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SUBJ: DRAFT REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUYANA

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1. INTRODUCTION

A. SINCE GUYANA BECAME INDEPENDENT IN 1966, THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) PARTY LED BY PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM HAS DOMINATED THE NATION'S POLITICAL SYSTEM. THE PNC DRAWS ITS PRINCIPAL SUPPORT FOR AMONG THE APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT OF GUYANESE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.

B. THE RULING PARTY HAS DECLARED ITSELF A SOCIALIST PARTY, OPERATING ON MARXIST-LENINIST PRINCIPLES, WITH THE GOAL OF MAKING GUYANA A NON-ALIGNED SOCIALIST COUNTRY. PNC DOCTRINE CALLS FOR THE ECONOMY TO HAVE THREE SECTORS: STATE, COOPERATIVE, AND PRIVATE. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASINGLY TAKEN OVER MORE OF THE GUYANESE ECONOMY SO THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND STATE-OWNED CORPORATIONS NOW ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF TOTAL INVESTMENT. THE ECONOMY, WHICH HAS AN AMPLE RESOURCE BASE, IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON EXPORTS OF BAUXITE, SUGAR AND RICE, ALL OF WHICH ARE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED.

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C. GUYANESE OF EAST INDIAN ORIGIN, A LITTLE OVER 50 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, HAVE TRDITIONALLY BACKED THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY, THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP), HEADED BY FORMER PREMIER CHEDDI JAGAN. THE PPP IS AN ORTHODOX, MOSCOW-ALIGNED COMMUNIST PARTY. BOTH MAJOR RACIAL GROUPS HAVE IN THE PAST SUPPORTED THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES MORE FROM ETHNIC LOYALITES THAT FROM POLITICAL CONVICTION. BOTH PARTIES HAVE SOUGHT TO EXPLOIT RACIAL ANIMOSITIES FOR POLITICAL BENEFIT.

D. IN MID-1979, THE WORKING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (WPA), FOUNDED IN 1974 AND HEADED BY A RACIALLY-MIXED COLLEGIATE LEADERSHIP, FORMALLY DECLARED ITSELF A POLITICAL PARTY. THE WPA, TOO, PROFFESSES ITS COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A SOCIALIST GUYANA. THE PARTY CLAIMS SOME 10,000 MEMBERS. IT HAS DRAWN CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM THE SMALL ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AS WELL AS FROM DISAFFECTED YOUNG URBAN AND RURAL WORKERS. IT ALSO DRAWS MODERATE SUPPORT FROM GUYANESE LIVING ABROAD AND FROM THE NATION'S MINISCULE PROFESSIONAL CLASS. IN ADDITION TO THESE PARTIES, THERE EXISTS A HANDFUL OF SMALL, GENERALLY CONSERVATIVE, POLITICAL GROUPINGS.

E. ALL OF HIS OPPONENTS HAVE ACCUSED PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM OF MANIPULATING GUYANA'S WESTMINSTER-TYPE POLITICAL AND LEGAL SYSTEM TO ENSURE CONTINUED PNC DOMINATION, DESPITE WHAT OPPONENTS ALLEGE IS SHRINKING POPULAR SUPPORT. THEY CHARGE THAT GUYANA'S NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE PROMULGATED IN OCTOBER 1980 AND WHICH INSTITUTES AN EXECUTIVE PRESIDENCY DOMINATING THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, IS IN FACT ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS BURNHAM'S GOAL OF INDEFINITELY RETAINING AND INCREASING HIS PERSONAL POLITICAL POWER. THE OPPOSITION CLAIMS THAT THE NEW CONSTITUTION WILL AT A MINIMUM

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GIVE LEGAL RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION TO BURNHAM'S ALREADY CONSIDERABLE DE FACTO POWERS. THEIR CONCERN IS HEIGHTENED BY WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE SIGNS OF A NASCENT "CULT OF PERSONALITY" AROUND THE PRIME MINISTER. THEY CITE THE USE OF THE TITLE "COMRADE LEADER" AND THE PROMINENT DISPLAY OF LARGE PORTRAITS OF BURNHAM.

F. EVEN THOUGH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUYANA IN 1980 IS STILL ALMOST CERTAINLY GREATER THAN IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, THE GENERAL GUYANESE HUMAN RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT HAS DETERIORATED IN RECENT YEARS. THE WORSENING ECONOMIC SITUATION HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROCESS, PRIMARILY BY FOSTERING DISCONTENT TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS SOMETIMES RESPONDED WITH REPRESSIVE MEASURES. THE OPPOSITION ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO THE DETERIORATION BY ESPOUSING BASIC DOCTRINES WHICH, DESPITE LIP SERVICE TO DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, WOULD NOT IMPROVE THE COUNTRY'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. IF THE TRENDS DESCRIBED IN THE REST OF THIS REPORT CONTINUE, GUYANA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD WILL MOST LIKELY FURTHER WEAKEN.

2. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM:

A. TORTURE.

A-1. THE CURRENT AS WELL AS THE PROPOSED NEW GUYANESE CONSTITUTION PROHIBIT TORTURE. OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE ALLEGED THAT THE POLICE HAVE SUBJECTED PERSONS ARRESTED DURING ANTI-PNC ACTIVITIES TO PHYSICAL ABUSE

SUCH AS KICKING, PUNCHING, AND BURNING WITH CIGARETTES. WHILE SUCH CHARGES MAY BE ACCURATE, THERE HAS TO DATE BEEN NON ABSOLUTE CONFIRMATION OF THEM. THE GOVERNMENT DENIES SUCH CHARGES.

B. CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT. B-1. BOTH CONSTITUTIONS PROHIBIT SUCH TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT. CRITICS HAVE CHARGED THAT GUYANESE PRISONS FAIL TO MEET ESTABLISHED NORMS, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHARGES OF RACIAL OR OTHER DISCRIMINATION BY PRISON AUTHORITIES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAS SAID THAT INMATES HAVE OCCASIONALLY BEEN SPRAYED WITH CHEMICAL MACE AND BEATEN FOR INFRACTIONS OF PISON RULES. PRISONERS ARE USUALLY ALLOWED VISITS BY RELATIVES AND ATTORNEYS OF THEIR OWN CHOICE. PRISONS ARE OVERCROWDED, AND

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CONDITIONS ARE SPARTAN FOR THE NATION'S ESTIMATED 1100 PRISONERS. GIVEN THE COUNTRY'S TROUBLED ECONOMIC CONDITION, THE STATE HAS MADE A SATISFACTORY EFFORT TO PROVIDE PRISONERS WITH AN ADEQUATE DIET AND MEDICAL CARE. B-2. THE OPPOSITION HAS REPEATEDLY CHARGED THAT ARRESTING OFFICERS HAVE USED EXCESSIVE FORCE AND HAVE REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS LEGALLY REQUIRED. SOME OF THESE ALLEGATIONS APPEAR WELL-FOUNDED. THE PAST YEAR HAS WITNESSED AN INCREASED USE OF LETHAL FORCE BY POLICE. SEVERAL PERSONS, INCLUDING TWO MEMBERS OF THE WPA, HAVE DIED IN CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE POLICE. SOME OF THESE CONFRONTATIONS HAVE BEEN UNDER MYSTERIOUS

CIRCUMSTANCES, WHEREAS OTHER APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN QUITE JUSTIFIABLE CASES OF APPROPRIATE FORCE BEING USED AGAINST ARMED CRIMINALS. HOWEVER, NO PUBLIC INVESTIGATIONS

OF THESE POLICE SHOOTINGS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN.
B-3. OFFICIALLY THE DEATH PENALTY REMAINS AS PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMES SUCH AS MURDER AND TREASON, BUT THE LAST EXECUTION IN GUYANA TOOK PLACE IN 1968. SIX PERSONS CURRENTLY FACE CHARGES OF TREASON.

C. DISAPPEARANCE.

C-1. THERE HAS BEEN NO KNOWN INSTANCES OF PERSONS HAVING BEEN ABDUCTED, SECRETLY ARRESTED, OR HELD IN CLANDESTINE DETENTION BY OFFICIAL OR QUASI-OFFICIAL SECURITY FORCES DURING 1980. HOWEVER, 1979 WITNESSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE ABDUCTION BY POLICE OF A PROMINENT TRADE UNION LEADER DURING THE COURSE OF PICKETING ACTIVITIES. HE WAS DRIVEN TO A SMALL MILITARY AIRSTRIP OUTSIDE OF GEORGETOWN AND RELEASED AFTER TWO HOURS. THERE ARE NO KNOWN CASES OF PERMANENTLY "DISAPPEARED" OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME.

D. ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT.

D-1. THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDE THAT NO PERSON MAY BE DEPRIVED OF PERSONAL LIBERTY EXCEPT AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW. THE RIGHT OF HABEUS CORPUS EXISTS AND IS AS A RULE RESPECTED. HOWEVER, THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE SEEN SEVERAL CASES OF INDIVIDUALS, USUALLY SUSPECTED OF LINKS TO THE OPPOSITION, DETAINED FOR SHORT PERIODS WITHOUT CHARGE. THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT PERMITS DETENTION, WITHOUT FORMAL CHARGES, FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO THREE MONTHS, OF PERSONS DETAINED UNDER THE ACT.

E. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL.

E-1. BOTH CONSTITUTIONS GUARANTEE THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL BY A COURT OF LAW. THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESPECTED THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS IN CASES DEVOID OF POLITICAL CONTENT. THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE HAS LOST MANY SUCH CASES. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF TRIAL HELD IN CAMERA, NOR HAVE SPECIAL COURTS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR "POLITICAL OFFENSES." MOST DELAYS IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS SEEM TO BE DUE MORE TO COURT BACKLOGS RESULTING FROM PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL SHORTAGES THAN TO DELIBERATE DESIGN.

E-2. THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION HAS CHARGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT FAILS TO RESPECT THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS IN CASES INVOLVING SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION. IN PARTICULAR THESE CRITICS POINT TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ACT OF 1978 AND THE CRIMINAL LAW ACT OF 1980
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AS ATTEMPTS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ALTER JUDICIAL PROCEDURES TO MAKE IT EASIER TO CONVICT POLITICAL OPPONENTS OF VARIOUS OFFENSES. THESE ACTS HAVE GREATLY INCREASED THE POWER OF MAGISTRATES, AT THE EXPENSE OF JUDGES AND JURIES, AND HAVE WEAKENED THE REQUIRED RULES OF EVIDENCE. IN SOME CASES THE ACCUSED FORFEITS THE RIGHT TO ELECT WHETHER TO HAVE THE CASE HEARD BY A JURY OR TAKEN SUMMARILY, THE DECISION BEING MADE BY THE MAGISTRATE. PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOME TO THE OPPOSITION AND TO THE GUYANA BAR ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN THE RETROACTIVE NATURE OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE CRIMINAL LAW ACT.

F. INVASION OF THE HOME.

F-1. IN GENERAL, THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESPECTED THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION AGAINST ARBITRARY SEARCH AND ENTRY. HOWEVER, THIS PAST YEAR HAS SEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE ACTIONS CARRIED OUT IN VIOLATION OF THESE CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES. POLICE HAVE CONDUCTED NUMEROUS SEARCHES OF THE HOMES OF SUSPECTED OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, ALLEGEDLY FOR WEAPONRY, AND HAVE SEIZED "SUBVERSIVE" LITERATURE. IN ONE NOTABLE CASE, REPEATEDLY SEARCHED THE HOME OF THE MOTHER OF A SUSPECTED WPA ACTIVIST, LOOKING FOR WEAPONS. THE POLICE CLAIMED TO HAVE FOUND ONE SPENT RIFLE SHELL AND CHARGED THE OWNER UNDER THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT, SETTING BAIL AT \$4,000, HIGH BY GUYANESE STANDARDS.

F-2. THE SECURITY ACT ALLOWS THE POLICE TO SEARCH FOR AND SEIZE ILLEGAL WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, AND EXPLOSIVES WITHOUT A WARRANT. THE ACT DOES NOT PERMIT THEM TO TAKE AWAY ANY OTHER ITEMS. THE POLICE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT THEY REMOVE WRITTEN MATERIAL WHICH MIGHT INDICATE WHERE ARMS AND AMMUNITION ARE HIDDEN.

3. GOVERNMENT POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT OF VITAL NEEDS SUCH AS FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE, AND EDUCATION.

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A. IN TWO OF THE LAST THREE YEARS, GUYANA'S ECONOMY HAS EXPERIENCED NEGATIVE ANNUAL REAL GROWTH RATES AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICITS. DECLINING PRODUCTION IN THE VITAL EXPORT-ORIENTED BAUXITE, SUGAR, AND RICE

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INDUSTRIES; GENERALLY LOW WORLD MARKET PRICES FOR THOSE COMMODITIES, AND THE GROWING COST OF IMPORTED OIL, COUPLED WITH POORLY ADMINISTERED OFFICIAL POLICES INTENDED TO CREATE A SOCIALIST SOCIETY ALONG MARXIST-LENINIST LINES, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A DROP IN GUYANESE LIVING STANDARDS. GDP PER CAPITA AND INDIVIDUAL PURCHASING POWER HAVE STEADILY DECLINED IN REAL TERMS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

B. FACED WITH A LARGE NEGATIVE LEVEL OF FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES (-100 MILLION U.S. DOLLARS AS OF MAY 1980) THE GOVERNMENT HAS ADOPTED STRICT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. THESE RESTRICTIONS HAVE NOT ONLY CAUSED MANY POPULAR CONSUMER GOODS TO DISAPPEAR BUT, BECAUSE OF SHORTAGES OF SPARE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT, HAVE ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE NATION'S ABILITY TO PRODUCE. OFFICIAL PRICE CONTROLS ON SELECTED ITEMS SUCH AS FLOUR, COOKING OIL, AND SOME AGRICULTURAL ITEMS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO SHORTAGES, AND A THRIVING BLACK MARKET WITH AN INFLATION RATE ABOVE THE OFFICIALLY REPORTED ANNUAL RATE OF 20 PERCENT.

C. C. BECAUSE OF A FAULTY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM -ONE, ACCORDING TO THE OPPOSITION, AFFECTED BY POLITICAL FAVORITISM--THE RURAL, PREDOMINANTLY EAST INDIAN AREAS HAVE SUFFERED MORE FROM ANY OF THESE SHORTAGES THAN HAVE THE URBAN, LARGELY BLACK AREAS. FREQUENT AND LENGTHY ELECTRICAL OUTAGES, CAUSED BY EQUIPMENT MAL-

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FUNCTIONS, OIL SHORTAGES, AND PERSONNEL INADEQUACIES IN THE STATE-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY, HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED PRODUCTION AND THE GENERAL QUALITY OF LIFE.

D. THE POOR PERFORMANCE OF MOST OF THE STATE-RUN CORPORATIONS HAS FORCED THE GOVERNMENT TO RELY HEAVILY UPON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO CARRY ON WITH AN AMBITIOUS INVESTMENT PROGRAM AIMED AT DIVERSIFYING THE ECONOMY AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, RAISING THE HEALTH AND EDUCA-

TIONAL STANDARDS OF THE POPULATION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ENGAGED IN HEAVY BORROWING FROM THE DOMESTIC BANKING SYSTEM.

E. THE SMALL REMAINING PRIVATE SECTOR HAS GENERALLY STAGNATED. THE LACK OF GROWTH STEMS FROM DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN OBTAINING IMPORT AND FOREIGN CURRENCY PERMITS, PRICE CONTROLS, AND CONTRADICTORY GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN A SOCIALIST GUYANA. WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS REMOVED PRICE CONTROLS FROM CERTAIN ITEMS AND RAISED THE PERMITTED PRICES ON OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES TO REFLECT MORE ACCURATELY THEIR TRUE COST. THE IMF AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE AGREED UPON A THREE YEAR EXTENDED FUND FACILITY PROGRAM TO IMPROVE GUYANA'S LEVEL OF FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES AND TO STRENGTHEN ITS WEAK BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION. NEVERTHELESS, PROSPECTS FOR AN ECONOMIC UPTURN IN THE NEAR FUTURE REMAIN BLEAK.

F. THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT ITS OFT-REPEATED OBJECTIVE TO HOUSE, CLOTHE, AND FEED THE NATIONS TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER "TRADITIONAL" POLITICAL RIGHTS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS IN MEETING THSE GOALS DESIPTS THE GENERALLY DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED SOME SUBSIDIZED HOUSING, ALTHOUGH IT FALLS SHORT OF THE NATION'S REQUIREMENTS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBABLY WITH JUSTIFICATION, THE OPPOSITION HAS CHARGED THAT THIS HOUSING HAS GONE LARGELY TO SUPPORTERS OF THE PNC. THE TRADE UNIONS, WITH MODEST AMERICAN ASSISTANCE, AND THE GOVERNMENT-RUN BAUXITE INDUSTRY HAVE PROVIDED SOME LOW-COST HOUSING TO GUYANESE WORKERS.

G. WITH GHINESE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, THE GOVERNMENT IN 1980 OPENED A TEXTILE MILL TO PROVIDE LOW-COST CLOTHING TO THE NATION'S CITIZENS. THE MILL, HOWEVER, HAS ENCOUNTERED SERIOUS TECHINCAL AND PERSONNEL PROBLEMS.

H. GUYANA HAS ACHIEVED VIRTUAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN BASIC FOOD ITEMS, DESPITE THE HAMPERING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BY OFFICIAL PRICE CONTROL POLICIES AND A POOR DISTRIBUTION NETWORK. IN TERMS OF GUYANESE SALARIES, FOOD IS COSTLY. BECAUSE OF LOW INCOMES, HIGH FOOD PRICES, AND POOR WATER, UNDER NUTRITION AND FIRST-DEGREE MALNUTRITION DUE TO DIARRHEA-RELATED PROBLEMS ARE PREVALENT, ESPECIALLY AMONG CHILDREN.

I. HEALTH CARE IS PROVIDED VIRTUALLY FREE TO THE CONSUMER BUT IS OF POOR QUALITY AND HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN DOCTORS. IT SUFFERS FROM A GRAVE LACK OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL, SERIOUS DRUG AND EQUIPMENT SHORTAGES, OVERCROWDED AND UNSANITARY FACILITIES, AND INADEQUATE HEALTH-RELATED EDUCATION. MENTAL HEALTH CARE IS AT A VERY LOW LEVEL. MUCH OF THE COUNTRY SUFFERS FROM INSUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF POTABLE DRINKING WATER.

J. WHILE EDUCATION THROUGH UNIVERSITY IS FREE TO

STUDENTS, IT, TOO, SUFFERS THE EFFECTS OF SHORTAGES IN MATERIAL AND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL. THE OVERALL QUALITY OF EDUCATION IS DETERIORATING DESPITE A HEAVY TAX BURDEN. LITERACY RATES AMONG THE POPULATION REMAIN VERY HIGH, AND THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS LARGE SUMS ANNUALLY TO SEND STUDENTS ABROAD FOR TRAINING. THE OPPOSITION HAS COMPLAINED THAT THE SELECTION PROCESS IS FREQUENTLY

BIASED IN FAVOR OF PNC SUPPORTERS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS IN TURN COMPLAINED THAT MANY OF THOSE SENT ABROAD FAIL TO RETURN TO GUYANA.
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K. OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME HAVE CHARGED THAT THE RULING PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT SEEK TO POLITICIZE THE EDUCATION PROCESS. THEY POINT TO SUDDEN TRANSFERS OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS AND TEACHERS SUSPECTED OF LINKS TO THE OPPOSITION, AT LEAST ONE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED DISMISSAL OF THE HEAD OF A PTA GROUP, AND TAKING CHILDREN OUT OF CLASSES TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES HONORING THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PNC. THE OPPOSITION'S

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ACCUSATIONS APPEAR WELL-FOUNDED.
L. NEVERTHELESS, AS OF 1978, ALONG WITH WESTERN SAMOA, GUYANA HAD THE HIGHEST PHYSICAL QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX SCORE OF THE 38 COUNTRIES IN THE "LOWER MIDDLE INCOME RANGE." INCOME DISTRIBUTION IN GUYANA IS RELATIVELY EQUITABLE AS IS THE COUNTRY'S LAND DISTRIBUTION PATTERN.
M. SELECTEDECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS (ALL FIGURES

IN U.S. DOLLARS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED):

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
REAL GDP GROWTH (PERCENT)	6.4	4.7	-5.3	0.2	-3.7
GDP PER CAPITA (CONSTANT 1977 PRICES)	515	528	488	477	453
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (PLUS SURPLUS -DEFICIT)	P35.3	-92.9	-22.0	P20.0	-48.2
NET INTERNATIONAL RESERVES	72.4	-21.6	-43.0	-23.0	-71.2
MINIMUM WAGE (US DOLLARS/ DAY)	2.16	2.16	3.29	4.31	4.31

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OFFICIAL INFLATION RATE (PERCENT)	6.0	8.7	10.8	19.5	19.6
POPULATION	788,000	801,000	813,000	824,000	835,000
PERCENTAGE OF CENTRAL GOVT. BUDGET DEVOTED TO HEALTH EXPENDITURES \$	4.5	3.9	6.6	5.3	4.0
PERCENTAGE OF CENTRAL GOVT. BUDGET DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE EXPENDITURES \$	9.3	8.6	7.2	8.7	8.7
PERCENTAGE OF CENTRAL GOVT. BUDGET DEVOTED TO EDUCATION EXPENDITURES \$	8.9	8.9	13.5	13.6	11.8
PERCENTAGE OF CENTRAL GOVT. BUDGET DEVOTED TO HOUSING \$	1.5	1.8	.75	.51	.62

\$EXPENDITURES IN THESE AREAS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE BY THE STATE COROPRATIONS IN LESSER AMOUNTS

PHYSICAL QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX - 84 OUT OF A POSSIBLE 100.

THIS INDEX WAS DESIGNED BY THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO MEASURE A COUNTRY'S LEVEL OF PROGRESS IN MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. IT IS THE AVERAGE OF THE INFANT MORTALITY,

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT AGE ONE, AND LITERACY RATES. UNFORTUNATELY,
THE STATISTICS ON WHICH THESE RATES ARE BASED ARE OUT OF DATE. THE
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INDES HAS PROBABLY DECLINED IN RECENT YEARS.
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH - 68 YEARS
INFANT MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS - 50
POPULATION PER PHYSICIAN (1975) - 3270
POPULATION PER HOSPITAL BED (1975) - 190.0
LITERACY RATE - 87 PERCENT
PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (1973) - 94 PERCENT.
SOURCES: WORLD BANK ECONOMIC MEMORANDA ON GUYANA
(JUNE, 1980)
BANK OF GUYANA ANNUAL REPORT, 1979
ESTIMATES OF CURRENT AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES -
GUYANA GOVERNMENT
THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD DEVELOPMENT - AGENDA
1979, OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

4. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES INCLUDING:
A. FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION AND ASSEMBLY.
A-1. ALTHOUGH THE CONSTITUTION CLEARLY GUARANTEES FREEDOM
OF SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION AND ASSEMBLY, THE PAST TWO
YEARS HAVE WITNESSED A SIGNIFICANT CURTAILMENT OF THOSE
RIGHTS BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE DAILY PRESS AND LOCAL
RADIO ARE GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND SERVE AS ORGANS OF THE
RULING PARTY. THE ONLY PRIVATE RADIO STATION WAS PUR-
CHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1979. THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED
MEDIAT WILL NOT ACCEPT PAID POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM
THE OPPOSITION AND DO NOT CARRY DIRECT CRITICISM OF
EITHER THE PRIME MINISTER OR THE PNC.
A-2. THE GOVERNMENT'S OPPONENTS ARE LARGELY RESTRICTED
TO TWO SMALL WEEKLY PUBLICATIONS, THE CATHOLIC STANDARD
AND THE ORGAN OF THE PRO-MOSCOW PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE
PARTY (PPP. THE MIRROR. BOTH PUBLICATIONS APPEAR IN
REDUCED FORMAT DUE TO THE REGIME'S CONTINUED REFUSAL
TO ALLOW THEM ACCESS TO NEWSPRINT OR THE THE
NATIONALIZED PRINTING PRESSES. NEVERTHELESS, THESE
PAPERS ARE FREELY DISTRIBUTED AND CARRY STRONGLY ANTI-
GOVERNMENT NEWS STORIES AND EDITORIALS.
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A-3. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS CLAIMED THAT THE MIRROR'S
NEWSPRINT PROBLEMS ARE DUE TO THE NATION'S POOR FOREIGN
EXCHANGE POSITION, THE OFFICIAL PRESS, THE RULING PARTY
PRESS, SEVERAL GOVERNMENT-RUN ENTERPRISES, AND THE
GENERALLY PRO-GOVERNMENT TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC)
ALL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING NEWSPRINT.

A-4 DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT SOUGHT TO RESTRICT FURTHER THE POPULATION'S ACCESS TO OUTSIDE NEWS SOURCES BY ANNOUNCING THAT AS OF JULY 1 LOCAL STATIONS WOULD NO LONGER CARRY THE BBC WORLD NEWS SERVICE AND THAT THE STATE-OWNED PRESS WOULD CANCEL ITS CONTRACT WITH THE REGIONAL CANA NEWS AGENCY AS OF JANUARY 1, 1981. THE GOVERNMENT QUITE ACCURATELY ACCUSED CANA OF TAKING AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA SLANT AND OF EMPLOYING "KNOWN" WPA SYMPATHIZERS AS CORRESPONDENTS. THE BBC SERVICE CONTINUES TO BE USED, HOWEVER, AS NO ALTERNATIVE HAS AS YET BEEN FOUND.

A-5. SOURCES OF OUTSIDE INFORMATION STILL REMAIN TO GUYANESE. THE ANTI-PNC MONTHLY CARIBBEAN CONTACT, PUBLISHED IN BARBADOS, CONTINUES TO BE IMPORTED AND WIDELY DISTRIBUTED. "TIME," "NEWSWEEK" AND OTHER EXPENSIVE FOREIGN MAGAZINES APPEAR IN LIMITED NUMBERS. THE OFTEN CRITICAL RADIO ANTILLES AND OTHER REGIONAL RADIO STATIONS, ALONG WITH VARIOUS SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS, ARE HEARD IN GUYANA.

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A-6. FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY IS GUARANTEED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION. THE GOVERNMENT INSISTS THAT POLICE PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FOR LARGE PUBLIC GATHERINGS; THE OPPOSITION CLAIMS THAT THE LAW DEMANDS ONLY PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO THE POLICE OF THE INTENT TO HOLD SUCH A GATHERING. IN THE PAST, THE POLICE AND/OR UNIDENTIFIED THUGS, PRESUMABLY CONNECTED WITH THE PRO-GOVERNMENT HOUSE OF ISRAEL SECT (A GROUP LED BY AN AMERICAN FUGITIVE FROM OHIO JUSTICE), HAVE DISSOLVED "UN-AUTHORIZED" MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS -- INCLUDING RECENT ONES BY SCHOOLCHILDREN PROTESTING THE TRANSFERS OF POPULAR EDUCATORS. WHILE THERE WAS NO MAJOR EFFORT TO DISRUPT THE WELL-ATTENDED MEMORIAL AND FUNERAL

SERVICES FOR THE LATE WPA ACTIVIST WALTER RODNEY, SOME FOREIGN DIGNITARIES REPORTED EFFORTS BY GUYANESE AUTHORITIES TO DISCOURAGE ATTENDANCE BY FOREIGNERS AT THE RODNEY FUNERAL. THIS DISCOURAGEMENT APPARENTLY TOOK THE FORM OF GRANTING THE OVERSEAS VISITORS ONLY VERY LIMITED STAYS IN THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DENIED THESE CHARGES.

A-7. PNC AND OTHER PRO-GOVERNMENT RALLIES ARE GREATLY AIDED BY THE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO BRING IN SUPPORTERS. SCHOOL CHILDREN, POLICEMEN, SOLDIERS, AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVANTS ARE BUSSED IN TO AUGMENT THE SIZE OF CROWDS AT THESE MEETINGS. OFFICIAL AND PNC GATHERINGS RECEIVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE BY THE STATE-OWNED MEDIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHILE THOSE OF THE OPPOSITION, OFTEN BETTER ATTENDED, ARE USUALLY IGNORED.

A-8. THE GOVERNMENT HAS GENERALLY RESPECTED THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS TO PRACTICE THEIR RELIGION. A LARGE NUMBER OF RELIGIONS AND SECTS OPERATE IN GUYANA. THE GUYANESE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE CLASHED OVER THE CHURCH'S ACCUSATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE REGIME, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S COUNTER CHARGES OF POLITICAL MEDDLING BY THE CHURCH. TWO FOREIGN-BORN ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS WERE EXPELLED FROM THEIR AMERINDIAN PARISH THIS YEAR FOR ALLEGEDLY RESIDING IN THE REMOTE REGION ILLEGALLY AND FOR FOMENTING SUBVERSION. THE PRIESTS HAVE AS YET NOT BEEN REPLACED. A SENIOR MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY ACCUSED JESUITS OF LEADING CANDALOUS LIVES, INCLUDING ENGAGING IN SEXUAL PERVERSIONS, AND BEING PREJUDICED AGAINST AMERINDIANS. THE EDITOR OF THE CATHOLIC STANDARD A WHITE GUYANESE JESUIT PRIEST, HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY ATTACKED IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RULING PARTY PRESS.

A-9 IN 1979, A BRITISH-BORN JESUIT WORKING AS A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE STANDARD WAS PUBLICLY MURDERED, ALLEGEDLY BY A MEMBER OF THE VIOLENCE-PRONE HOUSE OF ISRAEL SECT. THIS SECT HAS APPARENTLY RECEIVED OFFICIAL PROTECTION AND HAS STRONG CONNECTIONS TO THE PNC. THE CASE HAS YET TO BE HEARD IN COURT. A WEEKLY RELIGIOUS PROGRAM BY AN AMERICAN EVANGELIST WAS BANNED FROM LOCAL RADIO AFTER THE GOVERNMENT ALLEGED THAT THE PROGRAM CONTAINED SLURS AGAINST THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL. THE OPPOSITION HAS ACCUSED THE SECT OF PROVIDING VIOLENT "HIT MEN" FOR THE GOVERNMENT. SECT MEMBERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN BREAKING UP ANTI-REGIME DEMONSTRATIONS AND IN 1979 SERVED AS "SCABS" IN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO DEFEAT A STRIKE BY THE POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT CLERICAL AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS' LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNION (CCWJ).

B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION.

B-1 EXCEPT FOR SOME ISOLATED AMERINDIAN AREAS PROTECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THERE IS FREEDOM TO MOVE ABOUT THE COUNTRY. OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME HAVE REPORTED BEING STOPPED ON HIGHWAY BY SECURITY FORCES AND SUBJECTED TO SEARCHES AND HARASSMENT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT TO PREVENT CERTAIN OPPOSITION MEMBERS FROM TRAVELLING ABROAD BY SUBJECTING THEM TO UNREASONABLE SEARCHES AND DELAYS AT THE AIRPORT AND OCCASIONALLY EVEN RESORTING TO ATTEMPTS AT PHYSICALLY REMOVING INDIVIDUALS FROM WAITING AIRCRAFT. THESE ATTEMPTS HAVE GENERALLY FAILED.

B-2. THE CONTINUED EMIGRATION OF GUYANESE PRESENTS THE COUNTRY WITH A SERIOUS LOSS OF TALENTED MANPOWER. NEVERTHELESS, IN SPITE OF PRESISTENT RUMORS TO THE CONTRARY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SOUGHT TO INTERFERE WITH THE RIGHT OF GUYANESE TO MOVE ABROAD. TOURIST AND BUSINESS TRAVEL BY GUYANESE IS HAMPERED BY THE NATION'S STRICT FOREIGN EXCHANGE LAWS AND BY THE DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING VISAS FROM FOREIGN EMBASSIES, PARTICULARLY THE U.S. EMBASSY.

B-3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECORDED INSTANCES OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT BEING DENIED RE-ENTRY TO GUYANA. HOWEVER, THE JAMAICAN-CITIZEN WIFE OF ONE PROMINENT WPA LEADER WAS RECENTLY REFUSED ENTRY INTO GUYANA. THE GOVERNMENT GAVE NO EXPLANATION OF THE REFUSAL.

C. FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

C-1. UNTIL THE PROMULGATION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION, SCHEDULED FOR LATE 1980, GUYANA, IN THEORY, REMAINS A WESTMINSTER-TYPE CONSITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY. PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WERE DUE IN OCTOBER OF 1978, BUT IN JULY 1978 THE GOVERNMENT HELD A REFERENDUM SEEKING APPROVAL FOR A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY OF THE PARLIAMENTS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION. THE OPPOSITION CALLED ON THE ELECTROATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY BOYCOTT THE POLL, CLAIMING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RIGH THE RESULTS. THE GOVERNMENT, NONETHELESS, ASSERTED THAT 78 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS PARTICIPATED WHILE THE OPPOSITION COUNTERED THAT LESS THAN 15 PERCENT DID SO.

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THE OPPOSITION'S CLAIM APPEARS CLOSE TO THE TRUTH.
C-2. THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF GUYANESE VOTERS HAD APPROVED THE REFERENDUM, AND THE PNC-DOMINATED PARLIAMENT VOTED TO EXTEND ITS LIFE FOR ANOTHER TWELVE MONTHS TO DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION. HOWEVER, IN OCTOBER 197 THE PARLIAMENT VOTED AGAIN TO EXTEND ITS LIFE FOR ANOTHER TWELVE MONTHS, ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE THE CONSTITUTION WAS NOT YET FINISHED.

C-3. THE DRAFTING OF A NEW "SOCIALIST" CONSTITUTION WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PUBLICIZED MEETINGS OF THE DRAFTERS WITH THE PUBLIC. INDIVIDUALS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE INVITED TO SUBMIT MEMORANDA TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE DRAFTING OF THE NEW DOCUMENT. HOWEVER, IN THE END THE NEW CONSTITUTION WAS A VIRTUAL REPLICATION OF THE "MEMORANDUM" SUBMITTED BY THE RULING PARTY.

C-4. THE NEW CONSTITUTION CREATES AN EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT WITH POWERS GREATER THAN THOSE NOW LEGALLY AVAILABLE TO THE CURRENT FIGUREHEAD PRESIDENT AND TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE CONSTITUTION ALSO CREATES SOME CONSULTATIVE, PARLIAMENTARY-TYPE ORGANS WITH NO CLEAR POWERS. THE PRESIDENT WILL REIGN VIRTUALLY SUPREME. THE NEW CONSTITUTION STRESSES NEW "SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS" SUCH AS THE "RIGHT" TO LEISURE, THE "RIGHT" TO EMPLOYMENT, AND THE "RIGHT" OF YOUTH TO FAIR TREATMENT RATHER THAN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRADITIONAL POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.
C-5. BY LAW, ALL CITIZENS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, AND CITIZENSHIP WILL NOT BE DENIED ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. IN FACT, PARTICIPATION IN OPPOSITION POLITICAL GROUPS CAN LEAD TO REPRISALS BY THE GOVERNMENT. THESE REPRISALS HAVE INCLUDED DISMISSAL FROM EMPLOYMENT, INTERRUPTION OF SUPPLIES TO BUSINESSMEN, ATTACK IN THE OFFICIAL PRESS, POLICE HARASSMENT, TRANSFERS TO REMOTE SECTIONS OF THE COUNTRY,

AND DENIAL OF EARNED PROMOTIONS AND BENEFITS.

C-6. INFORMATION AVAILABLE INDICATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE JUNE 13 DEATH OF WPA ACTIVIST WALTER RODNEY AND IN SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE KEY WITNESSES FROM THE COUNTRY. HOW HIGH UP IN THE GOVERNMENT THIS INVOLVEMENT IN RODNEY'S DEATH GOES OR EXACT NATURE OF THAT INVOLVEMENT IS NOT CLEAR AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE GOVERNMENT HAS CLAIMED RODNEY DIED WHEN A BOMB HE WAS CARRYING ACCIDENTALLY DETONATED.

C-7. THE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES WOMEN EQUAL RIGHTS WITH MEN. THE NEW CONSTITUTION REMOVES LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRANSMISSION OF CITIZENSHIP BY WOMEN THROUGH MARRIAGE. UNWED MOTHERS ARE ALSO GUARANTEED EQUAL RIGHTS WITH MARRIED MOTHERS. BOTH MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE LARGE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS. AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO WOMEN CABINET MINISTERS AND ONLY ONE FEMALE PERMANENT SECRETARY. THERE ARE FEW PROMINENT WOMEN TRADE UNIONISTS.

C-8. DESPITE MUCH RHETORIC CONCERNING THE LIBERATION OF GUYANESE WOMEN, WOMEN IN GUYANA TEND TO OCCUPY THE LOWEST PAID JOBS IN THE SOCIETY—SUCH AS DOMESTIC, STORE CLERKS, SECRETARIES, AND RECEPTIONISTS. THERE IS A HANDFUL OF WOMEN PROMINENT IN BUSINESS AND HOLDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIGH EXECUTIVE POSITIONS. THERE ARE FIVE WOMEN IN A PARLIAMENT OF 63 MEMBERS.

C-9. GUYANA'S ORGANIZED LABOR MOVEMENT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN ACTIVE, INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC. THE LAW ESTABLISHES AND PROTECTS THE WORKERS' RIGHTS TO ORGANIZE, STRIKE, AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MAJOR OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES, HOWEVER, EACH SEEK TO COMPROMISE THE LABOR MOVEMENT'S INDEPENDENCE. THEY CONTROL LABOR UNIONS AND ATTEMPT TO USE THEM TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. THE REGIME'S OPPONENTS HAVE CHARGED THAT PNC-CONTROLLED UNIONS ARE OFFICIALLY ENCOURAGED TO ENGAGE IN "RAIDS" UPON THE MEMBERSHIP OF INDEPENDENT OR ANTI-GOVERNMENT UNIONS. WORKERS ARE ALLEGEDLY PRESSURED, SOMETIMES BY PHYSICAL THREAT, TO JOIN PRO-PNC UNIONS. PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN COERCED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DENY ACCESS TO THEIR EMPLOYEES BY ANTI-PNC UNIONS. PNC UNIONS ARE ALSO ACCUSED OF INFLATING THEIR MEMBERSHIP ROLLS WITH GOVERNMENT AID SO AS TO INCREASE THEIR VOTING STRENGTH AT INTER-UNION CONFERENCES. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS OF OFFICIAL MEDDLING IN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF UNIONS, AND SUCH CHARGES APPEAR JUSTIFIED.

C-10. THE REGIME HAS TAKEN ACTIONS AGAINST SPECIFIC UNIONS. DURING A SOLIDARITY STRIKE LAST YEAR, 82 MEMBERS OF THE POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT CLERICAL AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS' UNION (CCWU) WERE DISMISSED FROM THEIR POSITIONS WITH VARIOUS STATE-OWNED CORPORATIONS.

THEIR JIBS WERE ALLOCATED TO SUPPORTERS OF THE RULING PARTY. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE WORKERS DISMISSED STILL REMAIN UNEMPLOYED. THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT IT WILL RESPECT THE RIGHT TO STRIKE BY UNIONS ON PURELY INDUSTRIAL MATTERS, BUT THAT IT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RETALIATE AGAINST UNIONS ENGAGING IN "POLITICAL" STRIKES. DESPITE REQUESTS BY THE GUYANA TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC), THE GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO PROVIDE CRITERIA BY WHICH STRIKES WILL BE JUDGED "POLITICAL".
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5. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE AND RECORD REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

A. THE MOST FREQUENTLY HEARD CHARGE AGAINST THE REGIME IS THAT THE RULING PARTY HAS RIGGED THE ELECTIONS FROM 1968 THROUGH THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM OF JULY 1978. THE OPPOSITION CHARGES THAT THE NATION'S NEXT ELECTIONS WILL BE NO DIFFERENT, AND THE THE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFOR COLSED OFF THE MAIN AVENUE FOR PEACEFUL DEMOCRATIC CHANGE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO ACCEDE TO OPPOSITION

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DEMANDS THAT THE ELECTION BE SUPERVISED AND OBSERVED BY IMPARTIAL OUTSIDERS. THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT TO DO SO WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF GUYANA'S SOVEREIGNTY. B. IN 1980 THE GUYANA HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (GHRA) WAS FOUNDED. IT IS HEADED BY A WELL-KNOWN, POLITICALLY

INDEPENDENT TRADE UNIONIST, A PROMINENT RELIGIOUS FIGURE, AND A RESPECTED UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA OPTICAL SCIENTIST. THE GHRA PUBLISHES A NEWSLETTER, SPONSORS PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS, AND ATTEMPTS TO DOCUMENT AND INVESTIGATE CHARGES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. WHILE THE GHRA SEEMS SO FAR RELATIVELY FREE FROM GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO SECRET OF ITS DISPLEASURE WITH THE TRADE UNIONIST FOR ALLEGEDLY ENGAGING IN ANTI-PNC ACTIVITIES. HE LOST A RECENT BID FOR TH TUC PRESIDENT AS A RESULT OF STRONG PNC EFFORTS TO DENY HIM THE OFFICE.

C. GUYANA BELONGS TO SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL BODIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS AND CARICOM, BUT ASSIDE FROM FREQUENT CRITICISM OF APARTHEID IT HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS RELATING TO THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

D. INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WERE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE TRIAL FOR ARSON OF THREE WPA ACTIVISTS (INCLUDING THE LATE WALTER RODNEY) WHICH BEGAN IN JUNE 1980. OBSERVERS CAME FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, THE BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP, THE NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFERENCE OF BLACK LAWYERS, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE US EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN. ONE OBSERVER FROM A TRINIDADIAN LABOR UNION WAS EXPELLED FROM GUYANA AFTER PARTICIPATING IN A PRO-WPA RALLY. ROBERTS

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