

## Elections in Guyana and the Guyana Defence Force

While researching the events of the Rupununi Uprising, I visited the US library of Congress, Federal Research Division, Country Studies, Guyana, Appendix A  
[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/guyana/gy\\_appen.html](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/guyana/gy_appen.html)

There I found some very interesting statistics about Guyana (See Tables 2 and 8). If we look at **Table 2** below, we can see the population demographics of Guyana (1960-1980).

**Table 2. Guyana: Ethnic Groups, 1960, 1970, and 1980**

(in percentages)

Ethnic Group	1960	1970	1980
Indo-Guyanese	47	52	51
Afro-Guyanese	45	42	42
Amerindian	4	4	4
European	3	2	--- <sup>1</sup>
Asian	1	--- <sup>2</sup>	--- <sup>1</sup>
TOTAL	100	100	100

<sup>1</sup> In the 1980 census, Europeans and Asians (Orientals i.e. Sino- Guyanese) were grouped together as "other" and were 3 percent of the population.

<sup>2</sup> Less than 1 percent.

Source: Based on information from Federal Republic of Germany, Statistisches Bundesamt, *Landerbericht Guyana, 1989*,

Wiesbaden, 1989, 19.

The Table above reveals that:(1) the % population of Indo-Guyanese increased from 1960 to 1980; (2) the % population of Afro-Guyanese decreased from 1960 to 1980; (3) the % population of Amerindians (or Indigenous peoples) remained constant; (4) the % population of Euro-Guyanese declined to a statistically negligible amount; and (5) the % population of Sino-Guyanese (Chinese ancestry) also declined to a negligible amount.

In means that in a decade, most people of European and/or Chinese Ancestry fled the Co-operative Republic of Burnham/PNC's Guyana in such significant amounts that they are no longer statistically significant! (Imagine that in 1980, the situation is so marginal that **Europeans** and **Oriental Asians** are placed in the same ethnic category! Anthropology students would find this very amusing.) **Therefore Guyana is no longer the land of Six Peoples.** (There was never was SIX Peoples to begin with in any case. The Mixed ethnic category is too diverse for simple classification.) We have to accept that fact and stop believing a distortion of the truth. (We should not take this 'ethnic thing' seriously.)

What is also striking was the departure of the Afro-Guyanese population to such a large extent that their overall % population declined. This group as I have said before was amongst the most educated/trained professionals, etc and found it much easier to meet overseas immigration criteria and job requirements. Surely, they would not be running from an honest Govt.? The current claims of some that Burnham/PNC was a Govt. that acted in the interests of Afro-Guyanese is not supported by the population statistics. (The birth and multi-ethnic/cross-cultural support of the WPA also shows that claim to be a farce.)

Now let us look at the election results in Guyana. In 1968, the Proportional Representation (PR) system was introduced, so assuming that voting patterns generally followed ethnic

lines, the results (in terms of seats) would be reasonably expected to be very close to the % population. Let us look at **Table 8** below:

**Table 8. Guyana: Parliamentary Seats in Elections, 1968-85**

Party	1968	1973	1980	1985
People's National Congress (PNC)	30	37	53	54
People's Progressive Party (PPP)	19	14	10	8
United Force (UF)	4	2 <sup>1</sup>	2	2
Working People's Alliance (WPA)	---	---	0	1
TOTAL	53	53	65	65

<sup>1</sup> Seats originally won by the Liberator Party (LP) but assumed by the UF when the LP boycotted the National Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> Party not established until after 1973 elections.

(NB. I understand that the overseas vote went overwhelmingly (>90 %) to the PNC!)

From **Table 8** we see that: (1) The seats/votes of the PNC increased over the years - despite the decline in the Afro-Guyanese sector of the population; (2) The seats/votes of the PPP decreased over the years despite the increase of the indo-Guyanese sector of the population; (3) The seats/votes of the UF remained constant despite the decline in the population of the Euro- and Sino- Guyanese sector; and (4) The seats/votes of the WPA was only **1**, when this party had wide and deep support of all ethnic groups.

The results (at face value) indicate that Indians were voting for the PNC despite their being marginalized (deprived of access to Govt. Jobs and services, educational opportunities, humiliated by the police and army, personal security concerns, food shortages, economic disasters, "Guylines," etc.). This would be a new formula of winning an election, mistreat the people and they will vote for you! But we know that this cannot be true. Guyanese are not that docile and/or stupid.

So we have to look for other possible answers to these apparent contradictions.

One would suspect fraud, but we should not rush to conclusions despite the anecdotal evidence, eye-witnesses, victims, and documented evidence elsewhere. **The US Library of Congress document (1992) states: "As occurred in the 1968 elections, opposition members were not allowed to accompany the ballot boxes to the counting centers. On July 16, 1973, election day, GDF personnel shot and killed two PPP members as they protested the removal of ballot boxes from a polling station. Throughout the country, the GDF and police were quick to resort to force when removing ballot boxes from the electoral districts..."** (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/gytoc.html#gy0005> See CH 5. Guyana National Security - Involvement in Political Affairs)

This is probably the first time Mr J. Singh and his former political bosses are also hearing about these allegations - the roles of the army in fraudulent elections. Certainly, Mr J. Singh (an officer and a gentleman) would not serve such a Govt. or be involved in such an organization. We must therefore think that Mr J Singh and his "brothers in politics" (Those politicians who wrote in to support him with regards to the allegations of atrocities in the quelling of the Rupununi Uprising.) would launch a vehement protest with the American Ambassador about the document (above) **'besmirching'** the name of the former Burnham/PNC Govt. and the use of the army against the Guyanese people. Defending the name of the army is the least we would expect from this former Chief of Staff and his

political friends. (Please let us know when the US Library of Congress issues their apology.)  
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