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NSC BRIEFING

7 October 1953

THE COMMUNIST THREAT IN BRITISH GUIANA

A. Importance of British Guiana

1. Produces nearly a fifth (about 2,000,000 tons annually) of the free world's supply of bauxite.
2. Nine-tenths of British Guiana's bauxite goes to Canada, chief source of US aluminum imports.
3. Population about 450,000--about 45% East Indian, 36% Negro, 16% mixed and Chinese, 3 White. About 150 Americans there.

B. Rise of Communist strength

1. Communist agitation among large East Indian population has been going on for several years.
2. Dominant force has been Chicago-born Communist Janet Rosenberg Jagan and her East Indian husband, Cheddi Jagan, a member of the House of

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NSA review completed

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Assembly since 1947. He visited
East European countries in 1951,

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3. Last April first election under new Constitution which instituted universal suffrage and considerably broadened the House of Assembly's authority in domestic affairs.

4. The Peoples Progressive Party led by the Jagans captured 18 out of 24 elected seats in the Assembly. (There are 3 appointed seats.) Cheddi Jagan in his district personally won 82% of

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the votes against 3 opponents.

5. Party leaders then assumed six important ministerial posts including labor, agriculture, education and local government.

C. The present crisis

1. Party members, though in government, have kept on advocating overthrow of British colonial administration and this week demanded curtailment of the governor's reserved powers to administer the defense, foreign and internal security policies. They also demanded an end to the governor's right to veto the Assembly's laws.

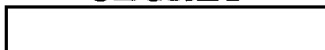
2. In early September the party led a strike in the sugar industry and also several sympathy strikes.

3. On 24 September the Party ordered an end to the strikes and the next day

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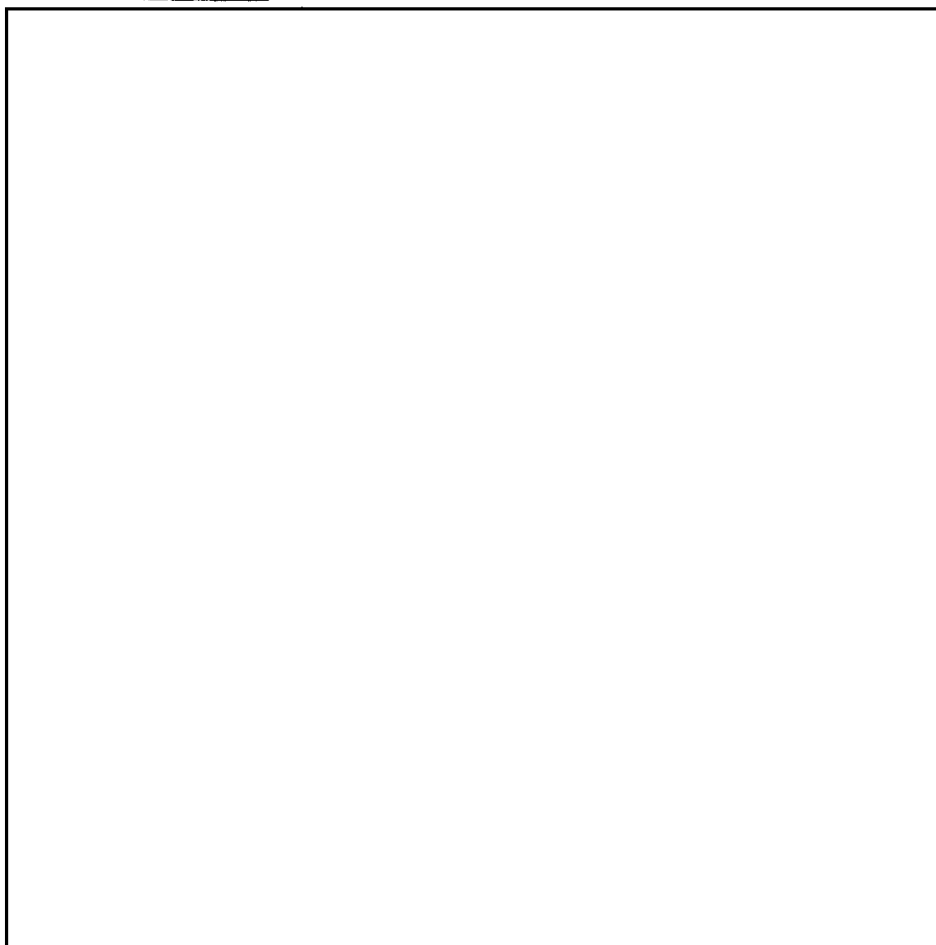
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the 18 Party members of the House of
Assembly walked out on a point of
order.

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4. No rioting has yet been reported,
however.



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F. The immediate outlook

1. Troops and emergency powers are probably sufficient to maintain order, though some bloodshed could ensure if British troops land.
2. International Communism will probably exploit British emergency measures in propaganda and in attacks in the UN.

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3. If the Communist threat in British Guiana is not promptly reduced, the Jagans and other Communist leaders will have a better opportunity in the other British colonies in the area, including strategic Trinidad and Jamaica. Threat could also spread into neighboring Surinam, a Dutch colony which supplies the US with about one-half of its bauxite requirements. (Together, British Guiana and Surinam now produce about a half of the free world's supply of bauxite. Jamaica, however, will in the next few years produce more bauxite than either British Guiana or Surinam.)

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ITALY

Vote of Confidence on Pella's Foreign Policy

293	For	
200	Against	
<u>19</u>	Abstaining	
572	78 Absent = 590	
	Opposed included Communists	(143)
	Nenni Socialists	(75)
	Neo-Fascists	(29)
		<u>247</u>

Pella foreign policy speech stressed Italian foreign policy based on NATO but linked ratification of EDC to solution of Trieste problem.



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