

## Rai's Justice Party was funded from publicly solicited funds

Friday, January 6th 2006,SN

Dear Editor,

Kindly allow me to reply to Mr Gokarran Sookdeo's letter captioned "Mr Rai's Justice Party was extremely affluent," (06.01.03). He wanted to know the source of the Justice Party's funding in the 1964 elections and as God would have it as soon as I picked up Dr Baytoram Ramharack's book, Against the Grain Balram Singh Rai and the Politics of Guyana, I opened it at page 283 where Mr Rai dealt with PPP allegations that he had received funding from the USA and that he and Mr Jai Narine Singh were CIA agents.

Mr Rai said to Dr Ramharack, "I had no contact with the US authorities. I did not request any assistance from the US nor did the US approach me to form a party; there was no specific support from anyone. The party was funded from publicly solicited donations."

Dr Ramharack on page 267 referred to US Government Documents that were declassified in 1996 under the Information Act and which gave no evidence that the US had supported Mr Rai. In fact it was stated that the US had felt that he could not have successfully challenged Dr Jagan.

Arthur Schlesinger Jnr who was President Kennedy's Special Assistant, referred to notes he had received from Harry Hoffman of the State Department and wrote, "They (East Indians) expressed respect and admiration for Rai; they said in an election showdown the masses would flock to Jagan. Rai was described as too new on the political scene, compared with Jagan, and lacking in the mass appeal that belongs to Jagan, who would make political hay by characterising Rai as a traitor to the cause. In the end, they said, the East Indians would vote race-and Jagan would get the votes of even many of the doubtful ones."

Only a few days ago some one posted more US declassified documents on the Guyana Gazette Discussion Forum. It was headlined "Foreign Relations, 1961 - 1963 Vol X11 Doc 274-299 CIA Files, Job 79-R01012A and in referring to the riots of Feb 1962 it stated at paragraph 11, "Paradoxically, the February crisis strengthened Jagan by consolidating the support of his East Indian followers."

It follows therefore that the continued violence in 1963 and 1964 caused Indians to huddle around the PPP even more and it ensured less electoral support for Mr Rai.

I have always said that the PPP benefits from violence. The media failed to publish a letter I wrote outlining the PPP's role in the 1964 mayhem.

Now that I have answered Mr Sukhdeo's question, which he no doubt remembered that the PPP had raised in 1964, and which had subtle anti-American sentiments, I wish to pose a few to him.

Mr Sukhdeo is associated in New York with the PPP's mouthpiece The Guyana Journal. Could he say why he is residing in the USA which has been heavily ostracized in the past by the communist PPP and not the former Soviet Union which was championed by the PPP as a workers paradise?

Could he say whether it was the USA or the Soviet Union that facilitated free and fair elections that put the PPP into office in 1992?

Could Mr Sukhdeo say if he can enjoy the freedoms that the USA has afforded him if he were residing in a communist country such as Cuba, North Korea or China?

Could Mr Sukhdeo say where the PPP got its financing in pre 1992 to acquire its regular fleets of Russian- made cars, motorcycles, vans, and public address systems?

Mr Editor I close by saying that the "CIA Stigma" has always been an effective tool to discredit and malign PPP members and opponents. So embedded is it in the minds of PPP activists, members, and supporters that a few years ago when some Indians picketed President Jagdeo in Queens NY, one PPP stalwart who was passing went up to a NY police officer, pointed at me and said, "He is a known CIA agent!"

The cop was baffled and asked, "What did you say?" At that point the PPP activist's face became clouded with confusion. One of his comrades, obviously embarrassed, went up to him and said, "Man we in America now. You can't say CIA."

Yours faithfully,

Malcolm Harripaul