



Ministers (7)

Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P.,  
Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister

Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P.,  
Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture (Absent)

Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P.,  
Minister of Youth and Sport within the Ministry  
of Education, Social Development and Culture

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P.,  
Minister of Transport within the Vice-Presidency  
of Social Infrastructure

\* Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P.,  
Minister of Information and Public Service (Absent - on leave)

\* Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P.,  
Minister of Health and Public Welfare (Absent - on leave)

\* Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P.,  
Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives

Ministers of State (2)

Cde. M. Corrica, M.P.,  
Minister of State within the Ministry of Internal  
Trade and Consumer Protection (Absent - on leave)

Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., M.P.,  
Minister of State within the Ministry of Regional  
Development

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Housing, within the  
Ministry of Health and Public Welfare

Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of  
Education, Social Development and Culture

Cde. B. Bhagga, M.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the  
Prime Minister

Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of  
Agriculture

\* Non-elected Member

Other Members (23)

Cde. M. Ally, M.P.  
Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.  
Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.  
Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.  
Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P.  
Cde. O.E. Clarke, 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. (Absent - on leave)  
Cde. P. Fredericks, M.P.  
Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.  
Cde. J. Gill-Mingo, M.P.  
Cde. A. McRae, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
Cde. E. Melville, M.P.  
Cde. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P. (Absent)  
Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.  
Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.  
Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.  
Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.  
Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.  
Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.

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

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

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (9)

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

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., (Absent - on leave)  
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., (Absent)  
Minority Chief Whip  
Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.  
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. H. Nokta, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

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

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A.

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. M.B. Henry

PRAYERS

14:05 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave to Members

The Speaker: Leave has been granted from today's sitting to Cde. Dr. Reid, Cde. Hoyte, Cde. Dr. Van West-Charles, Cdes. Corrica, Patricia Fredericks, Primo and Charles.

Leave has also been granted to Cde. Dr. Jagan, Minority Leader, for a period of one week from 11th February.

Performance of Duties during absence of Minority Leader

The Speaker: I am informed by the Minority Leader that during his absence Cde. Ram Karran will be performing his parliamentary duties. He also told me that Cde. Collymore will move the Motion standing in his name on today's Order Paper.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

The following paper was laid:

Corrections/Amendments to the 1984 Estimates as presented to the National Assembly. /The Vice-President, Party and State Matters, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning./

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Police Reports, etc.

Cde. Collymore: Cde. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Home Affairs

Question No. 9 standing in my name on the Order Paper:

- (i) Will the Minister supply the National Assembly as urgently as possible with statistics pertaining to crime reports in the years 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982 and up to June 1983, as indicated below:
  - Murder
  - Manslaughter
  - Death by dangerous driving
  - Robbery under arms
  - Rape
  - Praedial larceny
  - Total amount of property stolen
  - Total amount of property recovered by Police?
- (ii) Will the Minister say how soon will the relevant Annual Reports by the Commissioner of Police for the years 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982 be tabled in the National Assembly?
- (iii) Will the Minister say how soon a plan to train and arm Community Police Groups will be put into effect, with priority given to high-crime areas?

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- (iv) Will the Minister say if he is satisfied with the poor state of police transportation facilities, risk incentives, and unsatisfactory salaries and allowances?

If not, can he say what is being done to improve the situation referred to?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Cde. Thomas): Cde. Speaker, with reference to the first part of the Question, the answer is as follows:

A REVIEW OF MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER, CAUSING DEATH BY DANGEROUS DRIVING,  
ROBBERY UNDER ARMS, RAPE & HEADLAMP OFFENSES, FOR THE YEARS 1979-80  
DATE 1983-06-30.

APPENDIX "A"

OFFENSES	1979 Reports Cases clear- ed up up	% of cases cleared up	1980 Reports Cases Cleared up	% of cases cleared up	1981 Reports Cases clear- ed up up	% of cases cleared up	1982 Reports Cases clear- ed up up	% of cases cleared up	TO JUNE 1983 Reports Cases Cleared up	% of cases cleared up	
Murder	92	84.8%	108	88	107	70	114	84	96	70	72.9%
Manslaughter	2	100.0%	9	9	5	5	7	7	1	1	100.0%
Causing Death by Dangerous Driving	116	97.4%	147	136	176	140	222	163	83	61	73.5%
Robbery Under Arms	280	63.9%	387	134	383	216	462	211	411	135	43.4%
Rape	113	49.6%	101	71	106	63	91	49	40	23	57.5%
Headlamp Offense	299	56.3%	398	308	342	317	393	301	263	164	62.4%
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OF PROPERTY THEFT	\$ 703,656.06		\$ 709,914.17		\$ 555,533.67		\$ 501,389.81		\$ 434,234.16		
OF PROPERTY THEFT	\$6,687,674.96		\$6,628,508.40		\$5,924,077.81		\$5,509,399.89		\$3,489,635.07		

APPENDIX "B"

1979

No. of Fatal accidents	188
No. of Persons killed	207
No. of Pedestrians killed	113
No. of Children killed	41
No. of Persons charged	122

1980

No. of Fatal accidents	182
No. of Persons killed	192
No. of Pedestrians killed	109
No. of Children killed	43
No. of Persons charged	131

1981

No. of Fatal accidents	164
No. of Persons killed	176
No. of Pedestrians killed	102
No. of Children killed	38
No. of Persons charged	140

1982

No. of Fatal accidents	211
No. of Persons killed	222
No. of Pedestrians killed	119
No. of Children killed	53
No. of Persons charged	163

1983

No. of Fatal accidents	73
No. of Persons killed	83
No. of Pedestrians killed	48
No. of Children killed	25
No. of Persons charged	61



(Cde. Thomas continues)

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(ii) The outstanding Annual Reports for the years 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983 for the Commissioner of Police will be tabled in the National Assembly by the 30th June 1984.

(iii) Cde. Speaker, there is no immediate plan to train and arm Community Police Groups. Interested persons who have formed groups are given various hints and advice by the Police in their districts. Individual members of many groups have applied for and have been granted licenses to carry firearms.

(iv) Despite the shortage of transportation facilities, the Police have been doing their best to control the crime situation. It is hoped to have the fleet of vehicles and river craft upgraded this year.

Salaries and allowances were increased during 1983 and I am not aware of any dissatisfaction among members of the Force.

Cde. Ram Karran: Cde. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question. I wonder if he would explain the meaning of cleared up.

Cde. Thomas: When I say cleared up, I mean the number of cases that have been brought to the attention of the Police and passed through the court.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA

WHEREAS the leader of the African National Congress of South Africa Nelson Mandela, has now been detained on the notorious Robben Island Prison for nearly 20 years;

AND WHEREAS millions of peoples of all ethnic origins, classes and creeds have called for, and signed Resolutions demanding his release;

AND WHEREAS the continued detention of this greater fighter for the liberation of his people from the yoke of the white racist minority in South Africa is an affront to world opinion and should be ended now:

"Be it resolved that this National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana calls upon the Pretoria Regime of South Africa to release Nelson Mandela and to remove the restrictions on his wife immediately." /Cde. Collymore, on behalf of the Minority Leader./

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The Speaker: I think you will have to get a seconder for this motion.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Cde. Jackson): Seconded.

Cde. Collymore: Cde. Speaker, permit me to move the motion standing in the name of the Minority Leader, Cde. Dr. C. Jagan which deals with the request to get the National Assembly and the Government to take the necessary measures to secure, or which would result in the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. We on this side of the Assembly are perturbed that Nelson Mandela has been in prison for over two decades. He is a hero of South Africa and the South African people – all the people in South Africa, not only the Blacks. He is looked upon with great admiration by the world at large which is interested in liberation and freedom. He is also the head of the Liberation Army of South Africa, Commander in-chief of Umkhonto We Sizwe, or which is known as Spear of the Nation, and as such is a very important person and we feel that he has spent enough years in prison. Cde. Speaker, permit me to say a few words about the regime to which Mandela is opposed, for which reason he is being kept consistently in prison. The South African Racist Government, racist regime I should say, is a discrimination in the world of Governments today. It is a notorious gang of hooligans who presume to honour and dominate the faiths of several millions of people.

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(Cde. Collymore continues)

South Africa today is based on the apartheid system. Many of us know that apartheid is a very acute critical form of racial discrimination. The whites who dominate the regime hold themselves out to be supreme over the other . . . race. South Africa is also a fascist state and this is also very important to observe because fascism, as has been pointed out and explained, is a naked and brutal dictatorship of finance capital. That is what is really going on in South Africa and the imperialists there are running that place in the interest of the entire imperialist countries and they have made use of the fascist system of domination to stay in power. We observe that out of this context this regime is being very brutal to the black people. They are suppressing the blacks, dispossessing the blacks, they are exploiting the blacks and expelling blacks in South Africa to a certain area which they have chosen to call Bantustan. In other words, they are trying to isolate black people in their country. This is an insult to the black people of the South. Mandela has taken range. Mandela could have led a very comfortable life because he was of noble birth, he was of the family of royalty, he could have relaxed. But instead, as a true patriot, he decided to opt with the oppressed masses. He has been tried for treason and he has been subsequently jailed for life.

What are some of the realities? The first white settlement in South Africa was established in 1652 at a very early stage of colonisation and the British invasion and power went in there subsequently. I just want to read to you a quotation from the Cuban newspaper Granma, dated 21st March, 1966. It states:

"By the beginning of the 19th century, England, with its military victories over Holland and France, was the undisputed "Queen of the Waves" and was proving itself a hardened conqueror. One morning, the Crown's ships made their appearance in the waters of the Cape.

The Boers migrated inland and, in a colonizing move called the great trek, which was known for its cruelty, they founded two provinces, Orange and Transvaal. The English followed, pursuing their plunderous war, and in the battles that ensued the English and Dutch killed more blacks between them than the combined number of deaths on their side.

The war ended in 1902. Because they were united in their genocidal nature, the Boers and the English descendants joined forces to colonize the indigenous settlements from which they stole land. In 1909 the English provinces Cape of Good Hope and Natal and the Boers' Orange and Transvaal were joined in the so-called Union of South Africa, which became a republic in 1916.

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South Africa was born and, with it, the institutionalization of the racism which has characterized the sordid system of slavery imposed on the Bantu people of Azania by the Boer conquerors."

This shows how it is that the regime was set up. Subsequently, they began to seize more and more lands and in 1973 they passed an injurious Land Act. This was modified in 1936 by the Native Land and Trust Act which made it worse. The results were that the whites got 87 per cent of the land of South Africa and the vast majority of the blacks got 13 per cent of the same state land. That is why Africa is a repressive state. There is a vast array of legislation to control the . . . masses. It is one of the countries in the world today with the largest numbers of prisoners per capita and that state is the first in the world for executions. When you take into consideration the number of executions taking place throughout the world, South Africa takes the first place. In 1982 alone over 100 freedom fighters were hanged and 99 of them were blacks.

The country is divided into four basic ethnic sectors; the whites, who amount to 17 per cent; the coloureds; the Asians, who are mostly Indians; and the blacks who amount to 71 per cent. The whole ramification is geared at exploiting the black majority as a . . . . South Africa has an economy which is also geared, as I said, to exploit the black people mercilessly. This economy is firmly tied to the western economies, firmly integrated with the economies of the United States, Federal Germany, England, France - in fact, South Africa is the main . . . of the Western economies for many reasons. But there are growing economic crises in the country. The people are resisting, they are rebelling and more and more persons are joining the liberation process.

Statistics show that they had a balance of payments deficit in 1982 in 5 million Rand. There was a fall of the Rand in 1982 by 22 per cent. In other words, the value of the Rand fell in 1982 by 22 per cent because of the deterioration of the economy. Growth domestic produce in 1980 was 8 per cent but this fell to 1 per cent in 1982 and last year it was zero, that was 1983.

Cde. Speaker, I wish to quote from the African Communist 96, First Quarter 1984, page 37. This is what they had to say further about South Africa. It states:

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“Bankruptcies are devastating small businesses, 350 of whom collapsed in October 1982 compared to 85 in September 1981. Insolvencies and liquidations of companies are now averaging 200 per month. There is a stagnation and drop in the value of the exports of diamonds, platinum, iron, ore, manganese and sugar. Above all, the drop in the price of gold has reduced the dollar value of net gold output by a staggering figure of 45%.”

This shows that the apartheid system is in its last stages. Within the context of all of this the African people are suffering terrible hardships. African household incomes have been falling over the years and when it is compared with 1976 to 1980 the fall is by 12.4 per cent. The unemployed in South Africa are largely blacks. Out of 3 million unemployed, 50 per cent of them are blacks under the age of 30 years. This means that youths in South Africa are idle, they have nothing to do, they have no future. This is perhaps the reason that they are joining the liberation forces. Those who are lucky to be employed are engaged in tremendous strikes. Strikes rose from 342 in 1981 to 394 in 1982. In 1982 141,570 workers took part in strikes. This was an increase by 50 per cent.

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(Cde. Collymore continues)

It was said by the ANC that about 1,000 workers went on strike each day in 1982, most of them blacks. The pressure on the South African is also forcing the massive exodus of whites to European countries. They are leaving in droves, tens and thousands every year and most of them are gravitating to the United States of America. Those who exist the draft, because there is a drive to fight the liberation forces, are thrown into prisons and fined heavily. So it is apto banto, not only blacks and Indians and some coloured are opposing the apartheid system.

Cde. Speaker, the blacks are being made foreigners in their own country South Africa. There will be a more serious revolutionary crisis in the near future and they want to avoid this so they are dividing the country and creating problems. Mandela was opposed to the Bantustans before and for this he was also hounded by the regime. The entire world has condemned them. All these Bantustans are run by stooges of South Africa. These people we condemn. We also condemn those black independent countries which pay ...

The average density of the Bantustans is 119 per square mile but the average density of South Africa is 35 per square mile – this shows a heavy ... of black people. We are also opposed to this. Cde. Speaker, Sinwa had a comment to make about the Bantustans policy. I am reading from the Sinwa News Agency of 14th June, 1983. It said "Three and a half million black people in South Africa have been brutally driven to Bantustans and those living in resettlement camps accounted for 54 percent of the total population in 1980, according to South African press reports, a "surplus people project report" prepared by a team after three years of exhaustive research, field studies and interviews with victims said that under the "relocation program" of the South African government, millions of South Africans have been forced to leave their homes and the land of their birth because the whites control over 85% of the land and the black majority can only live in the remaining area.

The report said that two million black people are under threat of removal and another two million have been convicted under influx laws. It said that the police used bulldozers to demolish houses and forced the black people at gunpoint to move to

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resettlement camps. The resettlement camps are the result of the policy of "separate development" in relocation areas, facilities available are poor and unemployment is serious. The relocation of African people to Bantustans is aimed at dispossessing people not only of their land but also their South African citizenship and claim to full political rights. It is also aimed at controlling their access to jobs and services in the country.

Cde. Speaker, in South Africa, wages received by the workers are very poor when compared with wages received by whites. Information in the South African Communist 4th Quarter, 1983, page 33 had the following information. Dealing with the mining industry it showed that the wages received by blacks were 18.5 percent of white wages. Blacks received 247 and the whites got 1332 per month. In the manufacturing sector blacks receive 24.6 percent of what the whites received and in the heavy industry sector blacks received 27.5 percent of what whites received.

The General Secretary of the ANC was quoted in the World Marxist Review No. 89 of 1983 and he was talking about the bantustans and the pressures on the black people. He said:

"Over the past 20 years more than 4 million blacks have been driven into the homelands. 80% of the population have no source of livelihood. Every year 30,000 children (3 – 4 per hour) die from malnutrition in South Africa. Diseases like kwashiorkor and marasmus are endemic".

Who backs South Africa? As I said "The Western States", "Puppet Black States", "World Bank and the IMF which last year gave them one billion dollars and Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. British in fact is training South African troops in England right now and up to last year 88 South African scientists were trained in the U.S.A. According to reports of the USA last year the nuclear explosion was monitored in South Africa. The US and UK are the biggest investors of apartheid. These Cde. Speaker, are the forces helping to keep Mandela in jail and protests must be sent to them by the Government of Guyana and appeals for Mandela's prompt release should be made to the relevant quarters.

A new constitution is being framed – this constitution gives greater powers for Botha, he will become the Executive President. The people are not going to go to the polls. There will be a Electoral College and this would consist of 50 white MPs, 25 coloured MPs and 13 Indian MPs.

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There has been a total exclusion of black people – total exclusion of the vast majority of blacks from the Electoral College but statistics from South Africa shows that by the year 2000 the blacks will number 44 million and the white will only number 7.5 million. This is where they are worried because they fear that if the revolutionary tide comes up it is only a matter of time before they are swept out of South Africa.

Some more words about Mandela the hero. He is this year 66 years of age and he has spent 22 years in prison – most of this on Robben Island.



Cde. Collymore continues

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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Last year he was shifted to Pearl More Prison near Cape Town because of the regime's fear of guerilla activity in the area. They feared that the guerillas would free him so they shifted him to Cape Town, a maximum security place where he is kept in solitary confinement.

He was born of the black mobility and he identified himself very early with the suffering masses and actively opposed the unjust state in South Africa. I wish, with your permission, to quote from the A.N.C. bulletin of July 1983, Vol. 7, No. 30, page 1. This is what they had to say about Mandela:

"Mandela might almost have been born to rule, for his family was the royal house of Tembuland in what is now the Transkei Bantustan. A spell at the black university college of Fort Hare convinced him that the prospect of tribal rule was not to his liking and the young Nelson slipped away to Johannesburg. It was the war years and he was glad to become articled to a firm of white solicitors. By his mid-twenties, an ideologue of the A.N.C. Youth League, his life had settled into a mould, unpredictable, to be sure, but running in tandem with fortunes of African nationalism.

A suspended sentence for his role in the defiance campaign against unjust laws was followed by a banning order under the inappropriately named Suppression of Communism Act, by which time he was in legal practice with Oliver Tambo, now president-general of the A.N.C. Then, four years as a treason trialist before being acquitted along with his 155 co-defenders.

It was the early Sixties, soon after the shootings at Sharpeville, and the banning of the A.N.C. ... A peaceful solution to his people's oppression seeming most unlikely, he went underground. Thus was Nelson Mandela projected into the international limelight."

The article went on to say that he went around the world trying to mobilise support. I quote again:

"Calling on the newly-independent Algeria, he was given some elementary military training. By then he had become commander-in-chief of Umkhonto We Sizwe, the military wing of the A.N.C."

He says:

"A government which uses force to maintain its rule teaches the oppressed to use force to oppose it."

The People's Progressive Party supports Mandela, backs Nelson Mandela and his efforts to free the South African people even though he is in prison. We support the A.N.C.'s struggle in all its aspects and we are in full solidarity with the liberation army known as

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the Umkhonto We Sizwe or The Spear of the Nation. We are also demanding freedom from restriction for his wife, Winnie Mandela. The P.P.P. urges the Guyana Government to take all possible steps which would bring about freedom for Mandela at all international forums including the United Nations and also to act through bilateral or third party representations.

Finally, let me quote what the A.N.C.'s Executive Committee had to say on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the A.N.C. last year, January 8th, when they spoke about the liberation struggle, the victories, the hard task ahead, the collusion of the imperialists and the need to free Mandela. Of Rivonia, where the state trials took place, they had this to say:

"This year" –

Which was last year –

"We shall be observing the 20th anniversary of the Rivonia arrests. By decision of the United Nations General Assembly, the international community will observe the anniversary by further intensifying the campaign for the immediate and unconditional release of all South African political prisoners. We, the people of South Africa, must be in the forefront of that campaign – in our millions.

But we must also observe this anniversary by seeking to emulate the example set for us by these outstanding revolutionary patriots who have remained in captivity for two long decades. To emulate them means that for every Mandela, Sisulu, Mbeki, Kathrada, Goldberg, for every Motsoaledi, Gwala, Nyembe, or Hogan that the enemy has captured, we must produce a thousand others to take their places.

Cde. Speaker, permit me, therefore, to move the Motion and, with your permission, I wish to make a slight amendment to the Resolve Clause. I wish to read the Motion. It is as follows:

"Whereas the leader of the African National Congress of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, has now been detained on the notorious Robben Island Prison for nearly 20 years:

And whereas millions of people of all ethnic origins, classes and creeds have called for, and signed Resolutions demanding his release:

And whereas the continued detention of this great fighter for the liberation of his people from the yoke of the white racist minority in South Africa is an affront to world opinion and should be ended now:

Be it resolved that this National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana calls upon the Pretoria Regime of South Africa to release Nelson Mandela and to remove the restrictions on his wife immediately.

Motion proposed.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Cde. Jackson): I beg to second.

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Mr. M.F. Singh: Mr. Speaker, this Motion before the Assembly, as slightly amended just now, and which is essentially for the release of Nelson Mandela and the immediate removal of the restrictions on his wife, has the full and unreserved support of those of us on this side of the Assembly in the United Force. Further, we abhor apartheid. We believe that all men are born equal. Apartheid is a repudiation of that belief which is held so sacred and so precious to us. Apartheid is an insult to the dignity of man. We would like to see a speedy end to all forms of discrimination by man against man in every part of the world and particularly in South Africa.

The Speaker: Cde. Jackson.

Cde. Jackson: Cde. Speaker, the modern history of South Africa has been one of struggle; struggle, that is, by the black people of that unhappy land to recover their freedom and along with the Indians and coloureds, to regain their dignity as free people in a free society. It has been, and it continues to be, essentially a struggle for territory and a struggle for political space. In that struggle there are many heroes and it is one of those heroes that is the focus of our concern today, Nelson Mandela of the African National Congress.

(Cde. Jackson continues)

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Mandela, Cde. Speaker, is one of a long list of eminent, pugnacious, determined, patriots of South Africa who have by various activities, political, social and others, sought to bring about in South African that regime of relations between tribes whether White or Black, between the different communities which will bring benefit to all of them on the basis of equality and on the basis of justice. Thus we should not be surprised that as a young man in the 1940s Nelson Mandela was active in the youth arm of the African National Congress seeking to bring about induced changes in the society along desirable lines. I recall reading somewhere that some 20 years later in 1961 when addressing the All African Congress, Mandela demanded the summoning of a National Convention to establish a new Union of all South Africa. Such was his vision of equality. But he entered the important caveat in making that call. He urged that if the authorities in South Africa refused to permit the convocation of such a convention there should be a three-days stay at home by all workers and students throughout the land. The result was that Mandela called the strike and there was reasonable response. The strike was called to coincide with the inauguration of South Africa as a Republic. But so massive was the intimidation and the harassment by the authorities located in Pretoria, that the strike was called off the second day. I think it is important to recognise the watershed role of that exercise because here Mandela was part of a political thinking that it was possible to induce change in South Africa through dialogue, through peaceful means, through non-violence. We have lived to learn, Cde. Speaker, that racists never undergo self-induced change. The result of the action by the South African authorities was that the massive force they employed created resistance. As Mandela said himself at that time, the States repression was and I quote:

"A striking testimony of our own strength and a measure of the weakness of the Government."

And, therefore, it lead inevitably to the adoption of a two pronged strategy by Mandela such to quickly embraced by African National Congress and a number of other progressive Freedom Fighters in South Africa and outside of South Africa.

We must recall as well that in the whole struggle in Southern Africa for freedom, the deliberations of Freedom Fighters have always indicated their preference for negotiated change. But it has been the circumstances of the oppressors that forced them to the inevitable position of embracing the armed struggle. Cde. Speaker, I think it might not be enough to recall that in countries in Africa which gained their freedom, in Angola, in Mozambique, in Kenya, in Guinea-Bissau where the armed struggle was engaged, there was coincidentally an entrenched White settler interest which interlinked with international Capitalism. Thus, Cde. Speaker, after the experience of 1961, Mandela adopted as I said earlier, a two-pronged strategy. He set about seeking international support for the struggle of the people of Sought Africa to recover their freedom. And he not only questioned the viability of an exclusively non-violence means of solution, but embraced the concept that the armed struggle was an inevitable mechanism. At that time he said and again I wish to quote:

"Since 50 years of non-violence brought the African People nothing but more and more responsive legislation."

There were only, he said, two choices: submit or fight. He, Cde. Speaker, choose to fight. Thus it was that the Afrikaner and his tribal cousins determined the nature of the struggle by the extent of the reaction to their attempts to bring about a peaceful evolution of the political situation within South Africa. Mandela, as a result, travelled inside and outside South Africa organising and putting forward his case for internal and external pressure upon Pretoria racists to change.

But, Cde. Speaker, we should observe that he left the country not on the basis of an easily acquired passport. He had to escape from the country; and indeed even within Sought Africa he had to be hiding from time to time. Finally, he could no longer evade the police dragnet and he was captured in August 1962. At that time he was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for and I quote:

"inviting people to stay at home and for his leaving the country illegally."

On that occasion his efforts earned him 5 years at the expense of the State. But even whilst he was there, the organisation of the ANC and others like the Umkhonto which was a grouping that straddled all the various ethnic groups which were progressive minded,

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determined that the road of the armed struggle was the proper road to travel. They together, in their different ways, continued to struggle both internally and externally against the racist in Pretoria. As a result of some of these activities including sabotage, many Leaders including Mandela were arrested and charged for sabotage and for preparation for guerilla war. As a result of this trial Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment where unfortunately, Cde. Speaker, he still resides up to this very day. By his actions the fire for freedom has been lit within South Africa. We have since witnessed a whole series of international and internal actions, at the United Nations, among the African and other progressive States and forces, and we have seen that the example of Mandela has been repeated elsewhere in Africa through the activities of the Freedom Fighters of MPLA, Frelimo, SWAPO and the PAIGC for whom Mandela is a symbol, a symbol of struggle and a symbol of dedication. In this respect, Cde. Speaker, let us pause to pay tribute to his wife Winnie who has been fearless and resolute in her own activities to bring about the freedom not only of African Women in South Africa but of all the people in that land. Cde. Speaker, more recently we found that there have been attempts and efforts to mobilise internationally, world opinion urging the release of Nelson Mandela. For example, we know, that there was launched in 1980 a petition within South Africa for his release and, but for the absence of proper organisation, it is estimated that that petition could have attracted over 1 million signatures. As it is it attracted over hundreds of thousands. But such action brought about a draconian reaction from the racist regime. I will give you one example. There is a White organisation, a South African Institute which publishes some race relation news, and that Institute through the instrumentality of its publication sought to encourage and to get support for the petition for the release of Mandela.

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(Cde. Jackson continues)

That paper, as were others which in South Africa are regarded as liberal was barred because in the words of South Africa Officialdom "to plead for the release of Nelson Mandela is to propagate the aims of the A.N.C." I think that that analysis is correct because those who temporarily hold power in Pretoria recognise that Mandela is a symbol for a fight against the whole system, the economic structure, the structure of Bantustan, the structure of apartheid which is alien both to the traditions of the vast majority of people who inhabit that land and against all human sensibilities and dignity, it de-humanises the human personality. They recognise that Mandela represents an attempt to do away with the whole system, to destroy the system and to create something new. The message of Mandela is that the time for cosmetic changes has gone. Therefore, the efforts of Botha in terms of bringing some Parliaments for the Indians and for the coloureds are mere cosmetic changes. The message of Mandela is that those changes will not do.

I need hardly remind this Assembly of the consistent position taken by the People's National Congress and the Government of Guyana on this question of our total opposition to apartheid in South Africa and our unremitting support for the freedom fighters in that country, as indeed in all of Africa and elsewhere. We have supported the people of South Africa bilaterally through the A.N.C. and the Pan Africanist Congress. We have rendered support to the O.A.U. Liberation Committee where our support has not only been moral and political, but material. We have consistently given our support at the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Let me, for example, indicate the reaction of the Non-Aligned Movement at its most recent meeting which was held in New Delhi in March last year. Speaking generally about the situation in South Africa, that conference "strongly condemned the racist regime in Pretoria for its systematic and barbarous action of oppression and discrimination against the overwhelming majority of the population of South Africa." So at that conference in dealing with the whole system all the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement strongly condemned the regime.

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But speaking specifically on the question of Nelson Mandela, the Heads of State and Government "called for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and of other political prisoners." So the support of the People's National Congress and the Government of Guyana for the substance of the Motion is clear and unequivocal.

What is demanded most at this time is a unity of approach because the issue here is clear. I think we can do no better than to be reminded of what Kwame Nkrumah said as long ago as 1964 when he was addressing the Summit meeting in Cairo on the question of proposing a union Government for Africa and stressing the unity of Africa. He asked, among other things, how South Africa dared to sentence Nelson Mandela and his seven great colleagues against protests of a unified Africa. Therefore, we, Cde. Speaker, we on this side of the Assembly, in pursuit of this principle of unity, are glad to lend our support to this Motion. Let me say, however, before I take my seat that we have always taken action in support of African Liberation. Ever since it was determined by the United Nations we have been celebrating publicly African Liberation Day during World Solidarity Week, May 25. We hope that with this demonstration of unity that on this occasion in this year, 1984, the P.P.P. would accept our invitation and participate in those celebrations. It is with that expectation, apart from the merit of the Motion itself, that I indicate that we entirely support the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

#### CORRECTIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE 1984 ESTIMATES

"Be it resolved that this National Assembly takes note and approves of the corrections and amendments to be made to the 1984 Estimates which were presented to the Assembly on 1984-01-30 and approved on 1984-02-08." /The Vice President, Party and State Matters on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning./

The Vice President, Party and State Matters (Cde. Ramsaroop): Cde. Speaker, this Motion becomes necessary in order to effectuate certain corrections and amendments to the Estimates which have been presented to this Assembly. These corrections and amendments are of a three-fold character.



First of all, some of them are purely changes to the legends as set forth in the Estimates. For example, if Members were to look at page 101 of the Estimates of the public sector, one would see under subhead 45008 where there is reference to loans to Guysuco and Guymine and a stated sum, there is now reference to those two Corporations and other Corporations. So in a generic way that subhead would have caught all Corporations rather than give the reference to two specific Corporations. Hence, the change in that legend.

Then, secondly, there are errors of a typographical nature as evident, for example, on page 3a of the Estimates where instead of there being 57A, 59A is substituted therefor. The third category of changes, however, may attract the attention of this Assembly, but there is justification for this. This category envisages re-adjustment of internal allocations between subheads and the subhead as stated. These corrections were as a result of representations by the various Ministries and these amendments which, if they are left unchanged, would necessitate a recourse for supplementary provision. We submit, however, that since no global changes are intended, that is, no changes in the sort of aggregation of the Estimates, in these circumstances the Estimates are justified.

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(Cde. Ramsaroop continues)

One example of this and I would like to bring it to the attention of the House can be seen on page 80. Members will see that \$800,000 was voted for equipment to land and water. It is necessary however that equipment here have been spelt out to cover equipment not only for the Fire Service but for other related services within the disciplined services within the Disciplined Services and therefore, what is sought to be done here is to break down \$800,000 so as to take in those Services, so where we have \$800,000 we will have \$650,000 and the rest will go to purchase equipment for the Police vehicles and Police equipment.

Those are the changes Cde. Speaker, that are envisaged in the motion before this House which I now commend to this House for acceptance.

Motion proposed.

Cde. N. Persaud: Cde. Speaker, this House would recall not only on the last occasion, but on two previous occasions that voices from this side of the House were raised as regards the preparation of the Estimates. Those objections we made then are perhaps reflected in the motion as outlined by the Cde. Vice President this afternoon in causing certain amendments and causing certain adjustments and corrections to be made to the Estimates that were passed only last week. I have no quarrel on those two categories he mentioned because they will confirm with the contents of the motion which talks about corrections and amendments. But I want to disagree with him totally as far as the third category is concerned. The reference he made on page 80, he spoke about amending the figure to \$800,000 to \$650,000, but then it goes down into detail to tell us that \$100,000 is now being put to subhead 24001 which had absolutely no vote when this estimate was passed only last week. Similarly on subhead 25001 another \$100,000 is now being placed and this House is being asked to pass that for a new sum of money on a subhead which was passed only last week for a new sum of money.

I want to refer to page 97 which demonstrates my point more aptly. For example, if we look at Office Equipment – there is absolutely no provision, subhead 25000, physical education – no vote, subhead 25002 David Rose School – no vote, 25003 Museum Development – no vote and 25004 National School of Dance – no vote.

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It would have meant Cde. Speaker, that these four subheads which came under the heading Office Equipment had absolutely no provision in the Estimates as passed last week. Now with the amendment, we are now asked to vote \$10,000 for David Rose School, \$30,000 for Museum Development and \$10,000 for National School of Dance.

I have consulted my colleague Feroze Mohamed who said that if those figures there then, obviously he would have had some comment to make during his contribution to the general debate only last week. Now he had lost that opportunity.

The Speaker: I will give him an opportunity.

Cde. N. Persaud: He is not prepared now.

The Speaker: Was he not prepared the last time?

Cde. N. Persaud: Nothing was there so he was not prepared to speak. If we go down a little more on that page we will have seen under subhead 26001 Science, Home Economics and Industrial facilities – no vote, 26002 School farm and agricultural development – no vote and 26003 technical and vocational skills – no vote. The Estimates as far as this head is concerned.....and equipment – no vote whatsoever and this House approved this Estimate without any corrections under this Heading. Now today under the three subheads we are being asked to spend or to pass \$10,000 for Science, Home Economics and Industrial facilities, \$70,000 for school farm and agricultural development and \$40,000 for Technical and Vocational School.

Cde. Speaker, to my mind this is very very incorrect. Estimates we all agree are estimates and therefore one passes a figure which is subjected for adjustments and that is why I said in the first category I have absolutely no quarrel with the Cde. Vice President, but when Estimates are prepared and no votes are there and passed in this National Assembly with no votes under certain subheads to come with amendments and corrections and requesting large sums of money, I think it is wrong and misleading. If the Cde. Vice President wanted to allocate money on certain subheads he should have waited another two weeks and come with supplementary and we would have had no quarrel with them, but the way it is done is very much incorrect and I do not think it ought to be passed in the House as it is.

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As I said, these are not corrections, these are new sums of money-not amendments or that the figures were wrong typographically and you are now correcting them – it is a case where absolutely nothing has been placed there and today after some thought or after some reconsideration the House is being asked to pass large sums of money.

Cde Speaker, may I make the point – it is not included in the Estimates but I dealt with this question in my debate, talking about budget deficit as regards current budget and budget deficit as regards capital budget and as regards the whole budget. Today we are told that the overall budget deficit is going to be increased by \$37.5 million. \$37.5 million were placed there in the estimates for information purposes which was used by me in my budget speech. Money expected to be credited from Brazil to buy equipment and machinery for projects. Now we are being asked to remove same because the discussions have not been finalised. It means that capital budget deficit would be increased by \$37.5 million. What are we doing? That is why we say that the estimates must have more details – they must be properly presented so that they can have correct information...when they come to this House.

Cde. Narbada Persaud continues

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Cde. Speaker, I want to say that we are not going to support this. This is wrong. We have no quarrel with the first categories outlined by him. We can go page by page and commend on one or two of them, but in the third category there was no vote and the Estimates were passed by this Assembly. It is very, very wrong, if not immoral for the Government to come today and ask for provision.

Mr. M.F. Singh: Mr. Speaker, what is before the Assembly today under this Motion I would consider a national disgrace. The amendments in the third category are, in fact, substantial. To vote money now where only last week money was not voted at all, no details were given, is to my mind indeed very substantial. This whole book, as I intimated, is an insult to this honourable Assembly. I do not want to deal specifically with this whole set of pages, that is, up to page 7. I merely want to express the sincere hope that next year more care and attention will be taken in the preparation of Estimates instead of having the cavalier manner in which they appear to have been prepared this year. I hope also that next year more details will be given. For example, as I said before, under every Head we will see subhead 301, "Expenses Specific to the Agency". For example, on page 29, General Register Office, you could take the Total Other Charges, \$142,000, and put it at sub-head 301 because all the expenses there are specific to the agency. If the Government is going to do it like that and not give details that is probably the easiest way to do it.

We are asking for details so that we can contribute constructively as we did in the past and as I did in 1973 when the members of the P.P.P. did not take their seats. We want to examine the Estimates constructively in our sincere wish to help the Government in the extremely difficult times that we are passing through at the moment.

The Speaker: Cde. Ramsaroop, I think Cde. Narbada Persaud has made a very strong case for us not to proceed with the amendments to pages 96 and 97 of the Estimates. Those are the only two causes, the one that the Vice-President alluded to and the one commented on by Cde. Narbada Persaud. The others are clerical amendments.

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I would suggest that we do not proceed with the amendments to pages 96 and 97 and come back later. That would meet their needs. I was prepared to allow discussions to go on those matters but I understand that the Member is not prepared, which I do not believe. But if he says so, we have to accept it.

The Vice-President, Party and State Matter (Cde. Ramsaroop): Cde. Speaker, I am prepared to accept your advice and propose an amendment to the Motion that has been laid.

The Speaker: The Motion is as moved subject to the amendments to page 96 and 97 of the Estimates being deleted, which means that the Estimates in respect of pages 96 and 97 will remain the same as printed.

Cde. Ramsaroop: Before you put the Motion, I have been advised that the particular matter also runs over to page 98.

Motion put, as amended.

Motion, as amended, carried.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, "That this Assembly do now adjourn to a date to be fixed." /The Vice-President, Party and State Matters/

Adjourned accordingly at 15:30 hrs.