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GUIANA TIMES

DECEMBER 1954

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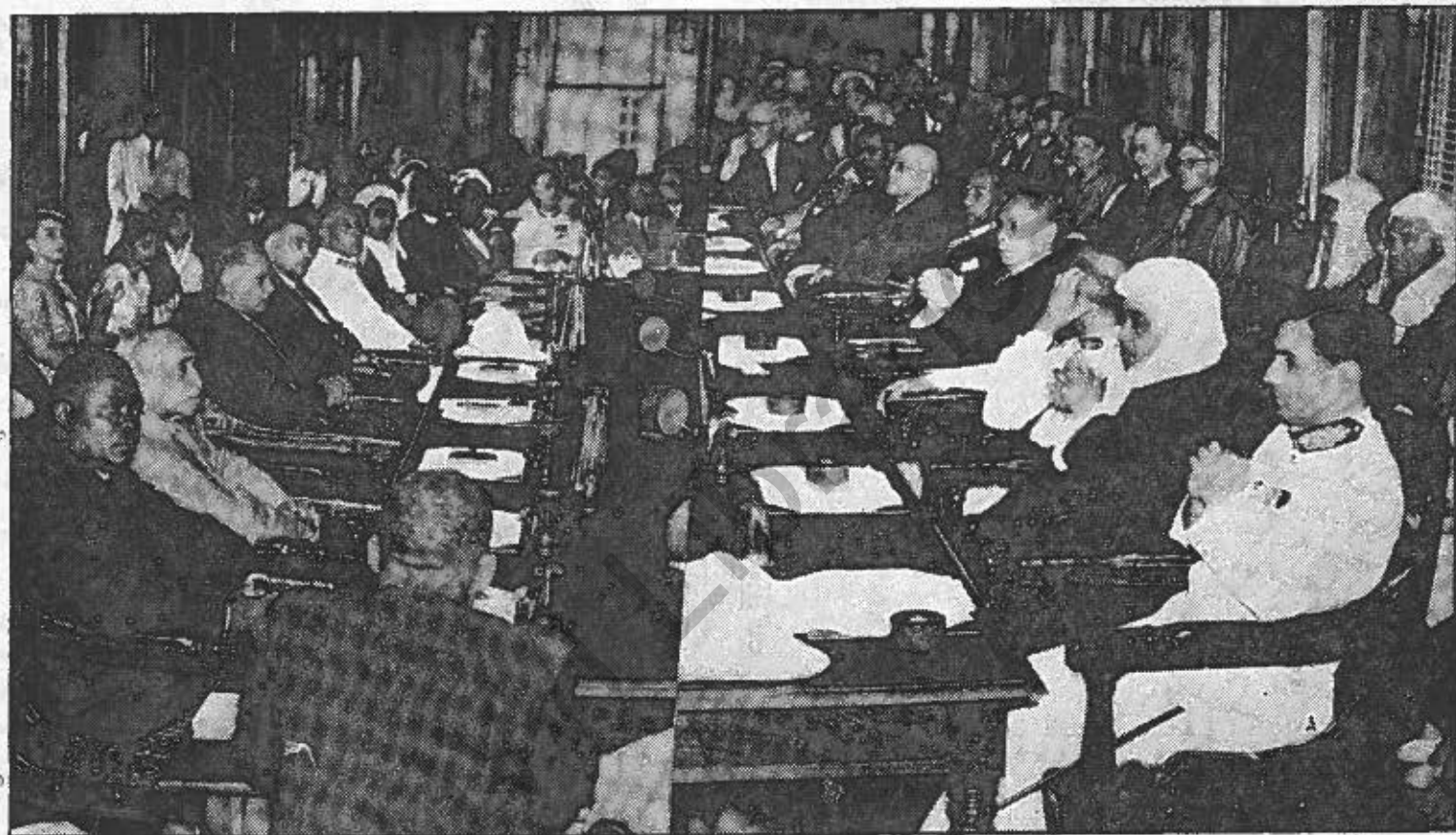
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THE WEEKLY PROGRAMME JOURNAL
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MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT listen with rapt attention to His Excellency the Governor's 33-minute momentous address in the Legislative Council Chamber as can be seen in this composite picture. 1. to r. The Hons. W. O. R. Kendall, G. A. C. Farnum, O.B.E., R. B. Gajraj and R. C. Tello; Messrs. W. T. Lord, I.S.O., Theo. Lee (partly hidden), L. A. Luckhoo, Q.C., Rev. D. C. J. Bobb, Miss Gertie Collins and Dr. H. A. Fraser, E. F. Correia, W. A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E., W. A. Phang, J. I. Ramphal, W. J. Raatgever, C.B.E., Hons. P. A. Cummings, Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E., W. O. Fraser, O.B.E., F. W. Holder, Q.C., and F. D. Jakeway, O.B.E.

Guiana Times

NEWS MAGAZINE FOR BRITISH GUIANA & WEST INDIES

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.N. and Colonies

"LITTLES" AND THE "BIGS"

SELF-determination in a mixed society is a drama in four acts. Act one begins when each racial or linguistic or religious group affirms its determination to maintain its own individual way of life, particularly if brought with them from an "old country". Act two follows when each such separate group demands that every other group be given the same right to life and freedom. This makes possible the third act in which all these different groups join together to build their homeland into a common edifice of constitutional law and freedom.

Dominion Status, say the British, means sovereignty for each such edifice but not separation—a kind of interdependent independence, since no nation can stand alone today. But in a world, now complicated by communist machinations and sundered in snarling nationalism; modern trend is for every little half-scaled community to talk about independence without first being able to help itself out of a shower of rain.

Therefore in perfecting these successive acts into a big drama of a huge society of interdependent peoples called "Commonwealth" of big and little nations, British are finding it a political miracle. Now they are discovering a new menace:— expert use of the United Nations Organisation by the "Littles" as a propaganda big stick to frighten the "Bigs" into doing what they want them to do, oftentimes using Soviet and satellite pressure boys to apply the blow-torch. Most insidious of all technique is to use racial minorities representing majority opinion in a little multi-racial country to pipe the "right to self-determination" argument in order to establish whatever kind of government they

feel like doing, only to hand the country over to whomsoever their scheming leaders choose to arrange.

Thus it was on September 21 when delegates from 60 nations met in the great UN hall at Lake Success, New York, for the opening of ninth annual session of the General Assembly, the British moved in with a powerful 10-man team under captaincy of Minister

strategic island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean sea and the little unused toehold of British Guiana in the South American mainland that was "invaded" last year by British Troops.

CYPRUS AND BRITISH GUIANA

Ever since wardays, when Sir Charles Woolley, then Governor of



RUSSIA'S LATE U.N. HATCHET-MAN VISHINSKY

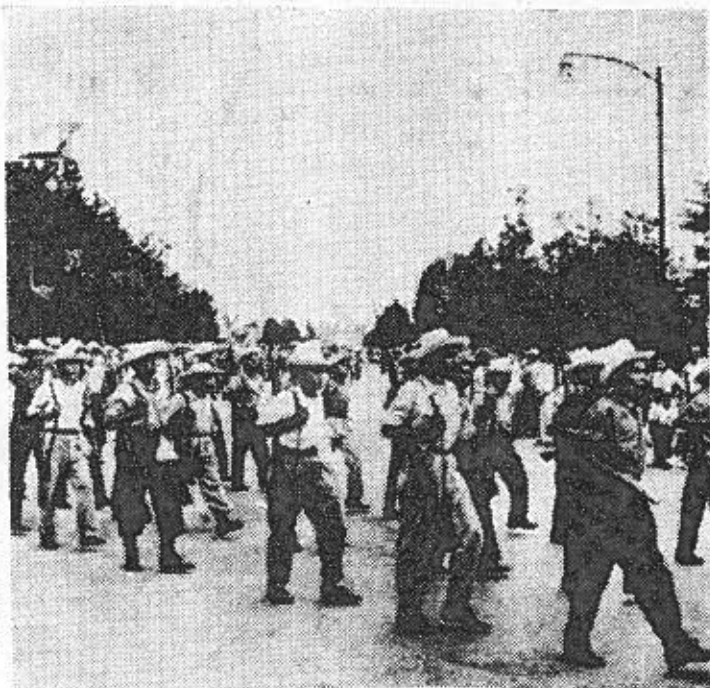
He failed to get any nation to raise the B.G. issue in U.N. but got the Cyprus matters on Agenda before he died of heart failure.

of State (foreign) Selwyn Lloyd. Reason for this powerful delegation: they had discovered another familiar communist conspiracy to use UN to force her to give up two more bits of her bone fide real estate:— to wit the

Cyprus swept their partly elected Crown Colony Government out of power for staging an Enosis (union with Greece) coup, this Greek-dominated island had become another "reactionary little canker on the body politic of her



In March when Guatemala's Commie-run Arbenz case in the U.N., got kicked out of office by Col. Armas. Red-directed news sheets, London's C.L.C. Caribbean News and B.G.'s P.P.P. Thunder screamed out that U.S.A. had "Conquered Guatemala and routed the democratic Government" by "Naked Aggression". But unlike Communist Ho Chi Minh's "democratic fighters of Vietnam" or the "3,000,000 Chinese Volunteers" in Korea, all



well-trained and well armed with Russian high powered modern equipment, Armas' army was a crude collection of Guatemalan peasants who fled communist oppression in their native land and returned with pack animals instead of modern transports and using ancient World War I weapons. But to prove American "Invasion" the commies declared that U.S. Secretary, Dulles "had shares in the United Fruit Company of Guatemala" and had a cousin who was "Legal Adviser" to the company."

General office in Trinidad whereby known B.G. Communists should be exiled away to Britain with a state salary to live on. British, older hands in dealing with colonials and evidently advised by Home Secretary Sir David Maxwell-Fyfe took the view that they only did that sort of thing to uncooperative hereditary chiefs of protectorates like Seretse Khama or the Kabaka of Buganda but to introduce the idea on a couple of red demagogues from B.G. would create a dangerous precedent. It would probably mean exiling reds from Malaya and Cyprus, etc. Besides, they had no intention of making these babies

colonial heroes when methods could be devised to make the public get tired of them. State Department officials therefore referred the matter back to the U.S. Consulate-General in Trinidad.

Wednesday morning, September 29, Minister Hopkinson hopped out of a Pan American plane from New York at Piarco airport Trinidad with his two aides Rogers and Sweeney. First thing they did after being installed at Government House with Sir Hubert Rance was to have things straightened out with U.S. Consul-General William Maddox about what they planned to do. Next they saw India's new

Commissioner Badri Nandi on India's reaction. Finally Hopkinson had informal chats with the Trinidad Legco which amounted to "You chaps hurry and get on with the Federation business quickly and bring B.G. and B.H. into the picture." He virtually sold them the London plan on Federation for a reported price of \$240,000,000 that would start the Federated West Indies on the road and finally had talks with C.D. and W. administrator, Sir Harry Luke. Next day he hopped over to British Guiana on his big mission of discussing things with Governor Sir Alfred Savage.

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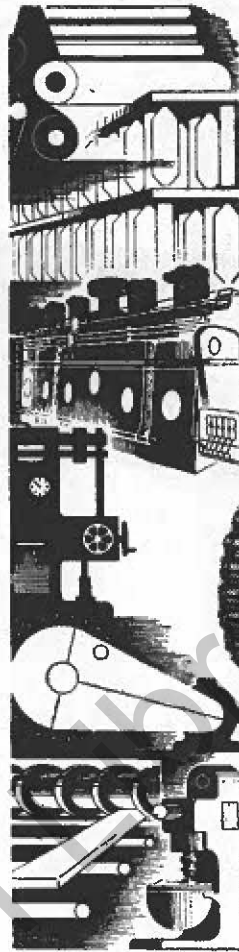
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Ministerial Lookseer

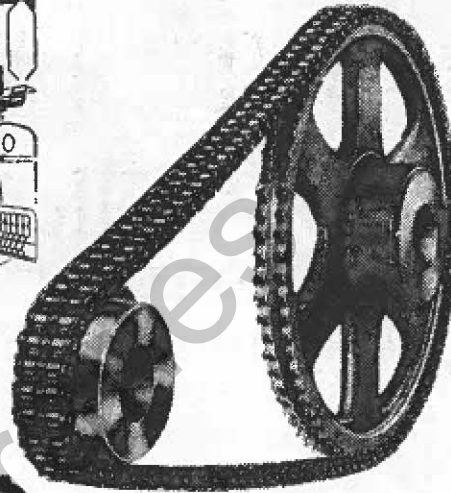
LATE afternoon Thursday September 28, the Right Honourable Henry Lennox D'Aubigue Hopkinson, Her Majesty's Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, arrayed in his Bond-Street-tailored tropical lounge suit and accompanied by his two aides Rogers and Sweaney, popped out of a British West Indies Airways plane at Atkinson Field British Guiana. On hand to pump his hand, and to signify importance of the visit, was Governor Sir Alfred Savage in person, with his A.D.C. Capt. Goldsworthy. He had just finished inspecting kilt-clad array of Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders preparing for their big airlift back home to Scotland when the Ministerial plane roared in. In a while a speeding cavalcade of official cars whisked the whole party away to Georgetown to the barbed-wire-fenced troop-guarded Government House, where they talked far into the night about things in tension-tight British Guiana.

During his 1953 crisis-visit, Minister Hopkinson had had talks with PPP leaders but had received a rude cussing off from them for his pains. This time he decided to ignore the lot and see things for himself. Next day, began his exhaustive eight day looksee tour of the whole country. It began with week end trip to Battica, Essequibo coast and Mazuruni. Back in town he peeped into Georgetown jail which he had heard so much about in Parliament from labourite Jenny Lee. It had served as a "holiday resort" for ex-premier Jagan and wife Janet had followed suit.

That Monday he took a flying visit to Berbice. On the Corentyne he stopped off at Jagan hometown, prosperous East Indian-packed sugar estate village of Port Mourant, and had talks with all kinds of persons. There he got an intimate idea of the political thinking of the ordinary sugar worker. Every one had been taught to conceive Englishmen as pie-crust folk who lived in big luxury-laden mansions on sugar estate compounds while he and his family had to live in a



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cial voter was being groomed by Party stooges.

MOSCOW'S INFLUENCE

THUS two dominant races of British Guiana were fused together only by political combination of two dominant racial personalities Jagan and Burnham which actually gave the People's Progressive Party the force it was. These two idols operating as patriotic nationalists were in turn inexorably tied to the Communist International organisation—extremely proud of their connections—their Iron Curtain visits, — their over-quotes of communist jargon and Soviet-directed, anti-American, anti-British denunciation. Thus it was although the masses of British Guiana, like millions of French Indo-Chinese in South East Asia had hardly seen a Russian, they were under complete influence of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of Russia via the great Jagan-Burnham combination. This led to all sorts of nonsense published in overseas press about B.G. masses being communists. But they were no more communists than the masses of Jamaica or Gold Coast or of British Honduras who went like mad to the polls to put their idols in power.

Nevertheless every Guianese workman pooh-poohed all talk about communists and communism. Their natural reaction to any criticism of "Dem boys" was simply "dey never got a chance." Therefore Government propaganda that they had been making a mess of things while in the Government with their commie connections was almost lost in the air. Like their counterpart in French Indo-China and in pre-1948 Czechoslovakia who voted so enthusiastically for communist idols, they wanted to see what a "Peoples democracy" was really like—whether all workers would live in "freedom paradise". Instead the "Imperialist" British Government had come along and interfered with plans. But in Czechoslovakia and Indo-China no sooner commie idols got into power eliminated all opposition and established a real workers' state with compulsory "volunteers" to build



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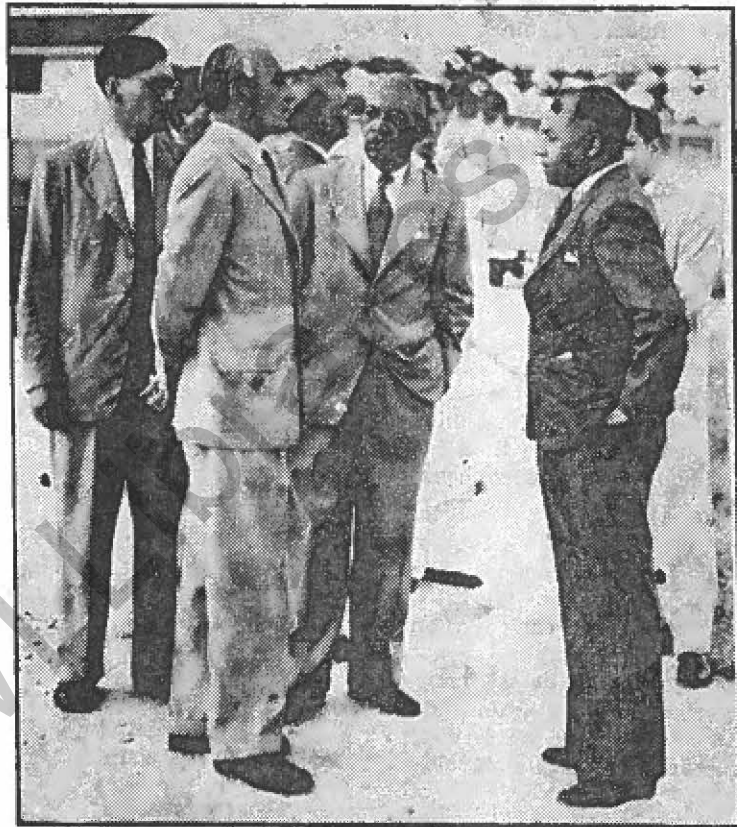
Avenue Flats, originally intended as a decanting centre to rehouse Albouystown slum cleared population. But so great was pressure on housing space that they had to make them into permanent dwellings. He toured the area with Interim Government "Member for Health and Housing" Percival Cummings and saw the "Castello" houses and the "Walker" houses designed for hire-purchase for workers. He saw the 135 acres of land south of the area handed over by sugar company Sandbach Parker and Co. Ltd., for more working class houses. Next he looked into the B.G. Credit Corporation credit system to small producers. Whole programme showed an extreme urgency in a prodigious race against time with deadline at 1960 when all Giglioli's wartime babies will be grown adults looking for more jobs, more food and more homes to rear newer generations. Then he looked into that overworked arm of law and order—the British Guiana police force to see how equipped they were to deal with subversive elements.

Finally just before departing, Tuesday afternoon, October 5, Minister Hopkinson settled himself down to the inevitable pressure of Pressmen. Every single publication in the country (except Thunder which later came out with a scoop on the conference) seated a representative at the shiny conference table at Government house annex—each man keyed up for an expected announcement of Britain's decision on the expected Robertson report. Instead, in a prepared statement Spokesman Hopkinson treated them to a short course on the dilemma facing their country.

First he paid great tribute to D-plan then blithely announced "I understand the P.P.P. leaders are in a dilemma of saying that either nothing is happening or that everything else is due to them." Emphatically he suggested that with all their big talk, in office P.P.P. could never have achieved half the things done already. Besides not one penny of "Imperialist" cash would have been forthcoming to help them with their communist totalitarian policies. Now he was able to announce that more money from Development and Wel-

fare funds in U.K. was being earmarked for the country to continue its road to economic progress. And that wasn't all. The Home Government was only too glad to help with technicians and skilled advice. At length quietly folding up his prepared script, Minister Hopkinson suddenly looked up and as though talking to a huge audience he almost shouted "It is the people themselves who must root out the evil

sidestepped the issue. He had discussions with the Governor about it. He had to return to London and make his report to his new chief Ailan Lennox-Boyd, expected from Africa. (Col. Secretary Lennox-Boyd was at that moment in Kenya telling Mau-Mau-stricken Kenyans "The British are here to stay"). After that, Report would be laid on Parliament table and simultaneously released in London, Georgetown



D-PLAN INSPECTION

Minister Hopkinson chatting with B.G. Housing Commissioner W. T. Lord and Interim "Member for Health and Housing" Percival Cummings on more houses for house-less.

influences of foreign totalitarian communism which has done so much harm here and which are totally alien to the Guianese character."

This proved to be the only hint of what was to be the real import of the Robertson Constitution report. But nobody caught on then. And Hopkinson braced himself for the expected third degree. Naturally first question was what about the Robertson Report. Skillfully he

and all Windian capitals. And that was that!

"What about Banning the trouble makers"? demanded Argosy's Editor Seal-Coon.

"The question does not arise" replied Hopkinson emphatically. Then he added.

"So long as they behave themselves and obey the laws, there's no question of their removal from the colony either."

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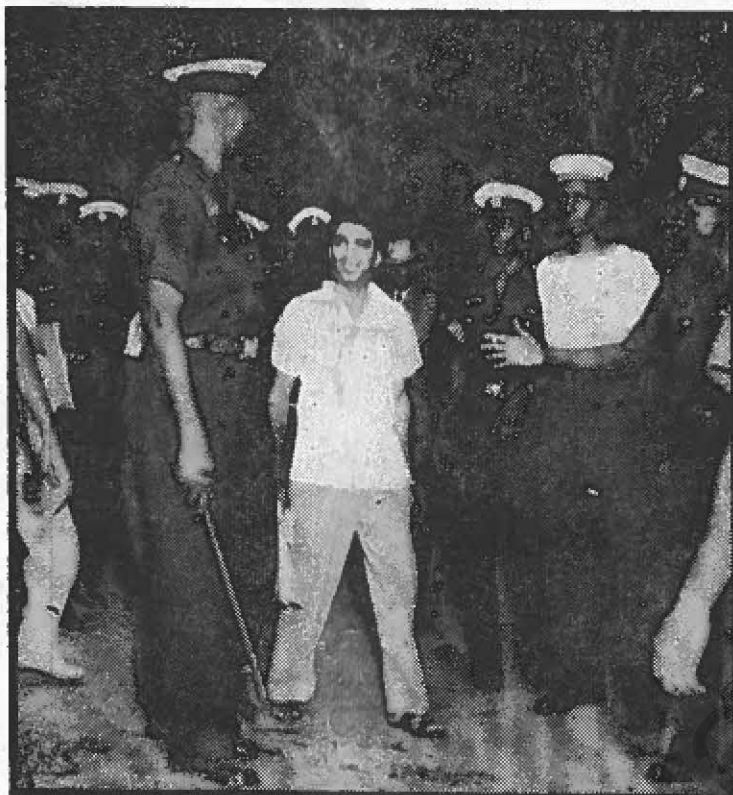
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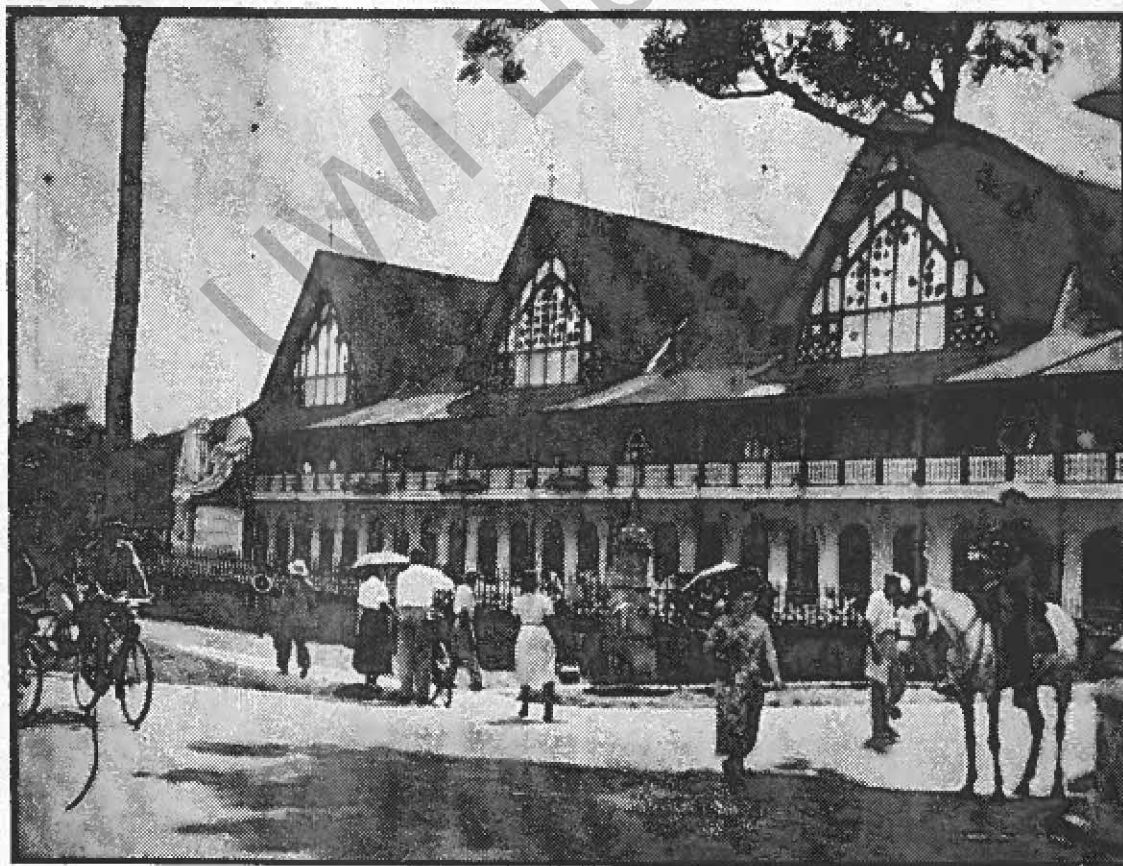
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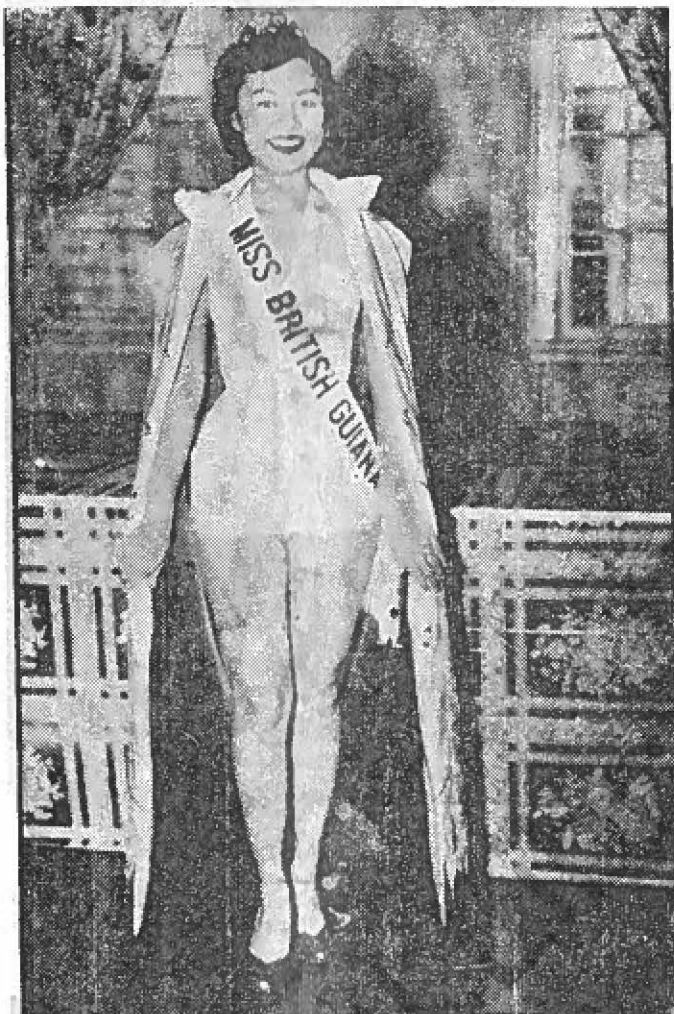
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Early April, great non-violence campaign began with Dr. Jagans' open defiance of Governor's restriction order, to get prison term, while colleague Burnham churned up propaganda in court calculated to stir up country.

Wave of disorders and communist-directed attacks on churches reached climax on Tuesday night, May 25, when red dynamiters blew up Victoria Statue outside Law Courts. August 21, dynamiters captured in Berbice and served with detention order in Prison. Later arrest and sentences of Janet Jagan for illegal assembly and unlawful possession.





Gracious, petite, little Pamela Sue-A-Quan (left) crown princess in this year's beauty contest succeeds to title of B.G. Beauty Queen 1954 after Barbara Crum-Ewing abdicated her throne.

Choosing the loveliest girl in British Guiana is most complicated business. In this racial melting-pot few goodlookers want to come forward and expose their prize figures to the gaze of highly critical public. Principal snags: Religion, critical old folks, choosy boy-friends, and maiden aunts. So the show usually flops before it starts.

This year, emergetic promotor Cyril Shaw hit upon a bright idea. He called upon big firms to choose and sponsor their own candidates for the big Caribbean contest for selection of Miss Universe. Although the lovelier young "things" failed to show up, this year the show was a whooping success—to promotor Shaw. But both beauty queens ended up with almost broken romances and family complications.

On the night of May 29, while heavily armed Police patrolled Georgetown's streets, looking for dynamiters and P-vandals some 1,500 hysterical beauty-conscious patrons jammed out Metropole Cinema and screamed themselves hoarse when Mayor Eddie Gonsalves placed the glorycrown of beauty on the tonsled little head of tall vivacious Barbara Crum-Ewing. Her gorgeous figure, stately, easy, self-confident poise and rose-petal skin brought down house with rounds of cheers (and a few boos). But next day Barbara's maiden aunts Connie and Amy (goodlookers in their day) got all flustered up and bothered about the spectacle of their attractive ward going on show. Result: Barbara abdicated her title and passed it on to Pam.

Below are four finalists Camille Rego, Barbara Crum-Ewing, June Mettleholzer and Pamela Sue-A-Quan, under critical scrutiny of the judges.





Gracious, petite, little Pamela Sue-A-Quan (left) crown-princess in this year's beauty contest succeeds to title of B.G. Beauty Queen 1954 after Barbara Crum-Ewing abdicated her throne.

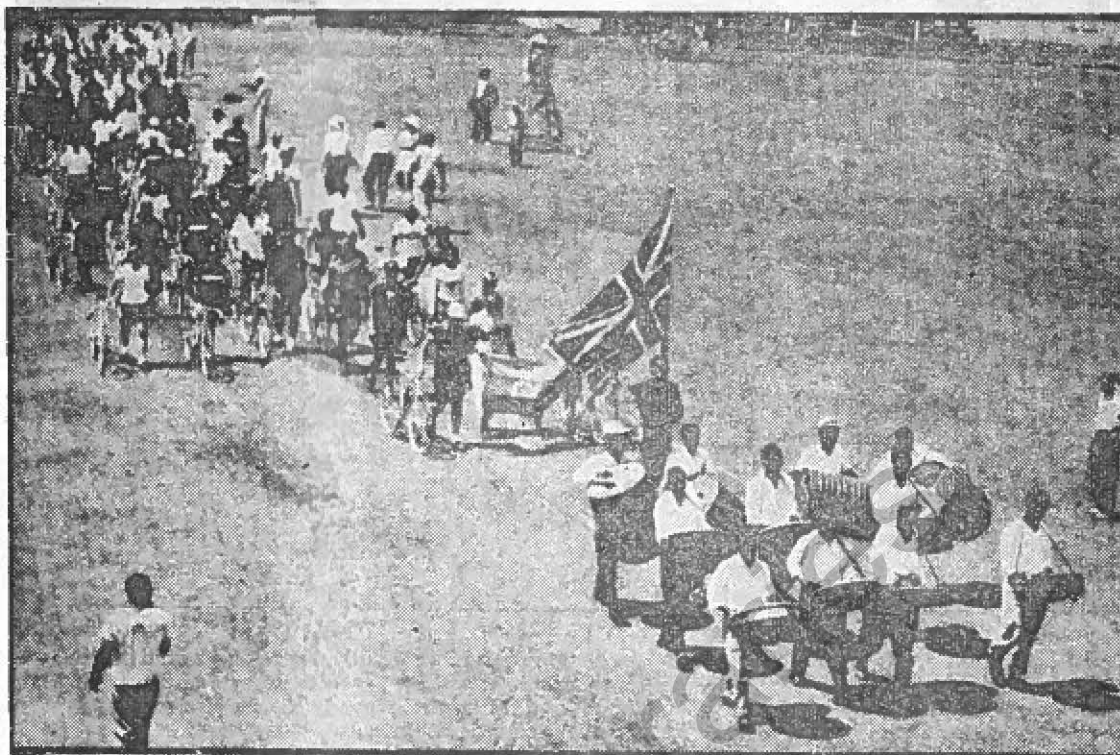
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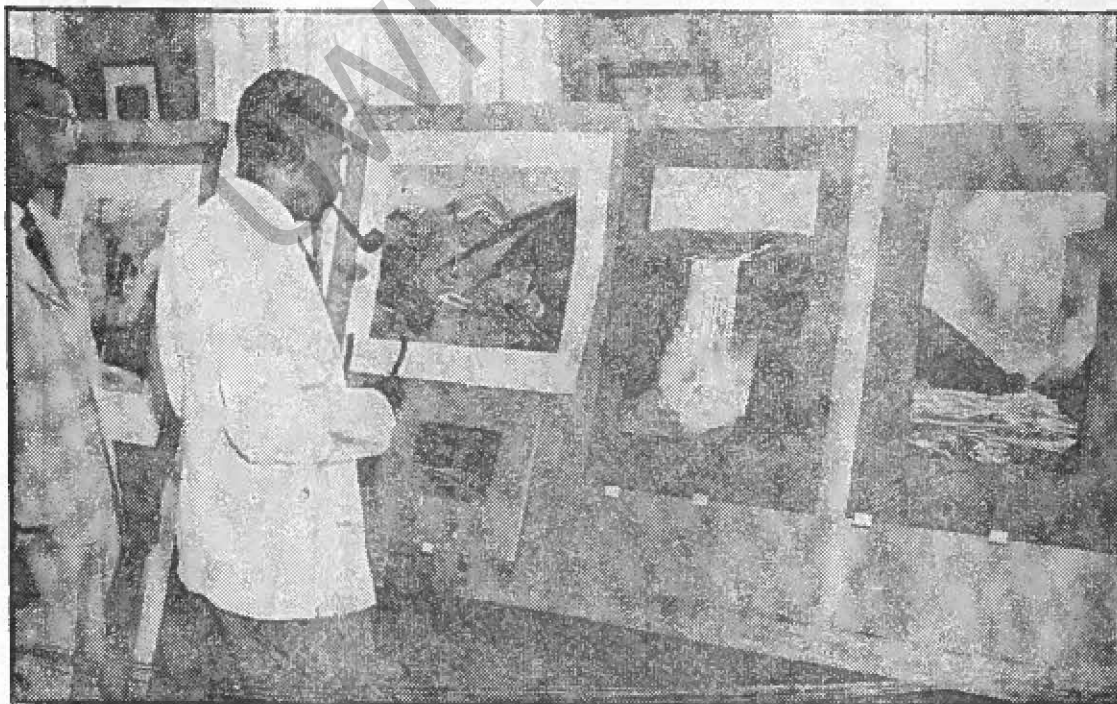
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British Guiana top percussion steel band leads array of Caribbean cycle and athletic stars to mark opening of great Intercolonial Olympiad last August. This year steel bands reached highest stage of recognition with appearance of the Texticans and other steel bands at the great Music festival of 1954.



Leading Artist Rupert Burrowes M.B.E. surveys creative production of his working-class art group.



"Gee Whiz!—Look at that mighty big Christmas Cracker." Two wayside urchins gaze wistfully at Water Street show case and speculate what a big great Christmas they could have if they got such a whopper cracker.

At right: Father Christmas came to B.G. flanked by Boy Scouts. He brought \$200,000 in incentive Bonus to sugar workers for producing 235,000 tons year's sugar target.



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bed off her pert, attractive, school-girlish features. They came to hear magistrate Sydney Miller dish out another series of fines and prison sentences for holding riot-

few words with now free husband Cheddi on how things were going, before cops whisked her and her pals away back to 'home' to clear the air for day's big moment.

to wonder. A year and half before Janet, Jessie and Jane led a shark-skinned clad "Peoples contingent" at the same place under equally scowling cloudy skies, passed clap-



Governor Sir Alfred Savage and Speaker Sir Eustace Woolford on the way to announce Robertson Commission Report. Behind is Chief Justice Sir Peter Bell and Dr. Alan Knight, Archbishop of the West Indies.

one illegal processions (the day they arrested Cheddi) contrary to emergency regulations. New sentences would keep them in prison for the new year. Janet stuck around court just long enough to swap a

Outside the stone-grey Public buildings, heavily cordoned with vigilant cops who stopped even Pressmen, curious people just passed by, with looks as surly as the gathering clouds but no one stopped

ping crowds to take their seats in the "Peoples Council". Now the contingent was all scattered to four corners of the country or in Jail.

Even as the Stabroek Market

and nowhere is its presence felt more needful than in countries where the electorate comprises the entire adult population." With typical socialist emotion they contended "That this sense of responsibility must, moreover possess a positive and dynamic quality, transcending all self-regarding interests of race, class and creed. If it lacks that quality the growth of an integral nationhood is stultified."

On the basis of this extraordinarily sustained political logic former British Colonial Secretary Oliver Lyttelton no sooner he took office in the then newly-installed Tory government the next year, spooned out to the colony of British Guiana, the most advanced and responsible constitution ever dished out to so small a British colonial dependency for one meal at a start. So great was the care to nurture the growth of this "dynamic quality" that the Hinden-Harlow pair, dissenting from their chairman Sir John Waddington sustained their viewpoint with "It might now be argued that in British Guiana an organised party system has not yet emerged but representative institutions of one sort or another have a long tradition there, and, even in comparatively backward communities where such institutions are of very recent growth the universal trend towards differentiation as between "Right," "Left" and "Centre" is already apparent. At the same time, while hopefully declaring that "a constitution imperfectly responsive to this manifestation cannot be a satisfied medium of expression," they trenchantly denounced oldtimers with the caustic comment "a system of groups held together in the legislature by no bond other than the fluctuating popularity of individual personalities is peculiarly vulnerable to the danger of political alignments dictated by considerations of race."

But these two socialist erudites did not reckon on the revulsion from one unsatisfactory extreme of old time conservatism to the other extreme of highly dynamic political

forces powered not by native nationalism or expected racial considerations, but by ideologies so foreign to whole concept of Guianese nature:— an oligarchy of of an overbearing majority committed to elimination of any opposition and directed by alien forces. Result: Trouble, tragedy and frustration.

ROBERTSONIANS.

Three years later another three-man commission headed by Sir James Robertson holding a post

mortem examination on the sad death of a colonial Government, born of the Hinden-Harlow Logic announced the dramatic verdict. "We are satisfied that the setbacks to orderly constitutional progress in British Guiana was not due to defects in the (Waddington) Constitution but to the fact that those in control of the Peoples Progressive Party (that captured the Government) proved themselves to be relentless and unscrupulous in their determination to pervert the authority of the Government to

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This proved the most contentious of all the Robertson pronouncements. In British Guiana as a matter of policy Indians and Africans as racial groups seldom if ever go in for public denunciation of each other. Racial tension between the races can only be detected by individual contacts. On the other hand as a matter of political routine and notoriety build-up, street-corner denunciation of all whites is most fashionable soapbox language for members of both races. Robertson and Co. contended that the attitude of these two groups to their condition today is due to their historical background.

Ever since slavery and indentured days they had been used to employers providing housing medical care and cultivation of ground provision for them. "There seems today, said their report "to be a common — almost arrogant — presumption that from some fathomless source all things desirable should as of right be provided. People are more ready to demand from government the living conditions which they think they should have than to set about achieving them for themselves". — On the basis of all this Peoples Progressive Party rose to power.

In a brutally frank analysis, they showed how the Party formed itself, under trained operations of the Jagans with typical communist efficiency: rural branches — annual congresses — instilling party discipline and fostering party spirit with party paper "Thunder" edited by Mrs. Jagan—jumping on all popular band waggons "by excessively simplifying those issues upon which most people were agreed on:—demand for self-government, end of colonialism, improvement of conditions — thus forging the two races into a political instrument."

They began their analysis by studying party motives:— their appearance before the Waddington commission with precipitous demands, not for new constitution but for **Constituent Assembly** elected by universal adult suffrage. This **Constituent Assembly** to be entrusted

with task of working out a constitution of its own. At that time the boys knew quite well they would easily have swamped out this assembly with a host of unthinking party stooges while a few top-flight party brains work out the "whole hog" legislature to suit themselves and present same as the "Wishes of the people". Having failed in this approach they organised a blistering campaign against Waddington-recommended Constitution.

Elaborate were the quotes made from **Thunder** with such words as "camouflage" to describe Waddington Commission, whose task "was merely to give a new form of appearance to the old reality". British Governments (Tory and Labour) were described as "most clever in devising forms which serve to keep power in their own hands and at the same time give a semblance of democracy" (technique of accusing other persons of just what accuser is guilty of).

They quoted party chairman Burnham, "adopting language of Karl Marx" declaring that the Waddington report succeeds "in illustrating that indeed the state is an instrument designed to maintain the dominance of the ruling class and that there is no advance to be gained except relentless and determined struggle";—the Sydney King quotes; the Jagans quotes; the official party statement quotes; and multitudes of P.P.P. sayings to prove conclusively, they had resolute preconceived notions against such a constitution and decided on calculated plan and maximum effort to destroy same and replace it with constitution that would give them unlimited power.

COMMUNIST

NEXT the Robertsonians announced "On the evidence as a whole we have no doubt that there is a very powerful communist influence within the P.P.P. At the time of the elections at least six of the

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party's most prominent leaders — specifically Dr. Jagan (leader of the Legislative Group) Mrs. Jagan (general secretary and editor of *Thunder*, Mr. Sydney King (assistant secretary), Mr. Rory Westmacott (Junior Vice-Chairman), Mr. B. H. Benn (executive Committee member and secretary of the Pioneer Youth League and Mr. Martin Carter (executive Committee Member) — accepted unreservedly the "classical" communist doctrines of Marx and Lenin — were enthusiastic supporters of the policies and practices of modern communist movements and were contemptuous of European social democratic parties including the British Labour Party.

They added significantly "though we gathered that the leader of this group, Dr. Jagan, did not become a convinced communist until his visit to Europe in the summer of 1951 — some eighteen months after the formation of the P.P.P. — We are convinced that these people had been restrained by expediency rather than by principle from forming and leading an openly communist party. They had decided on balance that they could more speedily achieve their most important and immediate objectives — that of ridding British Guiana of British rule and influence — by remaining associated with others who had a similar objective in a party with a wide popular appeal.

Except for some signs of hesitancy for a short time after, immediately after the elections there is no evidence to show that they were ever prepared, even temporarily to abandon or to modify their firm convictions, that all British Governments are essentially, if not equally, imperialist and capitalist and that no British government will ever voluntarily concede full self-government to a dependent territory whose population is largely of non-European origin. They did not believe that self-Government for British Guiana could be earned in successive steps by revealed capacity for responsible government. On the contrary they believed that a dependent territory can normally expect to win self-government only by violent action little short of revolution. But they thought that with

Great Britain still economically weak and weary of conflict, and as a great colonial power, morally on the defensive a determined threat of sustained disruption with a strong hint of violence might well be enough to compel a British Government to concede self-Government to British Guiana as an alternative to repression by force."

THE (extraordinary) report picked out the "Red" Clique, and so-called "Socialist" Clique in the party. Between them as Chairman was the "Ambiguous Mr. Burnham", and announced "On our reckoning therefore four of the seven principal officers of the Party were communists: the Editor of *Thunder* (Mr. Jagan) was a communist; the membership of the executive of the party was equally shared by communists and socialists". They pointed out that although communists and socialists shared equal seats on Party general Council the Committee had the greater collective personal influence.

Even with weight of responsibilities of government on them the socialist elements were in the dilemma of being unable to reject the communists' shock tactics, without rejecting everything the party stood for. Report cited as example how "Socialist" Ashton Chase, no sooner he assumed his Ministry of Trade, Industry and Labour of his own accord, offered mutual co-operation to Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Sugar producers. But his subsequent actions showed he was rigidly tied to party communist-dominated policies. (He departed for the Regional Economic Committee Barbados meeting a mere greenhorn, without even courtesy of consultation with Chamber, on country's trade needs although he was recommended by former big business delegate Raatgever to be on R.E.C. Exco.) Later, Chase wrote a little booklet called "133 days towards Freedom" issued after the suspension of the constitution justifying every single action of the party policy.

MISGOVERNMENT

HAVING examined the motives of the Peoples Progressive

Party and its personnel the Commission at once went into details of their mismanagement as a Government and picked out Ashton Chase's "133 days towards Freedom", teeming with obvious political untruths and convenient omissions to throw back to them first they dilated on the so-called Council of Peoples Ministers' meetings of local "polit-buro" set up by party six ministers. It used to meet each Monday at Ministerial building and take resolute decisions before moving into the Executive Council to rubber stamp these actions and where they had a two-thirds majority over the three officials (Attorney General, Minister Secretary, and Chief Secretary) and the one minister without portfolio (nominated) from the opposition.

Declined Ashton Chase, "Another irksome matter to the officials but one which the success of our party depended was the unbreakable unity that existed among the ministers. We always presented a united front at meetings of Her Majesty's Executive Council. At all times we met privately in our council of Peoples ministers to system and term which they despatched and entrusted us to change) and hammered out our differences stating personal opinions in the interest of a common and united front."

But then, as the Commission proved, not one single bill or motion

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capital." But an issue of *Thunder* that same week talked about the "Imperialist exploitation" complaining of the big profit made by B.G. Consolidated Gold-fields Ltd. in the previous year and demanded: "For how long more will imperialist concerns drain away the riches of our land so as to enrich a foreign country?"

The Commission examined every point at issue: reaction against State Council; their rude rejection of Jamaica's invitation to meet visiting Queen; the undesirable publications (prohibition of importation) *Repeal Bill* (described by Burnham as 'denial of human right' — to flood the country with Russian propaganda literature) *Labour Relations Bill* to get control of the Trade unions; big Communist (Sydney King-Janey Jagan) inspired government-backed strike and how the crisis developed etc.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM

AT the 9th Pan American conference of 21 Republics of the

Americas in March this year at Caracas, United States Secretary Dulles when asked "What is international Communism?" declared "International Communism is that far-flung clandestine political organisation which is operated by the leaders of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Since 1939 it has brought 15 once independent nations into a state of abject servitude. It has a hard core of agents in practically every country in the world. The total constitutes, not a theory, not a doctrine, but an aggressive tough political force backed by great resources and serving the most ruthless empire of modern times."

To prove the People's Progressive Party of British Guiana was nothing else but one of the far-flung controlled agents of the Soviet Union the Robertson Commission quoted multitudinous extracts from *Thunder* and declared "The views on international affairs expressed in the periodical invariably follow those advanced by propagandists of the Soviet Union and the Commun-

ist parties in the world. Considerable space is devoted to adulation of the Soviet Union and other Soviet bloc countries and China. On the other hand there is frequent vilification not only of "capitalist" countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States and France, but also of the Labour movements in those countries and Communists such as Tito and Beria who have incurred Moscow's displeasure. Considerable publicity is given to the activities and pronouncements of the Communist-controlled World Federation of Trade Unions, while the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions is referred to only as a subject for abuse. A similar distinction is made between Communist leaders and Communist-sponsored conferences and those of the Democratic Socialist parties. The periodical review column is devoted entirely to the praise of current Communist publications (which it is stated can be obtained from the PPP officers) not one of the many books and pamphlets issued by the democratic socialist parties

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REACTION

Gloom followed the announcement of Robertson Report. That day Pressmen hotfooted it to Party Chairman Burnham for a statement. Modern communist training in propaganda technique enjoins never to reply to direct or convincing arguments. Instead open a general lambasting on the authors. In dealing with the Guatemala issue to prove American intervention, local commies had pointed out that U.S. Foreign Secretary had a cousin working on the staff of the American Company operating in Guatemala, and he also had shares in the same Company.

In the British Guiana issue with typical commie training they ignored contents of the Report and focussed on the personnel. Said Party statement. "The Robertson Commission was appointed by the Colonial Office and for the Colonial Office and as such its conclusions were foregone".

For effective propaganda, they picked on certain points. "The commissioners . . . were forced to admit inevitability of P.P.P. victory in any subsequent elections." and pressed it home with racial point. "As though its other strictures and misstatements are not enough the Commission has deliberately misrepresented the extent of racial unity existing in the country today" and added "In fact it has suggested that racial disharmony increased since 1947. This is a blatant untruth for it is well known that the party strength is due to this very unity of races." The statement left all the main arguments untouched and announced "Party considers the visit of the Commission a waste of taxpayers money and its conclusions and recommendations an insult to the intelligence of the British Guiana people". We shall continue undeterred and without illusions, for the struggle for national liberation."

In his now-busy surgery that day

Dr. Cheddi Jagan expremier now busy at his old profession of tooth-pulling instead of truth-fulling declared "report is a farce," and "we would not dance to tune of the imperialists". But when asked if he was a communist declared "I reserve the right to say whether or not I am a communist."

Few weeks later, the great democratic struggle for the national liberation of British Guiana began with

a mighty rum-spreec and dance at Burnham's Subryanville home. Comrades jammed out the area for a big night of merriment under watchful police eyes.

In Trinidad meanwhile after all night session Dec. 11 approving London Federation plan, Albert Goines announced that Federation of British Caribbean "Might be reached within two years." B.G. Interim government will take care of that.



Governor Sir Alfred Savage (left) and British Minister of State for Colonies Henry L. Hopkinson. They discussed future of British Guiana in September.

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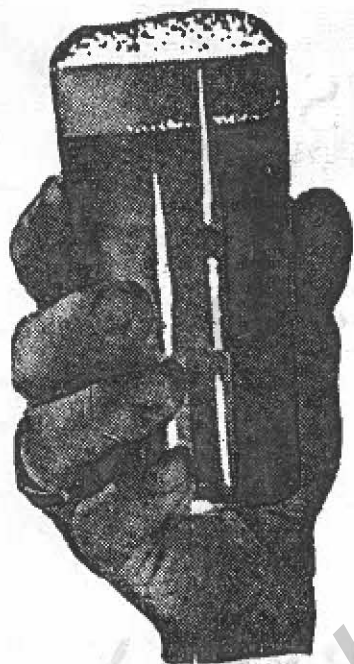
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