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## Acknowledgements

We wish to record our profound appreciation to a number of people who in a variety of ways assisted us in carrying out our mandate and without which our task would have been extremely difficult.

We would particularly like to thank His Excellency President Hoyte who found time to personally welcome us. We also wish to pay warm tribute to the Chairman of the Elections Commission, his colleagues on the Commission and their staff who worked tirelessly and under the severest pressure, especially in the final week preceding the elections.

We wish especially to acknowledge the very generous assistance given to us by the diplomatic representatives of Britain, Canada and India. In particular, we wish to thank His Excellency the British High Commissioner who loaned us three vehicles fitted with radio communications equipment which greatly facilitated our work. Our thanks also go to His Excellency the Canadian High Commissioner and the Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme's Caribbean Centre in Georgetown who helped to ease our transport difficulties at a critical time.

We would also wish to record our satisfaction with the level of co-operation achieved with other Observer Groups.

It would be remiss of us not to acknowledge the assistance and wise counsel of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, and we are indebted to those members of the Commonwealth Secretariat who accompanied us to Guyana for their herculean efforts in particularly difficult conditions.

Our final words of appreciation must go collectively to the political leaders and the people of Guyana who gave their time in the most demanding circumstances during the election campaign to share their concerns with us. We would like to express to them our deep appreciation for the warm hospitality and welcome accorded to us and wish them well in their quest for the strengthening of their democratic institutions.

# **ANNEXES**

## ANNEX I

### Composition of Commonwealth Observer Group

**Mr David R Peterson, QC, CSt.J, DU, LLD** (*Canada – Chairman*)

Mr David Peterson is a partner in the Toronto law firm of Cassels, Brock & Blackwell practising corporate/commercial law as well as international trade law and constitutional law. He is a director of a number of public companies and charitable, cultural and environmental organisations and also an adjunct professor at York University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Western Ontario and a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Toronto. He was called to the Bar in Ontario in 1969 and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1980. He has received honorary doctorates from the University of Ottawa and the University of Tel Aviv. In 1975 Mr Peterson was elected as a Member of the Ontario Legislature, and became the leader of the Ontario Liberal party in 1982. He served as Premier of the Province between 1985 and 1990.

**Mr Anthony Frederick Dingle** (*Australia*)

Mr Anthony Frederick Dingle is a retired diplomat. Of his 36 years as a member of the Australian Foreign Service, 15 were spent at posts in Commonwealth countries. Mr Dingle served in both Malaysia and Tanzania during their periods of transition from colonial status to independence. After India and Pakistan and whilst High Commissioner to Ghana, he became Australia's first High Commissioner to Sierra Leone and The Gambia. He has also served as Ambassador to Denmark, Iceland, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama. Mr Dingle was educated at King's Grammar School, Sydney, and holds a Bachelor of Arts (1st Class Honours) degree from Sydney University.

**Mr Fakhruddin Ahmed** (*Bangladesh*)

Mr Fakhruddin Ahmed's long public service career began in Pakistan where he had reached the rank of Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before Bangladesh attained independence. Thereafter, his career included service as Ambassador to several countries culminating in 1986 as Foreign Secretary. In 1991, after the fall of the Ershad Government, he was appointed as Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Interim Government. Mr Ahmed has a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from Dhaka University and trained in diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in the US. In recent years, he has served on several observer groups in elections in South and South-East Asia and was a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group to the Zambia presidential elections in October 1991.

**Mr James Cliviston King, OBE** (*Barbados*)

Mr James Cliviston King topped a distinguished public service career by serving as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Deputy High Commissioner of Barbados in London and Deputy Permanent Representative of Barbados to the UN. He was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn, London, England, in 1971. He is Chairman of the National Petroleum Corporation of Barbados and was a former Director of the Central Bank of Barbados. Mr King holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Political Science from London University. He received his OBE in 1966.

**The Hon Pelokgale Seloma, MP** (*Botswana*)

The Hon Pelokgale Seloma was elected a Member of Parliament representing the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) in 1989. On behalf of his government, he has handled trade negotiations with Rumania and has been part of a national overseas campaign on foreign investment. He is a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Botswana, and has served as a member of the Law Reform Committee, Public Accounts Committee and the House Committee in the National Assembly of Botswana.

**Sir Martin Ewans, KCMG** (*Britain*)

Sir Martin Ewans is a retired diplomat. His diplomatic career commenced in the Commonwealth Relations Office and his service abroad has taken him to Afghanistan, Canada, India and Pakistan and to several African countries culminating in his posting as High Commissioner to Zimbabwe from 1983-85 and High Commissioner to Nigeria from 1986-88. He is currently a Director of Casalce S.A. and a Chairman of the Civil Service Selection Board. Sir Martin Ewans was educated at St Paul's School, London, and has a Master of Arts degree from Cambridge.

**Lord Carmichael of Kelvingrove** (*Britain*)

Lord Carmichael became a Life Peer in 1983 after a long public service career serving as Labour MP for Glasgow, Woodside, and Glasgow, Kelvingrove. He served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Technology and as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Technology. He was also Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department of Employment and Department of Industry. Lord Carmichael has been a member of the Select Committee on Transport and Honorary Secretary to the Scottish Labour Group of MPs. He was educated at Eastbank Academy and the Royal College of Science and Technology in Glasgow.

**Mr Robert Bruce McCaffrey** (*Canada*)

Mr Robert Bruce McCaffrey is a businessman and former senior public servant. After a period in the investment business, he was elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1977 and appointed to the Cabinet by the Provincial Premier in 1981. He held several portfolios, including Minister of Citizenship and Culture and Provincial Secretary for Social Development, and served as Vice-Chairman of the Manage-

ment Board of Cabinet. He was also a member of the Policies and Priorities Board. He returned to the investment business in 1987 and is currently Managing Director of Kingwest and Company. Mr McCaffrey holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto.

**Alhaji Mamadou Cham** (*The Gambia*)

Alhaji Mamadou Cham is Chairman of Air Gambia. As a member of the People's Progressive Party, he held Cabinet posts between 1972 and this year, during which he served as Minister for Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Minister of Economic Planning and Industrial Development, Minister of Finance and Trade, and Minister of Works and Communications. He was first elected to Parliament in 1962 and since then has served as Regional Representative of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

**Mr Samarendra Kundu** (*India*)

Mr Samarendra Kundu was Minister of State for External Affairs in India (1977-79), during which he visited Guyana. He now contributes to newspapers and periodicals and is the President of the India-Africa Centre in New Delhi. He is an eminent lawyer and has been returned three times to Parliament (Lok Sabha), in 1967-70, 1977-79 and 1989-91. While in Opposition, he was detained from 1975-77 with other Janata Party leaders for pro-democratic activities. Mr Kundu is also an able trade union leader and was President of Hind Mazdoor Sabha (1990-92), the second largest trade union centre in India.

**Mrs Shirley I. Miller, CD, OC** (*Jamaica*)

Mrs Miller, the Director of Legal Reform, Jamaica, has previously served in various legal posts in the Attorney General's Department of her country, including that of Senior Assistant Attorney General. She was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn (London) in 1961 and was appointed Queen's Counsel (Jamaica) in 1971. Mrs Miller holds an LLB (Hons.) degree from LSE, London University, an MA in Spanish from the University of the West Indies (UWI), and a post-graduate diploma in translation, also from the UWI. She is a member of the General Legal Council (Jamaica) and has served as an independent member of the Electoral Advisory Committee of Jamaica since its establishment in 1979. In early 1991 she was an observer at the elections in El Salvador and in Panama and in October 1991 was a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group at the Zambian Presidential and National Assembly elections. She was also a member of two Commonwealth missions, in November 1991 and earlier this year, looking at preparations for the 1992 Guyana elections.

**The Hon Dame Ann Hercus, DCMG** (*New Zealand*)

Dame Ann Hercus is an international consultant. As a consumer law expert, she was a member, then Deputy Chair of the Commerce Commission, a statutory body with jurisdiction over monopolies, mergers and takeovers. She was elected in 1978 as a Labour Member of Parliament and served as Minister of Police, Minister of

Social Welfare and Minister of Women's Affairs. On her retirement from politics, she was appointed as New Zealand's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Dame Ann holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Auckland University and an LLB from Canterbury University.

**Senator Charmaine Gardner** (*St Lucia*)

Senator Charmaine Gardner is Deputy President of the St Lucia Senate. She is also managing director of Carasco & Son, Ltd, St Lucia. Senator Gardner has also been a member of the Advisory Task Force to Caribbean Heads of Government on 'Caribbean Development to the Year 2000', President of the St Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Board Member of the St Lucia Broadcasting Corporation, Private Sector Representative to ACP Meetings, Lomé II, III and IV, and member of the Prime Minister's delegation on several missions/conferences. Senator Gardner was educated at Jarvis Collegiate, Toronto, and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (Sociology and Philosophy) from the University of Western Ontario. Senator Gardner is presently also on the Board of Governors of the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, the Caribbean Association Institute of Commerce (CAIC), and the School of Management Studies, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

**Ms Jocelyn Lucas** (*Trinidad and Tobago*)

Ms Jocelyn Lucas is Chief Election Officer of Trinidad and Tobago. After a short period as a teacher, she was appointed in 1982 to the Elections and Boundaries Commission, rising from the position of Research Officer to her present post. Ms Lucas has supervised elections in Namibia as part of the UN Transition Assistance Group in 1989 and was a member of a Working Group of CARICOM senior electoral officials established to co-ordinate and offer assistance to Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council in 1990-91. She has been a member of three Commonwealth Observer and technical assistance teams who in 1991 and early 1992 monitored the progress of electoral arrangements for the elections in Guyana. She holds a Bachelor's degree in political science and two masters' degrees in international relations and social sciences from Columbia University, New York, and Long Island University respectively.

**Mr Stephen Ramsumair Seepersad** (*Trinidad and Tobago*)

Mr Steven Seepersad retired as Principal of Hillview College, Trinidad and Tobago, after serving 42 years in the teaching profession. He has held many positions in the community as member/chairman/president of various educational and church organisations and has worked as Presiding Officer at local and general elections. Mr Seepersad was educated at Naparima Training College for Teachers, Mount Allison University, New Brunswick, Canada, and received a government scholarship to the University of the West Indies for post-graduate studies. He was given a National Award, Medal of Merit (Gold), for long and meritorious service to Trinidad and Tobago in Education and Community Service.

**Mr Eustace Seignoret** (*Trinidad and Tobago*)

Mr Eustace Seignoret is a retired diplomat. Having served in the Civil Service since 1953, he was one of the first members of the diplomatic service of newly independent Trinidad and Tobago in 1962. His first posting was for three years at the UN in New York before he was posted to Geneva and then to London. He served as Trinidad and Tobago's Permanent Representative to the UN from 1971-75, during which time he was Vice-Chairman of the UN Committee against Apartheid and led a high-level delegation of the Committee to Latin America. He returned home to become Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs. In 1977, he was appointed High Commissioner to Britain where he served as chairman of the Commonwealth Committee on Southern Africa from 1978-82. His last posting before retirement was as High Commissioner to Guyana. Mr Seignoret was a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group to the Malaysian general election in October 1990.

**SECRETARIAT SUPPORT STAFF**

Mr Carl Dundas (*Jamaica – Team Leader*)

Mr Richard Nzerem (*Nigeria*)

Mr Gurudas Bailur (*India*)

Ms Cheryl Dorall (*Malaysia – Press Officer*)

Dr Ursula Barrow (*Belize*)

Mr Nestor Rweyemamu (*Tanzania*)

Mr Steve Packer (*Britain*)

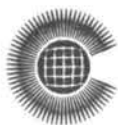
Mrs Christine Wright (*Britain*)

Mr Wayne De Four (*Trinidad and Tobago*)

Mrs Betty Kiwanuka (*Uganda*)

## ANNEX II

### Letter to Political Parties Requesting Meeting



Guyana Elections

## Commonwealth Observer Group

Telephone: 592-2-52856  
Facsimile: 592-2-60532  
Telex: 0295-312 2234

Forte Crest Georgetown  
P O Box 101147  
Georgetown  
Guyana

20 September 1992

I am writing to you on behalf of the Commonwealth Observer Group which will arrive in Georgetown on 22 September to observe the elections due to be held on 5 October.

The Group is coming to Guyana inspired by the commitment to strengthening democratic institutions in Commonwealth member countries recently reaffirmed by Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1991. This commitment has clearly been given expression by the invitation to us to observe your elections. Despite their diverse backgrounds and experience, members of the Observer Group are all from Commonwealth democracies, and they come in a constructive and open-minded spirit. All will be serving in their personal capacities and not as representatives of their governments.

To discharge their task effectively, the Group attaches great importance to establishing personal contact with you and the leaders of other political parties and you are therefore warmly invited to contact us at the Forte Crest.

A list of the members of the Group is attached.

Yours sincerely,

**R.C. Nzerem**  
(Deputy Team Leader, Commonwealth  
Secretariat Support Staff)  
for Chairman, Commonwealth  
Observer Group

**This letter was sent to:**

Mr Paul Tennessee  
Democratic Labour Movement  
Foesinsky House  
Robb & Ming Streets  
Georgetown

Mr Joseph Bacchus  
National Democratic Front  
22 Trotman Alley  
Linden

Dr Leslie Ramsamy  
Leader, United Republican Party  
Liberty House  
43 Croal Street  
Georgetown

Mr Llewellyn John  
Leader, People's Democratic Movement  
10 Croal Street  
Georgetown

Dr Clive Thomas  
Leader, Working Peoples' Alliance  
45 Croal Street  
Georgetown

Mr Manzoor Nadir  
Leader, The United Force  
Robb and New Garden Streets  
Georgetown

Mr Robert Gangadeen  
Leader, National Republican Party  
29 East Half  
Hadfield Street  
N'burg, Georgetown

Dr Cheddi Jagan  
Leader, People's Progressive Party / Civic  
Freedom House  
Robb Street  
Georgetown

Mr Malcolm Parris  
Chief Executive Officer  
People's National Congress  
Congress House  
Sophia  
Georgetown

Dr Lindley E GeBorde  
Union of Guyanese International  
27 Wren Avenue  
South Ruimveldt Gardens  
Georgetown

Mr Winston Payne  
The United Workers' Party  
72 Wellington & Robb Streets  
Lacytown  
Georgetown

H E Mr Hugh Desmond Hoyte, S C  
Leader, People's National Congress  
Congress House  
Sophia  
Georgetown

## **ANNEX III**

### **List of Significant Engagements**

#### **Monday 14 September**

- 11.00 a m Advance team meets with Elections Commission officials
- 1.30 p m Attended launch of PNC Manifesto
- 4.00 p m Meeting with PPP officials
- 5.00 p m Meeting with WPA officials

#### **Tuesday 15 September**

- 10.30 a m Meeting with Elections Commission Officials
- 11.00 a m Attended Elections Commission Media Sub-Committee Meeting
- 11.45 a m Meeting with British High Commissioner
- 4.30 p m Attended launch of PPP Manifesto

#### **Wednesday 16 September**

- 7.00 a m Meeting with Mr Dennis King, Mission Co-ordinator, Carter Center
- 11.00 a m Meeting with PDM officials
- 11.30 a m Meeting with URP officials
- 12.10 p m Meeting with Elections Commission officials
- 12.50 p m Meeting with NRP officials

#### **Thursday 17 September**

- 6.50 a m Visits by air to regional locations at Hampton Court, Mabaruma, Kamarang, Bartica
- 4.00 p m Meeting with GPCA Executive Chairman

#### **Friday 18 September**

- 11.00 a m Attended URP Press Conference
- 11.15 a m Meeting at British High Commission
- 3.00 p m Meeting with Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 7.00 p m Meeting with Heads of British, Canadian, Indian and US Missions

#### **Saturday 19 September**

- 6.30 a m Visits by air to regional locations at Mahdia, Kato, Lethem, Aishalton
- 10.00 a m Attended media briefing by Elections Commission
- 8.00 p m Meeting with Mr Dennis King, Carter Center

#### **Sunday 20 September**

- 11.00 a m Meeting with Mr R Collins, Chairman Elections Commission

#### **Monday 21 September**

- 11.00 a m Meeting with Director-General and Chief Protocol Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Tuesday 22 September**

- 3.00 p m Press Conference by Observers on arrival
- 4.00 p m Meeting with PDM leader Mr Llewellyn John

**Wednesday 23 September**

- 10.30 a m Meeting with Mr Dennis King, Carter Center
- 11.00 a m Meeting with Chairman of Elections Commission
- 11.45 a m Meeting with URP leader Dr Leslie Ramsamy
- 3.00 p m Meeting with WPA leaders Mr Rupert Roopnaraine and Mr Eusi Kwayana
- 5.00 p m Meeting with Mr Clairmont Lye of Electoral Assistance Bureau
- 7.00 p m Meeting with TUF leader Mr Manzoor Nadir

**Thursday 24 September**

- 10.00 a m Accreditation of Observers by Elections Commission
- 11.45 a m Meeting with NRP leader Mr Robert Gangadeen
- 2.00 p m Meeting with UGI leader Dr Lindley GeBorde

**Friday 25 September**

- 10.30 a m Meeting with PPP/Civic leader Dr Cheddi Jagan
- 3.00 p m Meeting with PNC officials
- 4.30 p m Meeting with Elections Commission

**Saturday 26 September**

- 10.30 a m Meeting with GPCA Executive Chairman Mr Kester Alves
- 11.30 a m Meeting with DLM leader Mr Paul Tennessee
- 4.00 p m Meeting with Guyana Press Association officials

**Sunday 27 September**

- 7.00 a m Observer visits by air to regional locations at Mahdia, Kato, Letham, Aishalton
- 10.00 a.m Observer visits by air to regional locations at Hampton Court, Mabaruma, Kamarang, Bartica
- 9.55 p m Arrival of Observer Group Chairman

**Monday 28 September**

- 5.45 a m OBSERVATION OF DISCIPLINED FORCES' POLL
- 11.00 p m Meeting with H E President Hugh Desmond Hoyte

**Tuesday 29 September**

- 11.30 a m Press Conference by Chairman

**Wednesday 30 September**

- 7.00 a m Deployment of Observer teams to Regions 2 and 9
- 10.00 a m Chairman meets WPA leaders
- 4.00 p m Chairman meets Elections Commission

**Thursday 1 October**

- 9.00 a m Chairman records radio message for national broadcast on *Viewpoint* programme
- 10.00 a m Observers meet various Returning Officers and visit polling stations in areas where deployed
- 3.00 p m Meeting with PPP/Civic leader Dr Cheddi Jagan
- 4.00 p m Meeting with Canadian-Guyanese Election Watch
- 5.00 p m Chairman and Mr Carl Dundas meet heads of British, Canadian, Indian and US Missions

**Friday 2 October**

- 7.00 a m Deployment of Observer teams to Regions 1, 6, 8 and 10
- 5.30 a m Chairman and journalists visit Mahdia, Linden and Skeldon by air
- 1.30 p m Observers attend Disposal Ceremony of old stock of voting ink

**Saturday 3 October**

- 10.00 a m Attended briefing by Carter Center Observer Group
- Visits to polling places as appropriate

**Sunday 4 October**

- 2.30 p m Chairman meets Police Commissioner Laurie Lewis
- Visits to polling places as appropriate
- 4.00 p m Chairman meets Chief of Staff Brigadier Joe Singh

**Monday 5 October**

**POLLING DAY**

- 6.00 a.m Observe polling throughout the day
- 6.00 p m Observe the close of poll and counting at selected polling stations

**Tuesday 6 October**

- 10.00 a m Observers consider Draft Report
- 4.00 p m Press Conference by Chairman, Statement on Elections issued
- 5.00 p m Observers continue consideration of Draft Report

**Wednesday 7 October**

- 10.00 a m Observers continue consideration of Draft Report
- 3.00 p m Finalisation of Draft Report

**Thursday 8 October**

- 10.30 a m Agreement and signature of Report
- 9.00 p m Chairman leaves Guyana

**Friday 9 October**

- 1.45 p m Observers leave Guyana

## ANNEX IV

### Press Releases Issued by Observer Group



Guyana Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

#### *News Release*

#### COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP TO GUYANA ELECTIONS: A STATEMENT

We are here in Guyana to observe the October 5 election at the invitation of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, following a request for a Commonwealth Observer Group from the Government of Guyana - a request supported by all parties involved in the elections.

Each of us will serve as Observer in our personal capacities and not as representatives of our countries, governments or organisations to which we may belong. Our broad task will be to observe every relevant aspect of the organisation and conduct of the elections in accordance with the law of Guyana. To this end, in the last two years, Commonwealth Observers and election experts have already visited Guyana at various stages of preparations for these elections, including the enumerating of voters. They have met political and other interested parties, spoken to people and offered suggestions for improving arrangements in the election process.

We have not come to act as a commission of enquiry but to observe the process as a whole and to form a judgment based on those observations. It is our belief, from experience, that our presence will also enhance the transparency of the process. Our conclusions will reflect our independent collective judgment and will be submitted in a report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General who will make it available to the Guyana Government and all political parties, and subsequently to Commonwealth Governments.

As part of our work, we will meet all the contending political parties who wish to meet us and will be visiting all the ten administrative regions of the country both before and on election day.

We are delighted to be here in Guyana at this historic time and it is our sincere hope that the elections will be free, fair and peaceful.

22 September 1992

Forte Crest Georgetown ♦ P O Box 101147 Georgetown, Guyana  
Telephone: 592-2-52856 ♦ Facsimile: 592-2-60532 ♦ Telex: 0295-312 2234



Guyana Elections

## Commonwealth Observer Group

### *News Release*

#### COMMONWEALTH TO OBSERVE 28 SEPT. SERVICES VOTING

The Commonwealth Observer Group to the Guyana elections will observe the balloting of the disciplined services on Monday 28 September. The Group will be led by its chairman, Mr David Peterson, a former Premier of Ontario, Canada, who arrives in Georgetown on Sunday night.

The Observers will split into small groups and spread out from Georgetown to as many polling stations as possible. Because these are intended to be surprise visits, the location of the stations to be visited will not be disclosed beforehand. Observing will start with the opening of polling and will continue until the ballot boxes are sealed and delivered to the Election Commission where they will be stored unopened until the close of polls on 5 October.

Tomorrow (Sunday), the eve of the disciplined services vote, some of the Observers will fly into the interior for a day-long survey of polling stations. This will be their first trip out of Georgetown since their arrival on Tuesday. One group will fly to the north-west and the other to the south.

The Observers have had useful discussion with the Chairman of the Election Commission, Mr Rudy Collins, and other Commission members on the Commission's preparations for the elections. On Wednesday, they also met officials of the Electoral Assistance Bureau to seek their views. They have also attended several party public meetings to observe for themselves the conduct of campaigning.

By the end of this week, the Observers would have met leaders from nine of the eleven political parties contesting the elections - People's Democratic Movement, United Republican Party, Working People's Alliance, The United Force, National Republican Party, Union of Guyanese International, People's Progressive Party/Civic, Democratic Labour Movement and People's National Congress. The Observers have listened to their views on all aspects of the electoral process, including preparations for the polling, arrangements for Monday's voting by the disciplined services, allegations of electoral abuses, access to the media, and their fears and concerns during the campaign period and for voting.

In the coming week before the elections, the Observers will continue to seek views from the public, and from other parties, agencies and organisations. Some will also begin to move out of Georgetown and take up station in interior locations. On election day, they will observe polling at stations in and around these locations and travel to stations further away. They intend to cover as much ground as possible so as to better come to a judgement at the end of the elections as to whether the entire process has been free and fair.

26 Sept 1992

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Guyana Elections

## Commonwealth Observer Group

### *News Release*

#### **COMMONWEALTH DEPLOYMENT FOR ELECTIONS: STATEMENT BY MR DAVID PETERSON, CHAIRMAN, COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP**

Yesterday, the Commonwealth Observer Group observed the voting by the Disciplined Services. To cover as wide an area as possible, the Group split into nine teams. One left Georgetown in the early hours of yesterday morning in order to be at New Amsterdam for the opening of polling at 6 a.m. It thereafter observed voting at stations on the Berbice and Corentyne. Another team was in Linden. Two Observers boarded the Skyvans which carried the floating ballot boxes. The other teams covered Georgetown, the West Bank and East Bank Demerara, and the East Coast Demerara down to West Berbice. I personally visited the stations at the Eve Leary Police Sports Club, Brickdam Police Station and Camp Ayanganna in Georgetown. In all, about 20 polling stations were visited from the opening of polling through most of the day to the closing.

By and large, the election officials knew their work and the party agents we met were positive about the process. We did observe a number of technical and procedural problems, including substantial delays in voting, and we believe that there are lessons to be learnt for the Election Commission to fine-tune the implementation of their various procedures before next Monday.

In the next few days, the Group will be splitting up again and moving out of Georgetown. By election day, the Commonwealth will be represented in all 10 regions. They will be in Georgetown, the East and West Bank Demerara, and East Coast Demerara, Mabaruma, Hampton Court, Madhia, Kamarang, Lethem, the Corentyne, Mahaica and West Berbice, and Linden. They will meet and speak to election officials, political leaders and voters in these areas, and will travel to as many polling stations as possible on Monday to observe the opening of the polls, voting through the day, the closing of the polls and the count.

Thereafter, the Group will return to Georgetown where they will work on their report which will be submitted to the Commonwealth Secretary-General. He will make it available to the Government of Guyana, all political parties and to other Commonwealth Governments.

As soon after the close of the polls as possible, I will issue an interim report of the Group's judgement of the conduct of the elections as a whole.

The Commonwealth hopes that these elections will be free, fair and peaceful, and that the process will be as transparent as the people of Guyana obviously wish it to be.

29 Sept 1992

## ANNEX V

### Deployment of Observer Group for Polling

#### Deployment for Observation of the Disciplined Forces' Voting, 28 September 1992

| AREA                                    | POLLING STATIONS  | OBSERVERS                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Georgetown</b>                       | Police<br>7 and 8 | Mr David Peterson<br>Mr Fakhruddin Ahmed<br>(Mr Dundas / Ms Dorall) |
|                                         | Defence<br>2      | " "                                                                 |
|                                         | Prisons<br>1      | " "                                                                 |
|                                         | Police<br>9       | Mr Robert McCaffrey /<br>Sen. C Gardner<br>(Dr Barrow)              |
|                                         | Defence<br>3      | " "                                                                 |
| <b>Linden</b>                           | Police<br>24      | Sir Martin Ewans /<br>Mr S Seepersad<br>(Mr Rweyemamu)              |
|                                         | Defence<br>6      | " "                                                                 |
| <b>West Bank Demerara</b>               | Police<br>5       | Mrs Shirley Miller /<br>Lord N Carmichael /<br>Hon. P Seloma        |
| <b>East Bank Demerara<br/>(Timehri)</b> | Police<br>10      | Mr Samarendra Kundu /<br>Mr James King<br>(Mr Packer)               |
|                                         | Defence<br>4 & 5  | " "                                                                 |
|                                         | Prisons<br>2      | " "                                                                 |

|                            |                          |                                                           |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>East Coast Demerara</b> | Police<br>11, 12, 13, 14 | Dame Ann Hercus/<br>Alhaji Mamadou Cham<br>(Mr Nzerem)    |
| <b>West Coast Berbice</b>  | Prisons<br>5             | " "                                                       |
| <b>Berbice/Corentyne</b>   | Police<br>15, 16, 17     | Mr Eustace Seignoret/<br>Mr Anthony Dingle<br>(Mr Bailur) |
|                            | Defence<br>11, 12        | " "                                                       |
|                            | Prisons<br>3             | " "                                                       |

#### **Deployment of Observers for Polling Day 5 October 1992**

| <b>AREA</b>                                                 | <b>OBSERVERS</b>                                                                    | <b>DURATION</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Region 1 (Mabaruma)                                         | Lord N Carmichael<br>(Dr Barrow)                                                    | 2-6 Oct         |
| Region 2 (Hampton Court)                                    | Mr Eustace Seignoret<br>Mr Anthony Dingle                                           | 30 Sept-6 Oct   |
| Region 3 (West Bank Demerara)                               | Sir Martin Ewans<br>Mr James King                                                   |                 |
| Region 4 (Georgetown/<br>East Bank Demerara/<br>East Coast) | Mr David Peterson<br>(Mr Dundas<br>Ms Dorall)<br><br>Dame Ann Hercus<br>(Mr Nzerem) |                 |
| Region 5 (Mahaica/West Berbice)                             | Mrs Shirley Miller<br>Mr Stephen Seepersad                                          |                 |
| Region 6 (Corentyne)                                        | Mr Samarendra Kundu<br>Sen. Charmaine Gardner                                       | 1-5 Oct         |

|                                         |                                                  |                                    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Region 7 (Kamarang, etc.)               | Mr Robert McCaffrey<br>(Mr Rweyemamu)            | To polling<br>stations<br>by plane |
| Region 8 (Mahdhia)                      | Mr Fakhruddin Ahmed<br>(Mr Packer)               | 2-6 Oct                            |
| Region 9 (Lethem)                       | Alhaji Mamadou Cham<br>(Mr Bailur)               | 30 Sept-6 Oct                      |
| Region 10 (Linden and environs)         | Ms Jocelyn Lucas<br>Mr Pelokgale Seloma          | 1-6 Oct                            |
| Base (Forte Crest Hotel,<br>Georgetown) | (Mrs C Wright<br>Mr W De Four<br>Mrs B Kiwanuka) |                                    |

## **ANNEX VI**

### **Check List and Polling Station Report**

#### **NOTES FOR OBSERVERS** **Some of the things to look for**

#### **PART A**

The Observers may focus particular attention on the following aspects of the conduct of the election:

#### **POLITICAL CAMPAIGN**

1. The nature of access to the electronic media (TV and radio) available to the opposition parties.
2. The procedure for the allocation of time for political broadcasts and advertisements (free or on payment), on the radio and television as provided in the guidelines of the Elections Commission and the extent of their observance.
3. The nature of access enjoyed by the political parties to the print media; allegations of misreporting and how the complaints were dealt with.
4. The tone and contents of political broadcasts, advertisements and posters put out by the political parties.
5. The conduct of political meetings.
6. The conduct of house-to-house canvassing of voters.
7. The voter-education programme on radio and television conducted by the Elections Commission, EAB and the parties.
8. Permits for public meetings.
9. Role of police at public meetings.
10. Access to printing facilities.
11. Access to funds and sources of funds.
12. Access to state services; instances of misuse of state resources.

#### **Questions that may be put before polling day**

1. Is electoral register full and correct? People missed off? Are there names of dead people/people who have moved away included?
2. Are election officials confident about arrangements? Are political parties and local notables (priests, lawyers, etc.), satisfied?

3. Is the man in the street satisfied with arrangements? Will he vote? If not, is he afraid to do so? Why?
4. Has the campaign been free of intimidation, etc? Have all parties had full access to media?
5. Is advertising (posters, leaflets, etc.), free?
6. How will voters' IDs be checked? Will it be possible to vote twice?
7. How will those away from home or ill in bed be able to vote?

## **PART B**

### **CONDUCT OF THE POLLS ON POLLING DAY**

1. The siting of polling stations.
2. Seating arrangements in the polling stations.
3. The accuracy of the list of electors at the polling stations.
4. Distances travelled by voters to polling stations in rural areas.
5. The length of time voters waited to cast their votes.
6. The state of readiness of polling stations.
7. Availability of adequate supplies, e.g. ballot papers, sealing wax, etc.
8. Security of ballot papers prior to elections.
9. The steps (if any) taken to ensure that the secrecy of the ballot is assured.
10. The performance of the elections officers at the polling station visited.
11. The procedure followed at the opening of the poll.
12. The adequacy or otherwise of polling stations' facilities.
13. Comments of polling agents on the arrangements.
14. The procedure for use of indelible ink.
15. The incidence of loss of registration card.
16. The number (if any) of persons without identity cards but with other evidence of identity who were not allowed to vote.
17. The procedures in place to ensure the proper security of ballot papers, ballot boxes and official seals.
18. The general electoral environment that prevailed at the polling stations visited.
19. Intimidation of voters by security officers and others, if any.
20. Likely percentage of potential voters denied registration through early closure of polls.
21. Procedures for voters to challenge their exclusion from the rolls.

## THE COUNT

1. The process of reconciling the number of people that voted with the number of ballot stubs received.
2. The determination of invalid ballots which were stamped and rejected.
3. The conduct of the presiding officers and their counting assistants at counting.
4. The preparation of the Declaration of the Result of the Poll.
5. Inspection of seals.

### Questions that may be put on the polling day:

1. Were all procedures agreed beforehand being adhered to?
2. Before polling starts, were the ballot boxes empty? Were they properly sealed?
3. Were all parties represented at polling stations? Were they satisfied with the process?
4. Were IDs being properly checked? In the absence of ID cards, was other evidence of identity taken into account and voters allowed to vote?
5. Were voters apparently voting freely? Were they enthusiastic? Did they talk freely? Did they exhibit signs of fear or intimidation?
6. Did voters understand procedures properly? If not, were they being explained fully and impartially? Were attempts being made to suggest how people should vote?
7. Was only one person at a time allowed into the voting booth? Did their ballot papers go straight into the sealed box?
8. How long were voters waiting to vote? If a long time, were some being put off?
9. Who were the elections officers? Were they ex-Party people? How were they chosen? Were they trained by EAB?
10. Were all parties present at polling stations throughout voting and counting?
11. Did foreign observers have free access to all stages of the process?
12. Were voters asked suspicious questions after leaving the ballot box?

### After Voting

1. Were all parties/observers present at opening of the boxes?
2. Did the number of used ballot papers tally with the record of those who had voted?
3. Were the ballot papers counted properly? Were any valid ones spoiled during counting, intentionally or otherwise?

## Polling Station Report

### PART C

Name/Team:

Polling Station Visited:

Time:

ACCESS

Comments

(if necessary)

Were you allowed full access to the polling station? Yes [ ]  
No [ ]

### OFFICIALS/POLLING AGENTS

Were you received well by officials? Yes [ ]  
No [ ]  
Did they have any comments or complaints? Yes [ ]  
No [ ]  
Did polling agents have any complaints? Yes [ ]  
No [ ]

### MOOD

Was the mood Orderly? [ ]  
Tense? [ ]  
Violent? [ ]  
Excited? [ ]  
Happy? [ ]

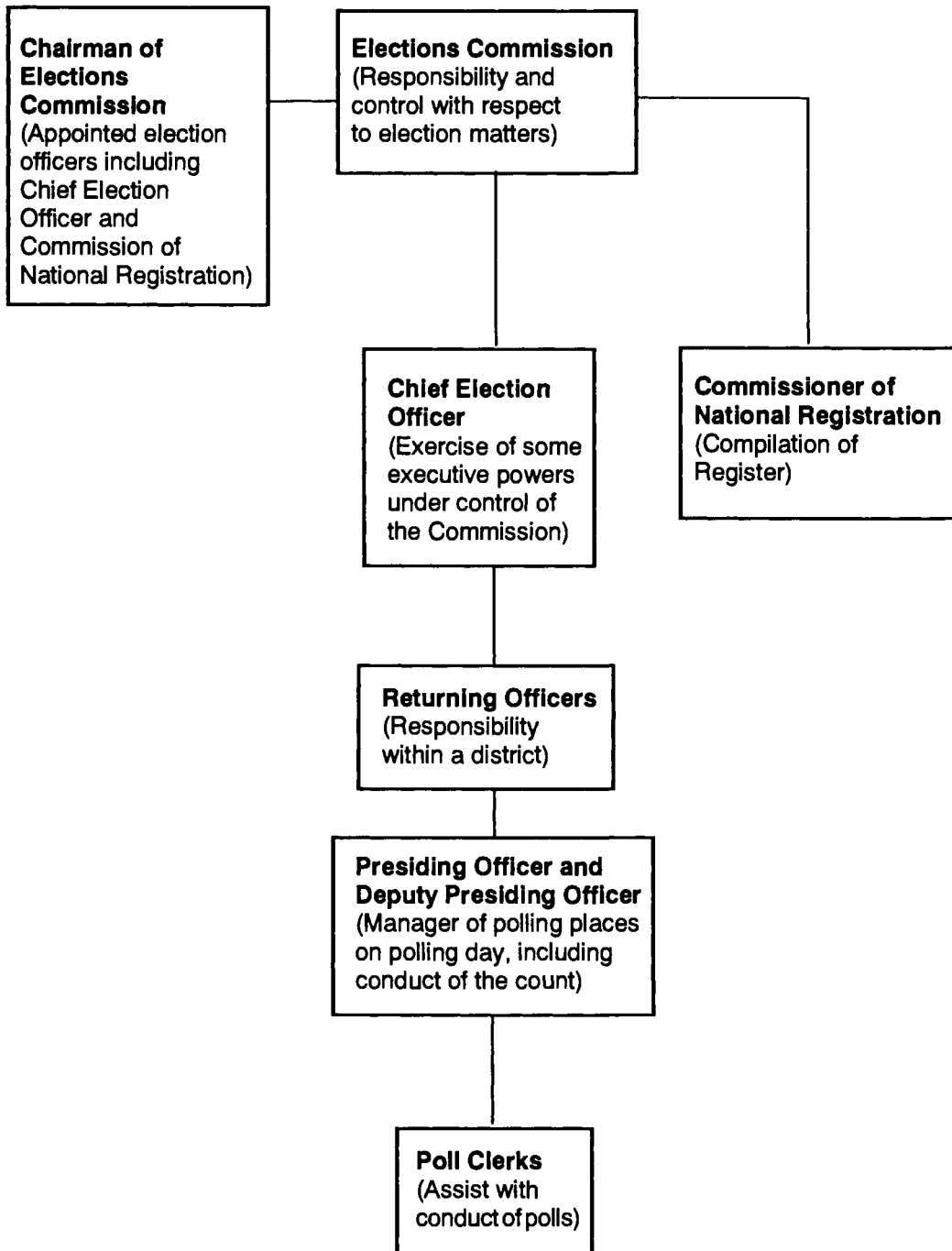
### IF YOU SPOKE TO VOTERS

- were they happy to talk? [ ]  
- generally satisfied? [ ]  
- did they have any complaints? [ ]  
    Were any of these: intimidation? [ ]  
                                  harassment? [ ]  
                                  unfairness? [ ]  
                                  confusion? [ ]

### GENERAL COMMENTS ON APPARENT FAIRNESS:

## ANNEX VII

### Structure of Tasks for Elections Officials



# ANNEX VIII

## Sample Ballot Paper

Counterfoil

No 307223

Elector's

No.

In Official  
List

### GENERAL ELECTIONS

|    |                                                                      |                                                                                     |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | <b>D. L. M.</b><br>DEMOCRATIC LABOUR MOVEMENT<br>Candidates' List    |    |
| 2  | <b>N. D. F.</b><br>NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT<br>Candidates' List     |    |
| 3  | <b>N. R. P.</b><br>NATIONAL REPUBLICAN PARTY<br>Candidates' List     |    |
| 4  | <b>P. D. M.</b><br>PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT<br>Candidates' List  |    |
| 5  | <b>P. N. C.</b><br>PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS<br>Candidates' List    |    |
| 6  | <b>P. P. P.</b><br>PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY<br>Candidates' List    |    |
| 7  | <b>T. U. F.</b><br>THE UNITED FORCE<br>Candidates' List              |   |
| 8  | <b>U. G. I.</b><br>UNITED GUYANESE INTERNATIONAL<br>Candidates' List |  |
| 9  | <b>U. R. P.</b><br>UNITED REPUBLICAN PARTY<br>Candidates' List       |  |
| 10 | <b>U. W. P.</b><br>UNITED WORKERS' PARTY<br>Candidates' List         |  |
| 11 | <b>W. P. A.</b><br>WORKING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE<br>Candidates' List     |  |

(CORRECT TITLE-  
PPP/CIVIC)

(CORRECT TITLE-  
UNION OF GUYANESE  
INTERNATIONAL)

Counterfoil

No 307223

Elector's

No.

In Official  
List

### REGIONAL ELECTIONS FOR REGION No. 1

|   |                                                                   |                                                                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <b>P. N. C.</b><br>PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS<br>Candidates' List |  |
| 2 | <b>P. P. P.</b><br>PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY<br>Candidates' List |  |
| 3 | <b>T. U. F.</b><br>THE UNITED FORCE<br>Candidates' List           |  |
| 4 | <b>U. R. P.</b><br>UNITED REPUBLICAN PARTY<br>Candidates' List    |  |
| 5 | <b>W. P. A.</b><br>WORKING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE<br>Candidates' List  |  |

## **ANNEX IX**

### **List of Party Public Meetings Attended by Observers**

#### **Thursday 24 September**

WPA meetings at:

- 5.00 p m Sophia Square Area North/South Middle Dam (Georgetown)
- 6.30 p m Punt Trench Dam, Albouystown/La Penitence (Georgetown)
- 6.30 p m MMZ Tarla Dam (West Coast Demerara)

PPP meetings at:

- 6.00 p m Covent Garden (East Bank Demerara)  
Butcher Shop Street
- 6.30 p m Durban & Louisa (Georgetown)

#### **Friday 25 September**

PPP meeting at:

- 6.30 p m Enmore Log Wood

PNC meeting at:

- 6.30 p m Industry, Railway Line

WPA meeting at:

- 6.00 p m Georgetown, John Forde car park

#### **Friday 2 October**

PPP meetings at:

- 5.30 p m Leonora Market Square, Georgetown

PNC meetings at:

- 6.30 p m Leopold & Breda Streets, Werk-on-Rust

TUF meetings at:

- 5.00 p m First and Cress St. Alexander Village

#### **Saturday 3 October**

PPP meeting at:

- 5.30 p m Kitty

TUF meetings at:

- 4.00 p m South Ruimveldt (Mandela Avenue & Shopping Plaza Turn)
- 5.30 p m Annandale (Market Square)

WPA meeting at:  
6.00 p m Vissengen & Laing Avenue

**Sunday 4 October**

WPA meetings at:  
6.00 p m Kitty

PNC meeting at:  
5.00 p m Mandela Avenue and Vissengen Road, Roxanne Burnham Gardens,  
Georgetown

PPP meetings at:  
5.30 p m Herstellang, East Bank

## ANNEX X

### Guidelines for Media and Political Parties

#### **GUIDELINES FOR MEDIA AND POLITICAL PARTIES**

##### **CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND**

Freedom of expression by the media - radio, television and print - is a symbol of democracy. The manner in which the media use their freedom carries an obligation to serve the society and public as a whole. Because of this need to serve the public, the media inherit a public trust. The media have a responsibility to conduct their operations at all times in a professional manner and to exercise critical and discerning judgment which respects and advances the rights and dignity of all people and maintains standards of good taste as reflected by the society and public served. The media must enrich the daily life of the people they serve through information, education and entertainment; they must provide for the fair discussion of matters of public concern; engage in works directed toward the common good; and volunteer aid and comfort in times of stress and emergency.

##### **2. GENERAL GUIDELINES DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD \***

###### **(a) News**

News reporting should be factual, fair and without bias. Professional care should be maintained in the use and selection of news sources. News analysis, commentary and editorials should be clearly identified as such, distinguishing them from straight news reporting.

###### **(b) Controversial Public Issues**

Expressions of responsible views on public issues of a controversial nature should give fair representation to opposing sides of issues. Requests by individuals, groups or organizations to present their views on controversial public issues should be considered on the basis of their individual merits and in the light of their contributions to the public interest.

\* The official campaign period for these Guidelines is defined as that time between Nomination Day and Election Day.

### **3. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD**

#### **(a) Access by Political Parties**

During the Campaign Period, the media have a special responsibility to the public to encourage participation by the electorate in the democratic process and to ensure they have the opportunity to be informed on the candidates and issues. To enable this, the Guyana Elections Commission requests that the broadcast media--radio and television--make available at no cost a minimum of five minutes of prime time weekly to each political party with candidates for national office, and also requests that daily publication print media make available at no cost 10 column inches of space weekly to each qualified political party. The Chairman of the Elections Commission shall notify the media of the Parties that qualify for this free coverage. All such programs and columns should be clearly identified as a public service political message prepared by the (name) political party and unedited by the (media). The (name) political party is solely responsible for its content. Programs and messages exceeding the free time and space allocations may be rejected or returned to the Party. The media may establish reasonable deadlines for submission of the materials in order to fit their broadcast or publication schedules. The media shall ensure all Parties are given equal treatment and access as to time and location of these messages. Concerning access to radio broadcasts, in order to provide complete geographic coverage, it may be necessary to repeat the programs at a different time and frequency.

#### **(b) Paid Political Messages**

Political Parties or candidates who wish additional time and space should pay for all messages or advertisements at current established rates - preferably the lowest published rate - but each Party should be charged the same rate.

Further the media must ensure that all Parties and candidates have equal access to the broadcast times and schedule for broadcast media; and similar equitable access, space and location, for print media. One political Party or candidate should not be allowed to block access by other Parties or candidates by purchasing all availabilities of time or space.

Equitable and fair treatment of all Parties and candidates must be the standard adhered to by all media. While the above addresses equitable treatment concerning broadcast or publication of the messages, the same standard must be applied to any production in preparation for broadcast or publication.

Payment terms for political advertisements should be the same for all Parties utilizing the industry standard of cash in advance. All paid political messages should carry a statement that they are a "Paid Political Advertisement."

**(c) Correction of Media Errors**

Broadcast or publication errors beyond the control of the medium, i.e. mechanical failure or act of God, should be corrected in accordance with standard broadcast or publication policies or procedures for correction of mistakes. The media may not censor, change or alter in any manner any of the materials presented by the Parties or candidates for broadcast or publication by the media.

**(d) Questionable Materials**

In the event any of the media believe a political message not to be in good taste, or contrary to the public interest, security, peace or morality, the questioned political message may be rejected by the media. However the media must provide specific details to the Party as to the reason for rejection and allow the material to be changed to meet broadcast or publication standards.

**(e) Disclaimers**

The media shall insert or broadcast a disclaimer daily when any free or paid political messages will be carried published by their medium. For example: "The political messages or advertisements published in today's newspaper are prepared by the Political Party or candidate without editing or change and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper." One insert anywhere in the newspaper should be sufficient. A similar statement shall be made by the broadcast media at least once during the broadcast day and not necessarily immediately preceding or following broadcast of political material.

## ANNEX XI

### Statement on Elections by Observer Group



Guyana Elections

## Commonwealth Observer Group

### *News Release*

#### STATEMENT ON THE GUYANA ELECTIONS, ISSUED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP

In the period up to the 5 October elections and on Election Day itself, the Commonwealth Observer Group was deployed in all 10 regions in Guyana. Our task was to observe every relevant aspect of the organisation and conduct of the elections in accordance with the laws of Guyana. We talked to interested parties and observed both the run-up to the elections and the electoral process itself. On Election Day, we visited a substantial number of polling stations throughout the country.

We did observe a range of procedural and technical problems, but our present judgement is that they do not, in themselves or in total, undermine the outcome. In the interests of strengthening democracy in Guyana, we will draw attention in our final report to imperfections which came to our notice. However, our conclusion is that, taking the country as a whole, the organisation and conduct of polling were properly and impartially carried out. We were impressed with the dedication shown by a large number of the electoral officials, who tackled their tasks with a commendable sense of public duty.

At the present moment, we understand that results are being received in the Election Commission and that a final outcome is still to be announced. In terms of our mandate from Commonwealth governments, our concern is only with the organisation and conduct of the elections. We thank the people of Guyana and their political leaders for the many kindness which we have received and trust that, like us, they will accept that the outcome is the democratic expression of their will.

6 October 1992

Forte Crest Georgetown ♦ P O Box 101147 Georgetown, Guyana  
Telephone: 592-2-52856 ♦ Facsimile: 592-2-60532 ♦ Telex: 0295-312 2234

## ANNEX XII

### Departure Statement by Observer Group



Guyana Elections

## Commonwealth Observer Group

*News Release*

8 October 1992

#### DEPARTURE STATEMENT BY THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP

The Commonwealth Observer Group leaves tomorrow after nearly three weeks in Guyana during which we made many friends and developed a great respect for the people of this country. Our mandate was to observe all relevant aspects of arrangements for the elections as well as the conduct of the poll itself, and to form a judgement as to whether, in our independent view, the election process as a whole was free and fair. Our mission is now ended and we leave proud and honoured to have been part of a historic democratic process.

We would like to express our admiration for the Elections Commission which has had to formulate and implement new electoral procedures under the weight of enormous pressure and tremendous public expectation. In particular, we express our thanks to the Chairman of the Elections Commission, Mr Rudy Collins, on whose shoulders fell much of the responsibility for steering these elections through to a successful conclusion.

The Commonwealth presence in Guyana, of course, does not end here. This country has had a long and valued membership of the Commonwealth and we look forward to Guyana's continued and respected presence in the association's many forums. We hope that on-going and future technical and other assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat, particularly through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), will go some way to helping Guyana develop into the strong and vibrant democracy its people obviously wish for.

We thank the government and people of Guyana once again for their hospitality, and we each of us take back to our countries a greater knowledge of a fellow Commonwealth member and warm memories of our stay here.