

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORTS

[Volume 09]

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE SECOND SESSION (1982) OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA.

13th Sitting 14:00 hrs Thursday, 1982-08-25

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (75)

Speaker

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

Members of the Government – People's National Congress (62)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. P.A. Reid, O.E., M.P.,
Prime Minister

Other Vice Presidents (4)

Cde. S.S. Narain, A.A., M.P.,
Vice – President, Works, Transport and Housing

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P.,
Vice – President, Economic Planning and Finance (Absent – on leave)

Cde. H. Green, M.P.,
Vice – President, Agriculture (Absent)

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P.,
Vice – President, Party and State Matters

Senior Ministers (7)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P.,
Minister of Education

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P.,
Minister of National and Regional
Development

*Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P.,
Minister of Internal Trade and
Consumer Protection (Absent)

*Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P.,
Minister of Energy and Mines

*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P.,
Attorney General and Minister of Justice

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

*Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.,
Minister of Home Affairs (Absent)

*Non-elected Member

Ministers (7)

Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister of Co-operatives	(Absent – on leave)
Cde. J.N. Maitland – Singh, M.P., Minister, in the Ministry of Agriculture	(Absent)
Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance	
*Cde. Y.V. Harewood – Benn, M.P., Minister, in the Office of the Prime Minister	
*Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister, in the Office of the President	(Absent)
*Cde. R.A. Van West – Charles, M.P., Minister of Health	
*Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P., Minister of Labour, Manufacturing and Industrial Development	

Ministers of State (2)

Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection	
Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of State for Youth and Sports, In the Ministry of Education	

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

Cde. A.W. Bend – Kirton – Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works, Transport and Housing	
Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education	
Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	

*Non-elected Member

Other Members (26)

Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
Cde. M. Armogan,
Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.
Cde. J.B. Calderia, M.P.
Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P.
Cde. O.E. Clark, M.P.
Cde. E.B. Davidson, M.P.
Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
Cde. P. Fredericks, M.P.
Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.
Cde. J. Gill – Mingo, M.P.
Cde. A. McRae, M.P.
Cde. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
Cde. S. Prashad, M.P.
Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.P.
Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.
Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
Cde. H.B. Walcott – Nascimento, J.P., M.P.
 Government Chief Whip
Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.

Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Absent – on Leave)
Cde. B. Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Regional No. 1 – Barima/Waini)
Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Regional No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent – on leave)
Cde. C.A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
Cde. W. Bipat, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
Cde. H.I. London, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. I. Chowrimootoo, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)
Cde. N.R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cyunui/Mazaruni)
Cde. D. Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)
Cde. A. Dorrick, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)
Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) Peoples' Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P.
Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P.
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (8)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.	(Absent)
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Minority Chief Whip	
Cde. Narbada Persaud, M.P.	(Absent)
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.	
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.	
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.	
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.	(Absent)
Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.	

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.	(Absent – on leave)
Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.	(Absent)

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly – F.A. Narain, A.A.

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly – M.B. Henry

PRAYERS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

14:05 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave to Members

The Speaker: Leave has been granted, for today's Sitting, to the following Comrades: Cde. Johnson, Cde. Jairam and the hon. Member Mr. Singh.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

The following Papers were laid:

- (a) Rate of Interest (No. 2) Order 1982 (No. 44), made under Section 6 of the Rate of Interest Act, No. 13 of 1979, On 6th August, 1982, and published in the Gazette on 9th August, 1982.
- (b) Annual Report of the Guyana National Co-operative Bank for the year 1981.
- (c) Annual Report and Accounts of Guyana Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank for the year 1980. /The Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance on behalf of the Vice President, Economic Planning and Finance./

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS FOR SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

The Vice President, Party and State Matters (Cde. Ramsaroop): Cde. Speaker, I beg to move that the order of Public Business on today's Order Paper be varied to permit item 5 thereon to be taken first.

Question put, and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

CONSTITUTION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON

THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GUYANA

The Speaker: Cde. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister (Cde. Reid): Cde. Speaker, pursuant to Resolution No. 5 which was passed on 8th July, 1982, I am proposing that the Committee, in keeping with the Constitution of the Parliamentary Committee on the territorial integrity of Guyana, should consist of nine members, who have been identified after consultation and agreement with the Minority Party in Parliament. I am now nominating the following Members of the Assembly to comprise the Committee:

- (1) Cde. B. Ramsaroop
- (2) Cde. H. Jack
- (3) Cde. R. E. Jackson
- (4) Cde. P. Fredericks
- (5) Cde. K.V. Jairam
- (6) Cde. Ram Karran
- (7) Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud

(8) Cde. C. Collymore

(9) Mr. M.P. Singh

The Speaker: I think you are to nominate a Chairman as well at the same time.

The Prime Minister: I wish, Cde. Speaker, to nominate Cde. B. Ramsaroop as Chairman.

The Speaker: Generally, there is no need for a seconder, but on this occasion I am suggesting perhaps the Leader of the Minority may wish to second this proposal.

The Minority Leader (Cde. Dr. Jagan) seconded

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 23(3)

“Be it resolved that Standing Order No. 23(3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Wednesday 1982-08-25, upon the motion by the Minority Leader in connection with the invasion of Lebanon by Israel.” /The Vice – President, Party and State Matters./

Cde. Ramsaroop: Cde. Speaker, I wish to move the Motion standing in my name, that Standing Order 23(3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at today’s Sitting upon the Motion by the Minority Leader in connection with the invasion of Lebanon by Israel.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, while I have no objection to the Motion moved by the hon. Vice President, I would like, however, to draw to the attention of the Assembly that this Motion would not have been necessary had the notice which was sent in since July 7 been put on the Notice Paper. I regret to say that this was done only a few days ago, 18th August. I further regret to say that even prior to the Notice to the Clerk of the National Assembly on July 7, I had written the Minister of Foreign Affairs on June 18 because of the urgency of the matter. I wanted to consult with him to get his agreement, so to speak. Unfortunately, nothing transpired. Of course, he gave me an explanation that he was rather busy, he was going out of the country and so on.

I say this not because I want to launch out an attack against the Government or the Speaker or the Clerk. I would say, Cde. Speaker, that if these things are done expeditiously, if they are put on the Notice Paper when they are sent in - I know you take the point that you cannot put questions and motions on the Order Paper, but the Notice Paper is within your province and I fail to see why they are not put immediately. I have written on several occasions protesting - -

The Speaker: Cde. Jagan, you do not expect me to write it out. I pass the instructions and when it comes back then you get it.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Then you must move as Speaker to see that your office functions properly, the people below you, to see that these things are - -

The Speaker: Pass the vote so that I can get more staff.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: I cannot understand why there are these delays. It is unfortunate that today we have to debate this issue when Guyana’s position should have been pronounced ever since the Israelis launched out their genocidal attack against the Lebanese people.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried

The Speaker: Cde. Ramsaroop, please take note of what the Leader of the Minority said. He has been repeatedly making these statements and we seem not to be doing anything in response to them.

Cde. Jagan, I assume you will be speaking on the amendment that you have put in as well.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

INAVASION OF LEBANON BY ISRAEL

Whereas in June, 1982 Israel invaded Lebanon, and, ignoring the UN peace-keeping force stationed in that area, over- ran the country until today the capital of Lebanon, Beirut, is completely isolated;

And whereas this action is in complete violation of international law and of the Security Council Resolution calling for a cease-fire and the withdrawal of the invading force;

And whereas in the course of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon there has been tremendous loss of life, over 10,000 killed, commission of atrocities against the civilian population on a large scale, and destruction of property until today it is estimated that there are now an additional 100,000 homeless Lebanese and Palestinian people in that country;

And whereas this new act of aggression by Israel has increased tension in the sensitive Middle-East to a dangerous level, which could ignite the region;

“Be it resolved that this National Assembly condemns the invasion of Lebanon by Israeli forces as a war of genocide mainly aimed at the extermination of the Palestine people, demands an immediate withdrawal of all Israeli forces, and calls upon the Security Council of the UN to adopt appropriate measures, including the imposition of sanctions if Israel does not comply within a reasonable time.” /The Minority Leader/

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, Israeli Zionism supported by US imperialism is posing the major threat to progressive states and to the National Liberation Movement in the Middle East. Israel continuously flouts world opinion and all recognised norms of international behaviour by refusing to give up Arab lands captured in the 1967 Arab Israeli war. It further refuses to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation and to discuss a settlement of the outstanding issue of a Palestinian homeland.

Israel banditry knows no bounds. Immediately after its creation in 1948, the newly founded Israel state launched aggressive policies right away by depriving the Palestinian Arab people of their homeland, officially recognised by an international body – the United Nations. Later on in 1956, 1967 and 1975 Israel pressed on to achieve its expansionist ambitions with regard to the Arab states.

Israel's attitude towards the United Nations resolution on the setting-up of an Arab Palestinian state was seen on June 5th last when 85,000 Israeli troops including reservists, together with 1,000 armed vehicles attacked Lebanon through the United Nations guarded frontier and later, began persistent shelling by the air, land and sea of PLO camps and Lebanese villages. Their primary objective was to liquidate physically the 300,000 Arab people of Palestine origin living in Lebanon and to wipe out the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Israel is seeking a military rather than a political settlement to the Middle East problem. It seeks to impose a so-called administrative autonomy over the 1.5 million Palestinians inhabiting the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip. In fact, what was being sought was annexation of these lands with the aim of closing the question of a Palestinian state. All these actions and manoeuvres are being carried out with the direct support of the United States of America, within the framework of the agreement on strategic cooperations with Israel.

Israel's aggression against Lebanon and its drive to liquidate physically the Palestinian resistance fighters and the Lebanese National Patriotic Movement must be placed within the context of:-

- (1) the Camp-David Agreement
- (2) the Concomitant Egyptian-Israeli separate "Peace-Treaty" and
- (3) the US-Israeli Agreement on "Strategic Cooperation" in the Region.

First I would like to say a few words about the Camp David Accord. This was aimed at promoting the military and political interests of the United States and Israel in the Middle East.

It was aimed at turning Egypt into a strong-hold of United States military presence. We have seen where bases in Egypt will now provide facilities to the American Quick Reaction Forces in order to hit out wherever it becomes necessary.

The Camp David Agreement is aimed also at substituting US occupation of Sinai for Israeli occupation. It is aimed also at splitting Arab unity by pulling Egypt – the largest Arab nation from the other Arab countries and at the same time dis-uniting the Arab countries and bringing them singly one by one as they now propose to do with Lebanon into the Camp David Accords.

The Egyptian Israeli Separate Peace Treaty is silent on two fundamental questions –

- (1) The liberation of all Israeli occupied Arab territories and this might include Lebanon which has just been occupied.
- (2) The right of the Arab people of Palestine to independence including the establishment of a Sovereign State.

This Israeli Egyptian Agreement is silent and this is why Israel can now launch out this genocidal attack against the Lebanese people, feeling that the most powerful state in the Arab world especially from

1982-08-25

14:15 – 14:25 p.m.

a military point of view with its hands tied, Egypt will not attack.

The so-called strategic cooperation between US and Israel – places Tel-Aviv under a sort of American Military umbrella. It provides US military, political and diplomatic assistance to Israel. It encourages Israeli expansionism in the region.

The excuse by Israel for launching this vicious attack on Lebanon was the danger of so-called insecure frontiers and so-called terrorism by the PLO.

The events during the war proved quite the contrary for the following reasons:-

- (1) Most of the people killed were civilians including women, children and aged, not just military PLO personnel.
- (2) Most of the targets bombarded were residential areas. In fact, in the course of the war, fourteen PLO camps and thirty two Lebanese villages were raised to the ground.
- (3) Many cities were reduced to ruins while hundreds of thousands of people are left without shelter, food and medical supplies. Now there is a strong possibility of an outbreak of disease as a result of the war.

Cde. Speaker, as a result of this barbaric aggression, a 25-member commission from sixteen countries was set up to carry out an investigation and what they found was indeed very alarming. These include the use of personnel bombs that they call scatter bombs. When they drop they scatter shrapnel and injure people, who under severe distress die within a few days.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

14:25 hrs.

Bombs which look like apples or bananas are thrown and this has the effect of hitting particularly children who, thinking that they are fruits, go to pick them up and then they explode in their faces. This is the kind of genocidal attack which has been launched by Israel. Indeed, many of these modern weapons of war are now coming from the West and being tested by Israel, the front-line agent of imperialism in the Middle East, in the same way that we saw some western weapons were tried out in the Falklands War, the Malvinas War.

The Twenty-Five Member Commission condemned the attack as genocide reminiscent of Hitler's genocide against the people of Europe. Hitler exterminated Jews and other so-called "inferior nations" and now we see the same Jews, under expansionist Zionism and backed by the United States imperialism and other imperialism, are perpetrating the same kind of fascist methods and genocidal attacks against innocent people. One is reminded of similar kinds of genocidal attacks against the Indians in the United States before it became the United States of America. We see that kind of barbarity in our own area, in El Salvador and Guatemala. Nearly 35,000 people have been brutally murdered in the last two and a half years in El Salvador. And Guatemala, a greater number, about 100,000 people, have been butchered in that country also.

We must therefore see a total world conspiracy of imperialism operating on many fronts. We saw it in an earlier period in Vietnam when attempts were made not only to destroy people with napalm and personnel bombs but also to defoliate the whole country throwing insecticides and weedicides, the foliants which were aimed at completely liquidating the people and the country of Vietnam. This kind of extermination is now going on all over the world in different theatres and this Assembly, this Government, must speak out very strongly because it can reach near to us also if we do not stand up and shout against these atrocities.

What are the objectives of Israeli's Zionism and imperialism? These can be cited as follows:

1. To strengthen imperialism's chief outpost, Israel, in the Middle East;
2. To root the national liberation movements of the Arab people and more particularly the P.L.O. Imperialism is worried about the anti-imperialist thrust which took place, beginning in the 1970's, in Algeria, in Iraq, in Syria, in Libya, with the nationalisation, particularly, of oil resource which American imperialism looks at as its vital interest;
3. To increase the U.S. military presence in the area and deprive Arab countries of sovereignty, subjugating them and placing their national resources under the control of western countries and their monopolies. We know that imperialism, after these nationalisations, particularly of oil and particularly after the Iranian revolution when the Khomeini Government nationalised about \$8 billion worth of properties, reacted by setting up a quick reaction force which could move quickly to any theatre in the world where they feel their so-called "vital interests" are threatened. At that time it was set up with 110,000 people, today with 200,000 people. The Middle East is a vital area because of its oil riches and the monopolies would like, the western imperialist countries would like, to turn back the clock, to go back and get hold of those resources. We must add our voice against this attempt to turn the clock back.
4. Imperialism, Zionism, wishes to make Lebanon into a puppet state as Egypt was made under Sadat, the traitor, and to have Lebanon do as Egypt under Sadat did, that is, to sign the Camp David accord. This accord is dead but they want to resuscitate it and therefore if they can get a few puppet

states, beginning with Lebanon, then they can revive it, breathe some new life into it.

5. The objective are to disperse the Palestinian people into other Arab countries, have them become assimilated in those countries. So the problem of a Palestinian people, a Palestinian nation, will disappear and the question of a Palestinian homeland will also disappear. That is the aim of now dispersing them, through Habib, dispersing the Palestine people, I believe into eight Arab countries, all over the place, so that their unity, their nationhood, will be destroyed. This is the objective of imperialism and we see now how Israel collaborated with Habib and American imperialism to get this formula to be approved and now American troops are going into the area to police this exercise, to disperse and divide the Palestine people and to destroy them.

6. Israel to become a regional metropolis with the Arab states becoming the suppliers of cheap labour and cheap raw materials. Imperialism's plan for the Middle East is to make a situation similar to what existed under Hitler Germany when the whole Eastern Europe, now socialist countries, were dependencies of Greater Germany, imperialist Germany, and when Eastern Europe was producing raw materials and cheap labour – Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and all those other countries. This is the imperialist plan for the Middle East – to make Israel into the metropolis and the others dependent appendages, not only to provide cheap raw materials and labour but to put their resources and their sovereignty, their control of their own trade etc., their financial institutional and so forth, under the control of Israeli hegemonism which is linked, of course, with western imperialism. The Israeli metropolis will place under its control the economies of the whole region, its financial institutions and will monopolise trade of the Middle East with the rest of the world. These are the long-term plans. Therefore, we must see not only the attacks which are taking place now but what is intended.

What about Lebanon itself? We have just heard over the air that a new President was appointed, Beshir Gemayel, and the propaganda is that he is a young man and he will bring dynamism and so on to solve this problem. But the fact of the matter is that Gemayel comes from a family with feudal background and was linked to the fascist falange. This alliance was dominated at one time by the National Liberals headed by the Chamoun family but through some maneuvering the National Liberals were displaced and Gemayel's organisation the falange movement, came out in the forefront.

Let us not think that this will be any answer. Lebanon, as we know, is a divided country, with Muslims and Christians. At one time a settlement was made to try to arrive at a President who would hold the balance evenly and represent both communities. That agreement is now shattered. There is no pretence and we understand that the Muslims, the Arabs, boycotted the meeting for the election of the President.

What is intended by these new manoeuvres? As I said already, to put Lebanon firmly in the Israeli/U.S. imperialism axis. This is what is intended now. No longer a neutral state with any pretence, is also intended to restore the Lebanon Sectarian Constitution which was brought in in 1940 but which was subsequently replaced.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

14:45 p.m.

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: (continued) And so Lebanon is going backwards. Clearly when the new President talks about the reconstruction of a new Lebanon and an end to the settling of scores, this is only rhetoric because we know that during the whole period of slaughter which took place during the past two months, this falange alliance was collaborating with Israel, based on the East of Beirut, to shut off water and other supplies to West Beirut, the Muslim quarter, where the Palestinian are residing. So, Cde. Speaker. we cannot expect very much out of what has just happened. The Palestinian problem should be settled within the context of a political settlement for the whole Middle-East. Israeli troops must pull out of Lebanon, and American imperialists and other imperialists must keep their dirty hands out of the Middle-East. Cde. Speaker we have a situation where another aim of the Israeli was to be implemented, fortunately, they did not succeed in doing so.

They were provoking the Syrians with the hope that Syria would attack, but being in no position to face the onslaught of Israeli might. We are well aware of the fact that Israel is supplied with the most modern and sophisticated U.S. weapons, and the United States uses its veto in the United Nations to stop any kind of sanctions against Israel, and to stop the supply of these sophisticated weapons. In that context, Syria had to think twice and thus did not succumb to the provocation of Israel.

The fact, however, is that the Arab World is sorely divided. This is regrettable and the Arab countries have to face responsibility for what has recently happened. Imperialism is out, as we can see now, to scuttle every international movement which can help the National Liberation Struggles of the people of the Third World. Recently, we saw the manoeuvre when not only Libya was attacked, its planes were also attacked in its own territorial area, but the O.A.U. Meeting which was supposed to be held in Libya was sabotaged. No doubt, one sees here the hand of imperialism.

Going back to the Angolan crisis in 1975, we saw then that the O.A.U. had a division of 22 on one side and 22 on the other side as regards support for Angola. On this occasion, since a two-thirds majority of the O.A.U. is required for the meeting to be held, neither the summit meeting nor the foreign Ministers meeting could be held because imperialism had enough puppet states, as was shown in the Angolan crisis. Twenty-two of them! That is half of the total that they can use their leverage on in order to frustrate the aims of unity, perhaps united action as was the case on Africa in the Saharian Movement in Southern Sahara. This is because imperialism does not want to give recognition to that liberation struggle and movement. And knowing that Libya was rendering strong support, the imperialists resorted to sabotaging the holding of that conference. Well, we have to see the machinations of imperialism everywhere. They are fighting in all the theatres of the world. They are not only fighting in the Middle East, in Africa, they are using South Africa to harass Angola and Mozambique so as to deny the Independence of Namibia. In the Far East, they are launching out attacks against Vietnam and Kampuchea.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

14:45 p.m.

(Cde. Dr. C. Jagan continues)

They are arming Pakistan, giving support to the counter-revolutionaries in Afghanistan because they want to frustrate the wishes of the people in India and other surrounding countries, to go on to take an anti-imperialist position and thus serve the interest of their people.

In our own area we see the hand of imperialism. In El Salvador and Guatemala today they are brutally murdering people. I was just reading the Time Magazine which reported how El Salvador is sending people to the United States for training so that they can go back and kill people. The C.I.A. in 1954, threw out Arbens Government. Now Reagan's Government is talking about terrorism in this hemisphere and the Soviet Union and Cuba supporting terrorists, when they overthrew the Arbens government, an elected Government. Since then they have propped up one dictator after another, brutally murdering people, 100,000 over the last 15 years.

Incidentally on this question may I just refer to the role of Israel in this area? The United States is sending the most sophisticated weapons to Israel. Israel at one time was arming South Africa. As a result, the O.A.U. came out against Israel and no doubt that is why the Guyana Government took such a strong position against Israel. But Israel is also now becoming the supplier of weapons for imperialism in our hemisphere, in El Salvador and in Guatemala. So we must not think of Israel only in the Middle East. Israel is right here in our zone. What is more, imperialism is now not only trying to murder the people in El Salvador and Guatemala but also to destabilise Nicaragua, Grenada and Suriname. Imperialism is on the war path all over the world. Honduras, a puppet state is being used to attack---

The Speaker: Let us deal with the Motion. We are not on a foreign policy debate. Perhaps you may influence Minister Jackson to have that sometime. But let us deal with the Palestinian question here.

Cde Speaker: I just sent several Motions to the Minister on that question, but he does not put them on the Order Paper. We get caught-up.

The Speaker: He cannot put it on the Order Paper. Come back to the Motion.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: I am just trying to show how the whole thing is working. Alright, I am finishing up now.

The Speaker: I have given you a lot of latitude.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: I appreciate that.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: at moments some of the good side of you comes out. I was going to make the point that this is home. Right now imperialism is manoeuvring to expel Grenada from Caricom as they did Cuba. They expelled Cuba from the OAS in 1964. Therefore, this is coming to home. That is why I am giving this geographic perspective of imperialism's action. We must not see only Israel, we must see imperialism. I mention this because I want the Guyana Government to take a stand, not only for the Foreign Minister to go to Non-Aligned Conferences to make speeches. Speech alone is not enough. We must mobilize the people of Guyana. What is the Guyana Government doing to mobilize the people of Guyana, to get them in the street, to march against imperialism, to march for peace, to march for disarmament? Nothing. When they were fighting imperialism they went to the World Peace Council - -

The Speaker: Having complimented me you do not want me to stop you.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: No, I am complimenting him now.

The Speaker: I do not want you complimenting him now.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Alright, I am talking to the Government now. You do not want me to deal with them?

The Speaker: You are dealing with the Motion.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Yes, the Motion. The Government has something to do with the Motion.

The Speaker: The Palestine Motion?

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Yes, the Government has something to do with it. As I said they are going abroad making nice statements. But we want more than that. We are calling for the Guyana Government to take firm action. I remember one year they went to the World Peace Council meeting and they had to get a wheelbarrow to come and fetch the petitions to take them to the rostrum – petitions for the Stockholm Peace Appeal. Where are the petitions campaigns now? Where are the rallies? We ask them not to be silent, we ask them to speak out. Much is at stake now. They themselves claim that they are under pressure. Unfortunately they do not have the guts to stand up and fight. They are succumbing to pressure. You know that they signed an agreement with the World Bank, you know that or you do not know that but they are retreating. I am asking them not to retreat. Let us not retreat. Let us stand up! I want the Government to see this in relation to everything else, not only aggression, but disarmament, and the question of peace.

In this score we would like the Government to take some fundamental position:

(i) Not only to speak in favour of disarmament and peace but to take positive action.

Here we try to get on the radio, not to attack the Government but to speak on these matters. We cannot get on the radio, we cannot get in the newspaper. Let them show they are really and sincerely anti-imperialist in that sense.

(i i) We are asking them to oppose vehemently any manoeuvre of imperialism to expel Grenada from Caricom.

(i i i) Not to allow themselves to be used by imperialist to create any problems for Suriname

(i v) To support immediately by declaration in this Assembly the call of President Brezhnev that all states must make a declaration that they will not be the first to use nuclear.

Some of the imperialists want to use nuclear weapons, if necessary. They are talking of a limited nuclear war. But we know the dangers of that. Once it starts it can become a world war.

I now end by asking the Minister in response to my remarks to make categorical statements on these fundamental questions I have raised so that the Guyanese people will know, the same way we spoke jointly on the Venezuelan question on imperialism that this Assembly should be united because this is the sentiment of the Guyanese people.

Motion proposed.

The Speaker: Minister Jackson.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Cde. Jackson): Cde. Speaker, on 6th June, 1982 the Israeli War machines with ominous ruthlessness invaded Lebanon. It was the invasion of a sovereign independent Non-Aligned State in so-called "Operation, Peace for Galilee." Cde. Speaker, the announced reason given by Israel was the shooting of the Israeli Ambassador to the Court of St. James in London on 3rd June. But we know that the Israeli brutal attack on Lebanon on 6th June was a carefully calculated and premeditated move.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

14:55 p.m.

(Cde. Jackson continues)

Even so, we take note of the fact that the stated objective mentioned later by Israeli authorities, the stated objective of their military action, was the clearing of a twenty-five mile corridor in Southern Lebanon, as they said, to put Northern Israel outside of the range of the P.L.O. artillery.

Cde. Speaker, the world was prepared for the Israeli invasion because it was clear that Israel was analysing the situation and looking for what it considered to be le moment juste. Items not long after the initial military successes, despite the heavy Israeli casualties, that the real Israeli objectives were starkly revealed. Those objectives included the liquidation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole authentic and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and a full member of the Movement of Non-aligned countries, the liquidation of the P.L.O. as a political and a military organisation and the intimidation, indeed the extermination of the Palestinian people, or short of extermination, their further dispersion thereby widening their Diaspora.

The revelation of Israel's true objective was paralleled by or mirrored in the evolution of the United States position as expressed by the then Secretary of State Haig and manifested in their postures at the United Nations. Let us recall that in the early days of the Israeli invasion the Security Council unanimously passed a Resolution No. 509, which in its first operative paragraph demanded that Israel withdraw all its military forces forthwith and unconditionally to the internationally recognised boundaries of Lebanon; so that on the 6th June, the very day of the invasion, every single member of the Security Council, including the United States, joined in a demand, not a call, for the unconditional and forthwith withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the internationally recognised boundaries of Lebanon.

Later, by June 13, then Secretary Haig was calling for the removal of all foreign troops from Lebanon, implying thereby the removal of the Palestinian freedom Fighters, the Syrian Peace-keeping Forces and, presumably last, the Israeli forces. The very next day he called for the placing of the Palestinian forces under the control of the Lebanese Government and, later, for disarming all the Palestinian Freedom Fighters and their further exile to another, though unspecified country.

I do not need to dwell on the nature of the Israeli invasion, on the sophisticated of the weapons used, on the brutality, the savagery and the callousness of the operation, of the heavy civilian casualties which followed or on the wanton destruction of property including the historic and picturesque cities of Nabathifia Tyre and Sidon, or on the manifestation of Israel's lack of humanity in the way in which they used control of the supply of water, food, and electricity in West Beirut to extract political concessions.

I think the mover of the Motion did give in his usual graphic style a full account of the nature of the Israeli invasion. Suffice it that I should recall that speaking at the Enmore Martyr's Day on June 16 this year the Cde. Prime Minister had this to say:

“Likewise, we must add our voices in strong condemnation of the most recent brutal Israeli attack on Lebanon. There, too, innocent people, the lives of simple men, women and children are snuffed out with utter callousness as they strive for their right to be free in a state of their own.”

What was the reaction to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon? I would say that there was profound shock and indignation in the Non-aligned world and in other progressive countries. They were shocked at their violation of so many sacred principles, principles of territorial integrity, of the non-use of force in the settlement of disputes, in the wanton killing of innocent women and children in violation of the relevant Geneva Convention, in the brutality that was inflicted on prisoners of war, a status which the Israelis refused to accord the Palestinians who were captured. The reaction of the Non-aligned

Movement and of the international community was reflected in discussions and decisions at the level of the Security Council and of the Bureau of the Movement in New York, but more especially at their special extraordinary ministerial meeting which I had the honor to attend at Nicosia, Cyprus, but a stone's throw from the scene of the carnage.

We saw in Western Europe reactions at the level of the people and peace movements that were hostile to the Israeli action. We saw at the level of the people, even within the United States, there were some new stirrings. There was even confusion at the government level. I would like with your permission to quote what Defense Secretary, Casper Weinberger is reported to have said when he appeared on a programme on American television on June 20. He described the Israeli military attack as, and I quote:

“A resort to military of a kind that we always have deplored. I don't think that any time that military force is resorted to to try to solve a problem that the cause, any cause, has been well advanced. I don't think that we can even be in the position of the Government of condoning or supporting or blinking at the idea which you can or should change the status quo by unilateral resort to military force.”

We saw other evidence of expression of unease by different people, opinion formers, influential people in the American society in giving their reaction to the Israeli invasion. A former under-Secretary of State, George Ball, writing in the New York Times in June in an article entitled “Recast Ties to Israel” observed that like its predecessor the present United States administration “marches mindlessly to an Israeli drum”. And we have seen the Jewish organisation, which in the past have been known for their unequivocal support for Israel and for Zionism,

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(Cde. Jackson continues)

we have seen that those Jewish organisations gave public expression of soul searching over the scope of the Israeli action as well as its nature and of the automatic nature of US support for Israeli policy.

When one continues to look at the reaction to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, we cannot ignore the reaction within Israel itself. Some Israelis themselves Cde. Speaker, were shocked by the extent and the savagery of the war. Some of them were asking the question – what took their troops to Beirut? Some mothers were asking, did we make sons or cannon fodder? Cde. Speaker, many Israelis, even including some who could have wished that the PLO never existed publicly questioned the nature and scope of the so-called “Operation peace for Galilee.” What started out as a war against the PLO had become a war against the Palestinians and against innocent Palestinian and Lebanese citizens.

There was a report even in the New York Times of a twenty-four year old Israeli Captain who in returning from Lebanon has this to say. “This is the most tragic war we have been in having to confront civilians with our own weapons.” Cde. Chairman, I think it is of extra-ordinary significance that it is the first war which the state of Israel has fought in which there was such significant internal criticism during the course of the war itself.

Within the Arab world Cde. Speaker, we saw a loosening of the fabric of unity. The PLO was virtually alone fighting courageously and indomitably, Syria with a force of 30,000 sought to protect its area of control and did not fully engage the Israelis. It may be that they judged that the sophistication of their weapons as not being able to match those of the Israelis and they took a tactical decision of not engaging the Israelis fully. But, whatever the reason, Syria was not a full participant in the conflict. We know of the diversion of Iraq’s interest as a result of the war with Iran and the motivations of the Gulf States, Saudi Arabia and others.

We need to look also Cde. Speaker, at the reaction of other major participants in the international scene. We will recall that at the time of the war of liberation of 1973, the October 1973 war – there was agreed that there should be an international conference to try to find a just and lasting settlement to the Middle East situation and the Palestinian question. The Soviet Union was a principal participant in that conference.

In this recent conflict Cde. Speaker, it should be noted that the Soviet Union was a vocal bystander.

Cde. Speaker, I had said earlier that the Israeli attack was premeditated. Dr. Jagan has dealt extensively with the role that Israel plays in promoting the interest of imperialism in the region. I think we must also recognise that Israel has interests of its own; that countries can be surrogates or they can be equal partners, that the Soviet Union and East Germany, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, the socialist community have agreements of co-operation and they work together, all promoting the interest of socialism, but yet, each has a national identity and a national purpose, and we should not overlook this. I think, in the Israeli action, we must try to identify what is the Israeli purpose, in addition to the role it plays in promoting the interest of imperialism in the region. I think this action must be seen as part of Begin’s grand strategy for creating a Greater Israel, which is related to as Dr. Jagan said, the Camp David Accords. First, we have the separate treaty with Egypt, which in effect isolates the largest Arab army in terms of a military conflict in the region.

Secondly, we have the Israeli objective to stall and equivocate on the so called Palestinian autonomy.

Thirdly, we have the annexation of the Golan Heights belonging to Syria, there having been an earlier annexation of East Jerusalem. I hope Cde. Speaker, that we would note the significance of Israel's national actions to pursuit of its perceived national interests when we debate on and when we think of Guyana's interest.

Part of the Begin strategy is to intimidate Iraq, (if it were not otherwise engaged in a conflict with Iran, as exemplified by the bombing of its nuclear reactor) to continue to have new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, which he sought to re-christen Judea and Samaria and to create new facts to so change the physical reality of the West Bank and Gaza, that annexation need not come in one fell swoop, but that it can be over years accomplished creepingly, to engineer the removal of Syrian troops from Lebanon – hence, you get the call by Haig on June 13th for the removal of all foreign troops from Lebanon, create a situation, as Cde. Jagan observed in Lebanon where there is a state that at least is sympathetic, if not pliant and sympathetic to Israeli national interests.

The next objective Cde. Speaker, to crush the PLO, obliterate it as a military and political organisation, and further disperse the Palestinian people.

Finally, you see Dr. Jagan and I come to the same conclusion using different routes, finally, rework the idea that Jordan is the homeland for the Palestinians and therefore proceed with the formal annexation of Gaza and the West Bank.

Cde, Speaker, we know that Israel on its own resources cannot however, pursue such a political course without a phenomenal military apparatus and unless buttressed by external political and economic support.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

15:15 hrs.

In the article which I quoted earlier by George Ball, "Recast Ties to Israel" he states – and I quote:

"For several years we have been supplying Israel with economic and military assistance at the rate of roughly \$7 million a day, the equivalent of \$3,500 - \$4,000 a year for every family of five in Israel although there is nothing in our Constitution that requires the American taxpayer to dole out such sums to a nation that repeatedly ignores our concerns."

So, whilst Israel is pursuing the broad designs of imperialism in the region, I think our analysis would be deficient if we do not take full account of differences in particular national interests. What George Ball is pointing to is that there are occasions when the interests of the United States and Israel do not always coincide. So I think we need to refine our arguments somewhat in understanding if we are to fully appreciate the Israeli policies not only world-wide, but also impact within our area.

There are, however, evident contradictions. As I said before, within Israel itself the peace movement is gaining momentum and the search for security through the escalation of violence is creating tensions within Israel itself. I mentioned the contradictions within the United States which is the chief supplier, as George Ball confirmed in facts and figures, of hardware and economic assistance to the Israelis. There is already within the United States a rethinking of the price, not the nature, of the relationship with Israel. Israel is being too independent on some occasions.

But the key to the whole situation is the Palestinian people themselves for their passion and their resilience must not be underestimated. Their political organisation and unity, even if the P.L.O. suffers reverses, are indestructible; for you can destroy a building but you cannot crush the will of a people. Palestinian nationalism will remain counterpoised to Israel revanchism until Palestinian and Jews are accommodated on an equal footing in their homeland in Palestine.

Cde. Speaker, I believe that Israel should learn before it is too late that she can neither obtain security nor impose permanent peace by violence and by the force of arms. There is an inherent contradiction. Israel, in seeking to correct what she perceives as the mistakes of history that led to the Jewish Diaspora is paradoxically repeating them. Israel is, and has always been, active in dispersing the Palestinians in search of security for the in-gathering of the Jews.

The attainment of just and lasting peace in the Middle East has been illusory for many a decade, but it seems that the prescriptions for such a peace are well known. Justice is unattainable without the restoration of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including, importantly, their right to a homeland in Palestine. The security that is talked about, including the security of Israel, and even the interests of the United States, the securing of those interests, will be illusory if it is not premised on the withdrawal by Israel from all Arab lands occupied in 1967 and if there is not scrupulous respect, there and elsewhere, for the principle of non-acquisition of territory by force.

As I said, the Palestinian people themselves are the key. We talked about justice, we talked about security lasting, but there can be no search for a permanent solution, a solution which is lasting, there can be no justice, there can be no security, and there can be no permanence if in the search for a solution the Palestinian people, represented by the P.L.O., are not directly involved. They must be engaged fully in the process of that search.

The Israeli action in Lebanon, even when we have expressed our abhorrence for its brutality and callousness requires the analysis in a wider framework in the context of the present international climate which I think provides a season for surrogates. I would not like to repeat what Dr. Jagan said but let me say that this is the season for surrogates. The negative tendencies in international relations today, the

1982-08-25

15:15 – 15:25 p.m.

attempt to try to force countries into prisms not of their own choice, to divert them from their chosen path of ideological, social and political development, throwing away the gains of the 70's, as Dr. Jagan mentioned, the attempt by those who control the levers of power – not all of them are imperialists – to make small states see the world through their own eyes, through the eyes of the powers instead of the eyes of the small nations themselves and the attempt to see divisions of the world as between East and West, hold many dangers.

As I said, the present international climate provides a season for surrogates. It is Israel in the Middle East; it is South Africa. Who is it in Latin America? That is the question.

I suggest there might be an attempt, as Israel is doing and as South Africa is doing encouraged by imperialism, to exploit the conjunctural forces at the moment. Israel was created by the United Nations in May 1948 as part of a plan of partitioning Palestine, one part for the Jews and one part for the Palestinian. Unfortunately the home of the Palestinians was stillborn. It is good for us to recall that the fate then and the fate now of the Palestinians might well have been ours, for, early in this century, based on the recommendation of a Committee appointed by President Roosevelt of the United States of America, it was proposed to settle in Guyana Jewish refugees fleeing persecution in Europe.

National Assembly

(Cde. Jackson continued)

However, the advent of the second European civil war put paid to those plans. Let us therefore appreciate keenly the present plight of the Palestinians.

Incidentally, Cde. Speaker, I think it would be good to note for the record that the areas of Guyana which this Commission appointed by President Roosevelt had identified for the settlement of the Jews, included, and I read: the district south of five degrees north latitude between the Essequibo River and the Brazilian boundary in the west of the territory, covering an area of about 22,500 square miles of which 4,400 miles are open savannah and the remainder forest, (B) is in the Corentyne area, and (C) an area covering 4,600 square miles partly mountainous and principally forest country in the North West District of the colony, (as we were then) lying between the watershed of the Barima and the Kaituma Rivers on the north and watershed of the Cuyuni and the North West District river system to the south.

We must take note of those areas because those areas are now being claimed by Venezuela. Say it outside, that what President Roosevelt wanted to do for the Jews in 1938, the Venezuelans now want to do for themselves in 1982.

Thus, Cde. Speaker, the pursuit of a non-aligned policy based upon anti – imperialism, which the Government of the People’s National Congress has consistently pursued, the precepts of justice, and the promotion of our national interest, combine to encourage us to support the cause of the Palestinian people led by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole authentic representatives /Applause/ whom we today salute. It is on this note, Cde. Speaker, on the note of the promotion of our national interest, on the note of the maintenance of our anti-imperialist non-aligned position, and on the note of pursuing the precepts of justice, that we support the Motion proposed by the Leader of the Minority. /Applause/

The Speaker: Comrades, I will now put the amended Motion:

“That this National Assembly condemns the invasion of Lebanon by Israeli forces as a war of genocide mainly aimed at the extermination of the Palestinian people, and their recognised representatives, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, demands an immediate withdrawal of all Israeli forces, and calls upon the Security Council of the UN to adopt appropriate measures including the imposition of sanctions if Israel does not comply within a reasonable time.”

Agreed to.

Motion, as amended, carried.

BILL – COMMITTEE

SHOPS (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 – BILL

A Bill intituled:

“An Act to amend the Shops (Consolidation) Act.”

/The Minister of Labour, Manufacturing and Industrial Development./

The Speaker: The Assembly will resolve itself into committee to consider the Shops (Consolidation) Amendment Bill 1982.

Assembly in Committee.

Clause 1 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2

The Chairman: Cde. Ram Karran, have you seen the amendment proposed by the Minister? I take it that you will withdraw your amendment because of the legal terminology.

Cde. Ram Karran: Yes.

The Minister of Labour, Manufacturing and Industrial Development (Cde. Denny): Cde. Chairman, last Thursday, Cde. Ram Karran did raise a point which related to the culture and the

behavioral patterns of what traditional were the rural areas of Corriverton and Rose Hall. On that occasion I clearly asked for a deferment of this matter to give myself and my colleagues an opportunity to examine the validity of his argument, and based on that, Cde. Chairman, we have agreed to put a new set of words for defining urban areas which would mean that clause 2 (a) therefore is amended. It is significant to note that this Government of the People's National Congress is not impervious to reason. It is significant to note that once the arguments advanced are not frivolous and are not baseless, but have justification, the Government obviously will accept and these are the circumstances on this occasion. And also recognising, Cde. Chairman, that Cde. Ram Karran and I have met with such frequency in the Trade Union arena - -

The Chairman: Cde. Denny, we are dealing with this, do not worry with that trade union part now.

Cde. Denny: Thank you, Cde. Chairman, no irrelevancies, I therefore commend this amendment.

Amendment –

That the definition of “urban area” be deleted and the following be substituted thereof in paragraph (a):

““urban area’ means the area that comprised the city of Georgetown immediately before the commencement of the Municipal and District

Cap.28:01 Councils Act and an area within one mile of the eastern boundary thereof and the area that comprised the town of New Amsterdam immediately before the commencement of the Municipal and District

Cap.28:01 Councils Act.”

Put, and Agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Assembly resumed.

Bill reported with an Amendment to Clause 2; as amended, considered; read the Third time and passed.

The Speaker: Cde. Denny, I have very great pleasure in congratulating you on piloting your first Bill through the National Assembly. [Applause.]

CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1982 (No. 42)

Be it resolved that this National Assembly, in accordance with section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1982 (No. 42), which was made on 14th July, 1982, and published in the Gazette on 17th July, 1982. [The Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, on behalf of the Vice – President, Economic Planning and Finance.]

The Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance (Cde. Sallahuddin):

Cde. Speaker, I beg to move the Motion standing in the name of Cde. Vice – President Hoyte. Essentially what we are saying here is that we amended the Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order as an adjustment so that even though the price of imported gasoline would have increased by eleven cents per gallon, the price to the consumer in that instance would not have been affected, meaning that the amendment reduced the rate of consumption tax on gasoline.

Motion proposed, put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

1982-08-25

15:25 – 15:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

“Resolved, “that this Assembly do now adjourn to a date to be fixed.”

/The Vice – President, Party and State Matters./

Adjourned accordingly at 15:33 hrs.