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Trusteeship + Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.  
Administration of the Non-Self Governing Territory of British Guiana.

TR - 300

(1 of 2)

Unclassified

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ORIGINAL ORDER

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## TR

PARTIE

Dec. 1963

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## REGISTRY FILE CLOSURE FORM

☒ FILE FOR PERIOD OF 1 JAN. 1960  
THROUGH 31 DEC. 1963 CLOSED.  
A NEW PERIODIC FILE WILL BE OPENED  
IF REQUIRED.

☐ PART \_\_\_\_\_ CLOSED.  
SEE PART \_\_\_\_\_

☐ FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ CLOSED.  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED UNDER FILE NO.  
\_\_\_\_\_



REL. CONTROL

MM/m

2 JAN 1964

TR 300 BRGU

31 December 1963

Dear Dr. Jagan,

On behalf of the Secretary-General I acknowledge receipt of your letter C.68/60 VII of 18 December 1963 and the annexure thereto.

Thank you for furnishing us with this information. You may be assured that the documents referred to in paragraph 6 of your letter will be treated as confidential.

Yours sincerely,

Godfrey K. J. Amachree  
Under-Secretary Department of  
Trusteeship and Information from  
Non-Self-Governing Territories

Dr. Cheddi Jagan,  
Premier,  
Office of the Premier,  
Public Building,  
Georgetown. British Guiana



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
LIMITED

A/RES/1955 (XVIII)  
20 December 1963

RECORDS

31 DEC 1963

TR 300 BRGU

Eighteenth session  
Agenda item 23

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Committee (A/L.442 and Add.1)]

1955 (XVIII). Question of British Guiana

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962,

Having considered the part of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, relating to British Guiana,<sup>1/</sup>

Noting with deep regret that the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has not permitted the visit to British Guiana of the Sub-Committee established on the suggestion of both the Government of British Guiana and the principal opposition party with a view to seeking, together with the interested parties, the most suitable ways and means of enabling British Guiana to accede to independence without delay,

Bearing in mind that the leaders of British Guiana who have appeared before the Special Committee have expressed the desire of the people of British Guiana for independence without delay,

Noting paragraph 65 of the report of the Sub-Committee on British Guiana,<sup>2/</sup> which was approved by the Special Committee and which invited the Government of the United Kingdom to do its utmost so that British Guiana might achieve independence as soon as possible without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1514 (XV),

<sup>1/</sup> A/5446 and Corr.1, chapter X.

<sup>2/</sup> A/5446 and Corr.1, chapter X, appendix.



Regretting that at the recent constitutional conference on British Guiana no date for independence was set,

1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of British Guiana to independence;
2. Calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to fix without delay the date for the independence of British Guiana in accordance with the wishes of the people of the Territory.

1277th plenary meeting,  
11 December 1963.

RECORDS CONTROL

6 DEC 1963

MEC/m

6 December 1963

TR 300 BRGU

Sir,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated 7 November 1963 and its enclosures and to inform you that its contents have been noted by the Secretary-General.

Yours truly

Godfrey K. J. Amachree  
Under-Secretary for Trusteeship  
and Information from Non-  
Self-Governing Territories

Dr. Cheddi Jagan  
Premier  
Office of the Premier  
Public Building  
Georgetown. British Guiana

Jack TR 450  
initial of 300 ?

RECORDS

MEC/cc

7 FEB 1963

~~TR 412/2~~

New-York, le 25 octobre 1963

TR 300 BREV

Monsieur le Secrétaire général,

.....

J'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer ci-inclus une copie du rapport du Sous-Comité de la Guyane britannique, sous-comité créé par le Comité spécial chargé d'étudier la situation en ce qui concerne l'application de la Déclaration sur l'octroi de l'indépendance aux pays et aux peuples coloniaux.

Lors de sa 216ème séance le Comité spécial, après avoir pris note des réserves du Royaume-Uni, a adopté ce rapport à l'unanimité.

Lors de sa 217ème séance, le Comité spécial a décidé que le rapport du Sous-Comité de la Guyane britannique serait communiqué au Secrétaire général afin que ce dernier puisse en prendre note et arrêter les dispositions préliminaires qu'appelle ce rapport.

Veuillez accepter, Monsieur le Secrétaire général, les assurances de ma plus haute considération.

Le Président du Comité spécial,

Sori Coulibaly

Son Excellence  
U Thant  
Secrétaire général  
Organisation des Nations Unies  
New-York



15 JUL 1963

~~TR 412/2~~

New-York, le 12 juillet 1963

TR 300 BRGU

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

J'ai l'honneur de me référer au consensus que le Comité spécial a adopté le 27 juin 1963 au terme du débat général sur la question de la Guyane britannique.

Par ce consensus, le Comité spécial a décidé, en tant que mesure intérimaire sur la question, de créer un Sous-Comité ayant pour mandat de rechercher avec les parties intéressées les moyens et les voies les plus appropriés afin que la Guyane britannique puisse accéder à l'indépendance sans délai.

En ma qualité de Président du Comité, me fondant d'une part sur ce consensus et, d'autre part, sur l'invitation officielle reçue du Docteur Jagan, Premier Ministre de la Guyane britannique et celle contenue dans la déclaration faite par le Docteur Burnham devant le Comité le 7 mars 1963, j'avais demandé à M. King, représentant du Royaume-Uni au Comité d'intervenir auprès de son Gouvernement en faveur de l'entrée du Sous-Comité en Guyane britannique.

Au cours de la 190ème séance du Comité spécial, le représentant du Royaume-Uni a, dans sa déclaration, fait savoir que son Gouvernement acceptait de coopérer avec le Sous-Comité à New-York, mais qu'il ne pourrait pas donner son accord à aucune visite du Sous-Comité en Guyane britannique.

Son Excellence  
Sir Patrick Dean, K.C.M.G.  
Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire  
Représentant permanent du Royaume-Uni auprès  
des Nations Unies  
845 Third Avenue  
New York 22, N.Y.

.../...



Le Sous-Comité, lors de sa réunion du 10 juillet, a pris en considération la Déclaration du Représentant du Royaume-Uni.

Tout en exprimant son appréciation sur la coopération que le Royaume-Uni accepte de lui offrir à New-York, le Sous-Comité tient à marquer sa surprise et même sa déception devant le refus que le Royaume-Uni oppose à son entrée en Guyane britannique.

En effet, le refus que le Royaume-Uni oppose à l'entrée du Sous-Comité en Guyane britannique remet en cause les dispositions pertinentes que l'Assemblée générale a adoptées en ce qui concerne le mandat du Comité spécial et la manière dont ce dernier doit s'acquitter de ce mandat.

A ce sujet, j'aimerais vous préciser que le paragraphe 4 de la résolution 1654 (XVI) de l'Assemblée générale autorise le Comité spécial à se réunir en tout autre lieu que le siège de l'Organisation des Nations Unies chaque fois que cela est nécessaire.

De plus, conformément aux instructions qu'il a reçues de l'Assemblée générale, laquelle lui a demandé "d'accomplir sa tâche en se servant de tous les moyens dont il disposera dans le cadre des procédures et des modalités qu'il adoptera pour bien s'acquitter de ses fonctions", le Comité spécial a adopté certaines méthodes et procédures dont l'une consiste à envoyer des missions de visite. A sa dix-septième session, l'Assemblée générale, après avoir examiné le rapport du Comité spécial sur ses travaux en 1962, a adopté la résolution 1810 (XVII). Dans cette résolution, elle a notamment réaffirmé ses résolutions 1514 (XV) et 1654 (XVI), a pris note avec satisfaction des méthodes et des procédures que le Comité spécial avait adoptées pour s'acquitter de ses fonctions.

La visite projetée du Sous-Comité en Guyane britannique se trouve ainsi pleinement en harmonie avec les décisions de l'Assemblée générale.

En outre, l'objectif du Comité spécial en créant ce Sous-Comité est d'aider à réunir les conditions nécessaires pour l'accession de la



Guyane britannique à l'indépendance dans le délai le plus court, selon les principes qui figurent à la Déclaration de 1960, objectif qui est également celui des Nations Unies et celui du Royaume-Uni.

Pour toutes ces raisons dont la pertinence ne vous échappera certainement pas, le Sous-Comité m'a demandé, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, de vous adresser la présente lettre en vous priant de bien vouloir intervenir auprès de votre Gouvernement afin que le Sous-Comité puisse se rendre en Guyane britannique conformément aux vœux exprimés par le Comité spécial et selon le désir des parties intéressées à la question.

Dans ces circonstances, j'aimerais exprimer l'espoir que votre Gouvernement se trouvera en mesure de reconsidérer son attitude au sujet d'une visite par le Sous-Comité en Guyane britannique en lui apportant sa pleine coopération et en permettant ainsi de lui assurer le plus grand succès dans ses tentatives.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, les assurances de ma plus haute considération.

Le Président du Comité spécial  
et du Sous-Comité de la Guyane  
britannique,

Sori Coulibaly



Unofficial translation

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the concensus adopted by the Special Committee on the 27th of June 1963 at the end of the general debate on the question of British Guiana.

By this concensus the Special Committee has decided, as an interim measure, to set up a Sub-Committee whose terms of reference would be to seek, with the parties concerned, the most appropriate ways and means so that British Guiana might accede to independence without delay.

As President of the Committee, basing my opinion on the one hand on this concensus and on the other hand on the official invitation emanating from Dr. Jagan, Prime Minister of British Guiana, and on the invitation contained in the statement made by Mr. Burnham before the Committee on 7 March 1963, I had asked Mr. King, the United Kingdom representative to the Special Committee, to approach his Government with a view to facilitate the visit of the Sub-Committee to British Guiana.

At the 190th meeting of the Special Committee, the representative of the United Kingdom informed the Special Committee that his Government was willing to co-operate with the Sub-Committee in New York but that it would be unable to agree to any visit of the Sub-Committee to British Guiana.

The Sub-Committee at its meeting of 10 July has taken into consideration a statement of the representative of the United Kingdom. While expressing its appreciation for the co-operation that the United Kingdom Government is willing to offer in New York, the Sub-Committee would like to express its surprise and even its disappointment at the refusal by the United Kingdom to oppose the Sub-Committee's visit to British Guiana.

Actually, the refusal of the United Kingdom to the visit of the Sub-Committee to British Guiana reopens the question of the pertinent provisions adopted by the General Assembly concerning the terms of reference of the Special Committee and the way in which this Committee discharges its duties.

H.E. Sir Patrick Dean, K.C.M.G.  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom  
to the United Nations  
845 Third Avenue, 10th floor  
New York 22, N.Y.



In this connection I would like to specify that paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) authorizes the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters each time it is deemed necessary. Furthermore, in accordance with the directive given to the Special Committee by the General Assembly, the Special Committee is asked "to carry out its task by the employment of all means which it will have at its disposal within the framework of the procedures and modalities which it shall adopt for the proper discharge of its functions". The Special Committee has adopted methods and procedures, one of which is to send Visiting Missions. At its seventeenth session the General Assembly, after having considered the report of the Special Committee on its work in 1962, adopted resolution 1810 (XVII). In this resolution it has notably reaffirmed its resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1654 (XVI) and has taken note with satisfaction of the methods and procedures that the Special Committee had adopted to discharge its functions.

Thus, the proposed visit of the Sub-Committee to British Guiana is fully in keeping with the decisions of the General Assembly. Further, the purpose of the Special Committee in setting up the Sub-Committee is to assist in bringing about the early attainment of independence by British Guiana in accordance with the principles contained in the 1960 Declaration; an objective which is equally shared by the United Nations and the United Kingdom.

For all these reasons, the pertinence of which you will certainly be aware, the Sub-Committee has asked me, Sir, to send you this letter to request you to be good enough to approach your Government so that the Sub-Committee may proceed to British Guiana in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Special Committee and by the parties concerned with this question.

Under these circumstances, I should like to express the hope that your Government will find it possible to reconsider its position concerning a visit by the Sub-Committee to British Guiana with a view to co-operating with it fully and thus ensuring the greatest possible success to its endeavours.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sori Coulibaly  
Chairman  
Special Committee and Sub-Committee  
on British Guiana





UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



RECORDS SECTION  
Distr. GENERAL

A/5315  
10 DEC 1962 27 November 1962

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventeenth session  
Agenda item 25

TR 300 BRGU

THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION  
ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES:  
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTION 1654 (XVI)

Letter dated 26 November 1962 from the Permanent Representative of  
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, addressed  
to the Secretary-General

With reference to item 25 on the agenda of the General Assembly entitled  
"The situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the granting  
of independence to colonial countries and peoples", I have the honour to transmit  
herewith a copy of the report of the British Guiana Independence Conference which  
was approved at the closing session of the Conference in London on 6 November 1962:

"1. At the British Guiana Constitutional Conference in 1960, a  
constitution providing for full internal self-government was agreed  
and the principle of independence for British Guiana was accepted.

"2. In August 1961, the new constitution was brought into effect and a  
general election was held. The People's Progressive Party (led by  
Dr. Cheddi Jagan) gained 42.6 per cent of the votes cast and twenty  
seats in the Legislative Assembly: the People's National Congress  
(led by Mr. Forbes Burnham) obtained 41 per cent of the votes and  
eleven seats; and the United Force (led by Mr. Peter d'Aguiar)  
secured 16.4 per cent of the votes and four seats. (Of the thirty-five  
seats, the People's Progressive Party did not contest six and the  
United Force did not contest one.)

"3. In November 1961, the Legislature of British Guiana passed a  
resolution calling on Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom  
to grant independence to British Guiana. On receipt of this  
resolution, the Secretary of State for the Colonies informed Dr. Jagan  
of his willingness to hold a Conference for the purpose of settling the  
form of the Constitution and of fixing a date for independence.

/...



"4. The Conference met in London at Lancaster House on 23 October 1962, under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Duncan Sandys. It was attended by delegates from three political parties represented in the Legislative Assembly of British Guiana.

"5. The opening session was held in public. Speeches were made by the Secretary of State and by the leaders of the three delegations, Dr. Jagan, Mr. Burnham and Mr. d'Aguiar. Thereafter they made general statements setting out the positions of their respective parties.

"6. Eighteen sessions of the Conference were held. A number of constitutional points were settled. But it was found that no substantial progress could be made until decisions were reached on three major questions:

"(a) Should elections be fought on the basis of single-member constituencies as at present or on the basis of proportional representation?

"(b) Should the right to vote be accorded at the age of 21 as at present or at the age of 18?

"(c) Should fresh elections be held before Independence?

"7. The People's Progressive Party advocated single-member constituencies, voting at 18, and no elections before Independence. The People's National Congress and the United Force asked for proportional representation, voting at 21, and fresh elections.

"8. These issues were exhaustively discussed, but no agreement could be reached.

"9. The Secretary of State informed the Conference that he had considered putting forward compromise proposals with a view to breaking the deadlock. However, after exploratory talks with the three leaders, he had reluctantly come to the conclusion that there was no formula which appeared to offer any prospect of agreement.

"10. It was recognized that in the absence of agreement there were only two possible courses:

"(a) To leave the British Government to arbitrate on the questions at issue; or

"(b) To adjourn the Conference.

"11. The leaders of all three delegations stated that they were unwilling to agree to arbitration by the British Government. Mr. Sandys, for his part, stated that, if they were not prepared to accept arbitration, he would

/...



not consider it appropriate at this stage to impose decisions against the wishes of the Government party which held a majority of seats in the Legislative Assembly, or alternatively against the wishes of the Opposition parties which together had polled a majority of votes at the last election.

"12. At a final session on 6 November 1962, it was agreed with regret that the Conference should be adjourned to allow for further discussions between the parties in British Guiana.

"13. In conclusion, the Secretary of State stressed that, since continued political uncertainty must inevitably prejudice the social and economic progress of the country, the present state of affairs must not be allowed to continue much longer. If after an interval no agreed solution could be found, the British Government might have to consider imposing a settlement on their own authority so as to enable British Guiana to go forward to independence. But, since this would be a most unhappy way of launching the new nation, he urged the three leaders to make a further serious effort to reach agreement amongst themselves and assured them of his readiness to help in any way which they might consider useful.

Signed:

DUNCAN SANDYS  
Secretary of State  
for the Colonies

L.F.S. BURNHAM  
Leader of the People's  
National Congress

CHEDDI JAGAN  
Leader of the People's  
Progressive Party

P.S. d'AGUIAR  
Leader of the United  
Force

Lancaster House, S.W.1.  
6 November 1962"

Your Excellency will recall that in a statement to the General Assembly on 27 September 1961 Lord Home, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that Her Majesty's Government were now ready to provide full information to the United Nations on the political and constitutional steps which Her Majesty's Government are taking in the Non-Self-Governing Territories which remain under British administration. The report now transmitted to you is sent in accordance with Lord Home's undertaking.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the circulation of this letter as a document of the United Nations.

(Signed) Patrick DEAN

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ACTION COMPLETED.

FILE PENDING  
ad.



15144/414/62

NOV 28 1962  
INFORMATION

TO:	<i>Mr. Probst</i>
1	<i>Mr. Probst</i>
2	
3	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Action Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> - Acknowledged	
<input type="checkbox"/> - No Action Required	
INITIALS	<i>TR</i>

UNITED KINGDOM MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
99 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

November 26, 1962.

TR 300 BRGU

Your Excellency,

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- "2. In August, 1961, the new constitution was brought into effect and a general election

/was

His Excellency U Thant,  
Secretary-General,  
United Nations,  
New York.

*Produced as  
document A/5315.  
Ochodas  
27/11/62*



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3. In November, 1961, the Legislature of British Guiana passed a Resolution calling on Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to grant independence to British Guiana. On receipt of this Resolution, the Secretary of State for the Colonies informed Dr. Jagan of his willingness to hold a Conference for the purpose of settling the form of the Constitution and of fixing a date for independence.

4. The Conference met in London at Lancaster House on 23rd October, 1962, under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for the

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Colonies, Mr. Duncan Sandys. It was attended by delegates from three political parties represented in the Legislative Assembly of British Guiana.

5. The opening session was held in public <sup>AND</sup> Speeches were made by the Secretary of State and by the leaders of the three delegations, Dr. Jagan, Mr. Burnham and Mr. d'Aguiar. Thereafter they made general statements setting out the positions of their respective parties.

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- (a) Should elections be fought on the basis of single-member constituencies as at present or on the basis of proportional representation?
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7. The People's Progressive Party advocated single-member constituencies, voting at 18, and no elections before Independence. The People's National Congress and the United Force asked for proportional representation, voting at 21, and fresh elections.

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part, stated that, if they were not prepared to accept arbitration, he would not consider it appropriate at this stage to impose decisions against the wishes of the Government party which held a majority of seats in the Legislative Assembly, or alternatively against the wishes of the Opposition parties which together had polled a majority of votes at the last election.

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to reach agreement amongst themselves and assured them of his readiness to help in any way which they might consider useful.

Signed:

DUNCAN SANDYS  
Secretary of State  
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CHEDDI JAGAN  
Leader of the People's  
Progressive Party

L.F.S. BURNHAM  
Leader of the People's  
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P.S. d'AGUIAR  
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Lancaster House, S.W.1.  
6th November, 1962"

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I should be grateful if you would arrange for the circulation of this letter as a document of the United Nations.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Patrik Deam capo



- DRAFT -

Sir,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I have the honour to refer to the resolution concerning British Guiana which was adopted by the Special Committee on the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples at its 270th meeting (A/AC.109/86 - copy enclosed).

.....

As you are aware, the Sub-Committee of Good Offices on British Guiana, which was established in accordance with operative paragraph 6 of the resolution, has begun its work and is due to submit its report to the Special Committee before the close of its current session.

Operative paragraph 7 of this resolution requested the Secretary-General "to renew his efforts to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on British Guiana established in 1963". The Sub-Committee of Good offices, in the carrying out of its task, will no doubt wish to take account of <sup>the</sup> Secretary-General's efforts to fulfill the mandate conferred on him.

I should be glad to learn to what extent your Government would be prepared to <sup>assist in</sup> ~~facilitate~~ the ~~ix~~ implementation of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on British Guiana established in 1963.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Godfrey K. J. Amachree  
Under-Secretary  
.....

H.E. Sir Patrick Dean, K.C.M.G.

.....