

# **REPORT**

On the work of the

**CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY**

Presented to the

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

By the

**CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY**

1st. February, 1980

1st FEBRUARY, 1980

CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

by the

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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ON THE WORK OF THE

R E P O R T

REPORT ON WORK OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

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I. EXISTING CONSTITUTION

1. The Guyana Independence Act 1966 which was enacted by the British Parliament provided for the attainment by British Guiana of fully responsible status within the Commonwealth from 26th May, 1966. The Act also empowered Her Majesty by Order in Council to provide a Constitution for Guyana to come into effect that same day.
2. On 16th May, 1966, Her Majesty in Council made the Guyana Independence Order 1966 and established a Constitution for Guyana.

II. NEED FOR NEW CONSTITUTION

3. Guyana is a developing country and is desirous of reconstructing its society and its economy on socialist principles so that the right to enjoy the highest possible standard of living and quality of life consistent with the work and the development of the country's resources, to which the people of Guyana are entitled can be assured.

4. The existing Constitution is the standard Westminster type of Constitution and is not a suitable vehicle for effecting the necessary reconstruction of the society and the economy.

5. A new socialist type of Constitution designed to ensure social and economic justice for all of the people of Guyana is needed.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY  
TO PREPARE NEW CONSTITUTION

6. On 21st July, 1978, the National Assembly approved of the establishment of a Constituent Assembly to prepare a new Constitution for the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

IV. RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

7. The motion providing for the establishment of the Constituent Assembly was moved in the National Assembly by the Prime Minister, Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P.

8. It was considered, debated and passed as follows:-

"WHEREAS the people of Guyana are entitled as of right to enjoy the highest possible standard of living and quality of life consistent with their work and the development of the country's resources;

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid right cannot be assured unless the society and the economy are reconstructed on socialist principles;

AND WHEREAS the existing Constitution is not a suitable vehicle for effecting the necessary reconstruction of the society and the economy of the State;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to adopt a new Constitution designed to ensure social and economic justice for all of the people of Guyana:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly resolve itself into a Committee consisting of all the members of the Assembly (including the Speaker) to be known as a Constituent Assembly for the purpose of preparing a new Constitution for the Republic of Guyana provided that members of the National Assembly who are not elected members of the National Assembly shall be entitled to participate in the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly but without the right to vote thereat;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Constituent Assembly shall have power -

- (a) to elect its Chairman and a Deputy Chairman from among persons who are members of the Constituent Assembly;
- (b) to appoint the Secretary of the Constituent Assembly and such other staff which may be considered requisite by the Constituent Assembly for the carrying out of its functions;
- (c) to delegate to the Chairman the powers conferred by paragraph (b), other than the power to appoint the Secretary;

- 
- (d) to co-opt permanent advisory delegations representing other groups of persons in the society, in particular, the Guyana Association of Local Authorities, the Trades Union Congress and religious organisations, to assist the Constituent Assembly in its deliberations in the preparation of the new Constitution for the Republic of Guyana;
  - (e) to invite and receive memoranda from members of the public or from organisations and to take evidence from persons desiring to testify before it;
  - (f) to hold meetings in any part of Guyana; and
  - (g) to regulate its own procedure."



V. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLYMembers

9. The Members who comprised the Constituent Assembly, that is, the Members of the National Assembly, were as follows:-

\*Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (46)

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P., Prime Minister

Cde. P.A. Reid, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Minister of Works and Transport

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House

Cde. C.V. Mingo, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

\*Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour

\*Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

\*Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance

\*Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture

\*Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice

\*Cde. V.R. Teekah, M.P., Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture (Died on 25th October, 1979)

\*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

\*Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection

Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne)

Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister, Office of the Prime Minister

Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi)

Cde. P. Duncan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives (Up to 31st December, 1979), and Minister of State - Regional (North West) (From 1st January, 1980)

Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)

Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)

Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister (Up to 16th December, 1979), and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture (From 17th December, 1979)

\* Without Vote (Not an Elected Member)

- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of National Development
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. L.A. Durant, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West) (Died on 1st November, 1979)
- \*Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of State for Information, Ministry of National Development
- \*Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister (From 17th December, 1979)
- Cde. M.M. Ackman, C.C.H., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip
- Cde. E.L. Ambrose, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture
- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P., Ordinary Member (Up to 24th October, 1979), and Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Transport (From 25th October, 1979)
- Cde. W.G. Carrington, C.C.H., M.P.
- Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
- Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. A. Salim, M.P.
- Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
- Cde. H.B. Walcott, J.P., M.P. (From 3rd December, 1979)
- Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
- Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, M.P.

Members of the Opposition (16)

(i) People's Progressive Party (14)

- Cde. C. Jagan, M.P., Leader of the Opposition
- Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
- Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.
- Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

\* Without Vote (Not an Elected Member)

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.  
 Cde. C. Collymore, M.P.  
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.  
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P.  
 Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.  
 Cde. R. Ally, M.P.  
 Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.  
 Cde. Dindayal, M.P.  
 Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.  
 Cde. P. Sukhai, M.P.

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.  
 Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

Chairman of the Constituent Assembly

10. At its first meeting on 6th November, 1978, the Constituent Assembly unanimously elected Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly, to be Chairman of the Constituent Assembly.

Deputy Chairman of the Constituent Assembly

11. The Constituent Assembly, also at its first meeting on 6th November, 1978, unanimously elected Cde. Philip Duncan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives, to be Deputy Chairman of the Constituent Assembly.

Deaths of Members

12. The Constituent Assembly lost by death two Members from the People's National Congress - Cde. Vincent R. Teekah, Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture, and Cde. Leonard A. Durant, Minister of State - Regional (North West), who died on 25th October, 1979, and on 1st November, 1979, respectively.

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New Members

13. Two new persons from the People's National Congress who became Members of the National Assembly also became Members of the Constituent Assembly.

14. They were Cde. Huldah B. Walcott, J.P., from 3rd December, 1979, and Cde. Harun Rashid, Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister, from 17th December, 1979.

Absence of Members of P.P.P.

15. The Members of the People's Progressive Party did not participate in the work of the Constituent Assembly and attended none of its Meetings.

VI. ADVISORY PANELEstablishment

16. In its Resolution of 21st July, 1978, the National Assembly empowered the Constituent Assembly to co-opt permanent advisory delegations representing other groups in the society, in particular, the Guyana Association of Local Authorities, the Trades Union Congress and Religious Organisations, to assist it in its deliberations.

17. In its Rules, the Constituent Assembly made provision for the establishment of a body to be known as the Advisory Panel of the Assembly to assist the Assembly in an advisory capacity in its deliberations, and to consist of -

- (i) Two Representatives of the Christian Religion
- (ii) Two Representatives of the Hindu Religion
- (iii) Two Representatives of the Muslim Religion
- (iv) Three Representatives of the Guyana Trades Union Congress
- (v) Three Representatives of the Guyana Association of Local Authorities
- (vi) Two Representatives of the Guyana Co-operative Union
- (vii) One Representative of the Guyana Assembly of Youth
- (viii) One Representative of the Council for the Affairs and Status of Women in Guyana

18. The organisations were required to also nominate alternates who like the representatives were also entitled to receive notices of meetings of the Assembly and all documents relating to its proceedings and, in the absence of representatives from any meeting of the Assembly to attend such meeting and to participate in the proceedings in their stead.

Representatives and Alternates of the Christian Religion

19. The two representatives and the two alternates nominated by the Christian Religion were as follows:-

<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Cde. Iris Hyman (West Evangelist Pilgrim Church, commonly known as the Jordanites)	Cde. Hyacinth Dorothy Eleazar Cunningham (Methodist Church)
Rev. Dr. Hewley E. Hinds (African Methodist Episcopal Church)	Cde. Claude London (Guyana Missionary Baptist Church)

Representatives and Alternates of the Hindu Religion

20. The two representatives and the two alternates nominated by the Hindu Religion were as follows:-

<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Cde. Oudit Narine Sharma (Guyana Pandits' Council)	Cde. Deonarine Uppadhyaya (Guyana Pandits' Council)
Cde. K. Maraj (Guyana Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha)	Cde. T.R. Saywack (Guyana Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha)

Representatives and Alternates of the Muslim Religion

21. The two representatives and the two alternates nominated by the Muslim Religion were as follows:-

<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Mr. K.A. Juman Yassin (Muslim Council in Guyana)	Cde. Hazrat Ali (Muslim Council in Guyana)
Cde. Sheik Mohamed Saffee (United Sad'r Islamic Anjuman)	Cde. Kamroo Zaman (United Sad'r Islamic Anjuman)

Representatives and Alternates of the Guyana Trades Union Congress

22. The three representatives and the three alternates nominated by the Guyana Trades Union Congress were as follows:-

<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Cde. Basil Blair, President	Cde. Gordon Todd, Second Vice President
Cde. J.H. Pollydore, A.A., General Secretary	Cde. Leslie Melville, Principal Assistant Secretary
Cde. N.E. Semple, First Vice President	Cde. A.E. Sinclair, First Assistant Secretary

Representatives and Alternates of the Guyana Association of Local Authorities

23. The three representatives and the three alternates nominated by the Guyana Association of Local Authorities were as follows:-

<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Cde. Hulbert McGowan, A.A., J.P., President	Cde. George T. Trim, M.S., J.P., Secretary
Cde. Howard London, M.S., Deputy President	Cde. Kenneth Hopkinson, M.S., J.P.
Cde. Walter Bipat, J.P., Senior Vice President	Cde. John Abrams, J.P.

Representatives and Alternates of the Guyana Co-operative Union

24. The two representatives and the two alternates nominated by the Guyana Co-operative Union were as follows:-

<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Cde. Kenneth F. Shortt, Secretary/Manager	Cde. Samuel Smith
Cde. Bissoon Dyal	Cde. Mohamed Khan

Representative and Alternate of the Guyana Assembly of Youth

25. The representative and the alternate nominated by the Guyana Assembly of Youth were as follows:-

Representative

Cde. Mavis Benn,  
General Secretary

Alternate

Cde. John Douglas,  
President

Representative and Alternate of the Council for the Affairs and Status of Women in Guyana

26. The representative and <sup>the</sup> alternate nominated by the Council for the Affairs and Status of Women in Guyana were as follows:-

Representative

Cde. Sheila King, Adviser

Alternate

Cde. Enid Forde, Chairman



VII. DUTY OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

27. The duty of the Constituent Assembly was to prepare a new Constitution for the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

VIII. PRELIMINARY MEETINGS OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

28. The Constituent Assembly held three Preliminary Meetings - on 6th November, 1978, 8th February, 1979, and 23rd March, 1979.

29. At these Meetings, a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman were elected, a Secretary was appointed, Rules regulating the procedure of the Assembly were made, and the question of the Advisory Panel was settled.

IX. PROCEDURE ON WORK OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

30. At its First Meeting on 6th November, 1978, the Constituent Assembly made Rules to regulate its procedure.

31. It decided that for the purpose of assisting it in its deliberations, the public should participate in its work and should be invited either as individuals or as organisations to submit memoranda with proposals for the new Constitution for the consideration of the Assembly.

32. It was also decided that those who wished to appear before the Assembly to give oral evidence only or in support of any memorandum submitted to the Assembly should be invited to do so.

33. At that same Meeting the Constituent Assembly also decided that its Meetings would be held in public and throughout Guyana and that the quorum should consist of eleven Members.

X. INAUGURAL MEETING OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

34. Following its three Preliminary Meetings and the establishment of the Advisory Panel, the Constituent Assembly held its Inaugural Meeting on Monday, 4th June, 1979, in the Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown.

35. At that Meeting speeches were made by the following:-

The Chairman of the Constituent Assembly,  
Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the  
National Assembly  
Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.  
Cde. H.E. Hinds, Representative, Christian Religion  
Cde. K. Maraj, Representative, Hindu Religion  
Cde. S.M. Saffee, Representative, Muslim Religion  
Cde. B.B. Blair, Representative, Guyana Trades Union Congress  
Cde. H.H. McGowan, A.A., J.P., Representative, Guyana Association  
of Local Authorities  
Cde. K.P. Shortt, Representative, Guyana Co-operative Union  
Cde. M. Benn, Representative, Guyana Assembly of Youth  
Cde. S. King, Representative, Council for the Affairs and Status  
of Women in Guyana  
The Prime Minister, Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P.

XI. MEMORANDA

36. As empowered by the National Assembly in its Resolution establishing the Constituent Assembly, the Constituent Assembly, when it first met agreed that members of the public and organisations should be involved in its work and decided that invitations should be extended to the public to submit proposals for the new Constitution for the Assembly's consideration.

37. It was also decided that individuals and organisations who desired to appear before the Constituent Assembly to give oral evidence should be invited to testify before it.

38. Memoranda were to be submitted not later than 31st January, 1979.

39. Following the above decisions, the following notice was published on several occasions during December, 1978, and January, 1979, in the Official Gazette and in the newspapers:-

"NOTICE

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Invitation to Submit Memoranda and to give Oral Evidence

A Constituent Assembly consisting of all the Members of the National Assembly has been established by the National Assembly to prepare for the Republic of Guyana, a new Constitution designed to ensure social and economic justice for all of the people of Guyana.

To assist it in its deliberations, the Constituent Assembly will consider views submitted by members of the public and organisations.

All members of the public and organisations who are therefore interested in submitting views for the Constituent Assembly's consideration are hereby invited to do so. Memoranda must be submitted to reach the Secretary not later than 31st January, 1979.

Those who wish to appear before the Constituent Assembly to give oral evidence only or in support of any memorandum submitted must convey their request in writing to the Secretary to reach him not later than 31st January, 1979.

Memoranda and letters must be addressed to -

The Secretary,  
Constituent Assembly,  
Parliament Office,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown,  
Guyana.

F.A. Narain,  
Clerk of the National Assembly.  
Secretary of the Constituent Assembly.  
2nd December, 1978"

40. Announcements were also made regularly over the broadcasting stations and reminders appeared on several occasions in the newspapers.

#### Memoranda Received

41. In response to its public invitation, the Constituent Assembly received 139 submissions. These came from 97 individuals and 42 organisations who included lawyers, doctors, nurses, teachers, politicians, public officers, police, prison and fire officers, constables, watchmen, and security officers, farmers, manufacturers, trade unions, religious organisations, municipal workers, women's organisations and co-operatives.

42. Sixty individuals and 16 organisations in their submissions, also made requests to appear before the Constituent Assembly to give oral evidence.

43. Three of the individuals and 4 of the organisations who submitted memoranda indicated their willingness to give oral evidence in support of their memoranda, if required by the Constituent Assembly.

44. Submissions came from all over Guyana; one came from overseas - Canada.

45. The following are the individuals and the organisations who made submissions to the Constituent Assembly:-

Individuals

- Arnold Apple,  
127 Cato Street, Agricola, Greater Georgetown
- # P. Armogan,  
Lot 44 Stanleytown, New Amsterdam, Berbice
- Vivian Basdeo,  
45 Durban Street, Lodge, Greater Georgetown
- \* Hilton Beharry,  
8 St. Ann Street, New Amsterdam, Berbice
- \* L. Benjamin,  
20 Smyth Field, New Amsterdam, Berbice
- Thomas Benjamin,  
Matthews Ridge, North West Region
- \* Stephen Bishop,  
Mazaruni Prisons, Mazaruni, Essequibo
- \* Alonzo Bouyea,  
Wisrock Housing Scheme, Wismar, Linden
- Fred Bowman,  
38 Bent Street, Werk-en-Rust, Georgetown
- \* Inspector Bristol,  
Bartica, Essequibo
- Stanley Browman,  
17 Norton Street, Wortmanville, Georgetown
- \* George Bryan,  
20 Friendship, Buxton, East Coast Demerara
- Amos Bury,  
33 Seventh Avenue, Bartica, Essequibo
- \* Gibson Caesar & Abel Crammer  
Bartica, Essequibo
- \* Norman E. Cameron,  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  4 First Avenue, Subryanville, Greater Georgetown
- \* Gabriel Charles,  
65 Cross Street, Werk-en-Rust, Georgetown
- Victor Chesney,  
Lot 3 Cummings Ville, New Amsterdam, Bartica
- Frank E. Dalzell,
- \* Christopher De Costa,  
Kwakwani Water Front, Berbice River
- Enzel Denzil,
- \* K.D. Doobay,  
Cotton Field, Essequibo Coast

\* Wishes to Give Oral Evidence.

# Willing to Give Oral Evidence in  
Support of Memorandum, if Requested.

- Poshall Doobay,  
Airy Hall, Essequibo Coast
- \* Fr. John Dorman,  
Bartica, Essequibo
- \* Phillip Edwards and Edgar Baird,  
Bartica, Essequibo
- J. Emanuel,  
Ruimveldt Housing Scheme, Greater Georgetown
- \* Lionel R. Ferguson,  
Kurupung Landing, Mazaruni River, Essequibo
- \* William Ferrell,  
Vryman's Erven, New Amsterdam, Berbice
- Victor Fileen,  
Lot 1967 Boggy Peak Street, Festival City,  
Greater Georgetown
- \* Cyril Francis,  
Bartica, Essequibo
- \* Neil Gaskin,  
Matthews Ridge, North West Region
- \* E.D. George,  
Bartica, Essequibo
- \* Compton Gonsalves,  
35 Victory Valley, Wismar, Linden
- \* Albert Graham,  
Matthews Ridge, North West Region
- \* J.E. Halliday,  
Lethem, Central Rupununi
- \* Athanasius Harrop,  
Charity, Pomeroun, Essequibo
- \* Eugene Angoy Hazel,  
92 Side Line Dam, Beterverwagting, E.C.D.
- \* Clarence E.H. Hendricks,  
63 Campbellville Housing Scheme,  
Greater Georgetown
- Elder D. Hollingsworth,  
Lot 1-B Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown
- \* Evelyn Hutton,  
Alstrom Alley, Christianburg, Linden
- \* Fr. Patrick Hutton,  
Annai, Rupununi, Essequibo
- \* K.V. Jairam,  
Lot 24 Land of Plenty, Essequibo Coast
- \* Frederick C. James,  
Lot 6 Kateville, Zorg, Essequibo Coast
- \* Richard T. James,  
Mabaruma Township, North West Region
- \* Tony James,  
Aishalton Village, South Rupununi

\* Wishes to Give Oral Evidence.



- Orville John,  
318 Middle Road, La Penitence,  
Greater Georgetown
- \* Ronald Pryor Jonas,  
57 Lamaha Gardens, Greater Georgetown
- Donald Jones,  
Jones' Piano & Organ Shop, 10 Ketley &  
Drysdale Streets, Charlestown, Georgetown
- \* Betty Kalloo,  
4 James Street, Albouystown, Georgetown
- \* Cyril N. Kendall,  
Hydronie Village, East Bank Essequibo  
Ramnaught Khanhai,  
53 Stanleytown, New Amsterdam, Berbice
- # B.K. Khemraj,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Vlissengen Road,  
Georgetown
- Kenneth C. King,  
Parliament Office, Public Buildings, Georgetown
- \* L. King,  
Smyth Field, New Amsterdam, Berbice
- \* Oscar A. King  
No. 64 Village, Corentyne, Berbice
- \* Verna Lachman,  
48 Winkel, New Amsterdam, Berbice
- \* Kisson Lall,  
Awarewaunau Village, South Rupununi Savannahs
- \* Isaac Lambert,  
Port Kaituma, North West Region
- Jasper Leach,  
Sisters Village, East Bank Berbice
- # Edgar M. Leonard,  
594-R36 Tucville, Greater Georgetown, and  
106 Silvertown, Linden, Demerara River
- William A.G. Lovell,  
38 Dowding Street, Kitty, Greater Georgetown
- Lionel A. Luckhoo,  
Chambers, 1 Croal Street, Georgetown
- \* Vincent Manniram,  
Hampton Court, Essequibo Coast
- \* Courtney Marcus,  
Bartica, Essequibo
- Burdette Marshall,  
192 Duncan Street, Campbellville, Greater Georgetown
- \* Roy Marshall,  
Independence Avenue, Mackenzie, Linden
- A. Masykeela,  
312 Independence Boulevard, La Penitence Avenue,  
Greater Georgetown

\* Wishes to Give Oral Evidence.

# Willing to Give Oral Evidence in  
Support of Memorandum, if Requested.

- \* V. Matthews,  
Bartica, Essequibo
- Wm. L. McDowell,  
Fire Service Headquarters, 11 Water Street, Stabroek,  
Georgetown
- E. Mitchell,  
777 Jane Street, Suite 312, Toronto, Canada
- \* Lloyd Mitchell,  
Matthews Ridge, North West Region
- Martin Moriah,  
Liverpool, Corentyne, Berbice
- \* Adam Nash,  
Aranaputa Valley, Via Annai, North Rupununi Savannahs
- Norma Nichols,  
Carmel R.C. School, Charles & Sussex Streets,  
Charlestown, Georgetown
- \* William H. Paul,  
Cummingsville Housing Scheme,  
New Amsterdam, Berbice
- Deo Persaud,  
Windsor Castle, Essequibo Coast
- \* Leslie Peters,  
Linden
- Pooran,  
Good Success, Wakenaam, Essequibo River
- \* George Price,  
Mabaruma Township, North West Region
- \* M.H. Rahat,  
235 South Street, Lacytown, Georgetown
- \* Alfred Ramsarran,  
Moco Moco Village, Via Lethem, Central Rupununi
- \* Edward Ranjee,  
Bartica, Essequibo
- Rooplall,  
Grant La Bagatelle, Pomeroun, Essequibo
- Vernon Rose,  
Java Farm No. 41, Eversham Post Office,  
Corentyne, Berbice
- \* Cyril Sam,  
Kwakwani Park, Berbice River
- Abdul Satar,  
Lot 99 Anna Catherina, West Coast Demerara
- \* Leonard C. Sawers,  
338 South Ruimveldt Gardens, Greater Georgetown
- \* Bidwani R. Sawh,  
Guyana Airways Corporation, Engineering  
Department, Supplies Section, Timehri
- \* Kenneth Seecharan,  
Fairs Rust, Mackenzie, Linden

\* Wishes to Give Oral Evidence.

- George Albert Simpson,  
 Lot 82 Republic Drive, Triumph Village,  
 East Coast Demerara
- Mandil Singh,  
 Hampton Court, Essequibo
- \* P. Singh,  
 Lethem, Central Rupununi
- \* Edward Smith,  
 Cabacaburi, Pomeroon, Essequibo
- \* Sylvanus Stephens,  
 537 Greenheart Street, Mackenzie, Linden
- \* Calvert A. Thomas,  
 164 Laing Avenue, La Penitence Housing Scheme,  
 Greater Georgetown
- \* Candida Veras,  
 Karasabai Village, South Pakarainas
- Hilton Webster,  
 33 Silvertown, Linden, Demerara River
- \* Mary Williams,  
 Mainstay/Whyaka Mission, Essequibo

#### Organisations

- \* Al-Mujahideen,  
 Wharton Building, 1 Croal Street, Stabroek, Georgetown
- \* Amerindian Association of Guyana,  
 84 Robb Street, Bourda, Georgetown
- \* Bloomfield Cane Farmers Co-operative Marketing Society Limited,  
 Bloomfield Village, Corentyne, Berbice
- Branch Davidian Sevenday Adventist Association,  
 Grant Adventure, Pomeroon River, Essequibo
- # Central Spiritual Unity True Worshipers,  
 Lot V Bent Street, Wortmanville, Georgetown
- Christadelphian Ecclesia (Church) In Guyana,  
 P.O. Box 555, Georgetown
- Congress of Guyana African Tribalist Organisation,  
 c/o Shirley's Compound, Ithaca Village, West Bank Berbice
- \* Council on the Affairs and Status of Women in Guyana,  
 Ministry of Health, Housing & Labour, D'Urban Park, Georgetown
- \* Friendly Farmers Land Co-operative Society,  
 No. 59 Village, Corentyne, Berbice
- Full Gospel Movement "Streams of Power",  
 Revival Hall, Church Street, Corriverton, Corentyne, Berbice
- Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists,  
 P.O. Box 78, Georgetown
- Guyana International Year of the Child Commission -  
 Legislation Committee,  
 Ministry of Education, Social Development & Culture,  
 21 Brickdam, Georgetown

\* Wishes to Give Oral Evidence.

# Willing to Give Oral Evidence in  
 Support of Memorandum, if Requested.

- Guyana Manufacturers' Association Limited,  
4th Floor, Bank of Guyana Building, Georgetown
- Guyana Nurses' Association,  
178 Alexander & Charlotte Streets, Lacytown, Georgetown
- Guyana Pandits' Council,  
Gopaul Mandir, Howes Street, Charlestown, Georgetown
- \* Guyana Press Association,  
c/o G.B.S., 68 Hadfield Street, Lodge, Greater Georgetown
- \* Guyana Public Service Union,  
160 Regent & New Garden Streets, P.O. Box 554, Georgetown
- Guyana Society for the Blind - Corriverton Branch,  
St. Philip's Green, Georgetown
- \* Guyana Trades Union Congress,  
Critchlow Labour College, Non Pariel Park, Georgetown
- Guyana United Apostolic Mystical Council,  
53 New Road, Eccles, East Bank Demerara
- Guyana United Apostolic Mystical Council Sect,  
YY 8 North East La Penitence, Greater Georgetown
- \* Guyanese Liberation Association,  
Pln. De Kinderen, West Coast Demerara
- House of Zion,  
350 North East La Penitence, Greater Georgetown
- # Methodist Church in Guyana ,  
Trinity Manse, 51 High Street, Werk-en-Rust, Georgetown
- # McKenzie Seventh Day Adventist Church,  
247 Mora Street, Linden, Demerara River
- # Muslim Council in Guyana,  
P.O. Box 628, Georgetown
- National Road Safety Council,  
Traffic Headquarters, Eve Leary, Kingston, Georgetown
- National Spritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Guyana,  
220 Charlotte Street, Bourda, Georgetown
- New Amsterdam Municipal Employees' Sports Club,  
Vryheid Street, New Amsterdam, Berbice
- \* Parent-Teachers' Association - Upper Mazaruni,  
Bartica, Essequibo
- People's National Congress,  
Office of the General Secretary, 200 Camp Street, Georgetown
- People's National Congress Group,  
Friendship, Pomeroon, Essequibo
- People's National Congress - No. 1 Group, Met-en-Meerzorg,  
18 Met-en-Meerzorg, West Coast Demerara
- \* Police Association,  
  
Police Headquarters, Eve Leary, Kingston, Georgetown
- \* Region No.5 - Mazaruni/Potaro/Cuyuni (Six Organisations),  
Bartica, Essequibo
- Sans Souci Mosque Members,  
Sans Souci, Wakenaam, Essequibo
- \* Wishes to Give Oral Evidence.
- # Willing to Give Oral Evidence in  
Support of Memorandum, if Requested.

- \* Transport and Harbours Department Supernumerary Constables,  
T. & H.D. Security Office, Goods Wharf, Water Street,  
Kingston, Georgetown
- \* United Farmers Land Co-operative Society,  
Joppa Farm, Corentyne, Berbice
- \* University of Guyana Students' Society,  
Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown
- \* Upkar Sabha,  
Lot 22 Supply, Mahaica, East Coast Demerara  
West Evangelist Millium Pilgrim Church,  
(Commonly called Jordanites),  
141 Cato Street, Agricola, Greater Georgetown  
Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement - No.59 District,  
18 Met-en-Meerzorg, West Coast Demerara

#### Publication of Memoranda

46. All the memoranda received were reproduced in the Secretariat and were numbered and paged in continuous series. The 139 submissions were published in a volume covering 376 pages. Thirty-four additional pages comprising tables of indexes and statistical information on the memoranda were also prepared and published with the memoranda.

47. Copies of the memoranda and the indexes as reproduced, were circulated to the Members of the Constituent Assembly and to the Representatives and Alternates on the Advisory Panel. Copies were also made available to the Press.

\* Wishes to Give Oral Evidence.

XII. ORAL EVIDENCE

48. The Constituent Assombly held Meetings throughout Guyana - travelling hundreds of miles - to hear the views and proposals of those individuals and organisations who made requests to appear before it to give oral evidence.

49. Apart from Meetings in Georgetown, the visits of the Constituent Assembly included the far reaches of the Interior of Guyana. In the Rupununi, the Constituent Assembly held Meetings at Aishalton, Lethem and Karasabai. In the North West Region, Meetings were held at Mabaruma and at Matthews Ridge. In the Upper Mazaruni, a Meeting was held at Kamarang. Up the Demerara River, a Meeting was held at the mining town of Linden. Up the Essequibo River, a Meeting was held at Bartica. Meetings were also held on the Coast. On the Essequibo Coast, the Constituent Assembly met at Charity and at Anna Regina, and on the Berbice Coast, Meetings were held at Corriverton and at New Amsterdam.

50. In Georgetown, oral evidence was given at 20 Meetings by 13 individuals and 10 organisations. At the 12 Meetings which were held in other places, 44 individuals and 4 organisations appeared before the Constituent Assembly and gave oral evidence.

51. Wherever the Constituent Assembly went, it received a rousing welcome by all and great interest was shown by the residents who turned out in large numbers, attended Meetings, and gave their support to the work of the Constituent Assembly.

52. The following are the individuals and the organisations who appeared before the Constituent Assembly and gave oral evidence:

Individuals

Hilton Beharry (New Amsterdam) (6th September, 1979)  
 Larna Benjamin (New Amsterdam) (6th September, 1979)  
 Stephen Bishop (Bartica) (30th October, 1979)  
 Alonzo Bouyea (Linden) (29th October, 1979)  
 George Bryan (Georgetown) (19th September, 1979)  
 Gibson Caesar & Abel Crammer (Kamarang) (12th September, 1979)  
 Norman E. Cameron (Georgetown) (19th September, 1979)  
 Gabriel Charles (Georgetown) (26th September, 1979)  
 Christopher De Costa (Linden) (29th October, 1979)  
 K.D. Doobay (Anna Regina) (9th August, 1979)  
 Fr. John Dorman (Kamarang) (12th September, 1979)  
 Phillip Edwards and Edgar Baird (Bartica) (30th October, 1979)  
 Lionel R. Ferguson (Kamarang) (12th September, 1979)  
 William Ferrell (New Amsterdam) (6th September, 1979)  
 Cyril Francis (Bartica) (30th October, 1979)  
 E.D. George (Kamarang) (12th September, 1979)  
 Compton Gonsalves (Linden) (29th October, 1979)  
 Albert Graham (Matthews Ridge) (20th September, 1979)  
 J.E. Halliday (Lethem) (18th July, 1979)  
 Athanasius Harrop (Charity) (8th August, 1979)  
 Eugene Angoy Hazel (Georgetown) (26th September, 1979)  
 Clarence E.H. Hendricks (Georgetown) (28th September, 1979)  
 Evelyn Hutson (Linden) (29th October, 1979)  
 Fr. Patrick Hutton (Georgetown) (10th October, 1979)  
 Victorine Isaacs for V. Matthews (Kamarang) (12th September, 1979)  
 K.V. Jairam (Anna Regina) (9th August, 1979)  
 Frederick C. James (Anna Regina) (9th August, 1979)  
 Richard T. James (Mabaruma) (20th September, 1979)  
 Tony James (Aishalton) (19th July, 1979)  
 Ronald Pryor Jonas (Georgetown) (17th October, 1979)  
 Betty Kalloo (Georgetown) (26th September, 1979)  
 Cyril N. Kendall (Georgetown) (17th October, 1979)  
 L. King (New Amsterdam) (6th September, 1979)  
 Oscar A. King (Corriverton) (6th September, 1979)  
 Verna Lachman (New Amsterdam) (6th September, 1979)  
 Kisson Lall (Aishalton) (19th July, 1979)  
 Isaac Lambert (Matthews Ridge) (20th September, 1979)  
 Vincent Manniram (Anna Regina) (9th August, 1979)  
 Roy Marshall (Linden) (29th October, 1979)  
 Walter Matthews for Courtney Marcus (Kamarang) (12th September, 1979)  
 Lloyd Mitchell (Matthews Ridge) (20th September, 1979)  
 William H. Paul (New Amsterdam) (6th September, 1979)  
 Leslie Peters (Linden) (29th October, 1979)  
 George Price (Mabaruma) (20th September, 1979)

M.H. Rahat (Georgetown) (17th October, 1979)  
 Alfred Ramsarran (Lethem) (18th July, 1979)  
 Edward Ranjee (Bartica) (30th October, 1979)  
 Cyril Sam (Linden) (29th October, 1979)  
 Leonard C. Sawers (Georgetown) (17th October, 1979)  
 Bidwani R. Sawh (Georgetown) (10th October, 1979)  
 Kenneth Seecharran (Linden) (29th October, 1979)  
 P. Singh (Lethem) (18th July, 1979)  
 Edward Smith (Charity) (8th August, 1979)  
 Sylvanus Stephens (Linden) (29th October, 1979)  
 Calvert A. Thomas (Georgetown) (28th September, 1979)  
 Candida Veras (Karasabai) (20th July, 1979)  
 Mary Williams (Anna Regina) (9th August, 1979)

#### Organisations

Al-Mujahideen (Georgetown) (5th & 17th September, 1979)  
 Amerindian Association of Guyana (Georgetown) (3rd September, 1979)  
 Council on the Affairs and Status of Women in Guyana (Georgetown)  
 (3rd September, 1979)  
 Friendly Farmers Land Co-operative Society (Corriverton)  
 (6th September, 1979)  
 Guyana Public Service Union (Georgetown) (10th September, 1979)  
 Guyana Trades Union Congress (Georgetown) (22nd & 27th June,  
 4th, 9th, 11th, 25th & 30th July, 1st & 15th August, 1979)  
 Guyanese Liberation Association (Georgetown) (18th October, 1979)  
 Parent-Teachers' Association - Upper Mazaruni (Kamarang)  
 (12th September, 1979)  
 Police Association (Georgetown) (5th October, 1979)  
 Region No. 5 - Mazaruni/Potaro/Cuyuni (Six Organisations)  
 (Bartica) (30th October, 1979)  
 Transport and Harbours Department Supernumerary Constables  
 (Georgetown) (18th October, 1979)  
 United Farmers Land Co-operative Society (Corriverton)  
 (6th September, 1979)  
 University of Guyana Students' Society (Georgetown)  
 (18th October, 1979)  
 Upkar Sabha (Georgetown) (17th October, 1979)

53. In some cases individuals were accompanied by others who supported them and who also joined in giving oral evidence.

54. Organisations were represented by Delegations which comprised their senior officials.



XIII. NATURE OF MEMORANDA AND ORAL EVIDENCE

55. The memoranda received and the oral evidence given contained several proposals for the new Constitution.

56. There were proposals for the setting out in the Constitution of guiding principles and objectives - land to the tiller, personal property, right of inheritance, right and duty to work, right to leisure, right to education, equality for women, equality for children born out of wedlock, etc. There were proposals dealing with various fundamental rights; proposals were made for the retention of acknowledgement of reverence for the Deity.

57. Proposals were in respect of the Presidency, the composition of the Cabinet, of the National Assembly, and of the Service Commissions.

58. There were proposals on Local Government.

59. There were proposals for the establishment of a new Congress of the People as one of the supreme organs of democratic power.

60. There were proposals on matters on which legislation already existed. There were also some proposals which the Constituent Assembly did not feel were matters to be included in a Constitution.

61. Among the memoranda submitted, only one complete draft of an entire Constitution was received. That draft was prepared and submitted by the People's National Congress.

XIV. CONSIDERATION OF MEMORANDA AND ORAL EVIDENCE

62. All the Members of the Constituent Assembly and of the Advisory Panel had in their possession copies of all the memoranda received, and were supplied with copies of the evidence given as they were reproduced by the Secretariat and became available.

63. Members of the Constituent Assembly and of the Advisory Panel were therefore able to examine and to study the memoranda received and the oral evidence given and the various proposals made therein.

64. After the Constituent Assembly completed the taking of oral evidence, it examined the memoranda and the oral evidence and spent some time discussing and deliberating the various proposals which should be included in the new Constitution.

65. The Advisory Panel assisted the Constituent Assembly in an Advisory capacity in its deliberations.

XV. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE TO DRAFT CONSTITUTION

66. At its Meeting on 7th November, 1979, the Constituent Assembly appointed a Sub-Committee to consider the discussions and proposals made by it during its deliberations on the various matters, and to prepare a Draft of the new Constitution.

67. The following comprised the Sub-Committee:-

Chairman

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Constituent Assembly

Members of the People's National Congress

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives

Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House

Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice

Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P.

Member of the Liberator Party

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.

Members of the Advisory Panel

Mr. K.A. Juman Yassin, Representative (Muslim Religion)

Cde. B.B. Blair, Representative (Guyana Trades Union Congress)

Secretary

Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly, Secretary of the Constituent Assembly.

XVI. WORK OF SUB-COMMITTEE

68. The Sub-Committee met on 5 occasions - 26th and 30th November, and 3rd, 5th and 28th December, 1979 - in the Committee Room of the National Assembly, Public Buildings, Georgetown.

69. It examined the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly and the proposals, suggestions and instructions made and given by the Assembly, referred to memoranda received and oral evidence given, as found necessary, discussed these, and drafted articles to comprise a new Constitution.

XVII. DRAFT OF CONSTITUTION FROM SUB-COMMITTEE

70. The Draft of the Constitution as prepared by the Sub-Committee was presented to the Constituent Assembly by the Chairman at a Meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on 14th January, 1980.

XVIII. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION FROM SUB-COMMITTEE

71. The Constituent Assembly spent some time considering and discussing the Draft of the Constitution which was prepared by the Sub-Committee.

72. Again the Advisory Panel assisted the Constituent Assembly in an advisory capacity in its deliberations.

XIX. CONSTITUTION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

73. After consideration and discussion, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Draft Constitution prepared by the Sub-Committee, and at its Meeting on 18th January, 1980, the Assembly agreed that the Draft as adopted should be the Constitution which the Constituent Assembly should present to the National Assembly for its consideration, in pursuance of the National Assembly's Resolution which was passed on 21st July, 1978.

XX. FINAL MEETING OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

74. Following agreement on a Draft Constitution for the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, the Constituent Assembly held its 44th and Final Meeting to formally close its proceedings, on 28th January, 1960, in the Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown.

75. Speeches were made at the Meeting by -

The Chairman of the Constituent Assembly,  
Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the  
National Assembly  
The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development,  
Cde. P.A. Reid, M.P.  
Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.  
Cde. H.E. Hinds, Representative, Christian Religion  
Cde. O.N. Sharma, Representative, Hindu Religion  
Mr. K.A. Juman Yassin, Representative, Muslim Religion  
Cde. B.B. Blair, Representative, Guyana Trades Union Congress  
Cde. H.H. McGowan, A.A., J.P., Representative, Guyana Association  
of Local Authorities  
Cde. K.P. Shortt, Representative, Guyana Co-operative Union  
Cde. M. Benn, Representative, Guyana Assembly of Youth  
Cde. S. King, Representative, Council for the Affairs and Status  
of Women in Guyana



XXI. MEETINGS OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

76. In performing its duty, the Constituent Assembly held 44 Meetings - 32 in Georgetown and 12 in other parts of Guyana. Seven Meetings dealt with procedural matters, etc., and 32 Meetings were held for the purpose of receiving oral evidence.

77: The 44 Meetings were held on dates and at places as follows:-

Monday, 6th November, 1978  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Thursday, 8th February, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Friday, 23rd March, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Monday, 4th June, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Friday, 22nd June, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 27th June, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 4th July, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Monday, 9th July, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 11th July, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 18th July, 1979  
Community Centre, Lethem, Rupununi

Thursday, 19th July, 1979  
Government School, Lishalton, Rupununi

Friday, 20th July, 1979  
Government School Compound, Karasabai, Rupununi

Wednesday, 25th July, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Monday, 30th July, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 1st August, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 8th August, 1979  
Government School, Charity, Pomeroun, Essequibo

Thursday, 9th August, 1979  
Multilateral School, Anna Regina, Essequibo Coast

Wednesday, 15th August, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Monday, 3rd September, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 5th September, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Thursday, 6th September, 1979  
Skeldon Estate Training Centre, Corriverton

Thursday, 6th September, 1979  
New Amsterdam Government Secondary School (Multilateral),  
New Amsterdam

Monday, 10th September, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 12th September, 1979  
Kamarang Government School, Kamarang, Upper Mazaruni

Monday, 17th September, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 19th September, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Thursday, 20th September, 1979  
Mabaruma Government School, Mabaruma, North West

Thursday, 20th September, 1979  
Matthews Ridge Government School, Matthews Ridge, North West

Wednesday, 26th September, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Friday, 28th September, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Friday, 5th October, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 10th October, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 17th October, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Thursday, 18th October, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Monday, 29th October, 1979  
Linden Concert Hall and School (LICHAS), Linden

Tuesday, 30th October, 1979  
Bartica Government Secondary School, Bartica

Monday, 5th November, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Wednesday, 7th November, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Thursday, 8th November, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Friday, 9th November, 1979  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Monday, 14th January, 1980  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Thursday, 17th January, 1980  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Friday, 18th January, 1980  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

Monday, 28th January, 1980  
Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown

XXII. SECRETARIATSecretary

78. At its first Meeting on 6th November, 1978, the Constituent Assembly appointed Cde. Frank Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly, to be Secretary of the Constituent Assembly.

Other Staff

79. The question of other staff for the Constituent Assembly was delegated to and was determined by the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly.

80. The staff of Parliament served the Constituent Assembly, together with persons drawn from other Ministries/Government Departments, etc., as follows:—

From Parliament Office

Cde. Aubrey Knight, Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly  
 Cde. Cecilia G. Pompey, Hansard Editor  
 Cde. Vadis V. Sydney, Senior Official Reporter (Up to 26th November, 1979)  
 Cde. Jean Collison, Official Reporter (Up to 8th February, 1979)  
 Cde. Shirley Wharton, Official Reporter (Up to 27th June, 1979)  
 Cde. Eileen R. Cox, M.S., Official Reporter (From 23rd March, 1979)  
 Cde. C. Jean Ramsingh, Clerk III (General)  
 Cde. Marjorie P. Burgess, Clerk/Stenographer II  
 Cde. Angela Persaud, Clerk/Stenographer II  
 Cde. J. Beverley Smartt, Typist/Clerk II  
 Cde. Lekhwattie Ramrup, Clerk/Stenographer II (Up to 8th October, 1979)  
 Cde. Juliet R. Persaud, Clerk/Stenographer I  
 Cde. Kenneth C. King, Sergeant-at-Arms  
 Cde. Roslyn McFarlane, Accounts Clerk II  
 Cde. Jennifer C. Benjamin, Accounts Clerk II  
 Cde. Leota Mitchell, Telephonist  
 Cde. Oswald Alves, Office Assistant  
 Cde. Lancelot Lowrie, Office Assistant  
 Cde. Harrydeo Ramdeo, Office Assistant

From Other Ministries/Departments

- Cde. Yvonne A. Foster, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of National Development (From 26th June, 1979)
- Cde. Cheryl Burrowes, Apprentice Reporter, Supreme Court (From 22nd June to 4th July, 1979 and from 30th October, 1979)
- Cde. Alexis De Freitas (From 22nd June to 4th July, 1979)
- Cde. Joan Fredericks, Apprentice Reporter, Supreme Court (From 4th July, 1979)
- Cde. Imelda Reece, Apprentice Reporter, Supreme Court (From 22nd June to 9th August, 1979 and from 10th October, 1979)
- Cde. Bernice Chance, Stenographer II, Ministry of Agriculture (Hydraulics) (From 4th July to 30th September, 1979)
- Cde. Jean Y.P. Prowell, Steno-typist, Ministry of Home Affairs (Police) (From 25th June, 1979)
- Cde. Maureen A. Wickham, Typist/Clerk, Ministry of Finance (From 28th June, 1979)
- Cde. Mala Budhu, Typist/Clerk, Ministry of National Development (From 25th June, 1979)
- Cde. Brenda M. Seaforth, Typist/Clerk, Ministry of National Development (From 1st October to 13th December, 1979)
- Cde. Sandra Hopkinson, Typist/Clerk, Ministry of National Development (From 14th December, 1979)
- Cde. Noor Mohamed, Office Assistant, Ministry of National Development (From 1st July, 1979)

Secretariat

81. The Secretariat was formed principally by the Staff of Parliament and was accommodated at the Parliament Office, Public Buildings, Georgetown.

XXIII. CONCLUSION

82. This is the first time in the history of Guyana that the people have been given the opportunity of participating in the preparation of a Constitution for the Country. The Constitution prepared embodies the ideas which have come from the people. It is a Constitution by the People of Guyana.

83. Few would wish to dispute that it was a privilege for Guyanese to have been allowed the unique opportunity of reaching a consensus of what should be the draft of a new Constitution for their country for submission to Parliament.

84. It is a matter of joy and satisfaction that this task now stands fulfilled.

85. Many responded wholeheartedly and at great personal inconvenience in an exacting exercise, which demanded intensive work, painstaking effort and mature deliberation.

86. The deep implications of the assignment behoved all responsible and representative elements within our Society to lend their full co-operation to arrive at conscientious conclusions which would best serve the national interest of Guyana.

87. Those who deliberately abstained from discharging this duty rendered a signal disservice to their country; betrayed the trust reposed in them by those sections of the community whom they represented; and abdicated the responsibility of debating whatever viewpoints might have been held, within the relevant enclave. Those who saw fit to wage a campaign of criticism, disparagement and abuse from outside, might still

One day regret that the opportunity was not embraced to be constructive, where it mattered, instead of being destructive for the sake of trying to impress certain sectors, which have long ceased to believe from past experience that tangible results could be obtained through the form of a 'boycott'. Default or omission could hardly provide a realistic substitute for participation.

88. The Constitution of Guyana is and will be for all the people of Guyana - not for one section or class. It is for all to uphold and accept as our Supreme Law. The Constituent Assembly has always been sufficiently careful to bear this in mind. In time the people of Guyana and posterity will be the final arbiter and Judge.

89. At this juncture of our history, discipline, unity and co-operation are indispensable factors. Recriminations or confrontations should be strenuously avoided. Our objective is to fight the war of want - the removal of Social and economic injustices. This can only be done if we all join hands together.

XXIV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

90. The Constituent Assembly is grateful to the many individuals and organisations which assisted it in its work. It wishes to place on record its gratitude particularly to those organisations which nominated Representatives to the Advisory Panel, and also to the Representatives themselves who served on the Panel for the invaluable contributions which they made and for the advice which they gave to the Assembly in its deliberations, to the many individuals and organisations which submitted memoranda and appeared before the Assembly to give oral evidence, to the Regional Ministers and their Staffs for the assistance which they gave when the Constituent Assembly visited their Regions, and to all those who were responsible for transportation, accommodation, etc.

The Constituent Assembly also wishes to place on record its

very many hours which they worked beyond their normal official working hours.

92. The Constituent Assembly also thanks those Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments who assisted it in releasing and making available to it members of their Staffs to serve on the Secretariat.

93. The Constituent Assembly also wishes to thank the **Cleaners**, the Technicians, the Police, the Press and Radio Representatives, and indeed all the very many other persons who were involved in its work and who gave assistance to it.



XXV. DOCUMENTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

94. The following are the Documents for submission to the National

Assembly:-

- (i) Report on the Work of the Constituent Assembly
- (ii) Constitution as prepared by the Constituent Assembly
- (iii) Memoranda received by the Constituent Assembly, with Indexes
- (iv) Minutes of the Meetings of the Constituent Assembly
- (v) Verbatim Record of the Proceedings of Meetings of the Constituent Assembly.