



COLONIAL OFFICE

Report of the
British Guiana Constitutional
Conference

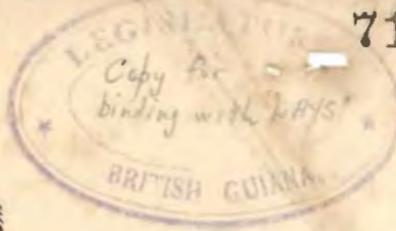
Held in London in March, 1960

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for the Colonies
by Command of Her Majesty
April 1960*

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

ONE SHILLING NET

Cmnd. 998



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REPORT OF THE BRITISH GUIANA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

Held in London in March, 1960

INTRODUCTION

1. This Conference was convened by the Secretary of State for the Colonies at the request of the British Guiana Legislature to consider what measures of constitutional advance should take place in British Guiana.

2. A list of the delegates and advisers who took part in the Conference is at Annex A.

3. The Conference met at Lancaster House between the 7th March and 31st March, 1960. The Conference held 18 plenary meetings ; there was one Committee meeting. The Secretary of State presided at all plenary meetings held up to and including 22nd March ; thereafter the Minister of State presided.

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

4. The Colony's present constitution is largely contained in the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, as amended by the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Order in Council, 1956. This Order provides for a Legislative Council consisting of a Speaker appointed by the Governor, three ex-officio members (the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary) and not more than twenty-five other members of whom not less than fourteen are to be elected and not more than eleven are to be nominated members. The Executive Council, at meetings of which the Governor normally presides, is to consist of the three ex-officio members of the Legislative Council and not more than seven nominated members who must be either elected or nominated unofficial members of the Legislative Council. The Governor is not obliged to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council and also has a general reserved legislative power.

5. The first elections under these Instruments were held in August, 1957, and the present Legislative Council consists of the Speaker, the three ex-officio members, fourteen elected members and six nominated members. The Executive Council, in addition to the three ex-officio members, consists of five elected members of the majority party in the Legislative Council. Each member has been charged with responsibility for certain departments and subjects and the elected members are styled Ministers.

6. The course of events leading up to the Conference is briefly as follows. In June, 1958 the new partly elected legislature which had taken office the previous year passed a resolution in the following terms :—

RESOLUTION No. XXIX

RESOLVED, That this Honourable Council affirming its belief in the principle of the basic right of peoples to Governments of their own choice as enunciated in the Atlantic Charter, the United Nations Declaration of

Human Rights, and the Washington Declaration signed on February 1st, 1956, by the Rt. Honourable Anthony Eden, then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Government and President Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, requests Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies to receive a representative delegation chosen by and from this Council to discuss :

- (i) constitutional reform with a view to the granting to British Guiana of the status of a fully self-governing territory within the Commonwealth ; and
- (ii) the working out of an agreement between the British Guiana Government and the United Kingdom Government for a transitional period whereby the United Kingdom Government would exercise control over defence and give guidance in foreign relations other than trade and commerce.

7. After discussions in London with British Guiana Ministers the Secretary of State in September, 1958 asked the Governor to set up a Committee to recommend what form constitutional advance from the current arrangements should take, and said that thereafter he would be willing to receive a representative delegation to discuss the recommendations of the Committee. With the agreement of the Secretary of State, the Governor appointed a Constitutional Committee comprising the Speaker as Chairman and all unofficial members of the Legislative Council, with the official members as advisers without vote. The Committee was set up in November, 1958 and presented its report to the Governor in August, 1959.

8. Arrangements were originally made for a Conference to be held in London in the autumn of 1959. In the event, with the concurrence of the British Guiana Ministers, the Conference had to be postponed until March because of the transfer of Sir Patrick Renison to be Governor of Kenya and to provide an intermission to allow Sir Ralph Grey, as the new Governor, to take up his duties in the Colony.

PROCEEDINGS

9. The function of the Conference, as the Secretary of State made clear at the outset, was not to take decisions regarding the nature and timing of future constitutional developments in British Guiana since the responsibility for advising Her Majesty on these matters rested with Her Majesty's Government as a whole. To assist in the discharge of that responsibility it was the Secretary of State's duty to make recommendations and to give advice to his colleagues about what should be done. He would be best able to give such advice after having the guidance of the Conference and therein lay the Conference's opportunity to influence the eventual outcome. His hope was that his advice to his colleagues could be based on recommendations accepted in the Conference.

10. The Secretary of State also made it clear at the outset of the Conference that he recognised, from the resolution of the British Guiana Legislative Council of June, 1958, from the majority recommendations of the Constitutional Committee report in 1959, and from the speeches delivered by the British Guiana Delegates at the public opening session of the

Conference, that the delegation had their sights fixed on independence. He understood it to be the wish of the majority party under Dr. Jagan and of others in the delegation that this independence within the Commonwealth should be granted by August, 1961, when the normal four year life of the current legislature expired. On the other hand he understood also that there was other opinion in British Guiana and in the delegation which was anxious to progress to independence by stages and not in one step; and in one case the wish was for immediate independence outside the Commonwealth. All this he would bear in mind and he would respect the differences of view which the delegation were bound to express on any proposals he might put forward falling short of their publicly declared aspirations. Where his propositions could not be endorsed by the delegation he nevertheless hoped that they would be accepted and that there would be an assurance of co-operation in implementing Her Majesty's Government's decisions.

11. The Conference proceeded to discuss the matters on the agenda. On many points it transpired that the Secretary of State's proposals fell far short of the desires of members of the British Guiana Delegation. Differences of view were frankly stated and discussed and, save in respect of the interim changes, a compromise was reached. The conclusions of the Conference so reached are summarised in the following paragraphs.

GENERAL

12. The Secretary of State stressed the need for orderly and progressive transfer of responsibility and power to British Guiana Ministers. The British Guiana Delegation with one exception proposed, and the Conference accepted, the principle of independence within the Commonwealth for British Guiana. The member who differed wished for immediate independence but not within the Commonwealth. While no precise time-table could reasonably be formulated, the following statement was adopted by the Conference :—

“Her Majesty's Government accept the principle of independence for British Guiana. On the assumption that constitutional changes are introduced as a result of this Conference, then if at any time not earlier than two years after the first General Election held under the new Constitution or upon it being decided that the West Indies Federation should attain independence, whichever period is the shorter, both Houses of the British Guiana Legislature pass resolutions asking Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to grant independence to British Guiana, Her Majesty's Government will early thereafter call a further Conference to consider when it would be practicable to implement this request. Provided that the new situation caused by the decision that the West Indies Federation should attain independence would not be regarded as giving grounds for considering any change in the then operative British Guiana Constitution until it had been in effect for not less than one year.”

13. The next Constitution would be promulgated and the electoral arrangements completed not later than August, 1961 when the normal life of the present Legislature was due to end.

LEGISLATURE

14. The new Constitution would provide for a bicameral Legislature which would consist of an elected chamber to be called the "Legislative Assembly" and a nominated chamber to be called the "Senate".

15. The life of the Legislature, as hitherto, would be four years. The sessions of the two chambers would be co-terminous.

16. The Legislative Assembly would consist of not less than thirty-two members and not more than thirty-five members, the precise number to be determined by the advice of a Boundary Commission to be set up to delimit new constituency boundaries in time for the next general election (see paragraph 39).

17. The Senate would consist of thirteen members, of whom eight would be appointed by the Governor in accordance with the advice of the Premier, three by the Governor after consultation with such persons as, in his opinion, could speak for the differing political points of view of opposition groups represented in the Legislative Assembly, and two by the Governor in his discretion.

18. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly would be selected by the Assembly from amongst its members or from outside the Assembly. If chosen from among the members of the Assembly, the Speaker would have a casting vote but not an original vote; if selected from outside the Assembly, the Speaker would have no vote at all.

19. The President of the Senate would be chosen by the members from amongst their number and would have only a casting vote.

20. The Governor would prorogue the Legislature on the advice of the Premier.

21. The Governor's power to dissolve the Legislature would be exercised in accordance with the conventions applicable to the exercise of the like power by The Queen in the United Kingdom.

22. With reference to paragraph 17 above, it was recognised that the institution of a Senate would provide the opportunity for persons of wisdom and experience, who might be unwilling to stand for election, to participate in the government of the country. Nevertheless the Senate should be so constituted as to membership and powers as not to be in a position to thwart the will of the Legislative Assembly. As to membership, the appointment of eight members by the Governor on the advice of the Premier would ensure a majority in the Senate for the party in office. As to powers, the Senate's functions would be restricted as follows:—

Money Bills

- (i) no Money Bill should be introduced in the Senate;
- (ii) if a Money Bill, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and sent to the Senate at least one month before the end of the session, is not passed by the Senate without amendment within one month after it has been sent to the Senate, it should, unless the Legislative Assembly otherwise resolves, be presented to the Governor for assent;

Other Bills

- (iii) if by the end of a period of six months from the date when a Bill other than a Money Bill is sent to it, the Senate has failed to pass the Bill either with or without amendments, the Bill should, unless the Legislative Assembly otherwise resolved, be presented to the Governor for assent ;
- (iv) if within the said period of six months the Bill is passed by the Senate with amendments it will be returned to the Assembly and the Assembly may
 - (a) resolve either that the Bill be presented for assent in the form in which it was sent to the Senate or that it be presented for assent with such of the amendments made by the Senate as are agreed to by the Assembly ; or
 - (b) resolve that the Bill be not presented for assent.

LEGISLATIVE POWERS

23. The Governor would assent or refuse to assent to Bills in accordance with the advice of Ministers. However, unless he were authorised by the Secretary of State to assent thereto, the Governor would be required to reserve for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure any Bill which, in his opinion, affected defence, external affairs or the Royal Prerogative or was inconsistent with the Constitution. This provision would also apply to Bills affecting the maintenance of law and order until responsibility for these subjects had passed to a Minister (see paragraph 45). Similarly, the above provision would also apply to Bills affecting the terms and conditions of service, including pensions, of public officers until the time when the Public, Police and Judicial Service Commissions became executive (see paragraph 46).

24. The Governor would have a reserved legislative power which would be restricted to Bills and motions which, in his opinion, were necessary or expedient for the purposes of defence or external affairs or, until responsibility for law and order had passed to a Minister, or the Service Commissions had become executive, as the case may be, for maintaining law and order or securing satisfactory terms and conditions of service of public officers. To make this power fully effective, the Governor would have to be able to secure that a Bill or motion for any of the above purposes was introduced or proposed in either chamber of the Legislature.

25. The powers of Her Majesty to legislate for British Guiana by Order in Council under the British Guiana Act, 1928, would be retained in the next constitutional stage. The Secretary of State in consideration of the special circumstances of British Guiana gave an assurance that it was his intention not to advise that these powers be exercised except for the purpose of enacting constitutional instruments or to deal with grave emergency.

26. Her Majesty's power to disallow a law of the British Guiana Legislature would be retained only in the case of laws affecting British Guiana Government stock.

THE EXECUTIVE

27. The Executive Council would be replaced by a Council of Ministers consisting of a Premier* and a maximum of nine other Ministers, one of whom would be Attorney-General.

28. The Governor would appoint as Premier the member of the Legislative Assembly who, in his judgment, was best able to command the confidence of a majority of the members of that chamber. He would appoint the other Ministers in accordance with the advice of the Premier, not less than one and not more than three being members of the Senate and the remainder being members of the Legislative Assembly.

29. If the Legislative Assembly by resolution (which had received the affirmative votes of a majority of all the members) declared a lack of confidence in the Government the Governor would revoke the appointment of the Premier unless, at the request of the Premier, the Legislature was thereupon dissolved. If the office of Premier became vacant for any reason all the other Ministers would automatically vacate office on the appointment of a new Premier.

30. The quorum for meetings of the Council of Ministers should be a simple majority.

31. Portfolios would be assigned by the Governor in accordance with the advice of the Premier.

32. Parliamentary Secretaries to assist Ministers would be appointed by the Governor in accordance with the advice of the Premier from among the members of the legislature. It was recognised that there would be advantage in keeping the number of Parliamentary Secretaries small.

33. A public officer would be appointed as Secretary to the Council of Ministers. An officer would be posted to this office by the Governor with the approval of the Premier.

34. There would be provision enabling the Governor to appoint one of the other Ministers to perform the functions of the Premier in the event of the Office of Premier becoming vacant or the Premier being ill or absent from British Guiana. This power would be exercised by the Governor in accordance with the Premier's advice when this was practicable and in any other case in the Governor's discretion. No other provision would be made for the appointment of temporary or acting Ministers. Nor would any provision be made in the constitution for the post, honorific or otherwise, of Leader of the Opposition.

35. The Premier would preside over and summon meetings of the Council of Ministers. The Governor would receive all papers available to the Council at the time of issue and would be kept generally informed by the Premier on the conduct of Government affairs.

36. The Governor would exercise his powers in accordance with the advice of the Council of Ministers except as otherwise provided. It was accepted that responsibility for defence and external affairs must for the present be reserved to the Governor acting in his discretion. Until responsibility for the maintenance of law and order is passed to a Minister

* The British Guiana Delegation preferred the title of "Prime Minister" but the Secretary of State considered this inappropriate to the constitutional status of the Colony in the next stage.

(see paragraph 45) the Governor will also retain ultimate executive powers in this field. Similarly, until the Public, Police and Judicial Service Commissions become executive (see paragraph 46) the Governor will retain responsibility for the public service.

37. Full powers would be delegated to the Government of British Guiana in relation to the negotiation and conclusion of trade agreements with the general purpose of conferring responsibility for these matters upon the British Guiana Government save in so far as this conflicted with the ultimate responsibility of Her Majesty's Government for the external affairs of British Guiana. These powers would be defined in a despatch from the Secretary of State to the Governor, and the August, 1961 Constitution would make it clear that their exercise was not reserved to the Governor as part of external affairs.

38. Responsibility for the initiation, conduct and discontinuance of prosecutions would be vested in a Director of Public Prosecutions who would be a public officer and be appointed by the Governor in his discretion after consultation with the Chief Justice. He would not be subject to the control of the Attorney-General in exercising his responsibility for prosecutions.

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

39. It was accepted that election to the Legislative Assembly should be by the "first past the post" system in single-member constituencies. A Boundary Commission would be appointed without delay with the object of delimiting new constituency boundaries if possible before the end of 1960.

40. The Commission would consist of a single Commissioner selected by the Lord Chancellor. The Commissioner should be a member or retired member of the Superior Judiciary; he would be assisted by expert advisers, including experts with local knowledge.

41. The terms of reference for the Commission would be on the following lines:—

- (i) to produce a fully-defined division of British Guiana in 32 electoral districts with discretion to increase this number up to 35;
- (ii) electoral districts to be of approximately equal population except where, in the Commissioner's opinion, it is desirable to disregard equality of numbers on account of special considerations such as natural community of interest, local government areas, physical features, transport facilities and the practicability of elected members maintaining contact with electors in sparsely populated areas.

42. For the purpose of general elections under the new Constitution, there would continue to be universal adult suffrage.

43. As regards disqualifications for membership of the legislative chambers, the offices of emolument under the Crown, the holders of which would be disqualified, should in future be specified by legislation enacted by the legislature of British Guiana. The position in this respect would then correspond to that obtaining in the United Kingdom under the House of

Commons' Disqualification Act, 1957. It should similarly be determined by the Legislature—

- (i) whether, and if so in what precise circumstances, persons interested in contracts with the Government should be disqualified for election and
- (ii) whether, and if so in what precise circumstances, a member who becomes interested in such a contract should be made to vacate his seat or whether he should merely be required to declare his interest before speaking on a matter in the Legislature.

CONTROL OF POLICE

44. The British Guiana Delegation asked that control of the Police should, not later than August, 1961, and, if possible, sooner than that, become the sole responsibility of a British Guiana Minister.

45. The Secretary of State for his part proposed that the transfer of responsibility for this subject should be made gradually so as to allow full opportunity for the public, and more especially for the members of the Police Force, to become accustomed to the introduction of a degree of Ministerial control in a matter hitherto reserved to the Governor; and also to provide the opportunity for Ministers themselves to become accustomed to the exercise of this new responsibility. To this end he proposed, and the British Guiana Delegation ultimately accepted, that:—

- (a) the Governor would, immediately after his return to British Guiana after the Conference, set up a Police Council to advise him on the provision, maintenance and administration of the British Guiana Police Force (including, in particular, the annual estimates). The Council would not be concerned with the use and operational control of the Force. It would be presided over by the Governor and consist of the leader of the majority party, two other Ministers and the Chief Secretary: the Commissioner of Police would be in attendance;
- (b) the Commissioner, as professional head of the Force, would be responsible for the use and operational control of the Force, subject to the ultimate authority of the Governor until it was decided in accordance with paragraph (d) below that this ultimate authority should pass to a Minister;
- (c) the Governor would be responsible for appointments, promotions and discipline but would be advised by the Police Service Commission; he would not be obliged to act in accordance with the Commission's advice until the Commission became executive as provided in paragraph 46;
- (d) not later than six months after the establishment of the Police Council the Governor would appoint a Minister on the Council to take over (subject to the Governor's ultimate authority) the functions of the Chief Secretary in relation to police matters. Not later than twelve months after the establishment of the Council, the Governor would forward to the Secretary of State reports by himself and by Ministers on the working of these arrangements, after which the Secretary of State would make his decision as to

whether the August, 1961, Constitution should or should not transfer the Governor's powers relating to the Police (other than those referred to in (c) above) to a Minister.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION

JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION

46. Provided that a Public Officers' Agreement was concluded and satisfactory compensation terms for the certain categories of officers for whom the Secretary of State had a special responsibility were agreed, the Public Service Commission and the Police Service Commission would become executive bodies on the inception of the new constitution; this would also apply to the Judicial Service Commission to be set up after the Conference.

47. The chairman and members of the Police and Public Service Commissions would be appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Premier.

48. Members of the Legislature and members of the British Guiana Civil Service would be disqualified from serving on either the Police or the Public Service Commissions; but the Commissioner of Police would be *ex-officio* a member (but not Chairman) of the Police Service Commission.

49. Promotions to the grade of Permanent Secretary would be a matter for the Public Service Commission but the Premier would be consulted with regard to the posting of these officers.

50. It was agreed, in regard to the judiciary, that

- (i) the Chief Justice should be appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Premier;
- (ii) a Judicial Service Commission to advise the Governor on the appointment of Judges and Magistrates should be set up as soon as possible after the Conference; it should consist of the Chief Justice as Chairman, the senior puisne judge, the chairman of the Public Service Commission, and one other member to be appointed by the Governor in his discretion who is or has been a judge of a superior Court in the territory or any Commonwealth country;
- (iii) the retiring age of judges should be fixed at 62 but a judge might in the Governor's discretion continue in office beyond that age in order to complete any legal proceedings in which he was engaged at the time;
- (iv) a judge should be removed only for misconduct or inability. The procedure would be for a Judicial Commission to investigate the complaint and render a report for submission to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council by whom the final recommendation would be made. The Judicial Commission would be constituted by the appointment of judges from the territory or from other Commonwealth territories.

51. The Conference recorded its appreciation of the importance of the rôle of the Public Service, not least during the transitional period in which

a responsible ministerial system was being built up. The Conference affirmed the importance of ensuring for the Service an independent status, free from political influence and control.

OTHER MATTERS

Bill of Rights

52. There would be incorporated in the August, 1961, Constitution a Bill of Rights on the lines of that which has been incorporated in the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria.

Amerindians

53. The Amerindian minority in British Guiana would be safeguarded in two ways:—

- (i) as individuals, by the provisions of the Bill of Rights ;
- (ii) by provision in the August, 1961, Constitution that responsibility for Amerindian affairs should be a specific part of a Ministerial portfolio.

Audit

54. Provision would be made in the August, 1961, Constitution for the Director of Audit to be appointed by the Governor in his discretion after consultation with the Premier and the Director-General of Overseas Audit.

Salaries to be charged on revenue

55. In order to protect certain public officers from the possibility of political interference in the discharge of their official duties, provision would be made in the August, 1961, Constitution for the salaries of such officers, designated by post, to be charged on the revenues of the Colony viz, Governor, Speaker, Judges, Director of Audit, members of the Public, Police and Judicial Service Commissions and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Federation of the West Indies

56. By mutual agreement the Conference made no attempt to deal with or to prejudice in any way the issue of whether British Guiana should now or in the future seek to accede to the West Indies Federation. The differing points of view on this issue within the British Guiana Delegation were noted.

PROPOSALS FOR INTERIM CHANGES

57. Having discussed the constitutional changes that should take effect at the end of the normal life of the present Legislature, the Conference turned, at the request of the British Guiana Delegation, to the consideration of various measures designed to give increasing responsibility and experience to British Guiana Ministers in the period between the ending of the Conference and the introduction of the new Constitution.

58. The proposals for interim change that engaged the attention of the Conference were, on the one hand, those of the United Kingdom Delegation that :

- (a) The leader of the majority party should at once by convention be given the title of " Premier " ;

- (b) The Premier should be designated to preside over Executive Council whenever the Governor did not do so ; and
- (c) A Minister should be given charge of Finance, the Financial Secretary acting as his adviser until the introduction of the new Constitution, when the post of Financial Secretary would cease to exist ;

and, on the other hand, those of the British Guiana Delegation that :

- (i) the Governor should forthwith cease to preside over the Executive Council, his place being taken by the Premier ;
- (ii) the Financial Secretary should forthwith leave the Executive Council, his place being taken by an elected Minister ; and
- (iii) the Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General should attend meetings of the Executive Council only as advisers.

59. The United Kingdom Delegation expressed their views as follows. The changes proposed by the British Guiana Delegation would have required an interim Order in Council amending the present Constitution. Her Majesty's Government appreciated the wish of the British Guiana Delegation to have at once a clear earnest of the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to give effect to the constitutional changes that they had accepted and desired to do all possible to meet the wishes of the Delegation in this way. Nevertheless, Her Majesty's Government felt that it would be inappropriate to make immediate changes by Order in Council. To do so would be to anticipate the Order in Council which would, in any case, have to be passed in little more than a year's time to enable the Government that would take office in British Guiana as a result of elections in constituencies yet to be delimited to enjoy full internal self-government subject only to the prior satisfaction of a single condition about internal security. The revision in 1961, resulting from the deliberations of the Conference, formed, in the views of Her Majesty's Government, a comprehensive and carefully balanced whole, naturally leading to the expectation that, when another Conference between Her Majesty's Government and a Delegation from British Guiana was held, there should be no question of substance for discussion save that of independence, the principle of which had been accepted in the terms of the formula set out in paragraph 12 of this Report.

60. The British Guiana Delegation were strongly of the view that there was a parallel between the situation in British Guiana and that in Trinidad. The Trinidad Constitution of 1956 and the British Guiana Constitution of 1957 conferred the same powers on the Governor in Executive Council, *i.e.*, the Executive Council was merely advisory to the Governor. The Delegation argued that in the case of Trinidad the Premier was enabled to preside in Council and Cabinet status was conferred at first, in 1958, by convention and thereafter by an amending Order in Council in 1959. The proposals of Her Majesty's Government were not, therefore, acceptable to the British Guiana Delegation and it was agreed that they should not be pursued.

CONCLUSION

61. At its final meeting, the Conference concluded that the constitutional changes that had been worked out to take effect in 1961 provided a workable pattern for the constitutional advance of British Guiana but the Conference

drew attention to the reservations at Annexes B, C and D. The Minister of State was able to indicate that the proposals were acceptable to Her Majesty's Government. They hope that the conditions in paragraphs 45 and 46 will be fulfilled so as to enable the proposals to be put into effect as planned at the end of the normal life of the present Legislature.

Signed this thirty-first day of March, 1960 :—

LORD PERTH,
*Minister of State for
Colonial Affairs.*

SIR R. GREY,
*Governor,
British Guiana.*

DR. C. B. JAGAN,
*Minister of Trade and Industry,
Member of the British Guiana Legislative Council.*

L. F. S. BURNHAM,
Member of the British Guiana Legislative Council.

JAI N. SINGH,
*Member of the British Guiana
Legislative Council.*

R. B. GAJRAJ,
*Member of the British Guiana
Legislative Council.*

A. D. HESKETT,
Secretary-General.

Lancaster House,
London, S.W.1.

31st March, 1960.

SIGNATURE ADDED SUBSEQUENTLY

B. S. RAI,
*Minister of Community Development and Education,
Member of the British Guiana Legislative Council.*

(Mr. Benn, Mr. Kendall and Mr. Davis had to leave early and were therefore not available to sign the report on the concluding day. They are, however, being invited to add their signatures.)

ANNEX A

LIST OF THOSE TAKING PART IN THE CONFERENCE

BRITISH GUIANA DELEGATION

Delegates

The Hon. Dr. C. B. Jagan, Minister of Trade and Industry.	}	Members of the British Guiana Legislative Council.
The Hon. Mr. B. H. Benn, Minister of Natural Resources.		
The Hon. Mr. B. S. Rai, Minister of Community Development and Education.		
Mr. L. F. S. Burnham		
Mr. W. O. R. Kendall		
Mr. Jai Narine Singh		
Mr. R. B. Gajraj		
Mr. R. E. Davis		

Adviser

Mr. B. A. Abrams (Adviser to Mr. Burnham)

GOVERNOR OF BRITISH GUIANA

Sir Ralph Grey, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E.

Official Advisers

Mr. A. M. I. Austin, Q.C.	Attorney-General
Mr. F. W. Essex, C.M.G.... ..	Financial Secretary
Mr. M. S. Porcher, O.B.E.	Deputy Chief Secretary

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION

Delegates

The Rt. Hon. Iain Macleod, M.P.	Secretary of State for the Colonies.
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Perth	Minister of State for Colonial Affairs.
Sir Hilton Poynton, K.C.M.G.	} Colonial Office
Mr. A. R. Thomas, C.M.G.	
Mr. A. M. MacKintosh, C.M.G.	

Legal Advisers

Sir Kenneth Roberts-Wray, K.C.M.G., Q.C.	} Colonial Office
Mr. J. C. McPetrie, O.B.E.	
Mr. D. G. Gordon-Smith	

Other Advisers

Mr. W. F. Dawson, M.B.E.	} Colonial Office
Mr. E. R. Hammer	

SECRETARIAT

Lt. Col. A. D. Heskett, M.B.E.	Secretary-General
Mr. M. H. Revell	} Secretaries
Mr. R. Mowforth	
Miss E. M. Ware	
Mr. R. W. Francis	Press Officer
Mr. A. W. Cassey	Documents Officer
Miss V. E. Skipp	Superintendent of Typists

ANNEX B

STATEMENT BY DR. JAGAN, MR. BENN AND MR. RAI

We are far from satisfied with the result of this Conference. We came here with a mandate for independence. We are going back still as Colonials with a Crown Colony status. The result of this Conference is clearly imposition by discussion. We have compromised—

- (i) in an attempt to reach accord and to advance the progress of British Guiana towards independence,
- (ii) under threats that if the Conference broke down the points already negotiated might not be implemented,
- (iii) under protest that they do not measure up to the aspirations and democratic rights of the Guianese people.

We hold ourselves free at all times to take all constitutional measures to achieve independence as quickly as possible.

ANNEX C

STATEMENT BY MR. BURNHAM

I reserve my position on a number of points but more particularly and specifically on the following.

1. *Control of Police and Internal Security*

This I feel strongly should be unequivocally transferred to an elected Minister not later than the time at which the new Constitution comes into operation. To do otherwise is to concede to Guiana less than full internal self-government as enjoyed by Jamaica—a wholly unacceptable situation.

2. *Presiding over the Executive Council during the period ending with August, 1961*

Regardless of what may be speciously urged to the contrary there can be no justification for the Premier's not presiding over the Executive Council during this period as the rule rather than the exception.

Once the principle is conceded, however grudgingly, of full Cabinet Status for Guiana in August, 1961, reason, logic and sentiment demand the Premier's being the person to preside from this time.

ANNEX D

STATEMENT BY MR. JAI NARINE SINGH

I agree with the Statement made by Dr. Jagan and further say that in my view the Conference has failed, and Her Majesty's Government has failed to appreciate the wishes and demands of the Guianese people.

I am dissatisfied with the results of the Conference in view of the categorical demand by the Guianese Independence Movement for independence outside the Commonwealth now. The conclusions and compromises reached were impositions by Her Majesty's Government on the delegation and are not in accordance with equity and justice under a democratic system.

The Guianese Independence Movement shall in the circumstances continue the struggle for independence of British Guiana.

Printed in England and published by
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE