

# CACC

## NEWSLETTER

September/October 1961

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### **REPORT ON BRITISH GUIANA**

By Joost Sluis

With joy and thanksgiving, I am back working in the Bay Region in the urgent struggle against Communism. I regret the delay in the publication of our newsletter, occasioned at least in part by my two month stay in British Guiana.

This was a remarkable and most instructive experience. In this newsletter I summarize the tragic events in that South American country.

Despite the ominous rumblings from Brazil and the history of the Peoples Progressive Party, the administration appears to be relatively unconcerned about the election of Dr. Cheddi Jagan, first premier of the emerging nation of British Guiana. Reporters are being told that Jagan is a confirmed "neutralist", not to be considered under Communist control. This is hardly the verdict of the State Department's own Office of Intelligence and Research. Only last year, in report No. 4489R-12, Jagan was described as a Communist agent. The report entitled "World Strength of the Communist Party Organizations" said of British Guiana, "Although the Peoples Progressive Party had been considerably weakened by its division in 1955 into two racial factions, one Negro and the other Indian, the victory of Jaganite [predominantly Indian group] in the 1957 election was a victory for the faction that is openly pro-communist. The party's leadership [Cheddi and Janet Jagan] are recognized as the representatives in British Guiana of the international Communist movement and have contacts with Communists in the United Kingdom and in the United States."

The history of Communism in British Guiana has followed the classically predictable course of Communist conquest. Only the last two steps of the irrevocable seizure of power and its final consolidation remain to be accomplished. The first step in the drama of conquest began when Janet Rosenberg, a former member of the Young Communist League, met and married Cheddi Jagan while a student of Dentistry at Northwestern University. She was educated at Wayne University, the University of Chicago and Cook County School of Nursing. She has trained in Marxist-Leninist schools, traveled behind the iron curtain with her husband and contributed to the London Daily Worker. Cheddi Jagan, a native born son of British Guiana, was first projected into political prominence through labor unrest on the sugar plantations. He organized the Peoples Progressive Party in 1948 and was first elected into power in 1953. The Party's subsequent strategy and tactics followed an easily recognizable Communist pattern. As a result, the constitution was suspended, the Jagans were arrested and an interim government was in control until 1957. The PPP was re-elected into power in 1957 with a 47 percent plurality.

Jagan then became more careful and did not again attempt violent revolution, but decided to wait until the restraining force of British control could be removed. The next years were utilized to the fullest, in developing a grass roots organization, always with an eye on the election of 1961, when the British would grant the colony full internal self-government, with independence soon to follow.

I first visited British Guiana in February, 1961. Dr. Schwarz and I conducted a seminar about the nature of Communism in Georgetown and New Amsterdam in April of 1961. From June 20, 1961 until after the general election on August 21, 1961, three East Indians, two other Americans and I conducted nightly meetings throughout the villages and towns of British Guiana, showing films, distributing literature, speaking and answering questions about communism. Our presence was heralded in one of the local newspapers under the headline "Anti-Red Books Flooding B.G." and the sub-title "Six Mystery Men Launch Colony Wide Campaign."

We travelled throughout the country and were received with remarkable warmth and hospitality by all racial groups. 45 percent of the population are the descendants of indentured East Indian laborers who engage primarily in rice farming and work on the sugar estates. They are closely knit, industrious, friendly and often strongly nationalistic, retaining, in many places, their Hindu and Moslems customs and religion. It became evident that a few young people in practically every village had been thoroughly trained and indoctrinated in Marxist-Leninist teachings. Some of them would bring copies of the Peking Review or the Communist Manifesto to the meetings to engage in lively debate.

Through the years a few known Communists had made regular visits as lecturers to British Guiana; a six month training program by Anna Greenwood at the invitation of the Peoples Progressive Party, for example, trained many young recruits throughout the country. Cheddi Jagan consistently brushed aside the question of his membership in the Communist Party and repeatedly side stepped it by saying that the PPP was not "a Communist Party."

Many people were genuinely concerned about the danger and evil of Communism but few had a clear concept of the nature and evil of Communism. The occasional episodes of rowdiness were minor and infrequent at our meetings. This was in contrast to reported episodes of violence at a number of meetings of the local political parties.

The evidence of Communist influence in the Peoples Progressive Party, however, was overwhelming. For example one of the more articulate government spokesmen and minister, Brindley Benn put it this way in the local Guiana Graphic "You can stop tomorrow but you can't stop Communism". On another occasion Mr. Benn stated that the PPP was the Party which believes in "the regeneration of mankind by the methods of science." During the campaign, the Minister of Education, Balram Singh Rai, banned an excellent pictorial book against totalitarianism distributed by the American consul and entitled "What Can a Man Believe." This was the same government which, in 1953, succeeded in getting the British Government to lift the ban on propaganda material coming in from Communist Russia and China. On July 1, 1961, fifty one denominational schools were taken over in their entirety by the government. A mass demonstration was held by the Defenders of Freedom and many parents in protest against this government action. Mrs. Jagan wrote an article openly confirming her Marxist-Leninist views and states her strong admiration of Castro and the Cuban Revolution.

During the campaign some rather remarkable incidents took place. The World Bank, largely supported by U.S. government funds, extended a \$2,000,000 loan to Jagan's government about one month prior to the election. This action was repeatedly used by the PPP to illustrate that they could get help from the West without difficulty and if it was not forthcoming they would be happy to turn to Cuba, Russia or China for assistance. This World Bank Loan was bannered in the headlines of the local newspaper and I leave it to you to judge as whether it helped or hindered the cause of Communism.

Mr. Sidney King, Secretary of the Peoples National Congress had been identified as a Communist in the Robertson Report of 1953, and about 3 weeks prior to the election, defected from the Peoples National Congress, the party largely composed of Africans and comprising 38 percent of B.G.'s population. This focused tremendous attention on racial tensions between the East Indians and the Africans. Many East Indians although concerned about the PPP's land policies, schools and friendly attitude to Cuba, as a result, increasingly feared the possibility of an African victory and banded together to vote for their East Indian leader, Cheddi Jagan. The African leader, Forbes Burnham, prior to the election, made the amazing statement that he would support Jagan in a plea for independence even if Jagan should win the election; he appears to have altered his view following the election. These "unusual" events become meaningful only when we understand the third step of Communist conquest, namely, the utilization of social forces to bring the Communists to power. As Jagan made his triumphal entry into Georgetown, Brindley Benn announced "Comrades and friends. . . the enemies we have defeated are the imperialists. We offer the hand of friendship to our fellow Guianese who unwittingly assisted them."

The electoral and plural results of the election were both interesting and instructive. The Peoples Progressive Party under the leadership of Cheddi Jagan received 20 seats out of 35 with only 42.7 percent of the plural vote; the Peoples National Congress under Burnham, received 11 seats with a plural vote of 41% and the United Force with leader Peter D'Aguiar, received 4 seats with a plural vote of 16 percent. It is worthy to note that the actual plural percentage of the PPP decreased from 47 percent in 1957 to 42.7 percent in 1961 and the Peoples National Congress increased its voting percentage from 35 percent in 1957 to 41 percent in 1961. This occurred despite the fact that the East Indian population is growing more rapidly than the African population; thus the actual voting strength of the PPP has significantly decreased. Nevertheless, the tragedy has occurred where a state with full internal self-government, for the first time in history, has elected a Communist controlled government into power. This government does not have control of its foreign policy as yet, however, and the British government is committed to reconsider independence within two years; presently it seems likely, that this will be granted before Christmas 1962. From the voting it is evident that the present majority government hardly has a clear cut mandate from the people for demanding immediate independence even though Jagan is already clamoring for it. If granted independence, British Guiana will become the first constitutionally elected Soviet satellite on the South American continent. The implications are obvious especially since British Guiana has contiguous borders with Venezuela, Brazil and Dutch Guiana.

We have lost a battle, but we must go on to win the war. Our government's attitude appears to be that Jagan is a confirmed "neutralist", not to be considered under Communist control. Only hours after his victory, Jagan met with Everett Melby, American Consul at Georgetown and discussed the matter of American Foreign Aid under the Alliance for Progress Program. Yet is we should make the assumption that he is a Communist what could we expect them to do

until he achieves complete independence? From a Communist's viewpoint would it not be foolish to use violence or dictatorial methods when you can be completely certain of absolute victory after you achieve independence and you know that that is a great likelihood in the near future? One of the best evidences of Communist control of the present Guianese government would be a continuing policy, of mildness and moderation until independence is achieved. Our failure to understand and grasp the Communist dialectic philosophy could well become a major factor in the consolidation of another Soviet satellite in the Western Hemisphere and the first on the South American Continent itself.

It is my sincere hope and prayer that catastrophe can be avoided in a highly dangerous situation. We need to find motivated people in every village to whom we can channel knowledge and support. A full time native Guianese worker is now spending nearly full time in developing such a program. He spent many weeks with us during our efforts in British Guiana. We want to make his support a project of the Northern California Branch of the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade. I have just received a long letter from him about his present project and needs. We want to provide him with a meeting place in Georgetown, a tape recorder, the minimal needs for setting up a small office and a small salary. In addition, he should have a station wagon or car to be able to travel extensively to the villages to develop trained personnel in every area. Other groups continue to merit our support such as the Defenders of Freedom and a number of individuals who are willing to dedicate themselves to the struggle.

If it is at all possible independence should be delayed until the people are genuinely in a position of making an intelligent choice regarding the people whom they wish to govern British Guianese affairs. Obviously the central Communist objective is to come to complete power and establish the dictatorship of the Communist Party. I urge you to read and study an excellent editorial on the problem of British Guiana in the Saturday Evening Post of September 30, 1961, page 114.

There are those in our government, including Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Congressman Walter Judd, and others, who are deeply concerned about this problem. You can do a great deal in writing your representatives in Congress and supporting this office in this vital project. Your contributions to the work of the local branch of the CACC will be used for this purpose you designate and you may use the enclosed envelope for the purpose.

### **MISUNDERSTANDING OF WORLDWIDE COMMUNISM**

The following article appeared in the editorial page of the Alameda Times Star. It is reproduced here in full. It illustrates remarkably the lack of real understanding of the nature of our Communist enemy, at most levels of our society. Probably this is the most important single factor in their continuing worldwide advance.

"Creeping Capitalism Goes Ahead in USSR  
Friday, Sept. 22, 1961

"It appears that the Soviet Union may be gravitating away from the government-planned economy and adopting some of the ways of a free economy while we are gravitating away from a free economy and adopting a government-planned economy.'

"That significant observation was made by Edwin Vennard, managing director of the Edison Electric Institute. He based it on a recent article in Barron's magazine, written by Paul Wohl, which dealt at length with 'creeping capitalism' in the Soviet Union. For example, Mr. Wohl pointed out that the Soviet government now officially tolerates free collective farm markets – and these are a very important part of the economy indeed, as they supply the bulk of the fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy products, eggs, poultry and meat consumed by Russian city dwellers. As another example, he observes that close to a third of all the new housing which went up in the cities between 1957 and 1957 were privately built.

"Actually, the Soviets have long been moving away from what might be called pure Communism – simply because it didn't work. They have had to offer incentives – and any incentive system is capitalistic in nature.

"It's ironical that while this is going on in Russia, we give more and more authority to government, and move closer and closer to a planned economy."

### **Response**

My letter to the Forum in response follows:

The Forum  
Alameda Times Star  
Times Star Building  
Alameda, California

Dear Sir:

Your article entitled "Creeping Capitalism Goes Ahead in U.S.S.R." in the Alameda Times Star of Sept. 22, 1961 is of considerable interest. It illustrated how our failure to see and understand the totality of the problems of Communism is a major factor in our ineffectiveness in dealing with it. Two months ago Khrushchev said, "We Communists believe in the triumph of the great ideas of Marxism-Leninism . . ." [Soviet Union, August, 1961]. These ideas mean to Khrushchev, however paradoxical they may seem to us, that their free trading and use of incentives are a completely essential part of the process of moving toward Communism, not, as you state, "-away from what might be called pure Communism." Lenin introduced incentives after the revolution of 1917 and private trading with the New Economic Policy of 1921.

One of the most amazingly "capitalistic" utterances from a Communist came from Joseph Stalin in a speech given June 23, 1931 in the book "Problems of Leninism" [the section on wages]:

"In order to put an end to this evil we must abolish wage equalization and discard the old wage scales. In order to put an end to this evil we must draw up wage scales that will take into account the difference between skilled and unskilled labor, between heavy and light work. We cannot tolerate a situation where a rolling-mill hand in a steel mill earns no more than a sweeper. We cannot tolerate a situation where a locomotive driver earns only as much as a copying clerk. Marx and Lenin said that the difference between skilled and unskilled labor would exist even under socialism, even after classes had been abolished; that only under communism would this difference disappear and that, consequently, even under socialism "wages" must be paid according to work performed and not according to needs."

Stalin goes on to say, "But if that is so," [if Marx and Engels are right] "it follows that whoever draws up wage scales on the 'principle' of wage equalization, without taking into account the difference between skilled and unskilled labor, breaks with Marxism, breaks with Leninism."

The Communist's system of thought, his philosophy, unifies, directs and integrates his every action and gives him the complete moral flexibility and strategic mobility to move forward and backward toward the unchanging objective of world conquest. The Communists are what they say they are; they are Communists and, as a result, become predictable. May I suggest to you and your readers the study of the book by Dr. Fred C. Schwarz entitled, "You Can Trust the Communists" and his testimony on "The Communist Mind" to the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

The tragedy is that, according to informed sources, at least twenty million Chinese have paid with their lives for failure to grasp the very nature of the Communist program and thought. With one billion people now being systematically trained, indoctrinated and militarily armed for the conquest of our great country, I think it behooves every citizen to begin to know and understand the true nature of our mortal enemy.

Sincerely Yours,  
Joost Sluis, M.D.  
2822 Clay Street  
Alameda, California

## **ANTI-COMMUNISM SCHOOL**

The Southern California School for Anti-Communism was an overwhelming success. It was made possible because of literally hundreds of dedicated workers who worked long hours selling tickets and books, telephoning their friends, and devoting unlimited time and energy to the School. The smallest crowd at the morning to night sessions were 5,000 gradually increasing to 10,000 on the last day. The Sports Arena was filled to capacity, which is 18,000, on Youth Night with thousands unable to get in. The immediate result has been the formation of literally thousands of study groups in the Southern California area. Already the effects are being felt in the Bay Region by local people who attended the school and by the fact that one of the local television stations has expressed its desire to cover a local school when it is held.

On September 6<sup>th</sup> an organizing luncheon with Dr. Fred Schwarz was held at the Hotel Leamington and a local citizens committee was formed to organize a San Francisco Bay Region School for Anti-Communism. That evening a large public meeting was held at the Leamington with 350 people in attendance and a final total offering of \$2,154 towards the school, probably to be held in February.

The reaction of our opponents is interesting and informative. I genuinely appreciate the criticism, for it affords an opportunity to tell the truth. It has been our experience that an objective evaluation of these schools and the crusade has enabled us to make friends rather than enemies. The following article appeared in the East Bay Labor Journal of September 15, 1961, and is reproduced in full.

### **"East Bay Labor Journal**

The Only Official Newspaper of Organized Labor in Alameda County

"From the Editor's Chair

#### **Red Hunters**

"Russ Crowell, president, and Bob Ash, executive secretary of the Central Labor Council, attended a meeting the other day which was supposed to include labor, business and professional groups.

"It turned out to be largely a gathering of right-to-work and other right wing types. Their announced aim was to launch a "Christian Anti-Communist Crusade" in the East Bay.

"The speaker was one Dr. Fritz Schwarz. Ask described his speech as 'rabble rousing' and told Central Labor Council delegates Monday night that Schwarz predicted 'doomsday by Communism by 1973.'

"Crowell pointed out that such extremists present a threat to the labor movement and other liberal groups. They purport to train experts on Communism. But the 'experts,' in their zeal to ferret out subversives, aren't always objective. They sometimes confuse honest liberals with Communists.

"The Central Labor Council concurred in Ash's recommendation that labor have nothing whatsoever to do with the so-called Crusade."

My reply to the above editorial follows.

September 25, 1961

Mr. Paul S. Williams, Editor  
East Bay Labor Journal  
1622 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oakland, California

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the publicity given to a meeting of local citizens planning a San Francisco Bay Region School of Anti-Communism and to the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade. As a physician and one of the participants in the meetings, my gratitude is somewhat tempered by the innuendos and inaccuracies of fact. Not only was the meeting "supposed to include labor, business and professional groups" but it did, in fact, represent prominent leaders in each of these groups, as well as Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant clergymen.

Its clearly announced aim was not to launch a "Christian Anti-Communist Crusade" in the East Bay. Its purpose was to form a committee of local citizens, acting entirely as individuals, but representing every segment of the community for the purpose of planning and organizing a San Francisco Bay Region School of Anti-Communism, probably early next year. It would be patterned after the recently tremendously successful Southern California School of Anti-Communism. At the discretion of the local citizens the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade is invited as a service organization to such school. The local committee controls finances, publicity, arrangements, etc., and the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade reserves the privilege of providing the faculty which included, in Southern California, Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Congressman Walter Judd, Cleon Skousen, Dr. C. C. Trillingham, Herbert Philbrick and others.

For your information the speakers' name is spelled Dr. Fred C. Schwarz, a physician from Sydney, Australia. In view of these inaccuracies of fact, can we place any significant value on the opinions expressed? Might it be safe to assume that these existed prior to the evidence?

At the meeting, Dr. Schwarz centralized the urgent need for individual responsibility on the part of every American citizen in the face of the menacing danger of Communism.

These Anti-Communism Schools do not attack the character or motives of any individuals or organizations. They may question the understanding and judgment of people in responsible positions: this is an essential part of the democratic process. This fact can be corroborated by the availability of every message, on tape, given at the Anti-Communism Schools.

During the question period, Dr. Schwarz expressed his admiration for the many people in the labor movement who have been greatly effective in dealing with and understanding the problem of Communism. The necessary prerequisite for victory over Communism is knowledge of the enemy. It is this function which these schools attempt to fulfill.

Sincerely Yours,  
Joost Sluis, M.D.  
Director, Northern California Branch  
Christian Anti-Communism Crusade

## **FILMS**

The following additional 16mm films are now available from the San Francisco Office and can be used by study groups, clubs, churches, etc. The rental fee is \$15.00 per showing.

### **"Red China – Outlaw"** [35 minutes]

A new documentary film to teach the truth about Communist China. This issue is particularly vital now and I urge you and your friends to view it. Narrated by Lowell Thomas, major speakers include Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Representative Walter H. Judd and Senator Paul H. Douglas.

### **"Communist Blueprint for Conquest"**

An excellent 35-minute film detailing Communist infiltration and subversion and to the governmental apparatus of any free country.

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