

Some of the Problems President Obama Faces

by Janet Jagan

The newly elected President of the USA Barack Obama, who will not be sworn into office until January next, will have more problems to face than many more before him. He faces the worst economic crisis in almost a century and a wide range of problems overseas, including two wars. Certainly not an easy task for a young man, who has not yet served one full term in the US Senate. Great expectations exist for him to solve a multitude of problem, made very serious by President George Bush who literally messed up almost everything he touched in his term of presidency.

Obama seems to have all the qualities for leadership that Bush lacked. In many ways, Obama has already shown his ability for good leadership in the way he conducted his election campaign, first winning the Democratic Party nomination against unbelievable odds. He has a strong character not too often seen in

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It is not too long ago to remember events in our own country in 1992, when the PPP under the leadership of Cheddi Jagan had as its election slogan "Time For a Change" and like the Bush administration, had a Party and two Presidents who had wrecked the country and brought poverty and authoritarian rule, thus destroying

people's hope for a decent future.

President-elect Obama will, it is anticipated, put his full attention to dealing with the most urgent problem of the economic crisis which has led to wide-

spread unemployment, loss of homes and general fear of the future by the vast majority of Americans. In a recent "60 minutes" interview, Barack Obama said that he has "to get the economy back on track."

By pandering to the super rich, the industrialists, the bankers, etc. George Bush let go of the regulations which had formerly re-

strained that group, permitting the inevitable crash that took place recently. At the same time, his tax policies favoured the wealthy at the expense of middle America. Little was done by the Bush administration to relieve the

millions living in poverty or solve the weighty health care problems that had become a big issue in the USA.

The international issues, which may have to wait on the urgent attention to the US economy, are many. In an interview ("60 Minutes") Obama reiterated his promise to close down the Guantanamo prison and to ensure that that his govern-



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ment removes all traces of torture which he strongly abhors. Whether Obama will go along with the recent agreement reached between the Iraq and the US governments in the timing of the military withdrawal or not, is to be seen. There can be no doubt that the Iraqi people cannot tolerate the US occupation forces. And the likelihood is there of the Iraqi people's lack of confidence in the Iraq government may be expressed more openly after Obama takes office. This is quite possible and could lead to a strong rejection of the recent Iraq-USA agreement on US troop withdrawal.

President Obama will have many serious interna-

tional problems to deal with besides the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The US has offended international opinion on the rights of states. The recent incursions into Syria and Pakistan by US troops will require his attention and he will be judged on how he handles these delicate issues. Then, too, he will be expected to decide to proceed or not with the encirclement of Russia with missile bases in Poland and other European countries. It has already been reported that Obama has reserved his opinion on this issue, which, if proceeded with, could return us to the Cold War position that existed decades ago.

These are just some of the issues the new President will have to deal with, besides the most serious of all-changing the corrupt methods and controls which the unseen forces in Washington use to prevent the real changes necessary for a clean and fair government to carry out its programmes.