

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 16TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD
SESSION (1983) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON FRIDAY 1983-10-28

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

The Deputy Speaker, Cde. Ram Karran, M.P. - In the Chair

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (58)

Prime Minister (1)

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

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Production

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Social Infrastructure

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

*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Vice-President and
Attorney General

Senior Ministers (6)

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

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National Mobilisation

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

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

*Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines (Absent - on leave)

*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance and
Economic Planning (Absent)

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

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

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

*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

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

* Non elected Member

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. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, in the Office of
the Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, within the
Ministry of Agriculture

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. (Absent)
- 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.
- Cde. P. Fredericks, M.P.
- Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. J. Gill-Mingo, M.P.
- Cde. A. McRae, M.P.
- Cde. E. Melville, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
- 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.
- Cde. B. Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (9)

- Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 Barima/Waini)
- 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)
- Cde. N.R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
- Cde. D. Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
- 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., Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members (8)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Minority Chief Whip (Absent - on leave)

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.

Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P. (Absent)

OFFICERS

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

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers

OATHS

(i) Cde. Dr. Mohamed Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Vice-President and Attorney General

The Deputy Speaker informed the Assembly that he had been advised that consequent on recent Cabinet changes, Cde. Dr. Mohamed Shahabuddeen, who was not an elected Member of the National Assembly, had ceased to be Minister of Justice and he had been appointed a Vice-President. He however, again became a Minister and a Member of the Cabinet by virtue of his holding the Office of Vice-President. He had ceased to be a Member of the National Assembly when he had ceased to be Minister of Justice but again had become a Member of the National Assembly on his appointment as a Vice-President. He, therefore, had to take a fresh oath as a Member of the National Assembly. As Cde. Dr. Shahabuddeen was present, the oath was administered to him.

(ii) Cde. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance and Economic Planning

The Deputy Speaker also informed the Assembly that in the recent changes, Cde. Carl B. Greenidge had been appointed a Minister and although Cde. Greenidge was not an elected Member of the National Assembly he had by virtue of holding the Office of Minister, become a Member of the Assembly. It was, therefore, necessary for him to make and subscribe the oath as a Member of the Assembly. That would, however, have to be done on another occasion, as Cde. Greenidge was out of Guyana.

(111) Cde. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

Finally the Deputy Speaker informed the Assembly that following the resignation of Cde. Dalchand as a Member of the National Assembly, and a call upon the representative of the list from which Cde. Dalchand's name had been extracted, the name of Cde. Harripersaud Nokta had been further extracted from the list and Cde. Nokta had on 13th September, 1983, been declared to be elected a Member of the Assembly to fill the vacancy.

As Cde. Nokta was present, the oath was administered to him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(1) Resignation of Cde. S.S. Naraine A.A.

The Deputy Speaker announced that a letter dated 14th October, 1983, had been received from Cde. S.S. Naraine, who had been Vice-President, Social Infrastructure, tendering his resignation as a Member of the National Assembly. In his letter Cde. Naraine had expressed his thanks to the Speaker and to the other Members of the Assembly and also to the Clerk and other Staff of the Assembly for the co-operation given to him in the discharge of his functions. With Cde. Naraine's resignation, a seat in the Assembly had become vacant.

The representative of the list of candidates from which Cde. Naraine's name had been extracted, had therefore been called upon, in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, to further extract from the said list the name of another person to fill the vacancy.

It was understood that Cde. Naraine had been appointed Guyana's High Commissioner in India.

(2) New Appointments and Changes

The Deputy Speaker stated for the record, the changes which had been recently announced, in so far as they affected the membership of the National Assembly:

Those were as follows:-

- (i) With effect from 15th October, 1983:
 - Cde. S.S. Naraine had ceased to be a Vice-President and vacated his seat in the Assembly.
- (ii) With effect from 17th October, 1983;
 - (a) Cde. H.D. Hoyte, who had been Vice-President, Administration had been assigned other responsibilities, and had been redesignated Vice-President, Production.
 - (b) Cde. H. Green, who had been Vice-President, Production, had been assigned other responsibilities, and had been re-designated Vice-President, Social Infrastructure.
 - (c) Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, who had been Attorney General and Minister of Justice, had been appointed a Vice-President, and had been re-designated Vice-President and Attorney General.
 - (d) Cde. C.B. Greenidge, had been appointed a Senior Minister and had been designated Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.
 - (e) Cde. S. Prashad, an elected member of the National Assembly, had been appointed a Minister, and had been designated Minister of Transport within the Vice-Presidency of Social Infrastructure.

- (f) Cde. H.L.B. Singh, who had been Minister of State within the Ministry of Finance, had been assigned other responsibilities, and had been re-designated Minister of State within the Ministry of Regional Development.
- (g) Cde. B. Bhaggan, who had been a Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had been given other functions, and had been re-designated Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister.

(3) Welcome and Congratulations

The Deputy Speaker on behalf of Members welcomed back to the Assembly Cdes. Shahabuddeen and Nokta. He congratulated Cde. Shahabuddeen on his new further appointment as a Vice-President and Cde. Nokta on his election as a Member of the Assembly.

He also congratulated and extended best wishes to Cdes. Naraine, Hoyte, Green, Prashad, Singh and Bhaggan on their respective new appointments and assignments.

(4) Leave

The Deputy Speaker announced that -

- (a) the Speaker was not available to be present at that sitting; and
- (b) leave had been granted to Cde. Rashid and to Mr. M.F. Singh for that day's sitting; and to Cde. Bhaggan from that sitting until the middle of the following month.

(5) Broadcasting of Proceedings

The Deputy Speaker also announced that permission had been granted for the installation of a public address system for that day's proceedings and also for the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation and the Colombia Broadcasting Service of North America to be present to record the proceedings.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Vice-President, Social Infrastructure:

- (a) Annual Report of the Ministry of Works for the year 1982. (MT: 12/3/3⁽⁴⁾)(Circulated)
- (b) Annual Report of the Plant Maintenance and Hire Division for the year 1982. (MT: 12/3/3⁽⁴⁾)(Circulated)
- (c) Annual Report of the Ministry of Housing for the year 1982. (MT: 12/3/3⁽⁴⁾)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Co-operatives for the year 1982. (MT: 12/3/3⁽⁴⁾)(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Transport:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Transport for the year 1982. (MT: 12/3/3⁽⁴⁾)(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

- (1) ACQUISITION OF LANDS (NOT BENEFICIALLY OCCUPIED) BILL 1983
Bill No. 20/1983 published 1983-10-01

The Vice-President, Production, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to make provision for the acquisition of land which is not beneficially occupied other than State Lands or Government Lands, so as to ensure rational use of such land and for matters connected therewith.

- (2) PUBLIC CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 21/1983
published 1983-10-22

The Vice-President, Party and State Matters, informed the Assembly that Government would not proceed to introduce the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Public Corporations Act.

The Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bills which were read the first time.

- (3) FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 22/1983
published 1983-10-22

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Factories Act.

- (4) EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS AND CHILDREN AMENDMENT BILL 1983 -
Bill No. 23/1983 published 1983-10-22

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONINVASION OF GRENADA

The Prime Minister moved the following motion:

WHEREAS, at dawn on October 25, 1983 the armed forces of the USA, in collaboration with units of the armed forces of six CARICOM countries, invaded Grenada;

AND WHEREAS the invading forces were resisted by the armed forces and people of Grenada and are still being so resisted;

AND WHEREAS this invasion constitutes a flagrant violation of the principles of non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs, respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states, in particular, and of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law in general:

AND WHEREAS the attack on Grenada can be a prelude to further military interventions in the Caribbean and Central

America in Nicaragua in particular;

AND WHEREAS it is the sovereign and inalienable right to each State freely to choose its own political, economic and social system and to develop its international relations without outside interference, subversion, coercion or intervention;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations, all States are enjoined to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations:

AND WHEREAS the invasion has been widely condemned throughout the international community:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly strongly condemns the armed intervention in Grenada by the United States of America, regrettably supported by some Caribbean countries, which has resulted in the death of and injury to many persons, including unarmed civilians from indiscriminate bombardment, shelling and other military activity by the aggressors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls for an immediate end to external intervention in Grenada, the prompt withdrawal of foreign troops from her territory, and full respect for her sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The Minority Leader, and Cde. Collymore spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 16:02 hrs the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 16:34 hrs the sitting was resumed.

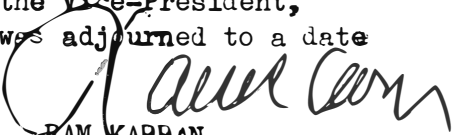
The Vice-President and Attorney General, Cde. Janet Jagan and the Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke to the motion.

Before the motion was put the Assembly, on a suggestion by the Deputy Speaker, stood in silence in tribute to the death of the Grenadian Prime Minister, Cde. Maurice Bishop, and his colleagues.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 18:00 hrs, on a motion by the Vice-President, Party and State Matters, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


RAM KARRAN
DEPUTY SPEAKER

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown
1983-10-31