling with aggressive tendencies and the old US habit of being the world's policeman.

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refugees living outside Iraq and two million displaced persons inside the country – unimaginable sufferings for the Iraqi people.

I saw on television recently a report of a medi-

The false entry of the US into Iraq, satisfying nothing more than the blood-lust of Bush and his aides, has resulted in the deaths of over 4000 US soldiers, ½ million Iraqis, some 30,000 severely injured US troops and an astounding \$600 billion spent on the war with a considerable amount, in the billions, lost in corruption.

legalized lobbyists and other corrupt forces, embedded in US government, continuing as before and without substantial changes, as Obama is promising. She said it "well", when she clearly stated that the US would attack Iran if Israel was in danger; a warlike stance which is the essence of the trouble the USA is in now with armies in Iraq and Afghanistan and surrounding Russia with US military bases and gen-

of Bush and his aides, has resulted in the deaths of over 4000 US soldiers, ½ million Iraqis, some 30,000 severely injured US troops and an astounding \$600 billion spent on the war with a considerable amount, in the billions, lost in corruption. How far the money could have gone just to lift a few million Americans out of poverty and provide needed medical services! Besides, there are now two million

cal team, freely providing services for all medical problems plus dentistry and eye-glasses to American citizens who could not afford the service. Some stood in line overnight to get a chance for these services that they were denied. I often wonder why voluntary medical teams from the US visit Guyana when they should be taking care of their own people!

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dency, and I believe he will, will have the courage and the right advisers to help guide him to bring about the changes so necessary in US domestic and foreign policy. As to foreign policy, he will have to end the US militarism that has dominated America for too long. Iraq has become a second Vietnam, just as dangerous, just as wasteful, useless and hurtful to so many who do not deserve what they are suffering, and this includes US troops.

The present Bush administration, even at the end of its term, is still war-mongering – threatening Middle

East states with reprisals and trying to manipulate the area to fit its own misguided beliefs. McCain would surely continue in the same path.

The irony is that in the Middle East situation, it's ok for Israel to have nuclear weapons (Former President Jimmy Carter says they have 150) but Iran cannot even have nuclear equipment to produce cheaper electricity. Even if Iran has the intention of producing nuclear weapons, who is to say that Israel has that right but Iran does not have the same? It's a lopsided world we live in, made so by the misguided manipulations of a USA, now controlled by persons who push wars for particular reasons – power and profit.

The pressure on Barack Obama to win the November elections will be intense, but when he wins, the pressure to carry out fundamental changes will be enormous. We can only hope that he will have the strength of character to fulfill his pledges.