

65 High St.
Georgetown, British Guiana
July 11, 1964

Editor
TheAtlantic
8 Arlington St.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir,

I am frankly astounded that a periodical with the reputation that the "Atlantic" has could publish an article which is so filled with errors.

May I point out a few, which are not only false, but which give a bias that is harmful? The article on British Guiana in your July issue states - "Two days after President Kennedy's assassination, Jagan lowered the flag outside his red frame house on Georgetown's Main Street, and stumped the hinterlands under a banner of the hammer and sickle, calling for racial warfare against the Negroes and 2200 British soldiers, whose mission is to keep the Guianese at arm's length". This one sentence has five errors. First of all, the Premier's residence has never flown any flag since we have lived there following the elections of August 1961. The reason for this is that the Premier believes that British Guiana should be independent and should fly a national flag and not the Union Jack. The fact that we have never flown a flag is common knowledge which can be easily checked. Therefore, to suggest that a flag was lowered after President Kennedy's death is to suggest that the Premier deliberately dishonoured the President of the United States. Secondly, Dr. Jagan has never "stumped the hinterlands under a banner of the hammer and sickle". This too, can be easily verified. Thirdly, Dr. Jagan has never called for racial warfare. How could he? He leads a multi-racial party, his Deputy Premier is a Negro as are three other members of his Cabinet. The Executive Committee of the People's Progressive Party which he leads is 50 o/o Negro. Fourthly, he has never called for warfare on the British soldiers stationed in British Guiana. Your correspondent would find it impossible to verify this; even hostile sections of the local press have never made such a fantastic allegation. And lastly, your figure of 2200 British soldiers is incorrect.

To point out another of the errors, it is stated that "Cuban pilots have undertaken technical work for the Guyana Airways Corporation. Cubans operate the PPP's printing press.." This too would be impossible to substantiate as there is no Cuban working at the Guyana Airways Corporation. There is no Cuban working at the press referred to. Please don't accept my word for it; just check on the facts.

Another ridiculous and mischievous error is the reference to the University of Guyana - "Under Dr. Harold Drayton, a Guyanese communist, the university is staffed by several American "professors". The head of the University is Dr. Lancelot Hogben, noted British scientist and author of "Mathematics for the Million", "The Loom

of Language", "Science for the Citizen" etc. Dr. Hogben is Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Guyana.

I would urge a more objective and accurate report on the affairs of British Guiana. It is unfair to your readers and to the reputation of your magazine to allow such an unfair and inaccurate report to stand uncorrected. I would urge an on-the-spot investigation by a reporter who goes to our country without any pre-conceived ideas. We would welcome him.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Jagan

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Cheddi Jagan Research Centre