

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 56TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1998-2000) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 23RD OCTOBER, 2000
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (75)

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (46)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (45)

The Hon. Samuel A. A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and
Parliamentary Affairs

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

*The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government

The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

*The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

*The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Health and Labour

The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of Information (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government

*The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Livestock and Fisheries

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

*The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

*The Hon. Shaik K. Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

*The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

*The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President with
responsibility for Finance

*The Hon. Geoffrey DaSilva, M.P., Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry

*Non elected Minister

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Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, C.C.H., M.P.

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mr. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P.

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P.

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.

Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, M.P.

Mrs. Bijulee Moti, M.P.

Mr. B.H. Robeson Benn, M.P.

Mr. Joseph M. DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Ramratan, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Geoffrey A. Fraser, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Mr. Ramsundar Sankat, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Eustace S. Rodrigues, M.S., M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

Members of the Opposition (29)**(i) People's National Congress (25)**

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P. Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P., Chief Whip

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.

Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.

Mr. Kadim A. Khan, M.P.

Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.

Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.

Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. John S. DeFreitas, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Joseph L. Hamilton, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Sherwood A. J. Lowe, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Andrew Hicks, M.P.

Mr. Neaz Subhan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Colin Bynoe, M.P.

Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Mr. Kelley Andres, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Thakechand Ramnauth, M.P.

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

(ii) The United Force (2)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Matthew R. Charlie, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) Alliance for Guyana (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Albertino Peters, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, C.C.H., Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m., with the Deputy Speaker in the Chair.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

VACATION OF CHAIR

At this stage, the Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair for the purpose of the Election of a Speaker.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

On a proposal by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, seconded by the Prime Minister, Mr. Winslow Martin Zephyr, a Member of the National Assembly, was declared by the Clerk to be Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Speaker then took the Chair and thanked Members for electing him.

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs and the Deputy Speaker congratulated Mr. Zephyr on his election as Speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave for that day's sitting had been granted to-

The Hon. Moses Nagamoootoo,

Mr. Neaz Subhan, and

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-(1) By the Minister of Local Government:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Local Government for the year 1999.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance:

- (i) Financial Paper No. 3/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$899,061,230, for the period ended 5th October, 2000 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Financial Paper No. 4/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$5,160,155,540, for the period ending 31st December, 2000.

(Circulated)

The Minister named the next Sitting day for the consideration of the Financial Papers.

(iii) The following Loan Agreements:-

Agreements (4) between the International Development Association and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-

- (a) Development Credit No 2746-3 GUA dated June 9, 1977 for the Private Sector Development Adjustment Credit;
- (b) Development Credit No. 2746-4 GUA dated December 17, 1997 for the Private Sector Development Adjustment Credit;
- (c) Development Credit No. 3139-GUA dated November 12, 1998 for the El Nino Emergency Assistance Project; and
- (d) Development Credit No. 3290-GUA dated November 17, 1999 for the Financial and Private Sector Institutional Development Project.

Agreements (8) between the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-

- (a) Loan Contract No. 985/SF-GY dated May 16, 1997 for the Social Impact Amelioration Program (SIMAP)- Stage II;
- (b) Loan Contract No. 986/SF-GY dated June 5, 1997 for the Electricity Sector Program;
- (c) Loan Contract No. 999/SF-GY dated March 18, 1998 for the Main Road Rehabilitation Programme Phase II - Bridge Rehabilitation;

- (d) Loan Contract No. 1007/SF-GY dated August 21, 1998 for the Urban Development Program;
- (e) Loan Contract No. 1021/SF-GY dated March 13, 1999 for the Urban Development Program;
- (f) Loan Contract No. 1035/SF-GY dated June 10, 1999 for the preparation of the Low-income Settlement Program (GY-0057);
- ~~(g)~~ (g) Loan Contract No. 1042/SF-GY-1 dated February 4, 2000 for the Hybrid Program for Air Transport Reform (Policy Component); and
- (h) Loan Contract No. 1042/SF-GY-2 dated February 4, 2000 for the Hybrid Program for Air Transport Reform (Investment/Technical Cooperation Components).

Agreement (1) between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-

- (a) Loan Contract No. 13/SFR-GU dated September 9, 1988 for the Poor Rural Communities Support Services Project.

Agreements (2) between the Commodity Credit Corporation, an agency of the United States of America and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-

- (a) Loan Contract PL 480 FY-1998 dated December 2, 1997 for the sales of Agricultural Commodities; and
- (b) Loan Contract PL 480 FY-1999 dated August 2, 1999 for the sales of Agricultural Commodities.

Bilateral Agreement on the Rescheduling of Bilateral Debt between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of Guyana signed on October 14, 1999 in accordance with the fifth Paris Club Agreed Minute of June 25, 1999.

(Circulated)

- (3) By the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (Mr. Dunstan Barrow):
Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

(Circulated)

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY
AND MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

Suspension of Standing Order No. 46(2) and (3)

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 46(2) and (3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Monday, 23rd October, 2000, with the second reading and remaining stages of the Constitution (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2000 - Bill No. 11 of 2000.

(Notice Paper No. 89(M48 Govt 43) published 2000-10-13)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 11/2000

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution
in accordance with articles 66 and 164.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE HON. DEREK C. JAGAN, OR, CCH, SC, JP, MP

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That we the Members of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana, at this Sitting of the Assembly held on Monday, 23rd October, 2000-

- place on record our shock and profound grief at the great loss to the Parliament of Guyana by the sudden death on Sunday, 15th October, 2000, of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Hon. Derek Chunilall Jagan, OR, CCH, SC, JP, MP.,
- pay tribute to the long and distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament, and
- direct that an expression of our heartfelt sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.

(Notice Paper No. 91 (M50 Govt 45) published 2000-10-17)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Dunstan Barrow
The Prime Minister.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

The Members then stood in silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to the late Speaker.

MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE RECEIVED

The Speaker took the opportunity, at that time, to communicate to the Assembly the following messages of condolence which had been received:

- (i) **From the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba**
(Dated 15th October, 2000)

“The Embassy of the Republic of Cuba presents its compliments to the Honourable National Assembly of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and has the honour to extend its most heartfelt condolences for the passing away of the Honourable Speaker, Derek Jagan.

Likewise, the Embassy wishes to convey its profound sympathies to the family and friends of the late Mr. Jagan for this incomparable loss”.

- (ii) **From the Honourable Walford Gumbs, Speaker of the National**
Assembly of St. Kitts and Nevis
(Dated 17th October, 2000)

“I was shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Honourable Derek Jagan, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana.

It was only recently at the Millennium Conference for Presiding Officers at the United Nations Headquarters in New York that we had an opportunity to converse once more. Little did we know that it was our last meeting.

On behalf of the Members of the St. Kitts and Nevis National Assembly and on my own behalf, I express condolences to the Government and people of Guyana on the sudden passing of Speaker Jagan.

Kindly convey expressions of sympathy to his wife and family”.

(iii) **From the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Suriname**
(Dated 17th October, 2000)

“The announcement of the untimely death of the Speaker Mr. Derek Jagan, O.R., made great impression on us.

On behalf of both myself and the National Assembly of the Republic of Suriname, please accept our sincere condolences at the passing away of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

May his soul rest in the peace of the Almighty”.

(iv) **From the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Grenada,**
the Honourable Sir Curtis Strachan

Expressing his regret at being unable to attend the funeral. He however, requested that the deepest condolences on his behalf and on behalf of the Parliament of Grenada be conveyed to the family of the deceased together with the Members of the National Assembly.

(v) **From the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association,**
Mr. Arthur R. Donahoe, at the Headquarters Secretariat in London
(Dated 20th October, 2000)

“The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association extends to the Parliament of Guyana and people of Guyana its deepest sympathies on the death of Hon. Derek C. Jagan. Just as Guyana has lost a great Parliamentarian, the Commonwealth has also suffered an enormous loss in the passing of a man whose wisdom and insight, which he accumulated in almost a decade in the Chair, were of incalculable benefit to parliamentary government in Guyana. The evolution of a parliamentary tradition is a formidable task for any nation and the road to democracy in Guyana has taken some tortuous turns, as it has in virtually every other Commonwealth country. As Speaker, Mr. Jagan participated in this process and also represented Guyana at the highest levels and with the greatest distinction. Only recently I had discussions with him at the 46th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference about ways in which the CPA could be of assistance to the Parliament of Guyana. He will be long and favourably remembered.

My wife Carolyn and all my colleagues at CPA Headquarters in London join me in asking you and the people of Guyana to accept our sincere sympathy on his passing”.

- (vi) **From Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, a Member of the National Assembly**
(Dated 19th October, 2000)

“Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P., records with regret his shock and sorrow at the death of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Derek Jagan, O.R., S.C.

He further regrets his absence from the country in East Africa on an observer mission and requests that his condolences be extended to the family of the late Speaker and to colleagues, Clerk and Staff of the National Assembly”.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.03 p.m., the Speaker suspended the Sitting for fifteen minutes.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 3.25 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

BILL - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 2 - CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 11/2000

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution
in accordance with articles 66 and 164.

Mr. Raphael Trotman was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the Sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Mr. Trotman continued and concluded his speech.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried and was supported by the votes of the following fifty-three (53) elected Members of the Assembly, i.e., by more than two-thirds of all sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly:

Mr. Charlie	Mr. Ramdas
	Mr. Rodrigues
Mr. Andres	Mr. Sankat
	Mr. Fraser
Ms Adams	Mr. Ramratan
	Mr. Mohan
Mr. Bynoe	Mr. DeSouza
	Mr. Benn
Mr. Hicks	Mrs. Moti
	Dr. Ramsaran
Mr. Hamilton	Mrs. Sukhai
	Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
Mrs. Lawrence	Mr. Rodney
	Dr. Ramsammy
Dr. Joseph	Mr. Lumumba
	Dr. Lall
Mr. Trotman	Mr. Kissoon
	Mrs. Edwards
Mrs. Backer	Mr. DeSantos
	Mr. Chandarpal
Mr. Goveia	Mr. Chand
	Mr. Alli
Mrs. DeJesus	Mr. Ramotar
	Mr. Belgrave
Miss Persico	Mr. Mohamed
	Miss Teixeira
Mr. Khan	Mr. Nokta
Mr. Allen	Mr. DeSouza
Mr. Carberry	Mr. Collymore
Mrs. Riehl	Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Barrow	Mr. Rohee
Mr. Murray	Mr. Persaud
Mr. Hoyte	Mr. Hinds

The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 19 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs reported and moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was put and at the final voting in the Assembly, the Bill was supported by the votes of the following fifty-three (53) elected Members of the Assembly, i.e., more than two-thirds of all sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly:

Mr. Charlie	Mr. Ramdas
	Mr. Rodrigues
Mr. Andres	Mr. Sankat
	Mr. Fraser
Ms Adams	Mr. Ramratan
	Mr. Mohan
Mr. Bynoe	Mr. DeSouza
	Mr. Benn
Mr. Hicks	Mrs. Moti
	Dr. Ramsaran
Mr. Hamilton	Mrs. Sukhai
	Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
Mrs. Lawrence	Mr. Rodney
	Dr. Ramsammy
Dr. Joseph	Mr. Lumumba
	Dr. Lall
Mr. Trotman	Mr. Kisson
	Mrs. Edwards
Mrs. Backer	Mr. DeSantos
	Mr. Chandarpal
Mr. Goveia	Mr. Chand
	Mr. Alli
Mrs. DeJesus	Mr. Ramotar
	Mr. Belgrave
Miss Persico	Mr. Mohamed
	Miss Teixeira
Mr. Khan	Mr. Nokta
Mr. Allen	Mr. DeSouza
Mr. Carberry	Mr. Collymore
Mrs. Riehl	Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Barrow	Mr. Rohee
Mr. Murray	Mr. Persaud
Mr. Hoyte	Mr. Hinds

The Bill was read the third time and passed as printed.

**ITEM 3- RATIFICATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION
AGAINST CORRUPTION**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Inter-American Convention against Corruption was signed on March 29, 1996 at the Specialized Conference on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption in Caracas, Venezuela;

AND WHEREAS the Convention was signed by the Honourable George Fung-On, Minister of the Public Service on behalf of the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS Article 22 of the said Convention makes provision for the deposit of the Instrument of Ratification with the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States;

NOW THEREFORE the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana having considered the Convention hereby confirms and ratifies the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out all the stipulations therein, subject to the following Reservation herein after expressed, "The Cooperative Republic of Guyana does not consider itself bound to extend the actions of seizure of forfeiture of property envisaged under Article XV of the present Convention, to the extent that such actions violate the provisions of Article 142 (1) of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, which prohibits the compulsory acquisition of property without the payment of compensation.";

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly agrees to the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the said Inter-American Convention against Corruption and for Guyana to formally ratify the said Convention by the deposit of an Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 82 (M41 Govt36) published 2000-07-27)

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 4- RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL VIII WHICH AMENDS THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion which was put and carried:

WHEREAS Protocol VIII amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community signed at Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973 was signed by Eleven (11) Heads of Government at the Eleventh Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community which was held in Saint Kitts and Nevis from March 13-14, 2000;

AND WHEREAS Protocol VIII was signed by His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana on behalf of the Government of Guyana in Saint Kitts and Nevis;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol provides for a Competition Policy, Consumer Protection, Dumping and Subsidies for the Community within the context of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME);

AND WHEREAS Protocol VIII which amends the Treaty that established the Caribbean Community aims primarily at ensuring “that the benefits expected from the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)” are not frustrated by anti-competitive business conduct;

AND WHEREAS Guyana remains firmly committed to the principles of free and fair competitive trade within the context of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees to the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community being notified of Guyana’s intention to ratify Protocol VIII by depositing the appropriate Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 83 (M42 Govt37) published 2000-07-27)

**ITEM 5 - RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL IX WHICH AMENDS THE
TREATY ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Protocol IX amending the Treaty which established the Caribbean Community signed at Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973 was signed on March 14 by Eleven (11) Heads of Government at the Eleventh Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community held in Saint Kitts and Nevis from March 13-14, 2000;

AND WHEREAS Protocol IX "Disputes Settlement" was signed by His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana on behalf of the Government of Guyana in Saint Kitts and Nevis;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol IX has as its primary objective the promotion of "peaceful expeditious and effective settlement of disputes in the Community and, in particular, in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) by recourse to the internationally accepted modes of disputes settlement;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol allows for the creation of the Caribbean Court of Justice;

AND WHEREAS Guyana strongly endorses the view that a transparent and authoritative system of disputes settlement within CARICOM will ultimately enhance the "economic", social and other forms of activity in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) thereby creating a stable climate for investment;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees to the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community being advised of Guyana's intention to ratify Protocol IX by depositing the appropriate Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 84 (M43 Govt38) published 2000-07-27)

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ITEM 6 -RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR
TEST-BAN TREATY**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion which was put and carried:

WHEREAS the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on September 10, 1996 and opened for signature in New York, United States of America on September 24, 1996;

AND WHEREAS Cabinet recently approved of Guyana signing the Treaty and the said Treaty will be signed by Honourable Clement J. Rohee, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of Guyana during the 55th United Nations General Assembly in September 2000;

AND WHEREAS the said Treaty provides for, inter alia, the cessation of the arms race, nuclear disarmament and complete disarmament under strict and effective control;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana supports the international effort to halt the further testing of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosions leading to the eventual elimination of the war weapons of mass destruction. The practice of testing nuclear weapons not only threatens international peace and security, but also threatens the existence of mankind, health and the environment;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees to the Secretary General of the United Nations being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and for Guyana to formally ratify the said Treaty by the deposit of an appropriate Instrument of Ratification.

***7. ENDORSEMENT OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the motion at Appendix I attached.

Mr. Lance Carberry spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.04 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

W.M. Zephyr
W.M. ZEPHYR

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

23RD October, 2000.