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WORLD IN ACTION

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THE TRAIL OF THE VANISHING VOTERS

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W.I.A. CAPTION

COMMENTATOR

MOSS SIDE HORSES

163 Radnor Street, Manchester doesn't exist any more and these two horses certainly don't answer to the names of Lily and Olga Barton.

UNDERTAKERS SHOP-BALHAM

And if Harry Porter is alive and well he's not in this Balham funeral parlour.

GIRL AT 4-6 CECIL STREET

In Cecil Street, Manchester, there's just a gap in the wall where the Angoys and Barkers should be. A couple of peculiar coincidences surround the Barkers, the Angoys, the Bartons and Mr Harry Porter. First, they are all registered to vote in a general election next Monday. And second, none of them seem to exist. Tonight WORLD IN ACTION sets out on

ZOOM BACK TITLE

THE TRAIL OF THE VANISHING VOTERS

TRACKING SHOT BOTHAM STREET

The Barkers, the Angoys, the Bartons and Mr Harry Porter are apparently fictitious characters in a bizarre exercise which could affect the outcome of a South American election.

TRACKING SHOT - SUNSET ON RICE FIELDS

The former British colony of Guyana is perched on the shoulder of South America. Next Monday it holds its first Independent Election, an election of international importance. The strong Opposition is led by a Marxist. If he won, America could have another Cuba on her doorstep.

GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE TRAINING

Guyana has a bitter past. Nearly two hundred people died in a violent struggle between the parties before independence.

MULE CART - AFRICANS IN GEORGETOWN

There are two main racial groups. Guyanese of African origin are concentrated in the towns and dominate the police, army and civil service. Most of them will vote for the existing largely Negro Government.

INDIANS ON TRAIN TO
SUGAR PLANTATIONS

But the majority of Guyanese are of Indian origin. Their ancestors were shipped from India to labour in the sugar fields.

SUGAR PLANTATIONS

They are likely to vote massively for the Opposition - and it's Indian Marxist leader. To win, the Government needs every vote it can lay

CANE CUTTING

its hands on, and it's taking no chances. A thousand troops patrolled the plantations when Indian sugar workers went on strike last month.

SUGAR CUTTER

All the old bitterness between Indian and Negro, between left and right, still simmers. But we did find one floating voter in the can fields.

INTERVIEWER

Who are you going to vote for in this election?

SUGAR CUTTER: SYNC

Well as to now I can't say yet. Because I did not consider in my mind yet who I'm going to vote for. Later on when I feel whoever in my mind, choose to vote for.

THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

AEROPLANE LANDS
FORBES BURNHAM EMERGES
THROWING BUTTONS

COMMENTATOR

Forbes Burnham has been Prime Minister of Guyana since 1964. He leads the ruling Peoples National Congress Party

FORBES BURNHAM SYNC
SPEECH ON CAMPAIGN

BURNHAM

You can't vote for PPP because you can't vote for terrorism. You can't vote UF because they're fighting a big party...Therefore you've got to vote for the People's National Congress Party. Thank you comrades, I really got to go now...

BURNHAM GESTICULATING
SAYING TO NEGROES.

I hope to Christ you're sober on the 16th.

COMMENTATOR

But the receptions are less enthusiastic when the Prime Minister is not among his own people.

BURNHAM TO AMERINDIANS
SCHOOL CHILDREN

BURNHAM

All right clear your throat properly because if I don't hear this hooray coming forward loudly there aint going to be no holiday tomorrow - hip, hip, hip, hooray. That's not good enough, like you're sick, hip, hip, hip, hooray. All right, therefore you will get the holiday tomorrow, thank you very much.

CHEDDI JAGAN SPEAKING
AT MEETING

COMMENTATOR

Marxist Cheddi Jagan leads the People's Progressive Party. He was once Premier but agents of the American C.I.A. secretly financed a general strike to bring him down.

CHEDDI JAGAN SPEECH
AT MEETING

JAGAN

Comrades, this is no time for us to be divided. Guyana unfortunately has too many races and too many religions which is a hunting ground for the sharks. But there are only two classes, the exploiters and the exploited. The capitalist and the workers.

D'AGUIAR BACK VIEW
ADDRESSING CROWD OF
AMERINDIANS

COMMENTATOR

Big businessman Peter D'Aguiar is leader of the Third Party, the Right Wing Force. Two months ago he broke his Party's coalition with Burnham. Now he campaigns among the Amerindians of the interior.

CUTS TO FRONT VIEW

D'AGUIAR

This time I would not join any coalition except on these terms, and these terms are, that the land question be settled before that the rights of the Amerindians to their land be granted.

D'AGUIAR BACK AND FRONT
VIEW WALKING WITH
INDIANS.

D'AGUIAR V/O

I think communism can be defeated fairly in Guyana as it has been in the past, and I'm all for a fair honest election and we're not getting it and it augurs very ill for the future.

D'AGUIAR SYNC

I think we had a bill called a Representation of the Peoples Bill which had better been called a Bill to rig the elections in favour of the ruling party.

REGISTRATION OFFICE

COMMENTATOR

EXTERIOR SHOTS OF BLDG.

INTERIOR, GIRLS AT WORK

REGISTRATION CARDS

Georgetown, Capital of Guyana. This is the Centre where the Government compiled the disputed registers of voters. 300,000 people in Guyana have now been photographed, registered and deemed eligible to vote by this office. And despite opposition protests the office has also registered 67,000 voters outside Guyana for the first time. These overseas voters don't have to be photographed. They make up no less than one sixth of the total electorate. The office staff are overwhelmingly drawn from the pro-Government negro block. We asked Chief Elections Officer Reg Butler why.

