

THE UNITED FORCE

MANIFESTO FOR THE NINETIES



HIGHWAYS TO HAPPINESS II

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

SECTION ONE - PEOPLE FIRST

- EDUCATION
- HEALTH
- HOUSING
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SECTION TWO - DEVELOPING GUYANA

- MAGIC CIRCLES OF ROADS
- HYDRO ELECTRICITY
- AGRICULTURE
- INDUSTRY

SECTION THREE - FINANCE

- SAVINGS
- INCOME TAX

SECTION FOUR - CRITICAL CONCERNS

- WOMEN
- YOUTH
- SPORTS
- CULTURE
- ANTITRUST POLICY AND REGULATION
- CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM
- EXTERNAL RELATIONS
- POLICE AND DEFENCE
- AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

In 1964 Guyana had its last elections which were free from allegations of fraud and electoral malpractices. For these elections the UNITED FORCE published its manifesto. *HIGHWAYS TO HAPPINESS*.

That manifesto outlined the Party's plans for a free and developed Guyana, based on the principles of democracy, free enterprise and Caribbean Unity.

For the next four elections (during the last two decades) the UNITED FORCE maintained *HIGHWAYS TO HAPPINESS*, as its manifesto.

Why?

It outlined ideals and plans which we saw as the path to a better Guyana. Today countries of the Communist and Socialist Blocks have begun to adopt these same policies, proving our words to be prophetic.

From the mould of *HIGHWAYS TO HAPPINESS* we produce our plans for the nineties. We call it *HIGHWAYS TO HAPPINESS II*. As we approach this election with the hope that it will be free from allegations of fraud, the UNITED FORCE remains steadfast to the principles it has enunciated since its birth over thirty years ago.

What makes us different from the parties of latter day capitalists, are:

- our belief in democracy.
- our belief in a competitive free market economy.
- our belief, trust and fate in GOD.

Our plans for the nineties will bring forth a Guyana which will be a shining example in our Region.

Join us on our journey to prosperity.

Very Sincerely,

MANZOOR NADIR

NOW IS U. F. TIME

THE UNITED FORCE

Declaration Of Belief And Intent

GOALS - IDEALS - ACTION

For A New, Free And Independent Nation

Fellow Countrymen,

A new nation is being born
It is your nation and mine.

For all of us the birth should be a glorious event. With it should come hope, faith, the bright promise of all that is newly born.

History will record the birth and progress of our new nation. We who will live under its flag will shape its destiny through the government we will elect.

The UNITED FORCE herein outlines its philosophy, makes clear its beliefs. We tell you what the elected representatives should set as a new goal; and we set forth our plan to develop our country so that there will be a full life for all.

We believe that the ideal government fill the basic needs of the people. We carefully analyze what these needs are, and how everyone should be able to satisfy their needs.

We affirm our belief in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. We show that our own policies and economic ideals are in complete conformity with the United Nations Declaration.

We outline in detail a development plan to build a better Guiana. A plan to provide everyone with enough for security, a home, land, dignity and self-respect.

We believe that our ideals are in line with the aspirations of every Guianese, and that the best and quickest way to achieve them is through acceptance of our plan.

We seek harmony between people of all races, religions and regions for our land for today and for the days to come. We put behind the pains and sufferings, the resentments and regrets of yesteryears. We only look towards a FULL LIFE in the shining dawn of tomorrow, for us, our children, and our children's children.

Let us lift our eyes to the high places. May we each in our own way be grateful to a DIVINE POWER, and humbly ask help as we stand on the threshold of a new destiny and a Better Way of Life.

Yours Sincerely,
PETER d'AGUIAR

SECTION ONE

PEOPLE FIRST

The UNITED FORCE believes that the purpose of government is to fulfil the needs of the people. These are unusually tough times for our people, as such a UNITED FORCE government will begin by serving the needs of the people. The immediate concerns are in the areas of:

EDUCATION

HEALTH

HOUSING

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**EACH PERSON PERFORMING
AT OPTIMUM CAPACITY
IS THE KEY TO A
PROSPEROUS SOCIETY**

I - EDUCATION

Salvation for Guyana rests with our ability and willingness to educate our people. We can all find examples of our friends who came from humble and poor parentage, but by educating themselves they have achieved a better life. By the end of the 1960s Guyana was able to boast of having the best education system in the Commonwealth Caribbean - thanks to the UNITED FORCE coalition government of the 1964-1968 period.

Today our education system has collapsed and our teachers leave in droves to educate the children of other countries.

THE UNITED FORCE AIMS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION TO OUR CHILDREN SO THAT THEY COULD MOVE FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE BOARDROOM; FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE RESEARCH LABS. EDUCATION TO PROVIDE THE PEOPLE FOR QUALITY SERVICE TO GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASED AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT AND TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS NATION BUILDING.

The specific strategy the UNITED FORCE has to achieve this entails improving the school environment, dealing with personnel, ensuring our children are in school and opening education to private and special interest.

THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

ARRESTING THE DECLINE OF SCHOOLS

Existing schools are in need of urgent repairs and rehabilitation. The physical buildings, furniture and grounds do not provide a conducive environment for learning, recreation and sports. A UNITED FORCE government will begin this process of arresting the decline of our schools with immediate effect.

SCHOOLS OVERCROWDING

Our schools are severely overcrowded. In order to relieve this problem and to accommodate new entrants the UNITED FORCE estimate that by the end of this decade we will need over 100 new schools providing for more than 50,000 places in the primary and secondary divisions. This is a mammoth undertaking which will pay handsome dividends in the next century.

PROVIDING MORE VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL AND COMPUTER EDUCATION

A UNITED FORCE government will pay more attention to vocational and technical education. Such training will offer our youths additional opportunities beyond formal academic education. In order to prepare our youths for the technological age we will embark upon a programme of computer education in several of our schools. In addition private institutions which are willing to establish computer schools and training facilities will have all their equipment exempted from duties and other taxes.

PERSONNEL

RE-MAKING TEACHING AN HONORABLE PROFESSION

Today teaching could be considered a transitory profession. The qualified teachers are just waiting for an opportunity to migrate to teach overseas, the youths who have recently passed their exams (CXC and A'Levels) are awaiting to enter the careers of their choosing, but not teaching.

Gone are the days when a teacher was a person others looked up to. Poor working conditions, low salaries, limited opportunities for further training and promotion, have all contributed to the decline in the respectability of teaching. We will review the salaries of teachers, offering them a very attractive package which will provide for teachers who are motivated to remain in our system. Teachers will also be given the opportunity for further training, while the school expansion programme will guarantee them avenues for promotion.

CHILDREN SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL

The UNITED FORCE is very alarmed at the large numbers of children who are not in school. These children could be seen on the streets and working to assist with the support of their families. All children who are up to sixteen years old must be in school. This is a policy which the UNITED FORCE will implement.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND OTHER INTERESTS

NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

To assist with the task of improving our education system the UNITED FORCE will return to a system where there are schools run by churches and to allow for private schools to be established.

PRE-SCHOOLS

The UNITED FORCE will encourage the establishment of private pre-schools and will work with these persons and organizations which are interested in running these based on a fee payment system of self-financing.

TERTIARY EDUCATION

The UNITED FORCE will move towards integrating the University of Guyana with the University of the West Indies. This will offer expanded opportunities for the University and will strengthen the move towards Regional Integration.

O
U
R

PREPARING FOR
TOMORROW

F
U
T
U
R
E

II - HEALTH

A HEALTHY NATION IS A WEALTHY NATION = SO BELIEVES THE UNITED FORCE

Like Education, health will be given priority by a UNITED FORCE government. Also like education our health care system has been exhausted to its fullest. It has been brought to its knees and is begging for our help.

Our plans for fulfilling our policy for a healthy nation includes the following.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

This includes the building, renovating and expansion of hospitals and clinics.

Our estimates show that over 2500 hospital places are needed. Georgetown alone requires 1500 hundred of these. New Amsterdam, Bartica, Anna Regina, Lethem and Corriverton all need modern facilities to tender to the injured and sick in and around these communities.

Our Clinics (MCH) will be revamped to provide for the immediate community needs.

Frequent medical visits will be conducted in the riverain areas.

A UNITED FORCE government will ensure that adequate quantities of drugs and medical supplies are available, at an affordable price, for all.

HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL

Our health system needs a new army of doctors, nurses, sanitary inspectors, dentists and other medical auxiliaries. This policy requires an increase in the benefits of those persons already in the system and the training of new persons in the health services field.

PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

Improving health care services and improving the lot of our health care personnel are the immediate concerns of the UNITED FORCE.

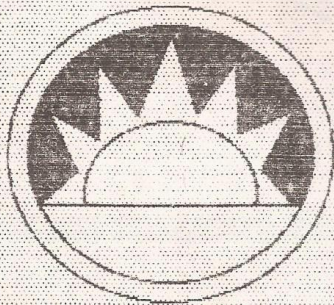
PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

It is the UNITED FORCE strategy to vigorously pursue a policy of preventative health care and sound health environment management.

Specific tactics are:

The re-introduction of hygiene and healthy living in the schools as part of the curriculum. Our pre-school and primary school children will be especially targeted so that good health habits will be cultivated at an early age in our people.

- * Community health education will complement our efforts in the schools.
- * Proper and effective immunization against diseases.
- * Pure water supplies for all by year 2000.
- * Introduction of a comprehensive programme of vector control.
- * Re-introduction of regular visits by sanitary inspectors.
- * Overhauling our sewage disposal system.
- * Re-introduction of regular collection and disposal of garbage.
- * Special assistance to our city, towns and villages to provide for immediate action towards cleaning their environs.



VOTE
UNITED
FORCE

III - HOUSING

There was a P.N.C. programme to "FEED, CLOTHE AND HOUSE THE NATION" by 1976. Nearly two decades later our people cannot afford to buy food. Relatives overseas have to send us clothes and condemned buildings are used for housing.

Our planners have estimated that there is an urgent need for a large number of two and three bedroom units throughout the entire country.

The housing market is perhaps the single most important contributor in the area of stimulating economic activity in a free market economy.

The UNITED FORCE will tackle the housing crisis with a policy which is aimed at:

- Getting people to buy and build their own homes
- Giving incentives to the private sector to build homes for sale and for rental.

HOME OWNERSHIP STRATEGY

The UNITED FORCE cannot guarantee everyone a palace, however, we believe that each Guyanese family should be afforded a modicum of comfort in the luxury of their own home.

Among the tactics which the UNITED FORCE will implement towards increasing home ownership are:

1. Establishing a HOME BUILDING AUTHORITY (HBA).

The HBA's role would be to facilitate groups of five (5) or more families to build their own homes on the basis of self-help.

HBA will:

- Assist with the bulk purchases of supplies
- Assist with the acquisition and provision of land
- Develop the infrastructure in the building area
- Provide technical assistance
- Assist with finding financing.

The HBA will focus on first-time home owners.

2. Income tax deduction of mortgage interest for first-time home owners.

3. Subsidize the price of Lumber.

4. Over US\$ 200 million in potential sectorial investment is awaiting to be mobilized among overseas based Guyanese. What we have to do is to ensure that these funds come into Guyana and is used to build and not just used to buy property from migrating individuals.

PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

Incentives will be given to the private sector so as to encourage investment in building units for sale or rent.

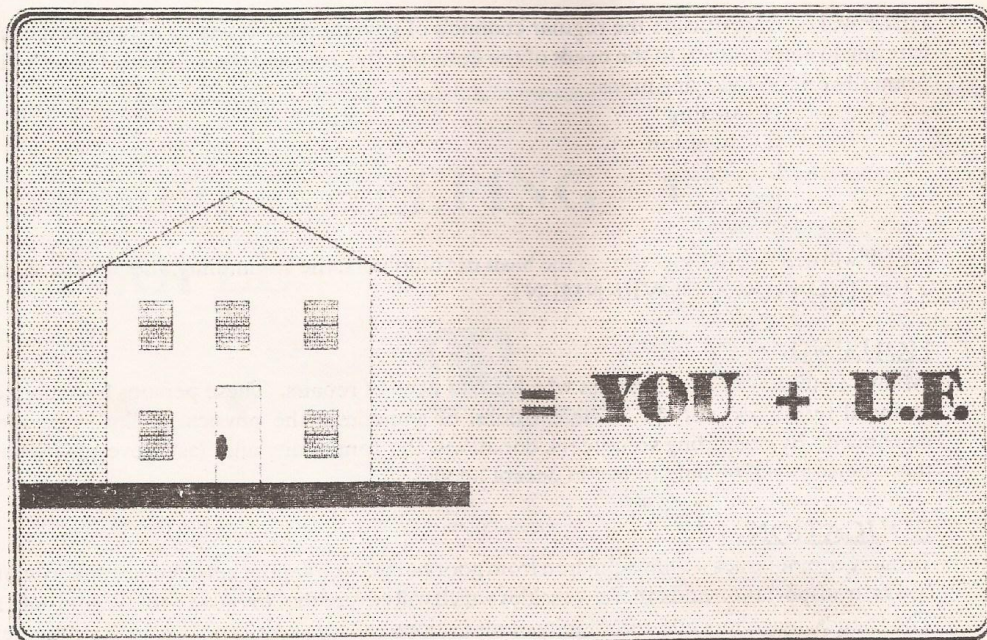
The landlord/tenant relationship will have to be reviewed. Under the present system Landlords are unwilling to rent homes because of the legal difficulties in dealing with tenants.

OTHER ACTIONS

Crucial towards the goal of more building activity is bringing the price of lumber down. The way to do this is to increase production and local supply.

An export tax will be placed on Lumber, the proceeds will be used to stimulate the local construction industry.

Concessions will be granted to new and small saw-millers so that they can produce more, and offer increased competition in the Lumber market.



IV - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Once people are given good education, proper health care and decent housing, they will use their education wisely, they will be ready to give a full day's work and they will ensure that they keep their homes. With this as their motivation we will experience productivity, growth and development which will propel us into prosperity.

We firmly believe that Education, Health and Housing are highways to happiness, however, along the way there will be those who will get a punctured tyre, those who will fall asleep at the wheel. To look out for these folks the UNITED FORCE will introduce a novel programme.

This programme will promote good-neighborliness, it will develop people who care for each other with a sense of community, it will promote a new level of co-operation among the people, the government and the private sector.

This UNITED FORCE programme we call H. E. L. P.

HELP will operate outside the regular channels of government. It will be a quick response unit catering to emergencies, to the needs of the destitute, the aged and the infirmed. HELP will focus primarily on the following areas:

H - ousing
E - ducation
L - and
P - eople

HELP will achieve its objective on the basis of volunteers, the community, the private sector and a UNITED FORCE GOVERNMENT.

HOUSING

Many of our people live in homes which are in need of repairs. These persons have neither the financial resources, nor the technical skills, or sometimes the physical ability to do the task demanded. By organizing volunteers, donations, the community and "fast" government support these persons will be able to live in decent abodes.

EDUCATION

In many communities we have children from poor homes who cannot get adequate school clothing, books, transportation and other necessities which will ensure that they can benefit from education. The friends, neighbors and community organizations will try to assist. HELP will strengthen the

informal network of assistance by putting some "order" in place. The HELP volunteers can also organize community programmes ("Lessons") and provide school meals for needy children.

READ GUYANA - a programme to encourage children to read will be developed and its implementation will be by the HELP network.

LAND

Guyana has one thing of value, land, which we can give to our people. It is shameful that we still find many homes on land to which the homeowner has no land title. The UNITED FORCE will ensure that this is corrected.

Our country still is comprised of many peasant communities. Access to Land is essential for these communities to subsist. Our Party will give title to state lands to these communities.

A special authority will be established to solve the problem of Land on which squatting communities exist.

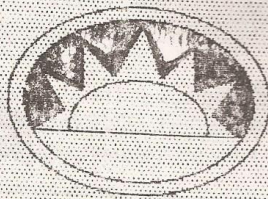
PEOPLE

HELP is all about people. People working, assisting and depending on each other. HELP depends on community volunteers all striving to build a society where civility, good-neighbourliness and community belongingness are paramount.



OUR AIM IS TO
CREATE THE
ENVIRONMENT
IN WHICH
INDIVIDUALS
WILL BE ABLE TO
REALIZE THEIR
FULL POTENTIAL

SUCCESS = YOU + U.F.



SECTION TWO

DEVELOPING GUYANA

In 1964 our *HIGHWAYS TO HAPPINESS (I)*, outlined a G\$ 900 million for a better Guyana. Today this path to economic growth and development still holds. The UNITED FORCE intends to pursue and enlarge this plan.

Everybody knows that we need to overhaul electricity, pure water supply, drainage and so on.

The UNITED FORCE is a party with bold vision. We look beyond crisis management and what is run down, and will work out a plan to put Guyana in a state of self-propelled growth.

Our blueprint includes:

I - MAGIC CIRCLES OF ROADS

One feature of our plan is to open Guyana with a network of new roads and to "black-top" all existing roads - our 1964 plan. These roads will stimulate agricultural and industrial growth. The magic circles of roads are *HIGHWAYS TO HAPPINESS*.

The "FIRST MAGIC CIRCLE" planned is a "GRAND CIRCLE" around the following: Georgetown, Timehri, Linden, Ituni, Kwakwani, Orealla, Crabwood Creek, New Amsterdam and back to Georgetown.

The "SECOND MAGIC CIRCLE" is a road from Ituni to Ebini, Mara and New Amsterdam. Thus cutting the grand circle into two.

The "THIRD MAGIC CIRCLE" is a road around Vreed-en-hoop, Parika, Sharima, Rockstone, Wismar, Wales and Vreed-en-hoop.

With these magic circles more than two million acres of land will become available for agriculture and other developmental uses.

From Ebini the road will extend to Lethem. This will open magnificent vistas for development. The cattle and dairy industries will come into their own. Agricultural diversification will be a possibility and the "interior" will at last yield its riches for the benefit of all Guyanese.

**THESE MAGIC CIRCLES OF ROADS ARE NOT
ILLUSIVE SCHEMES HATCHED FOR ELECTION
PURPOSES.**

They have been studied and are necessary for moving our country into the
next century.

II - HYDRO ELECTRICITY

A UNITED FORCE government will integrate a major hydro electric project into the electricity grid of the country. Be it Tumatumari or elsewhere. Guyana will have its own hydro electricity by 1996.

III - AGRICULTURE

The UNITED FORCE will pursue an agricultural policy which will be aimed at achieving food security for Guyana, the Commonwealth Caribbean and even further afield.

Continuing *Highways to Happiness (I)* we develop our agricultural plan.

The fault of the development programmes of many countries has often been the attempt to industrialize at the expense of agriculture.

We can learn from the mistakes of others.

In a developing country agriculture has three major roles to play. These are:

- Agriculture must supply the increased food necessary to meet a growing population
- Agricultural expansion is required to create capital, to earn foreign exchange, and to generate raw materials for industries
- The development of agriculture provides an important direct stimulus to overall prosperity. No country is prosperous unless its farmers are prosperous.

Agriculture, therefore, is a very important sector in our development plan. Farmers themselves should play a direct part in agricultural development. Agricultural policies imposed upon farmers by government do not succeed.

There is a need to enhance indigenous techniques and marrying the process in the laboratory with what has worked in the past. This calls for a close link between the farmer and the scientist.

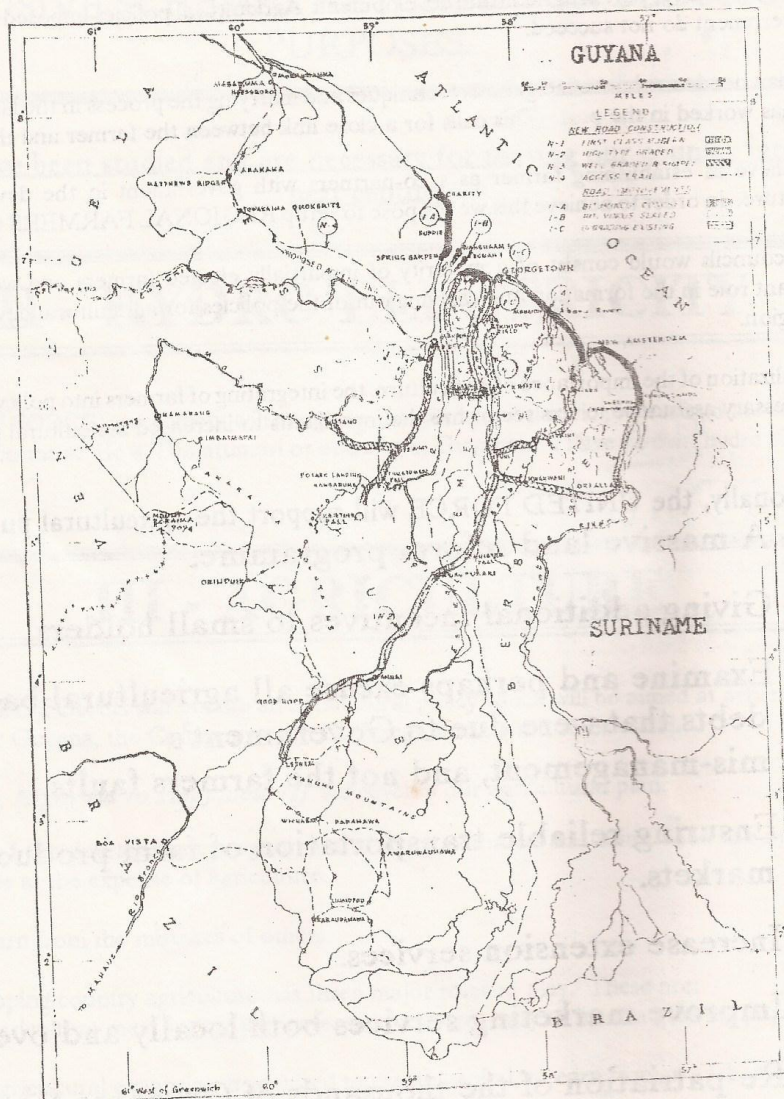
We believe in establishing farmer as s co-partners with government in the development of agriculture. In order to achieve this we propose to setup REGIONAL FARMERS COUNCILS.

These councils would consist of a majority of impartially elected farmers and would play an important role in the formation and carrying out of the policies for agricultural development of that region.

The realization of the importance of agriculture, the integrating of farmers into policy making and the necessary assistance to this sector are the ingredients to increased agricultural productivity.

Additionally, the UNITED FORCE will support the agricultural push by:

- A massive land reform programme.
- Giving additional incentives to small holders.
- Examine and perhaps excuse all agricultural bad debts that were due to Government's mis-management, and not the farmers faults.
- Ensuring reliable transportation of farm produce to markets.
- Increase extension services.
- Improve marketing services both locally and overseas.
- Re-patriation of the thousands of Guyanese farm workers now living in Suriname.
- Providing the necessary protection to our local agricultural sector.



AGRICULTURE TO GUYANA IS STILL RICE AND SUGAR.

THE RICE INDUSTRY

Today we produce only half the amount of Rice we did in 1965. The reason for this is the marginalization of the family farmer.

A UNITED FORCE government will increase Rice production by:

- Giving land to the family farmer.
- Allowing and encouraging small millers to compete with the magnates.
- Making available to the family farmer, small scale machinery as in Japan and Taiwan.
- Liberalization of rice exportation.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

Privatization alone cannot improve the fortunes of the sugar industry.

Sugar must not be seen as a raw material alone. By pursuing the above and taking advantage of the world famous Demerara label we can improve the fortunes of sugar. The UNITED FORCE notes that "Pizza Hut" U. K. serves Demerara brand tea packets of sugar, while Malawi exports in pre-packaged form, a "Demerara" Brand of brown sugar.

The UNITED FORCE will move to:

- The further refining of sugar and the production of speciality packaging.
- Venture into the development and marketing of the by-products of sugar, as in the case of Taiwan.

OTHER PRODUCE

We are in a unique position to use our comparative advantage in Labour costs to produce top quality fruits and vegetable for the vibrant Caribbean tourist market. There are also excellent soils for citrus plantations in Guyana. These will be maximally utilized.

LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY

This is another sector with tremendous potential at home and the Caribbean.

FISHERIES

Another lucrative area for Guyanese and international investors is fish and shrimp production.

A UNITED FORCE government will give tax holiday to any investors who will set up Fishing and shrimping facilities in Guyana.

AGRO - BASED INDUSTRIES

The over US\$ 5 billion worth of food that is imported into CARICOM from extra-regional sources, is a potential pot of gold for Guyana.

The UNITED FORCE will provide the foundations on which successful Agro-based industries can be built.

IV - INDUSTRY

The UNITED FORCE will create the conditions under which productive capital will be attracted to Guyana.

Investment is attracted to a country because of:

- POLITICAL STABILITY
- SOCIAL CONSENSUS
- INFRASTRUCTURE

It shies away because of:

- HIGH WAGE COSTS
- HIGH ENERGY COSTS
- HIGH TAX LEVELS
- COMPLEX GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY

Our policy is to encourage greater efficiency in existing industries and to attract new ones.

Areas targeted include:

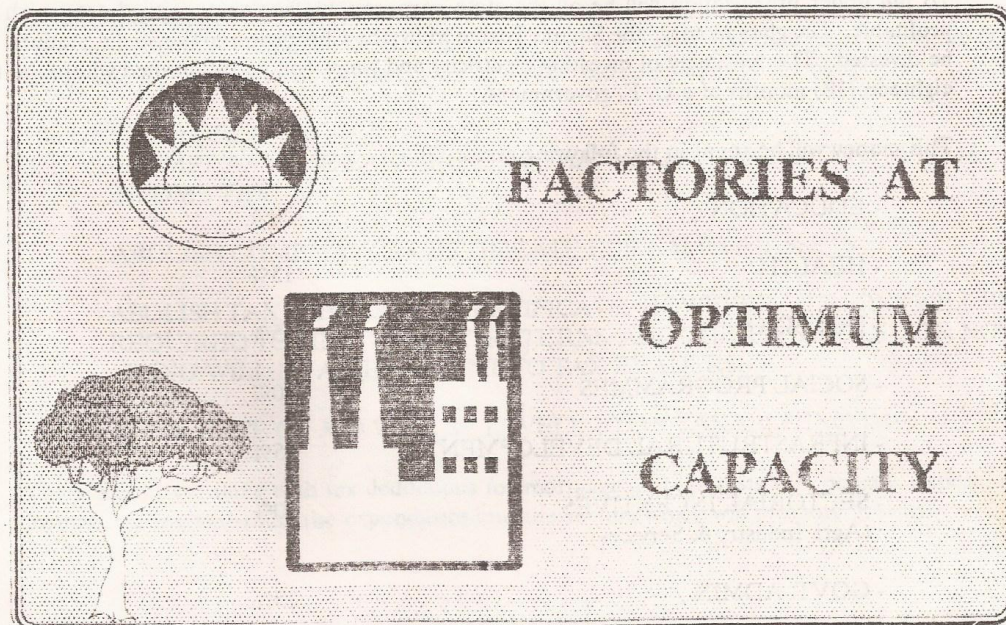
- Light manufacturing
- Textile and garment
- Furniture manufacture

MINING

Bauxite remains the chief mineral, while gold and precious stones will continue to make significant contributions.

Unfortunately, in both of these sectors, little is known about the details of the deals which the P.N.C. have struck.

The UNITED FORCE will review all existing arrangements in this sector, with the purpose of getting a better deal for GUYANA and in line with our principles of private ownership and competition.



SECTION THREE

FINANCE

Our Economists put an estimate of US\$2 billion on this 8 year plan of the UNITED FORCE. These funds will be had from the following sources:

- Aid, grants and loans	US\$ 0.8 Billion
- Privatization	US\$ 0.5 Billion
- Profit taxes, income taxes, sale taxes, duties and royalties	US\$ 0.7 Billion

Apart from the traditional areas of overseas assistance, the non-traditional countries (e.g. South East Asia) would be courted for assistance.

To fall under privatization will be all the state corporations, beginning with those which are profitable. The glass factory, the Sanata Textile Mills, the Chronicle and the Radio Stations will be divested. The feasibility of divesting electricity and water will be established within the first eighteen (18) months of a U. F. government.

This money will be spent in the following areas:

- EDUCATION	20%
- HEALTH	15%
- HOUSING	5%
- SOCIAL PROGRAMMES	10%
- INFRASTRUTURAL DEVELOPMENT	15%
- SECTORIAL INCENTIVES (Agri. Industry & Services)	20%
- GOVT. ADMIN	15%

we know about capital
how to get it
how to invest it
how to reproduce it
how to distribute it
yes we, the u. f. understand it

SAVINGS

Finance from local savings will be an integral part of the available pool of investment financing. A UNITED FORCE government will encourage our people to save by:

- Exempting for the next five years all taxes on interest paid on bank savings.
- Allowing a tax deduction of up to 20% of income earned if this fund is put into retirement accounts.

Of course, people can only save if they have money remaining after their basic monthly bills are paid.

The UNITED FORCE has as its policy G\$ 10,000.00 per month minimum.

INCOME TAX REVIEW

Peruvian economist Hernando De Soto has found that people will pay their taxes if laws are not unjust and if government is responsible to the needs and complaints of the people.

The UNITED FORCE will:

- EXEMPT ANYONE EARNING LESS THAN G\$ 10,000 PER MONTH FROM INCOME TAX
- ABOLISH COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE FOR SALE OF ASSETS
- ABOLISH TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE. HOWEVER, PERSONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO FILE YEARLY RETURNS AND THE PENALTIES FOR NOT FILING WILL BE A DETERRENT TO TAX EVADERS.
- A TOP RATE OF 30% WILL BE LEVELLED ON TAXABLE INCOME.

These measures, along with tax deductions for mortgage and interests will increase disposable income, while channelling the expenditure into the sectors which will promote growth.

SECTION FOUR

CRITICAL CONCERNS

The UNITED FORCE PARTY believes that Guyana cannot realise its full potential until women of Guyana are permitted to realise theirs, and will be afforded the maximal opportunity for self-fulfillment.

In accordance with this, a UNITED FORCE Government will:

- Upgrade the Wages and Conditions for Domestic Workers.
- Discourage domestic violence.
- Discourage sexual harassment against women.
- Establish Principles of respect in the relationship between the genders.
- Institute modern arrangements for the collection of child maintenance payments.
- Compulsory in camera hearing of rape cases.
- Introduce severe penalties for persons convicted of rape.

YOUTH

A UNITED FORCE Government will create opportunities for young people to make productive use of their time, energy and talents. The Young People of Guyana presently need help, help and inspiration.

In accordance with this, a UNITED FORCE Government would:

- Plan and implement a youth policy for social and economic development.
- Spend adequate funds on special programs and projects for the youth of working age.
- Introduce civics in the Curriculum of all schools so as to enhance the value system of the Guyanese society.

SPORTS

The UNITED FORCE Party regards sports as a means of human and social development, capable of inculcating values such as dedication, physical fitness, reliability, fair play, co-operation, mutual trust and respect. Therefore, a UNITED FORCE Government would seek to facilitate the development of sports to the fullest.

In pursuit of this objective, a UNITED FORCE Government would:

- Immediately re-organize the National Sports Development Council to enhance its capability to respond to the needs of sports persons and sporting organizations to the fullest.
- Remove import duties and other taxes on sporting equipment.
- Improve sporting facilities country wide.

CULTURE

The UNITED FORCE PARTY is cognizant of the fact that there are BARRIERS hindering the development of Guyanese culture.

In accordance with this, a UNITED FORCE government will encourage Guyanese Culture to evolve out of the Tradition and Experiences of the Guyanese peoples:

- Encourage the expression of music in its various forms.
- Develop a school of Theatrical Arts.
- Modernize and reopen to the public the archives.
- Develop a publishing house for the encouragement of creative writing.
- Encourage the development of the cinema-graphic industry

ANTITRUST POLICY AND REGULATION

While privatization has its good points these could easily be eroded if certain regulatory mechanisms are not put in place so as to ensure that we do not move from state monopolies to private monopolies. State monopolies suffer from inefficiency while private monopolies limit output and inflate prices, leading to exploitation of consumers and supernormal profit for the owners of the monopolies.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN U.F. AND THEM

**"THEY SPEAK OF
PRIVATIZATION
FOR PRIVATIZATION SAKE;
WE SPEAK OF A
FREE ENTERPRISE
COMPETITIVE ECONOMY"**

A free market competitive economy is the foundation stone of democracy. Where we do not have a free and competitive market economy, our democracy is prostituted.

Antitrust policies will not only give more persons a share in the distribution of the country's wealth, but will also provide (through competition) more goods, more variety, better quality, lower and more competitive prices, better service and consumer satisfaction. The USA, Canada, UK, Germany all have such policies. However in most of the Caribbean and Guyana (where there is an absence of such legislation), a few families control these economies.

The UNITED FORCE believes in this principle of PEOPLE'S ENTERPRISE CAPITALISM - Where our economy is made up of a large number of competing enterprises each without the ability to influence the invisible hand of the market.

**THE UNITED FORCE WILL INSTITUTE ANTITRUST LEGISLATION TO ENHANCE
PRIVATE INITIATIVE BY SUPPORTING COMPETITION IN BUSINESS.
AN ANTITRUST COMMISSION WILL IMPLEMENT THE LAW.**

REGULATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

the UNITED FORCE will put in place a regulatory commission to monitor big monopolies, especially electricity, telecommunications and water. The objective of this commission would be to ensure that the interest of the consumers are protected and that they are NOT exploited.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The primary source for our political and economical problems is the present constitution - what we call the P.N.C. CONSTITUTION.

CONSTITUTION COMMISSION - The UNITED FORCE will establish a constitution commission which will be charged with the responsibility of writing a democratic document.

SOCIALISM - The existing constitution is couched in Socialist Jargon and principles. It set out a blue print for a socialist state in Guyana. For example the preamble states:-

"CONVINCED" that the organisation of the state and society on socialist principles is the only means of ensuring social and economic justice.....

"BEING MOTIVATED" - and guided by the principles of Socialism. Throughout the constitution socialist objectives and principles are subtly written into the document.

There is no guarantee that another Socialist/Marxist party once they come to power would not abide by these misconceived policies.

To prevent this the UNITED FORCE will change the constitution to reflect the society which all Guyanese want.

ELECTORAL REFORM

These will include an INDEPENDENT ELECTIONS COMMISSION with the total responsibility of conducting elections.

The commission to be made up as follows:-

- A Chairman - one independently appointed by the President.
- One Seat to each Party with at least FIVE PERCENT (5%) of votes cast at the last elections.
- One additional seat to any Party getting THIRTY FIVE PERCENT (35%) or more of the votes cast.

Establishing a full-time ELECTIONS OFFICE with staff capable of publishing a yearly update of voters.

A FULL-TIME CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER TO BE APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSION.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

This will comprise sixty five (65) seats, fifty five (55) seats allocated according to proportional representation and one (1) seat for each Regional Council.

A member cannot cross the floor of the house by moving from one Party to another.

The Party can have the power to recall or retire one of its Members of Parliament.

PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER - Our presidential system allows for no checks and balances. The President being head of state and head of government has absolute power. It was a Greek philosopher that opined, "Power Corrupts and Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely".

We stand for:-

- A President nominated and receiving the majority of favorable votes by members of the National Assembly.
- The creation of a senate to make use of skills and expertise of talented Guyanese, and to serve as another check in the system.
- A Prime Minister - who heads the government. The Prime Minister being the member of the National Assembly who commands the support of the majority of the Assembly.
- The Minority Leader being renamed the Opposition Leader - that person being the one who commands the support of most of those members who are not with the government.

A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT will be implemented to give our people whatever they wish to know. Keeping in mind certain restrictions to protect the security of the state.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION - Public meetings can be held without the need to apply for police permission to use loud equipment. However the police must be notified so that they can provide for Law and Order.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Our Party will make the Ministry of Foreign Affairs into the Ministry of External Relations. This Ministry will deal with matters beyond diplomatic niceties and citizenry matters, but will also be responsible for all aspects of international trade, external aid and trade promotion.

While the UNITED FORCE maintains an independent and sovereign position which is non-aligned, we will pursue a foreign policy which will promote the principles of democracy and a free enterprise competitive economy. Of course the UNITED FORCE will pursue the ABC (America, Britain, Canada) of external relations.

The implementation of this policy will need an assessment of all embassies, consulates and the staffing in them.

CARICOM

The UNITED FORCE remains committed to the issues of Caribbean Unity and Integration:

- We will push for a Caribbean Common Market and Monetary Union
- We will allow all CARICOM nationals to reside and work in Guyana without any regulations or restrictions.
- We will seek the establishment of a Caribbean Parliament and a Regional Security System.

POLICE AND DEFENCE

During the years of the P.N.C. we have seen a decline in importance of the police and an increase in the influence of the military.

The UNITED FORCE will:

- Disband the military in line with the Costa Rica model.
- Strengthen the police force to allow it to fulfil the motto of service and protection.
- Give police the technical facilities to fight crime and enforce the law.
- Create a special Narco-Squad to deal with drug trafficking.
- The judiciary will be rejuvenated in order to bring speedy justice to accused persons.

AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

Our indigenous people would have under a UNITED FORCE government:

- Control over their own affairs.
- No central government to say who can and cannot visit Amerindian areas, but these matters will reside with the Amerindians.
- Will give title to lands which are rightfully Amerindian.
- They will have protection of their environment from mining and timber operators.
- Be encouraged to revive traditional cultural practices taken away over the past three decades.
- Be given the opportunity to charter a future they want.
- Benefit from enhanced marketing of their craft and other products.
- Be given immediate assistance to uplift their lives from the near destitute condition which they now face.

CONCLUSION

To save our country we have to look beyond crisis management, we have to be visionaries, we have to embark on bold new programmes, we have to become good managers.

**WITHOUT A VISION
THE PEOPLE PERISH**

**RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH
A NATION,**

**BUT SIN IS A REPROACH
TO ANY PEOPLE.**