

"We The People Have Won"

Speech delivered by Dr. Cheddi Jagan at swearing-in ceremony on 9 October 1992

After I had been declared the winner of the Central Demerara Constituency at the 1947 General Elections, I said: "We, the People, have won!"

Forty-Five years later I can now say once again: "The People have won."

In 1948, after the shooting of the Enmore Martyrs, I pledged to dedicate my life to fighting against exploitation and bondage. In 1953, after struggling for and attaining universal adult suffrage, we won an overwhelming victory of 18 out of 24 seats. That was an expression of national, racial-ethnic and working people's unity.

After Guyana gained independence, I wrote in 1966 at the end of my book, *The West on Trial*: "The struggle will be long and hard, sacrifices there will be many, but time and history are on our side, and win we shall." We have been vindicated, as the results of the October 5 Elections prove, that victory was inevitable.

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: We will once again build national, racial-ethnic and working people's unity. The unity of our entire nation is our goal.

We went to the elections with the slogan: "Time for Change: Time to Rebuild." We have attained the first objective of a change in government.

Now, all of us together, whatever our party, political affiliation, whatever our race or ethnicity, whatever our creed, must put our shoulders to the wheel.

It is time to embrace each other and work arm in arm to rebuild our beloved Guyana.

And we can do so now that confidence is being restored, as witnessed by the dramatic fall in the exchange rate just today.

We must move forward together and make into reality our motto: "One People One Nation, One Destiny".

In this exciting adventure, I expect the fullest co-operation not only of our many friendly countries and our overseas brothers and sisters, but also all progressive minded personalities and organizations: investors, experts and advisers.

We do so without rancour, without recrimination, without victimization, without in any way trying to cast blame.

In this regard I hope to develop a constructive relationship with Mr. Desmond Hoyte and the leadership of all parties in order to deepen our democratic process, and accelerate our economic development.

Allow me to congratulate the Commissioner of Police and the Chief of Staff and their forces for firmly maintaining law and order at this challenging time. I want to assure them that they can always count on the full cooperation and support of my government in the exercise of their constitutional duties.

As true patriots and genuine internationalists, we hope to play a vibrant role not only in rebuilding Guyana but also in establishing a democratic and humane world order - an order based on the rule of law, the eradication of poverty and human development.

I salute the major western countries for over seeing the electoral process, and I most affectionately embrace our many supporters for their support, patience and calm.

Long Live National Unity. Long Live Guyana.