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The United Force

Report of the Executive to the Annual Party Conference 2005

*A test to our survivability and growth -
Facing the Challenges of the political
environment.*

August 21 2005



INTRODUCTION

The last gathering of the party's members would have been held over a decade ago, when The United Force was preparing to contest the 1994 municipal and local government elections. The party, however, has been very active in the political and democratic changes in our country, making significant contributions at the several fora that were so organized and also making its contributions in the Parliament and Government.

The United Force, being the third oldest existing party has a proven history of fighting for a free enterprise economy and for a democratic society.

The period under this report saw many challenges to the party. It is testimony to the commitment and hard work of the members and of the Executive that we are today pleased to present this report of the Executive on our record of the stewardship of the party.

The report deals with the

- Party work
- Party's social responsibility
- Party's role in electoral and constitutional reform
- Participation in elections

PARTY WORK

It is not an easy task to keep party activities vibrant and aggressive. The issue of racial recriminations, the bad image of party politics and the antagonistic nature of Guyanese politics and political behaviour, turn off the general population from being involved in party politics. Nevertheless, the United Force can boast of being among the top

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three organized political parties in our country. Our membership continue to stretch throughout the length and breath of our Land.

Party activists, groups and supporters have held steadfast during the last decade and inspite of the challenges and the limited resources, have kept our flag flying high. The Executive has been able to offer tangible assistance to several members in their times of need and reached out in moments of sickness and death to assist, comfort and ease the burden on several of our members and their families.

How appreciated and warm we all feel when we receive their letters and cards of thanks and gratitude.

Our Executive recognizes the work of several stalwarts and members throughout the land and from overseas.

The Executive, has received substantial support from our United Force Group in New York and would like to recognize the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Ramotar, Mr. Ialbahadur Singh, Mr. George Coreia, Mr. Ashok Kishun and Mr. Richie Singh and the many other persons who have been with the group and supported the party.

In 1991, April, our Leader, Mr. Manzoor Nadir was first so elected. The executive wishes to record its recognition of the Leader's sterling contribution during the period of this report. He not only has led from the front, through difficult times, but has also been able to share of his knowledge and experiences while representing the party at the highest levels. The Executive records its gratitude and appreciation to the Leader and his family for their commitment and support.

As the Executive prepares this report we can feel the enthusiasm, the energy and unity which has permeated the efforts to organize our 2005 Party Conference.

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PARTY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Party has met its social responsibility during the past term. Apart from being represented at the several social and community functions that it is invited to, the party has also contributed to the recognition of the works and contributions of two fallen presidents of Guyana. The Party was officially represented at the funerals of the late President Jagan and the late President Hoyte .

Over a decade ago, at a meeting of ACTUF – (the Amerindian Committee of The United Force) a resolution was passed that September 10 be recognized as Amerindian Heritage Day. In pursuit of that goal, the party organized a Stephen Campbell forum at the Tower Hotel, where the United Force’s Publication on the life of Stephen Campbell was reproduced and a presentation done on his life. This was the catalyst for the government to establish a month (September) of activities in commemoration of our indigenous people and September 10 being declared Amerindian Heritage Day

PARTY’S ROLE IN ELECTORAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

In the period 1994 to 2001 and up to present, the United Force has played an integral and important role in electoral and constitutional reform. Following the 1992 National and Regional Elections, our party was called upon to make its contributions to the above processes. Some of our contributions include.

Mr. Edward Hopkinson’s nomination for the Chairman of the Elections Commission for the 1994 elections.

Major General Joe Singh’s nomination for the Chairman of Elections Commission for the 2001 General Elections.

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Mr. Robert William's nomination as member of the 2001 elections commission.

The party never floundered in these responsibilities and several executive members including Mr. Aubrey Collins and Mr. Dennis Lee joined the Leader as the party engaged in discussions with the Parliamentary Opposition and the Government on several of these matters. The many delegations from the donor and international communities were met. They received our views and comment on the political, social and economic environment in our country.

These discussions also engaged the subject of electoral reform. The putting up of election results on the place of poll was one of the proposals from The United Force.

THE CONSTITUTION REFORM PROGRESS

This was another very important process in which our party served its mission and the people of Guyana. We made our report to the Constitution Reform Commission and was fully involved in all of the processes which resulted in those significant changes to the 1980 Guyana Constitution. One of the proposals which were made by the United Force and presented to the CRC by our Region One Councilor, Mr. Jerry Jarvis, was for the establishment of a National Tauchaus's Council. We must record our appreciation to Mr. Aubrey Collins who served untiringly in these consultations.

ELECTIONS

The test for a party, in terms of its work, its effectiveness and its appeal climaxes at the time of elections. This, not only in terms of the votes it receives at the polls, but also the preparation for these polls and the ability of the party to contest.

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Since its establishment, the United Force has contested and play a role in all of the elections in our country. The party contested the 1994 local government elections, the 1997 – General and Regional Elections and also those of 2001.

THE 1994 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

The party contested the 1994 elections in several municipalities, including Georgetown and New Amsterdam, and for several Neighbourhood Democratic Councils, among which were the Ireng Sawariwau NDC, the Good-Hoop Pomona NDC – Essequibo. The Rosignol Zeelust NDC, in Region Five and the Enfield New Doe Park NDC in Region six. In several NDCs, we came close to winning at least one seat and did secure one seat each on the Rosignol Zeelust NDC, the Enfield New Doe Park NDC and two seats on the Ireng Sawariwau NDC.

1997 GENERAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS

These elections were the best in terms of the results for the party, in a longtime. The party contested all Regional Elections and for the National list. We gained two Parliamentary Seats, 5 RDC Seats in Region Nine, two RDC Seats in Region Eight and two RDC Seats in Region one. We also, with the support from the PPP/C councillors had the positions of Regional Chairman and Vice Chairman for Region Nine.

2001 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS

Again the party was able to contest for all the Regional Democratic Council's and to nominate a national list. Our results were not as good as in 1997 and the party lost two RDC seats in Region nine and one seat in Region one. Our Parliamentary strength was also reduced to one.

The United Force for these elections again ran with the principles in its founding manifesto “ HIGHWAYS TO HAPPINESS”. It affirmed its

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commitment to a free market economy and the concept of western democratic ideals.

Following these elections in early June 2001, His Excellency offered our Leader, the position of Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce in the PPP/C Government. After extensive consultations with the Executive, the membership throughout Guyana and overseas, there was consensual support for the Leader accepting the position and to serve the country at the highest level.

On June 15, 2001 the Executive accompanied the Leader to the Office of the President, where they witnessed his swearing in as a Minister.

CONCLUSION

The last decade and a half saw the revival of the United force in our country. Following the first rigged elections in 1968 and the mass exodus of the business, professional and middle classes from our country; Guyana began a steady downward course in its social, economic and political life. 1968 -1991 was a period which saw several articles in the national media confining the party to the grave.

Several stalwarts including Ms. Marie King and Mr. Kinsell France (both now deceased), Ms .Monica Goorahoo, our Leader, Manzoor Nadir, Mr. Peter Persaud, met and began the reorganization of our party. From that time we have demonstrated our resolve to survive and develop. We have made our contributions at the national, regional and local levels, our Leader has proven his ability and many of our executives are servicing in several capacities.

The United Force is again standing tall and proud and has made a positive difference in our land.

The Executive commends this report to you.