

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1979

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 192nd Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 5TH JULY, 1979

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (63)

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly
Members of the Government - People's National Congress (46)

Prime Minister (1)

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

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

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

Senior Ministers (12)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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

* Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour (Absent)

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

* Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent)

* Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent)

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

* Cde. V.R. Teekah, M.P., Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture (Absent)

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

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

Ministers (2)

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

Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

* Non elected Minister

Ministers of State (10)

- Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi) (Absent)
- Cde. P. Ducnan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara) (Absent)
- Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of State., Office of the Prime Minister
- Cde. R.H.O., Corbin, M.P., Minister of State for Youth and Sport, Ministry of National Development (Absent)
- Cde. S. Prasad, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. L.A. Durant, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of State for Information, Ministry of National Development

Parliamentary Secretaries (5)

- Cde. M.M. Ackman, C.C.H., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip (Absent)
- Cde. E.L. Ambrose, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture
- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives (Absent)

Other Members (15)

- Cde. W.G. Carrington, C.C.H., M.P.
- Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
- Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P.
- Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. A. Salim, M.P.
- Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. S.H. Sikru, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. C. Skul, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
- Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, M.P.

Members of the Opposition (16)(i) People's Progressive Party (14)Leader of the Opposition (1)

- Cde. C. Jagan, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

* Non elected Minister

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief Whip
Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.
Cde. C. Collymore, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.
Cde. R. Ally, M.P.
Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.
Cde. Dindayal, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
Cde. P. Sukhai, M.P. (Absent)

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P. (Absent)
Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain, A.A.)
Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (A. Knight)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPER AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House
on behalf of the Minister of Finance:

Statements of Guarantees given by the Minister of Finance made under section 3 of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, Chapter 77:01, for the quarters ended 30th September, 1978, 31st December, 1978, 31st March, 1979, and Aggregate for the year ended 31st December, 1978.

(ST: 49/0/1)(Circulated).

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 23 (3)

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 23 be suspended to enable the motion by the Leader of the Opposition published on 29th June, 1979, on Notice Paper No. 216 to be moved at the Sitting of the National Assembly on 5th July, 1979.

ITEM 2 · CONDEMNATION OF SOMOZA REGIME AND RECOGNITION OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

The Leader of the Opposition moved the following motion which was seconded by Cde. N.Persaud:

WHEREAS the brutal Somoza regime is carrying out a genocidal war against the people of Nicaragua;

AND WHEREAS the heroic people of Nicaragua, led by the Sandinista Front need urgent international solidarity and support;

AND WHEREAS several Latin American and Caribbean Governments, including the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada, have broken off relations with the Somoza regime and recognised the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly condemns the Somoza dictatorship and calls upon the Government to express solidarity with the Committee for National Salvation led by the Sandinista Front and to recognise the new Government of National Reconstruction.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke to the motion and moved the following amendment:

Deletion of all the words after the second preambular paragraph and substitution of the following:

"AND WHEREAS the non-aligned movement, in which Guyana participates actively, and which is a major independent factor in international politics, had in September 1978, and more recently in June 1979, expressed support for the just struggle of the people of Nicaragua and called for the adoption of concrete measures for the immediate and definitive elimination of the Somoza regime;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana has over the years consistently resisted all overtures from the Somoza regime for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries;

AND WHEREAS several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, which for some time maintained and/or latterly established relations with the fascist clique of General Anastasio Somoza-Debayle, have recently severed such relations:

BE IT RESOLVED;

That this National Assembly condemns the Somoza dictatorship and endorses the action taken by the Government of Guyana within the non-aligned movement to effectuate the end of that dictatorship and to intensify international support for the forces of freedom in Nicaragua under the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front;

And that this National Assembly expresses solidarity with the Committee for National Salvation of Nicaragua and calls upon the Government to recognise the Provisional Government of National Reconstruction."

The Deputy Speaker spoke and moved the following amendment which was seconded by Cde. N. Persaud:

Deletion of all the words after the second preambular paragraph and substitution of the following:

"AND WHEREAS the non-aligned movement, in which Guyana participate actively, and which is a major independent factor in international politics, and in September 1978, and more recently in June, 1979, expressed support for the just struggle of the people of Nicaragua and called for the adoption of concrete measures for the immediate and definitive elimination of the Somoza regime;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana has over the years consistently resisted all overtures from the Somoza regime for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries;

AND WHEREAS several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, which for some time maintained and/or latterly established relations with the fascist clique of General Anastasio Somoza-Debayle, have recently severed such relations:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly condemns the Somoza dictatorship;

And that this National Assembly expresses solidarity with the Committee for National Salvation of Nicaragua and calls upon the Government to recognise the Provisional Government of National Reconstruction and to support the seating in the United Nations of the Provisional Government of National Reconstruction as the sovereign representatives of the people of Nicaragua."

The Leader of the Opposition replied.

In accordance with Standing Order 33 (2), the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources concluded the debate.

(At this stage, the Leader of the Opposition and the other members of his party withdrew from the sitting.)

The amendment by the Deputy Speaker was put and negatived.

The amendment by the Minister of Foreign Affairs was put and carried.

The amended motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.26 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


S. NARAIN
Speaker 7/1-179 7/7

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
7th July, 1979