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REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION GENERAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN GUYANA AUGUST 28, 2006

This document is being distributed to the permanent missions and will be presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization.

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17th and Constitution Ave., N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006

SG/SPA-954/06 December 8, 2006

Excellency:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency to request your kind assistance in having distributed to the members of the Permanent Council the attached report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Guyana. The report reflects the activities undertaken by the Mission during the observation of the general and regional elections in Guyana, held on August 28, 2006.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General

Her Excellency
Marina Valere
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago
Chair of the Permanent Council
of the Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION
GENERAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN GUYANA
AUGUST 28, 2006

SECRETARIAT FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In an exchange of correspondence beginning on September 15, 2005, the Government of Guyana requested the presence of the Organization of American States to field an electoral observation mission with long- and short-term components. The Government emphasized that such a mission "would make an important contribution to Guyana in holding free and fair elections, according to international standards." OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza responded positively to this request and instructed the General Secretariat to draft a proposal and budget to monitor the pre-electoral process and provide for a substantial national presence on Election Day.

The long-term component of the electoral observation mission consisted of two experienced electoral administrators, Mr. Eugene Petty from St. Kitts and Ms. Ann Fudge from Canada. They arrived on May 12 and remained in the country until September 11, 2006. As requested by the Government of Guyana, the long-term observers were present for the many administrative and political facets of the electoral process, including the claims-and-objections period, the registration of candidates, training of returning and Presiding Officers and the campaign events of the participating political parties. Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin visited the country on three occasions during this time and served as the Chief of Mission. Mr. Steven Griner of the OAS Secretariat for Political Affairs served as Deputy Chief of Mission.

Ambassador Ramdin and the long-term component of the mission maintained continuous contact with the various actors in the electoral process of Guyana, including the competing political parties, the Guyana Elections Commission and its Secretariat, various civil society organizations, the media and the international community. The OAS Mission reported its findings on the electoral preparations and identified potential areas of concern. A core group of experts, including the regional coordinators, complemented the work of the long-term observers and prepared for the arrival of the short-term observers.

Some 123 observers from 24 countries comprised the OAS Observation Mission on Election Day. Approximately half of these observers were directly recruited and contracted by the OAS. They had considerable professional experience in diplomacy, politics, electoral administration, civil society organization and rural development in their respective countries. Most had participated in other international observation missions, including those of the OAS or the United Nations. The other half of the short-term component consisted of volunteers who resided in Guyana and were proposed by accredited diplomatic missions in the country. These volunteers possessed a profound knowledge of Guyana and many were deployed to the most remote, outlying regions.

For Election Day, OAS observers were present in all ten regions of the country, monitoring more than half of Guyana's 1,998 polling stations. In addition to its headquarters in Georgetown, the OAS mission opened two field offices, one in New Amsterdam in Region 4 and another in Met-en-Meerzorg in Region 2, which also covered Regions 3 and 7. The OAS Mission provided a systematized method of reporting observations covering the various stages of the voting, including the opening of the polls, the voting process, the closing and the count. The core group reviewed the system for reporting these observations in a training session before deployment.

Despite concerns about security, Election Day proved to be peaceful. From the outset, the OAS established close contact with the Disciplined Forces and Law Enforcement and witnessed their deployment to polling sites throughout the country. Communication between the Security Forces

facilitated comprehensive coverage and allowed for quicker responses to potential security threats than in previous elections.

Voters turned out early to cast their votes and with very few exceptions, they were able to find their polling stations and vote without incident. Election materials were delivered in a timely fashion, poll workers were adequately trained, and the majority of the polls opened preciously on time. Safeguards instituted by the Guyana Elections Commission, such as indelible ink and photographs in the electoral folios at the polling stations, prevented widespread double voting or disenfranchisement. Throughout the day, the OAS Mission maintained contact with political parties and national observers and continued its presence in the potentially problematic areas or 'hot spots'. The OAS Mission also coordinated with the other international observer groups, such as the Carter Centre, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Caribbean Community.

Political party agents from the ruling party and the opposition were present at all polling stations observed. A local nongovernmental organization, the Electoral Assistance Bureau (EAB), fielded observers throughout the country and had an observer presence at most polling sites. The presence of the party agents and the national observers at all of the polling sites observed contributed to strengthening public confidence in election-day operations.

With few exceptions, discussed in more detail below, voting procedures were easily followed and poll workers were well trained. Presiding Officers and poll clerks checked the identity of each voter in the presence of the party agents; they provided clear and impartial instructions on voting procedures, and maintained the secrecy of the vote. Polling sites opened on time at 6 am and closed promptly at 6 pm as stipulated. In general, voters were able to find the polling site at which they were registered to vote. While the closing procedure was observed to be cumbersome, the Presiding Officers and poll clerks counted the votes and recorded the results in an efficient manner.

In response to concerns about the transmission and compilation of results, OAS observers were present at the offices of the Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officers after the close of the polls. The observers noted that tally sheets and other electoral material arrived in a timely manner and with adequate security. To corroborate the final results announced by the Guyana Elections Commission, the OAS Mission conducted a parallel vote tabulation, or "quick count".

During the pre-electoral process, many Guyanese leaders stressed the importance of a timely announcement of the results. Consequently, on August 29 the Chief Elections Officer issued the first of several bulletins which continued until the final certification of results two days later. This communication strategy was a key factor in maintaining public confidence in the election and vote counting processes. During the transmission of results, the OAS mission met with the leaders of the opposition political parties. These leaders accepted the results issued by the Guyana Elections Commission and committed to promoting a peaceful environment.

On Thursday, August 31, the Guyana Elections Commission announced the final results of the elections. Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, the incumbent, of the People's Progressive Party/ Civic, was declared President as his party received an absolute majority of votes cast. Five political parties and/or alliances won representation in the 65-seat National Assembly, including the People's Progressive Party/Civic (36 seats), the People's National Congress (21 seats), the Alliance for Change (5 seats), the Guyana Action Party/Rise, Organize and Rebuild Guyana (1 seat) and the United Force

(1 seat). Some 69% of the 493.734 registered voters took part in the recent general and regional elections. The President was sworn in on Saturday, September 2.

The mobilization of substantial human and financial resources for this mission demonstrates the commitment of the Organization of American States to Guyana. The OAS would like to extend its appreciation to those countries that provided voluntary contributions to make this mission a reality, including the Governments of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. The OAS Electoral Observer Mission would also like to recognize the full cooperation of the Government of Guyana, the Guyana Elections Commission, political parties, civil society organizations and the citizenry as a whole.

The successful completion of the General and Regional Elections and the acceptance of results by all political participants represent an important step in achieving sustained dialogue and effective democratic governance in Guyana.

CHAPTER I. BACKGROUND

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana has a land area of 196,850 square kilometers and a population of 751,223, of which more than 90 percent lives along the coast. The abolition of slavery led to black settlement of urban areas and the importation of indentured servants from India who populated the rural areas to work the sugar plantations. This history is reflected in Guyana's ethnically diverse population. The three largest groups are the Indo-Guyanese (43.5%), who have remained predominantly rural, the Afro-Guyanese (30.2%), who constitute the majority urban population, and those of mixed origin (16.7%). Amerindians (9.2%) live in the country's interior and are divided into a number of different groups. Since before independence, politics in Guyana have broken along ethnic lines, with the Indo-Guyanese favouring the People's Progressive Party (PPP) and the Afro-Guyanese, the People's National Congress (PNC).

Guyana gained independence from Great Britain in 1966. The first post-independence elections, conducted in 1968, were won by the PNC (now known as the People's National Congress Reform – 1 Guyana), which remained in power until 1992, when the PPP (now the PPP/Civic) took power, led by Cheddi Jagan. When President Cheddi Jagan died in 1997, he was succeeded by his wife, Janet Jagan, who subsequently resigned in 1999 due to poor health. Bharrat Jagdeo replaced Mrs. Jagan as President of the Republic and head of the party. President Jagdeo and the PPP/Civic won the general elections in 2001.

By most accounts, competitive, democratic elections in Guyana began in 1992. At the insistence of President Jimmy Carter of the Carter Center, the parliament instituted important electoral changes to guarantee the impartiality and transparency of the electoral process. The principal reform concerned the composition of the Guyana Elections Commission. Parliament increased membership in the Guyana Elections Commission to seven, including three members each from the ruling and opposition parties and an independent Chairman. Another important reform required that the ballots be counted and the results compiled at the individual polling stations. A new list of voters was also compiled through a house-to-house registration process.

While the reforms and changes enhanced the transparency of the electoral process in Guyana, elections have not been without controversy. Claiming disenfranchisement, protesters in 1992 rallied in front of GECOM headquarters and forced the evacuation of the electoral authorities. Violence erupted in and around Georgetown, but was eventually quelled by the army and police. In 1997, the OAS Mission concluded that "on the whole, the administration of the election [...] was adequate", but noted that a "serious breakdown" had occurred after the ballots were counted. Communication and logistical difficulties prevented the timely transmission of results, contributing to an overall environment of suspicion. As a result, the opposition PNC/R refused to accept the results and recognize the legitimacy of the Government. When a legal action to block the inauguration of the president was dismissed, violence erupted again. In response, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was invited to facilitate negotiations between the two sides, resulting in the Herdmanston Accord on January 17, 1998. The Herdmanston Accord called for a CARICOM audit of the electoral process and established a Constitutional Reform Commission.

The 2001 elections represented a noted improvement from 1992 and 1997. The OAS Mission concluded that "the conduct of the elections was satisfactory" and uncovered no evidence of irregularities. Nevertheless, a breakdown in communication led to confusion and provoked anxiety. Technological problems prevented the reporting of results until four days after the election. The

opposition PNC/R again sought a legal judgment alleging that the Elections Commission had improperly announced the results and that certain provisions of law had been violated in the tabulation of results. While the findings of the hearing did not materially affect the outcome of the elections, scattered violence and unrest diluted the public trust in the post-electoral process.

A. SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATION

The Constitution of Guyana provides for a unicameral National Assembly whose sixty-five seats are contested every five years via a system of proportional representation. Elections are conducted according to the Constitutional provisions, which are supplemented by the laws approved by Parliament, including the Representation of the People Act (1964), which deals with all aspects of the conduct of elections, and the National Registration Act (1967), which deals mainly with the preparation and revision of electoral rolls. Guyanese citizens or Commonwealth residents of Guyana at least 18 years old may vote. As of this writing, Guyanese citizens may vote no matter how long they have resided outside the country.

Under the electoral system, adopted in accordance with constitutional amendments agreed to in the Herdmanston Accords, all members of the National Assembly are directly elected. Twenty-five are elected from the ten geographic constituencies and the remaining forty are elected from a national 'top-up' list to guarantee a high degree of proportionality. Any party contesting seats for the National Assembly must validly nominate candidates in six of the geographic constituencies or for thirteen of the twenty-five national constituency seats. Furthermore, a third of the candidates validly nominated must be women and no more than 20% of the geographic constituency lists of any party can be all-male. Voters mark the ballot for a party, not a named candidate. Parties supply Geographic Constituency Lists of candidates and a separate National Top-Up List (a candidate may appear on one of the former and also on the latter). Parties also designate a leader, who will become President if that party receives the largest number of votes.

In February 2001, the National Assembly further amended the Constitution to allow GECOM to allocate 'overhang seats', if required. Overhang seats would be required if a party won a disproportionate number of constituency seats thereby giving it an advantage over other parties. Under these circumstances, GECOM would award overhang seats to the national top-up to mitigate the advantage.

Guyana's ten geographical constituencies, which coincide with its ten administrative regions, are:

1	Barima/ Waini
2	Pomperoon/ Supenaam
3	Essequibo Islands/ West Demerara
4	Demerara/ Mahaica
5	Mahaica/ Berbice
6	East Berbice/ Corentyne
7	Cuyuni/ Mazarumi
8	Potaro/ Siparuni
9	Upper Takutu/ Upper Essequibo
10	Upper Demerara/ Berbice

The distribution of seats contested in each geographic constituency is as follows:

Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	**TOTAL**
Seats	2	2	3	7	2	3	2	1	1	2	**25**

The Electoral Formula used within geographic constituencies to determine allocation of seats from geographic constituencies to parties in the National Assembly is the 'Largest Remainder – Hare Quota' (LR-Hare). The formula used to determine allocation of non-geographic seats to parties in the National Assembly is top-up based on overall application of LR-Hare. A single vote is cast by each voter and a vote for a party's Geographical Constituency List is simultaneously a vote for that party's National Top-up List. Accordingly, if a party chose not to contest in a particular geographical constituency, it could not receive any votes from electors in that geographical constituency that would count towards its level of national support.

B. VOTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISCIPLINED FORCES

Members of the "Disciplined Forces" (i.e. the Guyana Defence Force, Guyana Police and the Guyana Prison Service) cast their ballots in advance of Election Day. This allows members of these forces to work through Election Day. In 2006, the Disciplined Forces voted on August 21. The ballots of the Disciplined Forces and are intermixed and counted with the ballots cast on Election Day at polling stations.

CHAPTER II. PARTICIPANTS IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

A. ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES

1. Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM)

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) is responsible for the administration and conduct of elections in Guyana. GECOM is headed by a Chairman and six Commissioners. Its members are appointed in the following manner:

(a) Three members appointed by the President, acting in his own deliberate judgment.

(b) Three members appointed by the President acting on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition after he has meaningfully consulted the non-governmental opposition parties represented in the National Assembly.

The Chairman is appointed from a list of six persons, who are not unacceptable to the President, submitted by the Leader of the Opposition after he has meaningfully consulted with the non-governmental political parties represented in the National Assembly. Previously the Elections Commission was a temporary institution constituted for each election, with time limits on members' period of service, but the present GECOM, established in May 2000, is now a permanent entity, allowing for greater administrative continuity. There is as yet no provision for a time limit on the period that commissioners are to serve.

GECOM sets policy for voter registration, maintenance of the voters' list and the administration of all national, regional and local government elections within the legislative framework, whilst the Permanent Elections Secretariat implements the policy under the supervision of the Chief Elections Officer (CEO).

2. GECOM Secretariat

GECOM is supported by core staff in its Secretariat. The work of the Commission is supplemented in its elections preparation and administration by thousands of temporary staff. The Chief Elections Officer heads the GECOM Secretariat and is responsible for day-to-day preparations for the elections, including administering the claims-and-objections period for the list of electors, training Returning Officers and other polling day officials, and implementing civic education campaigns.

As previously mentioned, the GECOM Secretariat administers, within the policies established by the Guyana Elections Commission, voter registration, maintenance of the voters' list and the administration of all national, regional and local government elections. The Secretariat also performs the tasks of the National Registration Centre and the CEO acts as the National Commissioner for Registration.

On Election Day, the Chief Elections Officer receives the results from the Returning Officers and certifies their accuracy and validity. He then presents the results to the GECOM commissioners for their endorsement. The CEO is the only official authorized to announce the results of the election to the public.

3. Polling Day Officials

GECOM recruits and appoints to each polling station Polling Day Officials, comprising: one Presiding Officer, one Assistant Presiding Officer, two Poll Clerks, one Ballot Clerk/Counting Assistant and, where there are several polling stations located at one polling place, an Information Poll Clerk. The Presiding Officer assumes responsibility for the efficient and effective functioning of the Polling station, with effect from at least seven days before the poll. In case of illness or other emergency, the Assistant Presiding Officer assumes responsibility for the operation of the Polling station until the Presiding Officer resumes his or her duties or the Deputy Returning Officer makes final arrangements for the operation of the Polling station. GECOM appoints a Deputy Returning Officer for each sub-district, who is responsible for supervising the arrangements for a group of polling stations and for immediate transmission of the results of the poll to the Returning Officer, and a Returning Officer for each district, who transmits the results directly to the Chief Elections Officer.

B. POLITICAL PARTIES

Six parties contested the 2006 General Elections in Guyana: the Alliance For Change (AFC); the Guyana Action Party- Rise, Organise and Rebuild (GAP-ROAR); the Justice For All Party (JFAP); the People's National Congress Reform- 1 Guyana (PNCR); the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C); and The United Force (TUF). A further four parties nominated candidates for the Regional Elections.

At the time of the elections, the PPP/C was the ruling party, having in 2001 garnered 53% of the vote and 34 seats in the National Assembly. The PNCR was the leading opposition party, having gained nearly 42% of the vote and 27 seats. The Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance had two seats, Rise Organise and Rebuild Guyana had one seat, and The United Force also had one seat in the National Assembly.

1. Alliance For Change (AFC)

Symbol: A golden key with a green map of Guyana on its head positioned horizontally

The newest force in Guyanese politics, the AFC was formed after the 2001 election by former members of the PPP/C and PNC/R. It seeks to become the 'third party' in Guyanese politics, pulling former PPP/C and PNC/R voters into a party that transcends racial division. The AFC's three leaders Raphael Trotman (formerly PNC/R), Khemraj Ramjattan (formerly PPP/C) and Sheila Holder (formerly linked to the Working People's Alliance) emphasize the importance of genuine political power sharing, public sector reform, increased transparency, and an end to race-based politics. Its presidential candidate was Raphael Trotman.

2. Guyana Action Party- Rise, Organise and Rebuild (GAP-ROAR)

Symbol: A red outline of a heart with a solid green map of Guyana within the heart

GAP was formed in 1991, led by Paul Hardy, and participated for the first time in the elections of 2001 in tandem with the Working People's Alliance, an older party founded in 1975, which chose not to contest the 2006 elections. GAP favours racial integration and seeks to protect the rights of the Amerindian peoples. ROAR was a new party for the 2001 elections, with a programme stressing inclusive governance. The merged GAP/ROAR party produced a 2006 manifesto entitled "The Blueprint," which emphasized job creation and ethical economic development on a "village

movement" model, particularly in developing links southward with Brazil. The ROAR presidential candidate was Ravi Dev, who also stood in 2001.

3. Justice For All Party (JFAP)
Symbol: Scale

The leader and presidential candidate of the JFAP, Chandra Narine Sharma, is the owner of a television station in Georgetown (Channel 6), a journalist and civic activist. The party claims to speak for the poor and disadvantaged and has raised the issue of land rights for Amerindians. Through the medium of programmes on Channel 6, Mr. Sharma has expressed criticisms of government policy, including the distribution of relief supplies during the 2005 floods.

4. People's National Congress Reform- 1 Guyana (PNCR)
Symbol: Palm tree

The PNC was formed in 1957 after its leader, Forbes Burnham, broke with Cheddi Jagan of the PPP/C. The party initially advocated socialist policies while encouraging foreign investment. It ruled Guyana from independence in 1966 until 1992. The "Reform" component, which included a number of civic leaders, professors and entrepreneurs, joined the PNC in 2001. In recent times the PNCR has stressed the blight of crime in Guyanese life and its commitment to "cleaning up" aspects of political governance. Traditionally, the PNCR has won a high percentage of its support from the Afro-Guyanese community. The presidential candidate in 2006 was Robert Corbin.

5. People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C)
Symbol: Cup

Formed in 1950, the PPP/C is Guyana's oldest active party and was led by Cheddi Jagan until his death in 1997. The PPP/C's early, Marxist complexion softened during its long period in opposition. Before the 1992 elections, the PPP entered an alliance with a coalition of prominent business and other leaders (Civic). The alliance was victorious and the PPP/C has held power since that time. The PPP/C's recent programmes stress the importance of diversifying the economic base, rehabilitating and developing the physical infrastructure, pursuing stable macro-economic policies and fighting poverty. Traditionally, the PPP/C has won a high percentage of its support from the Indo-Guyanese community. Its presidential candidate was the incumbent, Bharrat Jagdeo.

6. The United Force (TUF)
Symbol: Rising Sun

The TUF was founded in the early 1960s by businessman, Peter D'Aguiar. It was a conservative party by comparison with its larger socialist rivals. It is best known for its coalition government with the PNC after the 1964 elections in which it won seven seats. The party garners much of its support from constituencies in Guyana's interior, with Amerindian voters. Its leader in 2006, as in 2001, was Manzoor Nadir.

C. CIVIL SOCIETY

1. Electoral Assistance Bureau

The Electoral Assistance Bureau (EAB) of Guyana is an independent non-governmental organisation committed to promoting democracy in Guyana. It is sponsored by: The Anglican Church, The Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana, The Clerical and Commercial Workers Union, The Guyana Bar Association, The Guyana Central Arya Samaj, The Roman Catholic Church, The Guyana Medical Association, the Guyana Council of Churches, the Consumers Advisory Bureau, the Guyana Consumers Association and the Private Sector Commission. It is comprised of citizen volunteers from all ethnic, economic and religious groups within Guyana. Since its establishment in 1991, the EAB has focused on election monitoring and has fielded observers in all the Regions of Guyana for all national and regional elections since 1992. Some fifteen hundred EAB volunteers took part in election monitoring in 2006, providing coverage across the country.

2. Guyana Bar Association

The Guyana Bar Association is a professional body of lawyers, which aims to uphold the rule of law, to ensure adequate legal representation for all citizens, to promote human rights, and to examine and report on current legislation wherever desirable. Among its projects are ongoing seminars and workshops on 'Women's leadership and political participation; training in Democracy and Governance'. Representatives of the Guyana Bar Association, working in partnership with the EAB, contributed to the election monitoring process.

3. Public Service Union

The Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU) is the certified majority union for workers employed by the government of Guyana. It works to advance and protect the rights of such workers and engages in collective pay bargaining. Representatives of the Public Service Union fielded a national observation mission in 2006.

4. Private Sector Commission

The Private Sector Commission was established by five private sector organisations in 1992 as a not-for-profit organisation. Its aims include serving as a means for planning, coordinating and monitoring the various resources within the private sector with a view to improving the economic situation of Guyana and establishing programmes for improving all the skills and talents within the private sector and the economy as a whole. The Private Sector Commission is one of the sponsors of the EAB.

5. Ethnic Relations Commission

The Ethnic Relations Commission is a constitutional body established by the Herdmanston Accord in 2000. Among its aims and functions are to provide for equality of opportunity between persons of different ethnic groups and to promote harmony and good relations between such persons; to promote the elimination of all forms of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity; to discourage and

prohibit persons, institutions, political parties and associates from indulging in, advocating or promoting discriminatory practices on the ground of ethnicity; to foster a sense of security among all ethnic groups by encouraging and promoting the understanding, acceptance and tolerance of diversity in all aspects of national life and promoting full participation by all ethnic groups in the social, economic, cultural and political life of the people; to promote educational and training programmes and research projects which provide for and encourage ethnic peace and harmony; and to promote arbitration, conciliation, mediation and like forms of dispute resolution in order to secure ethnic harmony and peace. Among its activities is the creation of a Multi-Stakeholder Forum, with community-level conferences.

D. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The international donor community has supported all of the electoral processes in Guyana since 1992. For the 2006 elections, the Government of Guyana and GECOM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Governments of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and European Union. Signed on July 20, 2005, the MOU served as a frame of reference for the technical and financial assistance provided.

In the run-up to elections and as part of the preparatory process, two Joint International Technical Assessors (JITA) provided technical assistance and independent oversight of GECOM's pre-election activities. JITA monitored all the technical aspects of election preparations and provided independent assessments to the Elections Commission, the Government of Guyana, and the donor community. The JITA operated out of offices adjoining those of the Commission, facilitating access to its work.

Additionally, the Electoral Office of Jamaica conducted the finger-print scanning analysis of the Preliminary List of Electors, described below, while USAID funded technical assistance and training for GECOM in organizational and operational management, electoral reform, and elections administration and contributed to the work of the Elections Assistance Bureau. USAID also provided commodity support for computer hardware and software applications and elections materials. It financed training programmes for journalists in research and analysis, investigative reporting, opinion polling, and journalistic ethics and supported the Ethnic Relations Commission, providing training and equipment.

The Commonwealth Secretariat, CARICOM and the Carter Center organized independent international observation missions, with which the OAS Mission remained in close contact.

CHAPTER III. VOTING PROCEDURES

In addition to the other Polling Day Officials assigned to each polling station on Election Day, one Polling Agent representing each list of contesting parties, one Counting Agent representing each List of Candidates of the contesting parties in the district, and Duly Appointed Candidates are entitled to be present. A police officer is also assigned to each polling station. Accredited election agents and assistant agents may attend the poll at any polling station in any Polling District.

Voting begins at 6 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m. All Polling Officials are required to arrive at 5 a.m. to ensure that proper arrangements are in place for the prompt opening of the poll. Prior to the opening of the polling station, the Presiding Officer writes the numbers 0 to 9 on separate slips of paper, places these in a paper bag, and requests any six persons present to alternately take a slip each from the bag. This produces a random six-digit number, which is used to stamp all the ballots cast at that polling station on Election Day. The Presiding Officer also displays the empty ballot box for all present to witness.

When voters enter the polling station, they present their National Identification Card to Poll Clerk 1, who checks the List of Electors to ensure that the elector's name appears there. Poll Clerk 2 checks the Registration Record and makes comparison of the photo ID. The Assistant Presiding Officer, double-checking the National Identification Card against the Registration Folio and inspecting the voter's finger for electoral ink, if satisfied, stamps the six-digit official mark on the back of the ballot and writes the voter's serial number on its counterfoil. S/he then instructs the voter in an impartial manner on voting procedure before delivering the ballot paper to the voter and directing him/ her to the voting compartment. The Assistant Presiding Officer places a tick next to the voter's serial number to indicate that a ballot paper was issued.

Meanwhile the elector marks the ballot paper in the voting compartment and proceeds to the Ballot Clerk. Having seen the official mark on both sides of the ballot, the Ballot Clerk directs the voter to immerse his or her right index finger in the electoral ink and the voter drops the ballot into the ballot box.

If the voter's name does not appear on the List of Electors then s/he will not be allowed to vote at that polling station unless s/he presents a Certificate of Employment. (Certificates of Employment are issued to Election Officers and others whose work necessitates their presence on Election Day at a distance from their own polling station.)

A. COUNTING OF BALLOTS AND TRANSMISSION OF RESULTS

Polling stations close at 6 p.m. Voters in line at this time must still be permitted to vote. When the Presiding Officer has announced the close of the poll, the ballot box is sealed, the room is shut and arranged for the count. All those entitled to remain present during polling are also entitled to witness the count.

The Presiding Officer counts the number of spoiled ballot papers, used tendered ballot papers and unused ballot papers, placing them in separate, labeled, sealed envelopes. S/he checks the number of electors who voted at the polling station using the total number of counterfoils of ballot papers and accounts for all ballot papers supplied by the Returning Officer. S/he then opens the ballot box and places its contents on a table. Tally sheets are distributed to those present. The number of ballot papers in the ballot box is counted and recorded. The Presiding Officer checks each ballot for the official mark, unfolds the ballot and calls out the name of the party for which the vote was cast. S/he

displays the front and back of each ballot paper to Polling Agents and Polling Officials. Votes are recorded on tally sheets and ballots are placed in separate piles for each party.

The Presiding Officer rejects any ballot paper which has no official mark (six-digit number); which has not been marked for any candidate; if it cannot be established for whom the elector has voted; which has been marked for more than one List of Candidates; or which has been marked in such a way that the elector can be identified. Questioned ballots are marked 'Q' on the back to indicate that a Duly Appointed Candidate or Polling Agent has questioned the Presiding Officer's decision. The decision of the Presiding Officer is subjected to review by the Returning Officer only if a Counting Agent for the district requests a general or limited recount by noon of the next day.

When all the ballots have been examined, each Election Officer counts and verifies votes recorded for each List of Candidates and these are placed in separate envelopes. Rejected ballots, if any, are placed in another envelope. All the envelopes are sealed. After the count, the Presiding Officer completes the Statement of Poll, countersigned by witnesses to the count, which are distributed to all authorised persons present. Copies must also be made for the Deputy Returning Officer, Returning Officer, and the Chief Elections Officer. A copy of the Statement of Poll is then displayed outside the polling station.

Each of the respective envelopes containing spoiled, unused, rejected, and valid votes for each separate List of Candidates must then be sealed with molten sealing wax to which the Presiding Officer's seal is publicly applied. Separate envelopes are provided for the Statement of Poll, Poll Book, and Ballot Paper account and for the various election materials – such as the six-digit stamp, used plastic seals, and electoral ink – and these are likewise sealed. The Presiding Officer must transport the ballot box and sealed packages to the office of the Deputy Returning Officer or the office of the Returning Officer. These should also be accompanied by a police officer and by the Polling Agents.

Each Deputy Returning Officer collates all the results using the Statements of Poll for his/her Sub-district and submits them to the Returning Officer. This must be done at the Returning Officer's Office. The Returning Officer ascertains the total votes cast in favour of each List of Candidates in his/her district, then reports the results immediately in person to the Chief Elections Officer. Such results are final provided that the assigned Counting Agent for the District does not request the Returning Officer to conduct a recount of the votes counted by the Presiding Officers. Such a request must be presented before noon on the day after the poll.

CHAPTER IV. OBSERVATIONS OF THE OAS

A. PRE-ELECTION PROCESS

At the request of the Guyanese government, the OAS deployed two long-term observers, who were present in Guyana from May 2006 until after the elections. They met on a continuous basis with electoral authorities at all levels, political party members and civil society representatives to assess the electoral preparations, the political campaign, and the overall security situation. A core group of three persons joined the long-term observer team approximately two weeks before Election Day. The full complement of short-term observers arrived on August 24, four days before elections.

1. List of Electors

Preparations for the 2006 elections were from an early stage a topic of political contention. Opposition concerns centered on the accuracy of the 2001 Official List of Electors (OLE), with claims that the list contained the names of up to 100,000 dead or otherwise ineligible voters. Joint opposition parties called for a house-to-house verification exercise to sanitise the 2001 OLE of ineligible entries before it was merged with the data from the 2006 registration exercise to create a new national register. In May, a group consisting of members of the PNCR, WPA, and ROAR political parties protested outside the GECOM building, threatening to take to the streets if this demand was not met. There were further PNCR protests in June, where marchers burned copies of the Preliminary List of Electors (PLE) outside the GECOM building. (These protests were peaceful and no violence or damage to property occurred.) GECOM responded that time constraints precluded a complete house-to-house verification exercise prior to the 2006 elections and this was not carried out. It asserted that the continuous registration process (October 2005 to March 2006), combined with a limited field verification exercise, database integrity tests, and the Claims and Objections period, produced a highly accurate list.

GECOM completed an extended 35 day Claims and Objections period between May and June 2006. At the close of the period some 14,668 claims (including 7,403 new registrants, 4,115 transfers, and 3,150 change of name/corrections were received). About 12,000 objections were received, the majority on the basis of non-residence. Hearings of such objections were conducted in a quasi-judicial fashion. Complaints heard at those hearings attended by the OAS Mission included the lack of clear guidelines for evidence to be presented in the case of objection to persons who do not reside at the address listed on the PLE; the short period between the dispatch of notices for the hearings and the actual hearings; and the "symbolic" nature of the process.

GECOM sought various legal opinions regarding the residency qualification of persons named on the 2001 OLE. In the end, it did not seek a formal legal ruling, anticipating that this would cause untenable delays to the 2006 elections.

The Electoral Assistance Bureau conducted an analysis of the Preliminary List of Electors, which included computer, in-house and field tests. Results, released in June 2006, indicated that 93.99% (+/- 2.93%) of the electors on the 2006 PLE could be accounted for; less than 1,046 duplicates existed on the PLE, representing less than 0.22% of the total number of electors; no person under 18 at the qualifying date or who had not been assigned a National Identity Card was on the list; and 98.41% (+/-2.89%) of the electors on the PLE were placed in their correct divisions. The results were based on a check of records of the random sample of 1,199. The EAB made its findings available in a press release on June 22, 2006.

The Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) conducted a finger-print scanning exercise to quantify duplicate names in the PLE. The exercise included the 450,000 names from the 2001 OLE and the additional 72,000 registrants from the continuous registration process. Of the 522,000 finger-prints, only 25% were considered high quality; some 60% ranged from average to poor. More than 78,000 (15%) were illegible and could not be verified. Moreover, the EOJ noted that some 26,000 names did not correspond to their registration numbers, due probably to data-entry errors. It estimated that approximately 5,200 duplicate registrations appeared to be "fraudulent." The EOJ made the long-term recommendation that GECOM should undertake a comprehensive finger-printing exercise for all registrants, using well-trained persons and proper ink to take ten prints of each registrant. In the short term, the EOJ recommended that duplicates on the list be investigated and corrected and procedures strengthened, including careful training of Presiding Officers to identify duplicate registrants.

2. Election Day Delay

Under the Guyanese Constitution, the life of parliament lasts five years from the date when it first meets and elections must be held within three months following its dissolution. In April, citing delays caused by processing more than 71,000 new registrants, GECOM announced that it was no longer possible to hold elections by the constitutional deadline of August 4. To avert a constitutional crisis, on May 2, the National Assembly passed a bill creating a Constitutional Amendment to extend the life of the parliament by one month. Thirty-four of the sixty-five parliamentarians voted in favour of the amendment, giving it a simple but not a two-thirds majority. The legality of this move was not accepted by all parties. PNC/R executive Joseph Hamilton filed a lawsuit on May 18 challenging the legality of the amendment.

Despite its objections to the bill and doubts concerning other aspects of electoral preparations, the PNCR and most other opposition parties decided to participate in the elections. The Working People's Alliance, however, announced on July 25 that it would boycott them, citing the failure to attain conditions for an electoral alliance with the One Guyana Platform as well as its dissatisfaction with election preparations.

At the beginning of August 2006, the courts started hearing lawsuits filed against the government to determine if residency was a requirement for electors and challenging the legality of the amendment to extend the life of parliament. Decisions were deferred until August 22, when Chief Justice Carl Singh ruled that the law required that such cases be presented in a petition after the elections. It thus became certain only a week before Election Day (August 28) that the elections would in fact proceed.

3. Campaign period

The Inter-Religious Organization of Guyana and other stakeholders drafted a "Peace Pact and Code of Conduct," signed on May 2, 2006 by nine political parties contesting the 2006 elections. Signatories promised that their parties would act in accordance with existing laws, rules and procedures governing election practices. They pledged their commitment to the conduct of peaceful campaigns, respect for the integrity of the election process, cooperation with police, military and security authorities and to demonstrate commitment to the implementation and acceptance of valid elections, verification, and compliance. They also undertook to ensure that their candidates, agents, members and supporters would not resort to illegal and corrupt practices. Additionally, they pledged not to make speeches or statements that promote racial tension or make derogatory references to race,

gender, religious belief or cultural practices. The PNCR declined to sign, claiming that it was given insufficient time to study the document.

The long-term OAS observers attended campaign meetings and rallies held by the various political parties. They noted that, despite very large crowds of up to 4,000 people, these events were generally peaceful, with supporters of different ages and both genders responding enthusiastically to a platform of numerous speakers. Music frequently enlivened proceedings, where supporters, wearing party shirts and waving party symbols, danced and sang along, greeting the candidates with thunderous applause. Speakers, while enthusiastic, avoided inflammatory rhetoric and police officers were present, contributing to the secure environment.

Many of the short-term observers had arrived in Guyana and were present for the closing of the campaigns of the three principal political parties. The Alliance for Change's closing rally in Linden began with prayers for the Muslim, Hindu and Christian faiths, with speakers asserting that the party's initials, AFC, also represented the slogan 'All for Christ'. The reggae band 'First Born' entertained the crowd. The PPP/C held its last major rally on the west coast of the Demerara, while the PNCR rallied in the Square of the Revolution in Georgetown. Local and regional artists created a carnival atmosphere, urging supporters to "brave rains, hot sun and ensure that you vote early on Monday".

4. Security

Although the election campaign was not marked by violence, there were incidents that could be interpreted as politically motivated due to the timing of the acts and the professional affiliation of the victims. During the night of August 8, 2006 a group of masked gunmen entered the Kaiteur News printing plant and opened fire against the security guard. They then forced five printing staff employees to lie face down on the floor, where they were killed by shots to the back of the head. This horrific episode of violence against the media revived memories of the shooting of Ronald Waddell, a prominent member of the PNCR and talk-show host, outside his house in the suburbs of Georgetown on January 30, 2006. In another brutal incident on April 22, 2006, a gang of seven gunmen killed Minister of Agriculture, Satyadeo Sawh, two family members and a security guard. According to the EAB's August "Election Violence Education and Resolution" Reports, public tensions rose after the Kaiteur News murders, as "the public was associating any increase in violence with election security" and "many key election stakeholders reported in various media that these criminal activities may have an impact on election day as voters may feel intimidated to leave their homes".

During his visits to Guyana, Ambassador Ramdin met with high level authorities of the police and the Disciplined Forces. These officials informed him that the different branches had established an efficient system of communication and would be in continuous contact during Election Day. OAS observers observed a police presence at most of the campaign events and reported that the police maintained order but did not disrupt the proceedings of the event. Likewise, OAS observers witnessed the presence of ample security, provided either by the police or the military, in the delivery of the voting materials to the polling stations before the elections and the return of those materials with the Statement of Polls after the elections. In some polling stations, OAS observers noticed that rural constables complemented the work of the police and Disciplined Forces. During their visits, OAS observers took note of the professional manner in which the Disciplined Forces maintained security without infringing on the rights of the voter.

5. Media monitoring

As part of a plan initiated by GECOM and the Donor Community to assist the electronic and print media in making a full and democratic contribution to the elections, the media houses were invited to sign a self-regulatory Media Code of Conduct in January 2006 and a fifteen-member Independent Media Monitoring Unit (MMU), headed by the Commonwealth Media Advisor to GECOM, was launched in February 2006 to analyse and make regular public reports on the media's adherence to the Code in the run-up to the elections. The MMU's findings were forwarded to the International Independent Media Refereeing Panel.

The print media, television and radio carried extensive coverage of the electoral process in the pre-election period, reflecting the acute interest of many Guyanese citizens in the elections. According to the Independent Media Monitoring Unit (MMU), however, coverage was not always balanced and objective. In July 2006 it reported that, although there had been some improvements in maintaining balanced coverage since its June report, "after five months of monitoring and analyzing media output, the Unit is of the view that there is still a considerable way to go to meet the standards set out in the Media Code of Conduct."

The report concluded that there remained a tendency in television talk show programmes "to broadcast misinformation, unsupported accusations and unsubstantiated statements without caution as to the resulting impact during the pre-election period and thereafter." In August, commenting on the often wide disparity in space/time devoted to coverage of each party in print and other media, it concluded that "lack of *quantitative* balance is the most frequent breach of the Media Code of Conduct and cause for concern in these final weeks up to Polling Day. This [problem] is not universal but performance ranges from extreme in a few cases to less than satisfactory in some and positively good in others. The relatively small number of serious breaches of the Media Code of Conduct in terms of content continues [an] encouraging trend".

Shortly before the election the refereeing panel, having reviewed the content of a TV advertisement run by the PPP/C and dubbed 'The Great Pretender', deemed it to be in violation of the Code of Conduct and, in response to a query, upheld the right of stations to reject it: a decision that provoked brief, but rapidly resolved, tension between the MMU and the Government. In general, media performance continued to improve toward Election Day, with the MMU reporting "an almost startling shift" toward equitable coverage of parties, although state television continued to show an imbalance. Overall, it reported that the difference in their conduct between 2006 and 2001 represented "a major step forward for the media" in Guyana.

6. Disciplined Forces Voting Observation

The OAS long-term mission observed voting by the Disciplined Forces on August 21, 2006. In general, voting went smoothly. Some members of the Disciplined Forces, however, refused to cast their ballots on papers that were not stamped, erroneously believing these to be invalid. In a statement issued following the confusion, GECOM advised that members of the Disciplined Services were correctly not given stamped ballot papers to vote - ballots were to be stamped with the required six digit numbers on Election Day at the respective designated Places of Poll where they would be counted - and that this had been made clear to senior representatives of the Forces.

The new system of intermixing votes by the Disciplined Forces with Election Day votes which was intended to protect the confidentiality of the Disciplined Forces' voting pattern, caused minor confusion, with some Presiding Officers unsure about the process, but this was resolved. Those members of the Disciplined Forces who had not voted on August 21 due to concerns over the ballot stamp were allowed to vote on August 28.

B. ELECTION DAY

Teams of observers were assigned to each of Guyana's ten geographical regions. They were deployed in pairs with each team covering a number of polling stations in a particular area of that region. On Election Day, August 28, 2006, each observer team arrived at a selected polling station at approximately 5 a.m. to observe opening procedures. Throughout the day, the observers circulated to different polling stations in their constituency; in many constituencies they were able to visit all the stations on the list and to observe some more than once. In all, the Mission monitored more than half of Guyana's 1,998 polling stations.

On special forms, the observers collected information about the opening and closing of the polls and the conduct of the voting. They obtained this information through firsthand observation and through interviews with the Polling Officials, policemen, and voters present at the polling stations. Observers remained at a particular polling station after 6 p.m. to witness the counting of ballots and handling of procedures for transmission of results. They conducted a parallel vote tabulation or "quick count" at a sample of polling stations selected by an experienced statistician. This was used to verify the transmission and tabulation of results. Where possible, observers remained with the ballot box at the polling station where they had observed the count and accompanied it as it was delivered to the Returning Officer. They noted the time of delivery and whether Polling Agents and police officers also accompanied the ballot box to the Returning Office.

Observers delivered their completed forms and a short report to the Regional Coordinator for their constituency. The consolidated findings for each Region are presented in summary form below.

1. Observer Testimonies by Region

Region 1: Barima/ Waini

Region 1 is in a remote area of Guyana, near the Venezuelan border. The territory is difficult to access, as rain can swiftly render roads impassable, even to all-terrain vehicles. This meant that the team could not access all of the polling stations they had hoped to visit. Nonetheless, they attended nineteen out of eighty-five polling stations in the region.

The team's general impression was that the conduct of the polls was wholly satisfactory. Polling stations opened and closed in a timely fashion and were supplied with all the necessary materials. There was no undue congestion or confusion. Polling Officials carried out their operations diligently and effectively, checking identities with due care and instructing voters impartially. The secrecy of the ballot was properly maintained. There was good attendance by party agents at the polling stations.

Turnout of electors was adequate, but not high. There was some confusion regarding the procedures to be followed at the close of the poll and the transmission of results was slow, partly

affected by the very sparse communication system through the region. The team was, however, totally satisfied as to the accuracy of the results reported at the polling stations observed.

Region 2: Pomperoon/ Supenaam

The team observed polling stations on the road along the coast between Queenstown and the mouth of the Essequibo River. Both the pre-opening procedures and the opening of the poll proceeded very smoothly and voting procedures were followed in an orderly manner. Cases involving physically challenged voters were dealt with appropriately by Presiding Officers. There was a steady stream of voters in the early morning; the late morning and afternoon proceeded more slowly and there was no rush before the 6 p.m. closing of the polls. All polling stations observed had the full complement of staff, a police officer (or rural constable) and an EAB observer. In every polling station, there were also PPP/C and PNC/R-1G agents present and AFC agents were present at all but two of the stations observed. Around 9:15 a.m., a representative from the AFC approached the team and said that AFC agents had initially been turned away from some polling stations because they were told they lacked the correct paperwork from GECOM, but that, after contacting GECOM, they were allowed entry.

Closing procedures seem to have been followed in general. The counting of ballots went very smoothly but the signing of forms and the packaging of the ballots and ballot box took a great deal of time and seemed frustrating to all involved. Also of note, the team observed many campaign posters (especially for the PPP/C and the AFC) displayed very near to polling stations, well under the prescribed 200-foot limit for campaign materials.

Region 3: Essequibo Islands/ West Demerara

The opening of the polls observed occurred precisely on time. Representatives of the PPP/C and the PNCR-1G were present, as were EAB observers. In one instance there was only one poll clerk, not two as prescribed by GECOM, but this did not interfere with the process of voting. Voting progressed smoothly and no problems were observed with the conduct of the poll. In one more remote polling station, taped arrows on the floor contributed to the smooth flow of voters through the station.

Minor difficulties were observed in the handling of voters whose names did not appear on the list of electors at the polling station at which they presented themselves. One Presiding Officer noted that she was given a GECOM information telephone number to provide to voters who were unclear about their assigned polling station. Another Presiding Officer claimed that she was not given this number. The team considers that, in the future, posting a large sign with the GECOM re-direct numbers near polling station entrances would be a good idea. Access to a "master list" for the Division would likewise have been helpful to prevent voters who presented themselves at the wrong polling station from being turned away without a definite idea of where they should go to vote.

Around 10:35 a.m., while visiting the Parika Salem Community High School, the team received a report of AFC agents being refused entry to their assigned polling stations because they did not have a letter of introduction. Polling Agents confirmed that this had indeed happened at that location but that GECOM had intervened and allowed the agents to enter the polling stations.

The procedures for counting were accurately and efficiently completed by 8 p.m. Packing the polling material, however, took over two hours and proved exhausting. There was only one bus for all the polling stations at the school, so Polling Officials had to wait for all the other polling stations to

finish before the voting material was transported to the nearest police station. In the view of the observers, moving material out station by station with the vehicle returning to the polling place, might have made the process run more efficiently. There was adequate security to safeguard the transmission of the ballot boxes and polling material to the Returning Officer. Polling Agents were also present for the hand-over.

Region 4: Demerara/ Mahaica

In this, the most populous Region, which includes Georgetown and its environs, teams of observers covered over a third of the 783 polling stations. Polling stations were observed to open on time and were appropriately supplied with voting materials, though in a couple of instances there were insufficient lists of electors and tally sheets for all party agents to have one and these were shared. Presiding Officers and other Polling Officials were generally extremely conscientious and worked tirelessly throughout the day to ensure the smooth conduct of the polls. One team received a report of a Presiding Officer who had been removed because of drunkenness, but this was a single, anomalous incident.

Voting was conducted in a peaceful manner and there were no incidents or reports of violence or intimidation. In the only serious infraction of the day, one team encountered a vehicle parked just a few feet from the gate of the polling place, where individuals who were apparently party officials from the PPP/C were intercepting persons coming to join the queue and bringing them to the back of the vehicle, where they were reviewing the voter list and seemed to be attempting to influence their votes. When these individuals saw the observers they moved their vehicle about 150 feet from the gate, where they continued their activity with anyone who passed by the vehicle.

The early rush to vote caused systemic pressures at some polling stations. At East Ruimveldt Secondary School, where police were positioned at the doors of polling stations located in schoolrooms, but not controlling ingress to the building, health and safety issues developed as a frustrated crowd of over eighty persons became jammed in a narrow corridor outside one polling station. Unable to see the notice on the door, which indicated that it was the station for those with surnames A to H, voters waited long periods only to discover that they were in the wrong place. Angry pushing meant that at one time, twenty-five voters spilled into the polling station, shouting and disrupting voting. The situation was brought under control, but better logistical deployment of police and an information clerk would seem advisable in future.

Elsewhere in Georgetown there were reports that extra security had been called to deal with a crowd of voters frustrated because many of them, having waited a long time in line, were turned away because they were not registered at that polling station. Voters complained to various observation teams that polling stations and voter lists had been changed at short notice and that they had experienced difficulty in finding the one to which they were assigned. In one case, the complainants were preponderantly Afro-Guyanese.

In general, the secrecy of the ballot was maintained and voting procedures were correctly followed with only minor irregularities. Two teams found that voting compartments in certain locations were not guaranteed privacy. In one location the voting area was a booth with a glass window, through which party agents could potentially see. In the second case, due to rain, the booth had been turned around so that the back was open and observable to party agents. In a third, a policewoman, stationed to prevent lines from different polling stations mingling, had a view of the compartment. In all these cases, the problems seemed circumstantial rather than deliberate and there

was no evidence of fraudulent behaviour. One team found that polling stations in its ambit were not correctly following the rules on electoral ink, failing to check voters' fingers and allowing voters to wipe their fingers after dipping: they did not, however, find any evidence of double-voting – voters' names were scrupulously checked off.

Many teams reported that the buildings used as polling stations were unsuitable for access by physically challenged voters, with steep stairs and other hurdles, although heroic efforts were often made by these voters and their helpers to get them to the polls. The three stations at Mercy Wings Vocational School were located in a building that can only be reached by crossing a makeshift wooden bridge across a swampy pool.

The count and transmission of results were properly completed, but delays at some stations arose from inadequate training in the area of the final count and closing. Lengthy procedures made concentration difficult to maintain. The late hour at which ballot boxes were delivered meant that party agents did not always choose to accompany them to the Returning Office. Two teams commented on the preponderance of female Polling Officials and wondered if this reflects a widespread and potentially unhealthy gender imbalance in Election Day staff.

Region 5: Mahaica/ Berbice

Sixty-five polling stations were observed. Only one of the polling stations observed opened 15 minutes later for logistical reasons, and most electors voted early. The voting process was properly conducted and observers commended the professionalism and helpfulness of Presiding Officers and other Polling Officials. The support from Polling Agents for physically challenged voters was strikingly good.

There were some minor irregularities at the Bath Primary School, with complaints that many voters were missing from its list. However, the team did not hear from any of the voters directly affected by this problem.

There was one report of racial harassment. Other voters, however, reported that the race relations in this location had improved at this election compared with those in previous years.

There were some problems with the closing of the poll as observers experienced the same delays and confusion regarding post-count procedures as elsewhere.

Region 6: East Berbice/ Corentyne

All polling stations observed were opened on schedule and were properly staffed, equipped and guarded by at least one policeman/policewoman, though not all officials, other than security personnel, were always clearly identified. Voting was orderly and peaceful throughout the day, with GECOM personnel making the rounds to assigned areas to make sure all was running smoothly. No incidents of violence or intimidation were witnessed or reported. Political party representation consisted almost exclusively of AFC, PPP/C and PNCR-1G agents. Representatives of the EAB were present in 30 to 40 percent of the polling stations observed.

One of the few problems identified was that, in cases where individuals did not appear on the voter list, there was little assistance provided to direct them to their assigned polling station. This was reported at many polling places, but did not affect many voters in absolute numbers. There was little or no assistance for individuals with disabilities. Frequently, polling stations (especially the larger ones) were located on the second floor of a building. Elderly people often seemed confused as to where they were supposed to go but received relatively little guidance. Additionally, in approximately half of all polling stations visited, the flow of human traffic was very poorly managed, creating bottlenecks and frustration among many voters.

Polls closed on time and without incidents. The tallying of ballots was, however, a lengthy and cumbersome process.

Region 7: Cuyuni/ Mazarumi

The region has seventy-four polling stations. Of the thirty that were within reach from Bartica, sixteen were visited on Election Day. A few minor irregularities but no major problems were noted. The opening of the polls was timely and the polling stations visited were properly staffed and equipped. The secrecy of the ballot was respected. There were no incidents of violence or intimidation. Voters were impartially instructed about the voting process and the appropriate identification checks and checks for electoral ink were made. Every polling place had security personnel present and representatives of the PPP/C and PNCR-1G; only three, however, had an AFC presence.

The closing of the polls also went smoothly and the observers were invited by the Returning Officer to witness the transfer, escorted by police, of Disciplined Forces' ballots into the ballot box at Bartica Secondary School, for the intermixing and counting of ballots. Everything went according to procedure. As the team was not permitted to be on the river after dark, they were, however, unable to accompany the final delivery of the ballot box.

Region 8: Potaro/ Siparuni

As in Region 1, the remoteness and rough terrain of the area to be covered limited the number of polling stations that could be visited on Election Day, but the procedure in those observed ran smoothly. All the polls opened on time, with the proper complement of Polling Officials, who followed protocol. After an early rush, polling stations were relatively quiet and by 5 p.m. the number of voters had slowed to a trickle. One polling station had the wrong ballot box, which only contained sixteen ballots, a far smaller number than was needed for the List of Electors at that location. Thus, far more voters were registered at that polling station than were able to vote at the time of the team's observations.

The conduct at the polls was otherwise trouble-free and the closing and count were completed without incident. Conversations with police officers at polling stations appeared to confirm that things had gone well across the area. Observers met the Returning Officer for the region, who appeared to them highly competent and to have a strong grasp of her duties and responsibilities.

Region 9: Upper Takutu/ Upper Essequibo

Observers in Region 9 also noted that the election process ran smoothly, with no major incidents to report. At all of the locations visited, both Polling Officials and voters carried out the day

with the utmost formality. All the sites were properly set up and followed the GECOM protocol. Polling Officials and party agents were cooperative and continued to facilitate the voting process without hesitation during the team's observations. During Election Day, the teams observed various minor hitches (voters without identification cards, voters not on the list) and found that these were handled well and in accordance with GECOM directions. Voters and officials were calm and respectful throughout the day. The only consistent, though minor, fault was a failure by polling sites to examine the fingers of voters for previous ink stains. Besides this, the conduct of the poll was exemplary.

The counting process was slow and meticulous. A few slight problems occurred, such as confusion surrounding the ballot sequence (due to sequence breaks and one ballot book being requested by the Deputy Returning Officer for a nearby station that was short of ballots) but all was eventually resolved. During the counting in Annai, the party agents paid close attention and spoke up if they noticed something wrong.

Overall, the teams praised the adequate training for Polling Officials, proper supplies and user-friendly yet comprehensive GECOM manuals, as well as the local community, for their role in securing a calm and efficient process.

Region 10: Upper Demerara/ Berbice

The teams observed some fifty-six polling places. Overall, polling stations opened on time, the Polling Officials and police officers were punctual, and opening procedures were followed. Two exceptions were observed: in one polling station, the ballot box was not sealed in front of the observers or party agents; in the other case, the arrival of the voting materials was delayed.

In general, polling officers followed the proper voting procedures. They gave impartial instructions to voters. A few exceptions were observed where voters' fingers were not checked for electoral ink or voters' identities were not being compared with their pictures in the Registration Folio.

PPP/C, PNC/R and AFC party agents were present in most of the polling places visited, as were EAB observers. In a few cases, the OAS teams ran into other observers from CARICOM, the Carter Center, or the Commonwealth Observer Group and information was shared. No political advertising was observed within 200 yards of a polling place, except in one case where a PPP/C poster was very close to a school entrance.

The polling stations visited closed on time and the correct closing procedure was followed by Polling Officers. The counting was however slowed by the separation of ballots for the General and Regional Elections and the fact that a few ballots became accidentally mixed up. Problems were also posed by the multiple envelopes provided by GECOM for the return of different materials, which caused confusion and major delays in completing returning procedures. The Regional Coordinator accompanied the ballot box to the Returning Officer's Office. Only one party agent accompanied the box to this point.

C. TRANSMISSION OF RESULTS

The history of recent elections in Guyana has shown the importance of a timely announcement of the results in maintaining public confidence and order in the post-election period.

Consequently, the Chief Elections Officer issued the first of several bulletins the day after the elections, on August 29. These regular updates, broadcast from a temporary Media Centre established at the Meridian Pegasus Hotel in Georgetown, continued until the final certification of results on Thursday, August 31, 2006 at 8 p.m. This communications strategy effectively contributed to promoting public confidence in the election and vote counting processes. The thoroughness with which the Chief Elections Officer and his staff certified the results precluded an immediate release of results, but the periodic announcements confirming the tendency of the results defused any speculation.

CHAPTER V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECCOMMENDATIONS

A. CONCLUSIONS

The OAS Electoral Observation Mission wishes to congratulate the people of Guyana for their active and peaceful participation in the General and Regional Elections of August 28, 2006. The OAS Mission commends the work of the Guyana Elections Commission and its Secretariat in the preparations for elections; the political parties for their civil discourse; the Disciplined Forces, particularly the police, for ensuring adequate security in all of the polling stations throughout the country; civil society organizations in fostering a pre-electoral environment of peace and mutual respect and mobilizing a significant number of observers on election day. Without the commitment of these different groups, their leaders and the citizenry as a whole, this important democratic exercise would not have been possible.

The peaceful conclusion of these elections represents an historic opportunity for politics to transcend race and ethnicity. To continue the process of strengthening democracy in Guyana, it is now important to promote an open debate about the electoral process and its actors. In this spirit, the OAS Mission would like to offer the following observations:

1. Despite the concerns of the political parties about registration and deficiencies in the Official List of Electors, identity checks were, in general, stringently carried out and the OAS Mission uncovered no evidence of fraudulent voting. Safeguards such as the use of indelible ink, the presence of political party agents and electoral folios with voters' photographs impeded the possibility of widespread, intentional disenfranchisement or double voting. However, the OAS Mission believes that the decision to not conduct the house-to-house verification of the information on the voters' list, despite being stipulated in the electoral code and for which the Government had allocated ample resources, unnecessarily cast doubt on the entire process and indeed compelled a delay of the elections beyond the original constitutional deadline.

2. An important exercise to address doubts surrounding the list of electors was the Claims and Objections period. According to data collected by the OAS long-term observers, however, the total number of changes requested or objections lodged, not including new registrants totaled less than four percent of the total list. The small number of claims and objections indicated a list that was more accurate than publicly acknowledged, or that political parties and their supporters did not adequately take advantage of this important mechanism to correct inaccuracies. With respect to the handling of objections, the Mission deemed it desirable that the GECOM bolster the citizens' confidence in that process.

3. Overall, political parties engaged in constructive political dialogue and offered voters' programs to promote economic and social development in Guyana. Most of the political parties participating on a national level published detailed party platforms. With some exceptions, parties did not resort to racial provocations. Yet, international and national observers were witness to some political rhetoric that seemed to violate the spirit of the media code of conduct. As the Media Monitoring Unit noted, "there is still a considerable way to go to meet the standards set out in [this] Code of Conduct." Encouraging and ensuring constructive political dialogue is a work in progress and it is incumbent on the political parties not only to sign codes of conduct, but commit to them fully. The OAS

Mission recognizes the positive contribution of the signing of the Peace Pact and Code of Conduct and regrets that all parties were not signatories.

4. Upon their arrival, the long-term OAS observers perceived a lack of communication between GECOM and the general public. Eventually, though, the GECOM Chairman began to hold weekly press briefings, which contributed greatly in addressing questions about the preparations for the elections. As Election Day drew near, moreover, the GECOM redoubled its civic education campaigns and citizens were provided with the information they needed to vote.

5. Polling Officials were well-trained, professional, and courteous. For the most part, the opening, conduct and closing of the poll ran smoothly. However, the procedures for closing the polls and returning the Statements of Poll and other election materials were laborious and complicated. In particular, the designation of multiple envelopes, which had to be sealed with sealing wax and stamped with the Presiding Officer's seal, was time-consuming.

6. Political party agents were present in all of the polling stations observed. Agents tended, however, to belong to the two dominant parties. The Alliance for Change issued a formal complaint that many of its party agents were denied access to the polls. While the GECOM quickly remedied this situation, it represented one of the few glitches on Election Day.

7. Many of the buildings used as polling stations, particularly in urban areas, were extremely difficult for physically challenged voters to access. Narrow staircases, corridors, and informal bridges also posed general health and safety hazards when crowded with voters.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

As is customary in its final reports, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission would like to offer the following recommendations. These recommendations are based on the information gathered over the five months the mission was present as well as some of the concerns expressed by leaders and citizens active in the electoral process of Guyana. This list of recommendations is not meant to be exhaustive and should be utilized in the constructive spirit in which it is intended. In accordance with mandates emanating from the Inter-American Democratic Charter and other resolutions approved by its General Assembly, the OAS offers its good offices to assist in the continuing efforts to strengthen the democratic process in Guyana.

1. Electoral Authorities and Preparations for Elections

a. While it eventually held press briefings and embarked on a civic education campaign, the GECOM should devote more time and resources to public outreach. It should be provided with adequate financial support to put in place a permanent civic education program, targeted at school-aged youth in off-election years.

b. GECOM should improve communications with all competing political parties, regardless of their size and parliamentary representation. This communication could be facilitated through scheduled and ad hoc meetings and briefings. As election preparations accelerate, meetings should be held with greater regularity. While some of the smaller political parties might not have representation on the GECOM and thus lack a statutory authority in formulating electoral policies, they should be kept apprised of the decision-making process.

c. As stipulated in the electoral code, the GECOM should conduct a house-to-house verification of the voters' list. Conducting this process as soon as possible will ensure that a verified list of electors is available whenever elections are called.

d. GECOM should simplify procedures to be followed by the poll workers on Election Day, especially those that pertain to the closing of the polls. This process can be streamlined without jeopardizing safeguards and may contribute to a quicker transmission of results.

e. A uniform credentialing system should be provided to national observers. In 2001, national observers were provided individual credentials; in 2006, institutions were accredited and they, in turn, had to provide credentials to their observers. Whatever procedure is to be followed, it should be instituted in the same manner from election to election. Likewise, GECOM should ensure that all competing political parties are provided with appropriate credentials and the poll workers must know to grant access to party agents and observers. It is incumbent on political parties and national observation organizations, however, to provide the names and other relevant information as early as possible. Requirements and time frames should be previously agreed upon and adhered to.

f. GECOM should make every effort to identify voting facilities that offer reasonable access for the physically challenged to vote.

2. Political Parties

a. Political parties should continue to promote politics based on national policies and refrain from inciting racial prejudices. This campaign was more constructive than others recently observed, but there remains room for improvement. Political parties should make every effort to commit to pre-electoral codes of conducts and to adhere to them.
b. Political party reform and modernization should be addressed. Internal democratization, campaign financing and political party institutionalization between elections are issues being addressed in the Caribbean and other OAS Member States throughout the hemisphere that also hold relevance for Guyana.

c. More people, especially women, need to be afforded the opportunity not only to belong to a political party, but be part of its leadership and roster of candidates. Quotas provide that, for parties contesting seats in the National Assembly, a third of the candidates validly nominated must be women. The target 30 percent presence of women in Parliament is laudable, yet it falls short of gender equality.

d. Many political party leaders, civil society representatives and citizens have advocated reforms to make the electoral process more transparent, more participatory and institutionalized. While it is not within the purview of the OAS Mission to advocate specific reforms, it encourages all stakeholders and political party leaders in particular, to embark on the process of reform as soon as possible. It is important that this process be as inclusive as possible.

3. Civil Society

a. Since 1992, civil society organizations have assumed an important role in the electoral process of Guyana. Of particular note is the work of the Elections Assistance Bureau, the Private Sector Commission, the Public Service Union, the Guyana Bar Association, the Inter-Religious Organization and the Media Monitoring Unit. The participation of these and other groups contributes significantly to the transparency of the electoral process and provides thousands of citizens the opportunity to participate in the democratic process. This role should be sustained.

b. While not directly related to the electoral process, the OAS applauds the efforts of the Ethnic Relations Commission**.** It should have an expanded mandate and resources to conduct sustained activities to promote democratic values and mutual tolerance.

4. Others

a. As stipulated by the constitution, municipal elections should be held as soon as possible. Elective politics on the local level constitutes an important and inclusive mechanism for all political parties and departs from the notion of winner-take-all politics.

b. The efforts of the Disciplined Forces, particularly the police, have been commended. Facilitating communication between the forces provided an element of preparedness not present in previous elections. Other actors, such as the rural constables, complemented the work of the police. Coordination between these forces should be further strengthened.

c. Providing a feeling of security to the citizenry is a multi-faceted, long-term effort and not exclusively the responsibility of the armed forces and police. Political parties, in particular, must continue to urge their followers to participate peacefully in the electoral and political processes of their country without resorting to violence. Parties, civil society, and government need to be diligent in preaching tolerance and mutual respect.

d. The international community must remain engaged in the political processes of Guyana. It needs to provide adequate resources to consolidate democracy in Guyana, by helping to strengthen institutions such as the GECOM and the National Assembly, and by promoting mechanisms for dialogue among the political parties and civil society. Ultimately, the political decisions of the country will be made by the Guyanese people, but the international community should support them in this process.

CHAPTER VI. FINANCIAL REPORT
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
DEPARTMENT FOR THE PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY

Electoral Observation Mission - Guyana 2006
PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
From Inception (March 31, 2006) to October 31, 2006

Increases			
Contributions:		$	547,199
Brazil	10,000		
Chile	5,000		
Canada	222,599		
Mexico	5,000		
United kingdom	94,600		
United States	210,000		
Decreases			
Expenditures			
Travel	118,949		
Publications and Documents	500		
Equipment, Supplies and Maintenance	21,948		
Building and Maintenance	5,834		
Performance Contracts	160,545		
Other Expenses	29,364		
Total Decreases			337,140
Cash balance at end of period			210,059
Unliquidated Obligations			30,233
Fund balance at end of period		$	179,826

APPENDIX I

INVITATION AND ACCEPTANCE LETTERS

Office of the President
New Garden St., & South Rd.,
Georgetown
Guyana.

Our Ref.: HPS: 10/3/7

His Excellency
Mr Jose Muguel Insulza
Secretary General
Organisation of American States
17th and Constitution Ave.
N.W.
Washington DC 20006
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Your Excellency,

This correspondence follows up on your organisation's favourable response to the Government of Guyana's request for foreign observers at its upcoming General and Regional Election 2006.

The Administration is convinced that the presence of a small team of long- term observers who can monitor all aspects of elections' preparation including Registration and the completion of the Voters' List and vouch for their acceptability would make an important contribution to Guyana holding a free, fair elections according to international standards.

The Government of Guyana would like to formally request the O.A.S. to send such a long-term Election Observer Mission.

This long-term Election Observer Mission would be in addition to poll watchers who would traditionally arrive close to polling day.

The Government of Guyana would urge the O.A.S., if the request is favourably considered, to have the Mission begin immediately to allow it to monitor the on-going continuous Registration period scheduled to end on March 19, 2006.

2/

2.

To so do, the O.A.S. can prepare a budget and plan for the Mission as soon as possible and to see contributions for funding the activity.

Please be assured, Your Excellency, that the Government of Guyana stands ready to undertake its own efforts to seek donor support for such an Election Observer Mission.

Sincerely yours,

ROGER F. LUNCHEON, M.D.
Head, Presidential Secretariat
2006-01-26

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

December 2, 2005

Excellency:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency in reference to the letter from Roger F. Luncheon, M.D., Head, Presidential Secretariat, Office of the President, Co-operative Republic of Guyana, dated September 15, 2005, inviting the Organization of American States (OAS) to send a team of election observers for the General and Regional Elections in 2006, on a date that has not been determined.

It is the hope of the OAS to be able to deploy an independent electoral observation mission. As Your Excellency would be aware, the ability to send such a mission would depend on the timely receipt of sufficient external funds for an observation of adequate size and duration, as well as the signing of the two customary legal agreements between Your Excellency's Government and the General Secretariat of the OAS. Draft copies of the agreements will be submitted to Your Excellency's Government through the Permanent Mission of Guyana for review and eventual signature. These agreements and related arrangements maintain the independence of all OAS electoral observation missions and access to electoral information, as required by decisions of OAS political bodies.

I look forward to hearing from Your Excellency's Government when the date for the elections becomes known, so that the OAS can begin specific planning for a possible mission.

Should Your Excellency's Government have any questions, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Jacqueline Deslauriers, Director, Office for the Promotion of Democracy, Department of Democratic and Political Affairs.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Jose Miguel Insulza

His Excellency
Bayney R. Karran. Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Guyana
to the Organization of American States
Washington. D.C.

APPENDIX II

AGREEMENT ON THE PRIVILEDGES AND IMMUNITIES OF OBSERVERS OF THE ELECTION PROCESS IN GUYANA IN 2006

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA
AND
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES
OF THE ELECTION PROCESS IN GUYANA IN 2006

The Parties to this Agreement, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter the "GS/OAS") and the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (hereinafter the "Government"),

WHEREAS:

The Government invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter the "OAS" or the "Organization") to support the democratic process in the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (hereinafter "Guyana"), in the framework of general and regional elections to be held in 2006.

The Secretary General of the OAS,, in a letter dated December 2, 2005, informed the Government that he accepted the invitation to establish a Group of Observers (hereinafter "Group of Observers") to conduct an OAS Observer Mission in Guyana (hereinafter "OAS Observer Mission") for these elections, subject to obtaining the necessary resources to finance the establishment of the OAS Observer Mission in Guyana,

The Group of Observers will be comprised of officials and/or persons contracted at GS/OAS headquarters GS/OAS as well as other international observers specifically under contract to the GS/OAS for the OAS Observer Mission.

The basic privileges and immunities enjoyed by the OAS, the GS/OAS, and its staff in Guyana are set out in the Charter of the Organization and in the Agreement Between The Government of The Co-operative Republic Of Guyana and The General Secretariat Of The Organization Of American States on the Functioning of the Office of The General Secretariat of the Organization Of American States and Recognition of Its Privileges and Immunities, signed by the parties on April 18, 1994.

NOW, THEREFORE:

The Government and the GS/OAS

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE GROUP OF OBSERVERS

ARTICLE I

1.1 The privileges and immunities of the Group of Observers shall be those accorded to the OAS, to the GS/OAS, to its organs and to its staff.

ARTICLE II

2.1. The property and effects of the Group of Observers, in any part of the territory of Guyana and in possession of any person, shall enjoy immunity against any type of judicial proceeding, save in those specific cases for which said immunity is expressly waived in writing by the Secretary General of the OAS.

2.2 However, it is understood that said waiver of immunity shall not have the effect of subjecting any such property and effects to any type of measure of execution.

ARTICLE III

3.1 The premises occupied by the Group of Observers shall be inviolable.

3.2 Moreover, the property and effects of the Group of Observers, in any part of the territory of Guyana and in possession of any person, shall enjoy immunity against search and seizure, confiscation, expropriation and against any form of intervention, be it executive, administrative, judicial or legislative.

ARTICLE IV

4.1 The files of the Group of Observers and all of the documents pertaining thereto or in its possession shall be inviolable wherever they are located.

ARTICLE V

5.1 The Group of Observers shall be:

a) exempt from any internal taxation, it being understood, however, that they may not claim any type of tax exemption that is in fact remuneration for public services;

b) exempt from any type of customs duty, prohibition and restriction in respect of articles and publications that they may import or export for their official use. It is understood, however, that the articles they import duty-free may be sold within the country only in accordance with conditions expressly agreed upon with the Government;

c) exempt from ordinances, regulations or moratoria of any kind. Moreover, they may have currency of any type, carry their accounts in any foreign currency and transfer their funds in foreign currency.

CHAPTER II

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF OBSERVERS

ARTICLE VI

6.1 The members of the Group of Observers shall be those who have been designated by the GS/OAS and accredited with the Guyanese authorities.

ARTICLE VII

7.1 For the period during which the members of the Group of Observers exercise their functions and during their trips to and from Guyana, they shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities:

a) Immunity from personal detention or arrest as well as immunity from any type of legal proceeding in respect of their actions and statements, be they oral or written, done in the performance of their functions;

b) The inviolability of all papers or documents;

c) The right to communicate with the GS/OAS via radio, telephone, telegraph, satellite or other means, and to receive documents and correspondence through messengers or in sealed pouches, enjoying for that purpose the same privileges and immunities accorded to diplomatic mail, messages and pouches;

d) The right to utilize for their movements throughout the national territory, any means of transportation, be it by air, by water or over land;

e) Exemption in respect of their persons and that of their spouses and children, from any type of immigration restriction and registration of aliens and any type of national service in Guyana;

f) The same privileges accorded to the representatives of foreign governments on official mission in respect to foreign-currency restrictions;

g) The same immunities and privileges in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys; and

h) Such other privileges, immunities and facilities as are compatible with the foregoing, and enjoyed by diplomatic envoys, with the exception that they shall not enjoy any exemption from customs duties on imported merchandise (that is not part of their personal effects) or sales taxes or consumer taxes.

ARTICLE VIII

8.1 The provisions contained in the preceding article do not apply to nationals of Guyana working as local contract staff in the Group of Observers, save in respect of official acts performed or statements issued in the exercise of their functions.

ARTICLE IX

9.1 The Group of Observers may establish and operate in the territory of Guyana an independent radio communication system to provide an on-going communications link

between the observers and the vehicles used by the Observers with its offices and regional headquarters, such as the central office in Georgetown and between the latter and the headquarters of the GS/OAS in Washington, D.C. The Government shall provide all the technical and administrative support necessary for this to be achieved.

CHAPTER III
COOPERATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES

ARTICLE X

10.1 The Group of Observers shall cooperate with the relevant Guyanese authorities to prevent any occurrence of abuse in respect of the specified privileges and immunities. Similarly, the relevant authorities shall do whatever is possible to provide the cooperation requested of them by the Group of Observers.

ARTICLE XI

11.1 Without prejudice to the immunities and privileges accorded, the Group of Observers shall respect the laws and regulations existing in Guyana.

ARTICLE XII

12.1 The Government and the GS/OAS shall take any measures necessary to procure an amicable arrangement in the proper settlement of:

a) Any disputes that may arise in contracts or other questions of private law;

b) Any disputes to which the Group of Observers may be party with respect to matters in which they enjoy immunity.

CHAPTER IV
NATURE OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

ARTICLE XIII

13.1 The privileges and immunities are granted to the members of the Group of Observers in order to safeguard their independence in the exercise of their functions of observing the Guyanese Election Process and not for personal gain or to perform activities of a political nature within the territory of Guyana.

13.2 Therefore, the Secretary General of the OAS may waive the privileges and immunities of any of the Members of the Group of Observers in the event that he determines that the exercise of those privileges and immunities may obstruct the course of justice.

CHAPTER V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XIV

14.1 The Government recognizes the "Official Travel Document" issued by the GS/OAS as a valid and sufficient document for purposes of travel by the members of the Group of Observers who possess this Document.

14.2 The Government will issue to each member of the Group of Observers a visa to enter the country and to remain therein until the end of the Mission.

ARTICLE XV

15.1 The Government agrees to extend the privileges and immunities of the present Agreement to members of the Group of Observers designated by the GS/OAS, who have been accredited by the Guyanese authorities.

ARTICLE XVI

This agreement may be amended by mutual consent in writing by the Government and GS/OAS.

ARTICLE XVII

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall cease to have effect once the members of the Group of Observers have completed their mission, in accordance with the terms of the request made by the Government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized, do hereby sign this Agreement, in duplicate, on the date and locations indicated below.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC
OF GUYANA

Samuel Rudolph Insanally
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Co-operative Republic of Guyana
Georgetown, Guyana

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES

10.04.06

Albert R. Ramdin
Assistant Secretary General of the
Organization of American States

APPENDIX III

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE OAS AND THE COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSIOB ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
AND
THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS

The Parties, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana Elections Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Elections Commission") and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as "GS/OAS"),

CONSIDERING:

THAT on the 15th day of September 2005, the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (hereinafter referred to as "the Government"), through the Head of its Presidential Secretariat, invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the "OAS") to send an Electoral Observation Mission (hereinafter referred to as "the Mission") to Guyana for the purpose of witnessing the elections for President and for Members of Parliament to be held in 2006.

THAT in Resolution AG/RES. 991 (XIX-O/89) the General Assembly of the OAS recommended to the Secretary General that "when a member state so requests in the exercise of its sovereignty, missions should be organized and sent to said state to monitor the development, if possible at all stages, of each of its electoral processes;"

THAT Article 24 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states in pertinent part as follows:

> *The electoral observation missions shall be carried out at the request of the member state concerned. To that end, the government of that state and the Secretary General shall enter into an agreement establishing the scope and coverage of the electoral observation mission in question. The member state shall guarantee conditions of security, free access to information, and full cooperation with the electoral observation mission.*

Electoral observation missions shall be carried out in accordance with the principles and norms of the OAS. The Organization shall ensure that these missions are effective and independent and shall provide them with the necessary resources for that purpose. They shall be conducted in an objective, impartial, and transparent manner and with the appropriate technical expertise.

THAT in a letter dated December 2, 2005, the Secretary General responded affirmatively to the Government's request to send the Mission with the objective of observing the Presidential and Parliamentary elections of 2006.

AGREE:

First: Guarantees

a) The Elections Commission guarantees the Mission access to all facilities for the adequate fulfillment of the observation of the elections in 2006, in Guyana, in conformity with the relevant laws and standards of Guyana and the terms of this Agreement;

b) The Elections Commission, on and after the day of the elections, will guarantee the Mission access to all polling stations and other locations and facilities related to the election until the official count is tabulated nationally;

c) The Elections Commission will guarantee the Mission complete access to the locations in which the process of counting and tabulating votes will take place.

Second: Information

a) The Elections Commission will furnish the Mission with all information referring to the organization, direction and supervision of the electoral process. The Mission may request of the Elections Commission such additional information as is necessary for the exercise of the Mission's functions, and the Elections Commission shall promptly furnish all such information;

b) The Mission may inform the Elections Commission about any irregularities and/or interference, which the Mission might observe or of which the Mission might learn. Similarly, the Mission may request the Elections Commission to

provide any information regarding the measures which the Elections Commission will take in relation to such irregularities, and the Elections Commission shall promptly furnish all such information;

c) The Elections Commission will provide the Mission with information related to the electoral list and other computerized electoral data referring to the same. Similarly, the Elections Commission will provide all other information relative to the computer systems used on Election Day, and will offer demonstrations of the systems' operation to the Mission;

d) The Elections Commission will guarantee the Mission access to all electoral bodies responsible for vote counting and tabulation. Similarly, the Elections Commission will permit the Mission to conduct any evaluations deemed necessary by the Mission of the voting system and of the communications utilized to transmit electoral results. At the same time, the Elections Commission will guarantee the Mission complete access to the complaints process and quality controls that occur before and after the electoral process and are of interest to the Mission.

e) The Elections Commission further guarantees the Mission access to all polling stations and other bodies throughout the national territory of Guyana. Upon request of the Mission, the Elections Commission guarantees to make available by the end of the voting process and, before the closing of the polling stations, copies of all documents printed electronically.

Third: General Provisions

a) The Secretary General will designate a Chief of Mission, to represent the Mission and its members before the Elections Commission and before the Government;

b) The GS/OAS will communicate to the leadership of the Elections Commission the names of the persons who will comprise the Mission, who will be duly identified;

c) The Mission will act impartially, objectively and independently in the fulfillment of its mandate;

d) The General Secretariat will send to the leadership of the Elections Commission a copy of the final report of the Electoral Observation Mission following the election of the President and Parliament in Guyana;

e) The Elections Commission will make known and disseminate the contents of this Agreement among all electoral bodies and among all personnel involved in the electoral process.

Fourth: Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an express or implied waiver of the privileges and immunities of the OAS or the GS/OAS or that any of their organs may enjoy under the Charter of the Organization, the Agreement between the GS/OAS and the Government in relation to the privileges and immunities of each of the members of the group of observers of the election process in Guyana signed by the Parties on the 10th day of April, 2006, or under international law.

Fifth: Resolution of controversies

The Parties shall attempt to resolve through direct negotiations any disputes arising in relation to the interpretation and/or implementation of this Agreement. If the negotiations do not result in the resolution of the dispute, the matter shall be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the procedure agreed to by the Parties.

Sixth: Amendments

Amendments to this Agreement shall be made in a writing signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties and attached hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement in duplicate on the date and locations indicated below.

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Albert R. Ramdin
Assistant Secretary General
Organization of American States

FOR THE GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Steve Surujbally
Chairman
Guyana Elections Commission
Georgetown, Guyana

APPENDIX IV

INTER RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION OF GUYANA AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
PEACE PACT AND CODE OF CONDUCT

INTER RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION OF GUYANA AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

PEACE PACT AND CODE OF CONDUCT

For Political Parties
Contesting the 2006 General and Regional Elections

Peace and public order, freedom of political campaigning, verification and compliance with electoral laws and regulations are essential to the conduct of free, fair and credible elections and the ready acceptance of results. In furtherance of these objectives, we, the leadership of the political parties of Guyana:

1. Affirm our belief in the sanctity of human life and abhor taking human life or the violation of the person of anyone because of that person's political allegiance.
2. Declare our opposition to and rejection of the use of violence and intimidation by any of our members or supporters as a means of expressing political support or furthering political objectives.
3. Denounce the procurement, possession or distribution of weapons or ammunition of any sort by our members or supporters for use in political activity.
4. Affirm our commitment to non-violent relations between the members and supporters of all political parties.
5. Repudiate any action by our members or supporters calculated to provoke, threaten or intimidate the members and supporters of any other party.
6. Recognize and respect the rights of each party, its members and supporters to express and demonstrate their political views and to conduct lawful, non-violent activities in support of their objectives.
7. Agree that we will only offer support to candidates who manifest the highest moral standards and who have not been convicted of any serious crime.

In the belief that the manner in which an Election is conducted is crucial to the well-being of Guyana and to its functioning as a democracy, We the leadership of the Political Parties contesting the 2006 General and Regional Elections, will urge our candidates, agents and supporters to contribute positively to a peaceful political atmosphere in which our respective policies and programmes for Guyana's future development will be the dominant feature of our campaigns. In this regard, we solemnly declare that:

I. LAWS, RULES AND PROCEDURES

We will act in accordance with all existing laws, rules and procedures governing the election practices.

We, our candidates, agents, members, supporters will avoid all illegal and corrupt practices.

We will insist that our candidates and agents avoid making speeches or statements that promote racial or ethnic tension by using stereotypes and other language to denigrate citizens or groups through derogatory references to race, gender, religious belief or cultural practice.

We will urge our candidates and supporters to respect the rights of others and, in particular, the right to freedom of speech and the right to hold and express contrary views.

II. A PEACEFUL CAMPAIGN AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS

We will contribute in everyway to the goal of peaceful election process and hereby undertake to:

1 Forbid the use of threats, harassment or tendency to violence that might cause disruption whether at political rallies or elsewhere, or any other form of intimidatory behaviour.

11 Forbid the use of abusive, slanderous or threatening language, or language to incite people of one group to violence against any person, member or members of any other group.

III Forbid the publication of any pamphlet, poster, cartoons or other material containing matters which can offend or incite people to cause public disorder.
Forbid our candidates, members or supporters from all acts of interference with rallies, meetings, gatherings or processions of other parties.

v. Forbid all actions aimed at defacing, destroying or damaging any poster, notice or other campaign materials of other political parties.

III. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE ELECTION PROCESS

We, together with our candidates, agents, workers and supporters will cooperate with, and give support to, the Electoral Commission, its officials and officers in the proper execution of their functions and duties and we will refrain from attacks, threats or other improper treatment of these officials during the campaign.

We will ensure that our candidates, agents and supporters refrain from interfering in any way with the polling and counting proceedings and avoid all attempts to spread false rumours about election activities.

We will urge our candidates, agents and supporters not to cause damage in any way to any premise in which polling places are located or to remove, deface or damage any election materials.

IV. COOPERTION WITH POLICE, MILITARY AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES

We will show respect for, and give support to, the law enforcement, military and security authorities in the proper discharge of their duties during the campaign, voting and declaration of results periods. We agree that unhelpful behaviour by parties and candidates towards these authorities should be avoided.

V. COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION

We agree that effective implementation of this Code by all Parties contesting the General and Regional Elections will significantly enhance the prospects for a free and fair election and we pledge ourselves to undertake, abide by and act according to its spirit, intent and letter.

Accordingly, we will issue instructions to our candidates, agents, members and supporters directing them to observe this Peace Pact and Code of Conduct and we pledge to take such other steps as may be necessary to ensure that its principles and practices are widely disseminated and followed.

VI. ACCEPTANCE OF VALID ELECTIONS

Upon the Declaration of the Results by the Elections Commission to the satisfaction of the majority of the political parties, accredited observers and invited international visitors, the losing parties and candidates will show graciousness and magnanimity in their acceptance of the elections results and the winning party will pledge itself to govern in the interests of all Guyanese.

VII. VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE

We agree that a system of verification is necessary to ensure compliance with this Peace Pact and Code of Conduct and will serve to build confidence, enhance credibility and develop trust among all Parties contesting the General and Regional Elections.

Accordingly, we agree to institute a system of self-verification as well as support and encourage other cooperative systems of verification as may be necessary to detect and deter any potential or actual act/s of non-compliance and we agree to issue and support public statements of condemnation with regard to such act/s or violations.

PLEDGE

We pledge to one another and to the Guyanese people to uphold and defend the Constitution of Guyana
To honour our National Pledge
To work assiduously to promote harmony and peace among members and supporters of all Parties
To eliminate politically motivated and all other forms of violence
And to encourage and demonstrate love, forgiveness and peaceful coexistence as we strive to develop our Native Land.

APPENDIX V

OAS FORMS USED TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON ELECTION DAY

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION

GUYANA

General and Regional Elections
Monday August 28, 2006

OPENING OF THE POLL

NAME OF OBSERVER _____

ELECTORAL DISTRICT _____

POLLING STATION / PLACE No._____

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE_____

DIVISION NAME _____

Arrived _____ Departed_____ Total time of observation _____

Number of voters on the voter list _____

Number of ballots cast while observer was at the polling station _____

People in line _____

I. OPENING

1. Did the Presiding Officer ensure that all required signs and notices including Official List of Electors or part thereof, Notice of Poll, and Directions for Voting were placed outside the Polling Station prior to the Opening of the Poll?

   Yes _____ No _____

2. Did the Polling Station open at 6 a.m.? Yes _____ No _____

   If not at what time did it open? _____

3. Did the presiding officer, poll clerks and agents make the declaration of secrecy before the opening of the poll?

   Yes _____ No_____

4. Were all electoral officials present? Yes _____ No_____

   If not, who was absent?

   Presiding Officer _____ Poll Clerk _____ Police Officer _____

5. Indicate political party agents that were present.

   AFC _____ GAP/ROAR_____ JFAP _____

   PNCR-1G _____ PPP/C _____ TUF _____

6. Did the Presiding Officer show that the Ballot Box was empty before starting the voting?

   Yes _____ No_____

7. Did witnesses sign the Poll Book certifying that the Ballot Box was properly examined and sealed before the opening of the Poll?

   Yes _____ No _____

8. Were procedures generally followed in Opening the Polling Station?

   Yes _____ No_____

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION

GUYANA

General and Regional Elections
Monday August 28, 2006

OBSERVATION OF VOTING

NAME OF OBSERVER _____

ELECTORAL DISTRICT _____

POLLING STATION / PLACE _____

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE _____

DIVISION NAME _____

Arrived _____ left _____ Total time of observation _____

Number of voters on the voter list _____ Number of ballots cast at the time of observer's visit 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ People in line _____

9. Were all the electoral materials available? Yes _____ No _____
   If not what materials were missing?
   a. Ballot papers _____ b. Ink _____
   c. Copies of the register of electors _____ d. Ballot box_____
   e. Poll Box _____ f. Other

10. Did the polling station open on time? Yes _____ No_____

    If not, state why and when did it open? (use reverse side of form)

11. Were the Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk present? Yes _____ No_____

    If not, state who was absent and why? (use reverse side of form)

12. Was a police officer present at the polling station? Yes _____ No_____

13. Were party agents present at polling site? Yes _____ No_____

    If not, which party was not present? (use reverse side of form)

14. Was the secrecy of vote maintained? Yes _____ No_____

    If not, explain on reverse side.

15. Did the Presiding Officer and Poll Clerks follow the proper voting procedures?

    Yes _____ No_____

16. Was the identity of the voters properly checked? Yes _____ No _____

17. Did the Presiding Officer and poll Clerks provide impartial instructions to the voter?

Yes _____ No_____ If not, explain on reverse side of form.

10. Did the observer notice any campaign materials (posters, stickers, photos) or activities within 200 yards of the polling station or any other campaigning on Election Day?

Yes _____ No____

11. Did the observer notice or receive any information about incidents and/or irregularities in or near the polling station? If so, explain on reverse side.

Yes _____ No_____

12. Did the observer notice or receive any information about intimidation of voters?

Yes _____ No_____

13. Did the observers meet other observers (international or national)?

Yes _____ No_____ Which ones?_____

14. Was proper assistance given to the physically challenged Voters?

Yes _____ No_____ Not observed_____

15. What is your overall assessment of the voting process?

_____ Good – No significant problems.

_____ Minor problems – Not sufficient to affect outcome.

_____ Major problems – May affect results

ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION

GUYANA

General and Regional Elections
Monday August 28, 2006

COUNTING OF THE POLL

NAME OF OBSERVER _____

ELECTORAL DISTRICT _____

POLLING STATION / PLACE No. _____

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE_____

DIVISION NAME _____

Arrived _____ left _____ Total time of observation _____

Number of voters on the voter list _____ Number of ballots cast _____

18. Did the number of ballots match the number of votes recorded in the registry?

    Yes _____ No _____

19. Were party agents present to witness the closing and counting process?

    Yes _____ No_____

20. Were ballots objected to / disputed by any of the party agents present?

    Yes _____ No_____

21. Were counting procedures were followed?

    Yes _____ No_____ If not, explain of reverse side.

22. Did the Presiding Officer and Poll Clerks complete form "Statement of the Poll after counting the ballots?

    Yes _____ No_____

23. Were national observers able to observe the vote count? If not, explain on reverse side

24. Did the Presiding Officer publicly display the Statement of Poll:

    Yes _____ No _____

25. What is your overall assessment of the counting process:

    _____ Good – No significant problems.

    _____ Minor problems – Not sufficient to affect the outcome

    _____ Major problems – May affect results

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION

GUYANA

General and Regional Elections
Monday August 28, 2006

CLOSING OF THE POLL

NAME OF OBSERVER _____

ELECTORAL DISTRICT _____

POLLING STATION / PLACE No. _____

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE_____

DIVISION NAME _____

Arrived _____ Departed _____ Total time of observation _____

Number of voters on the voter list _____ Number of ballots cast _____

26. Did the polling station close on time at 6:00? Yes _____ No _____

27. Were there voters in line at 6:00 pm? Yes _____ No_____

    If yes, were they allowed to vote? Yes _____ No_____

28. Were closing procedures followed? Yes_____ No_____
    If not, explain on reverse side of form.

29. Were security officers (Police) present at the closure of the Poll?

    Yes _____ No ____

30. Were agents of parties present in the Polling Station at the closing of the Poll?

    Yes _____ No ____

Please add comments (including any incidents at the closure of the poll) on the reverse side of this form.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION

GUYANA

General and Regional Elections
Monday August 28, 2006

DELIVERY OF VOTING MATERIAL TO THE RETURNING OFFICER / DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER

NAME OF OBSERVER _____

ELECTORAL DISTRICT _____

LOCATION OF RETURNING OFFICER'S / DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER'S OFFICE _____

1. Time of arrival of Observer _____

2. At what time did the Presiding Officer deliver the Statement of Poll to the Deputy Returning Officer? _____

3. Time of handing over ballot box and other electoral materials by the Presiding Officer to the Returning Officer / Deputy Returning Officer _____

4. Did the party agents accompany the voting materials to the Returning Officer / Deputy Returning Officer? Yes _____ No _____

5. Did Police Officers accompany the transportation of ballot boxes and other electoral materials to the Returning Officer's / Deputy Returning Officer's Office?
   Yes _____ No_____

6. Did the observer notice or notice reports of any incidents and/or irregularities in or near the returning office? Yes _____ No_____

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION

GUYANA

General and Regional Elections
Monday August 28, 2006

QUICK COUNT RESULTS

(Please keep confidential)

NAME OF OBSERVER _____

ELECTORAL DISTRICT _____

POLLING STATION / PLACE No._____

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE_____

DIVISION NAME _____

NUMBER OF VOTERS REGISTERED AT POLLING STATION_____

AFC _____

GAP/ROAR _____

JFAP _____

PNCR-1G _____

PPP/C _____

TUF _____

Total Number Of Valid Votes For All Party Lists Of Candidates_____

Rejected Ballot Papers_____

Total Number Of Votes Cast At The Polling Station_____

APPENDIX VI

LIST OF OBSERVERS

#	NAME	CORE GROUP
1	Albert Ramdin	Suriname
2	Sherry Tross	St. Kitts
3	Steven H. Griner	USA
4	Ian Edwards	Jamaica
5	Dennis Moses	Trinidad
6	Dennis Antoine	Grenada
7	Antonio Amarante	Brazil
8	Eugene Petty	St. Kitts
9	Bernice Robertson	Grenada
	OBSERVERS	
	REGION I	
10	William Warden	Canada
11	Jacques Paquette	Canada
12	Laura Gyte	British High Commission
13	Ed Humphrey	British High Commission
	REGION II	
14	Santiago Mariani	Argentina
15	Ana Christina Valente Borges	Brazil
16	Ben Coleman	Canadian High Commission
17	Aoife Gibbons	Canadian High Commission
18	Sonia Weston	US Embassy
19	Edward Luchessi	US Embassy
	REGION III	
20	Christopher Healy	Suriname
21	Steven Hiscock	United Kingdom
22	John Graham	Canada
23	Julieta Maroni Veiga	Argentina
24	O'Neil L. Cuffe	Jamaica
25	Lothar Boksteen	Suriname
26	C. David Esch	USAID
27	Lucas Seabra	Brazil
28	Albena Melin	DFID
29	Sandra Pepera	DFID
	REGION IV	
30	Edward Campbell	CIDA
31	Jarrett Blanc	IFES
32	Youssef Mahmoud	UNDP
33	Fraser Wheeler	British High Commission
34	Ritva Sallmen	EU

35	David Robinson	US Embassy
36	Benjamin Canavan	US Embassy
37	Micheal Thomas	US Embassy
38	John Zak	US Embassy
	EAST BANK DEMERARA	
39	Mariette Vidal	Trinidad & Tobago
40	Gladys Salazar	Bolivia
41	Celine Anselme	EU
42	Graham Garrod	EU
43	Gabriela Del Valle	Guatemala
44	Loubens Blaise	Haiti
	NORTH GEORGETOWN	
45	Ramon Menendez-Carreira	US Embassy
46	Sonya Weston	US Embassy
47	Sheila Roseau	Antigua and Barbuda
48	Daniela Bercovitch	Brazil
49	Folade Mutota	Trinidad & Tobago
50	Cynthia Barrow-Giles	St . Lucia
	SOUTH GEORGETOWN	
51	Mark Mostovac	Canadian High Commission
52	Sophie Mazerolle	Canadian High Commission
53	Jonny Baxter	DFID
54	Vanessa Murchisson	British High Commission
55	Sara Lodge	United Kingdom
56	Jaquelyn Ann Kimball	Canada
57	Niles Cole	US Embassy
58	Fenton Sands	USAID
59	Nancy Long	US Embassy
60	Amy Baskin	US Embassy
61	Douglas Lyon	CDC
62	Christi Murray	CDC
63	Paula Richardson	Canada
64	Ermina Osoba	Antigua and Barbuda
	EAST COAST DEMERARA	
65	Rebecca Hunter	US Embassy
66	Amy DuBois	CDC
67	Marc Buchmann	EU
68	Jean-Yves Lacascade	EU
69	Raymond J. Carrier	Canada
70	Peter Goldring	Canada
71	Ostyn Patrick	EU
72	Ritva Sallmen	EU
73	Javier Grau	IDB

74	San San Min	USAID
75	Javier Reyes	IDB
76	Benjamin Maas	CIDA
77	Neil Frape	British High Commission
78	Pat Holden	DFID
79	Pierre Joanis	Canada
80	Nicole Blouin	Canada
81	Lauren Clark	USA
82	Dora A. Beszterczey	Hungary
83	Cristina Gutierrez	Bolivia
84	Kathy Higgins	DFID
85	Linsey Block	DFID
	REGION V	
86	Ann Fudge	Canada
87	Pablo Zuniga	USA
88	Amisha Patel	DFID
89	Simone Banister	DFID
90	Gloria Richards-Johnson	USAID
91	Rita Ivy Seraphin	Dominica
92	Nicolas Monroy	Colombia
93	Joshua Griner	USA
94	Tim Laing	DFID
95	Jaime Perales	Mexico
	REGION VI	
96	Michael Swisterski	Canada
97	Cynthia Medina	USA
98	Camila Diaz	Colombia
99	Verlyn Faustin	Antigua and Barbuda
100	Antonette Grant	DFID
101	J. Louis Warnholz	DFID
102	Marcia Loraraine Romain	Canada
103	Chandra Budhu	Canada
104	Mira Gupta	USA
105	Robert Allan Patterson	Canada
106	Malcolm Kirk	British High Commission
107	Michelle Bryan	British High Commission
	REGION VII	
108	Mireille La Forge	Canada
109	Thibaut Williams	CDC
	REGION VIII	
110	Claudia Barrientos Revollo	Bolivia
111	Lauren Wheeler	CDC

112	Marissa Wheeler	CDC
113	James Moore	CDC
	REGION IX	
114	Olaf Brian Fjeldheim	Canada
115	Julia Rehwinkel	USAID
116	Andre Baladi	ODI
117	Erica Wheeler	CDC
	REGION X	
118	Jamel Espinoza	Bolivia
119	Kathleen Whalen	EU
120	Moses Bateganya	CDC
121	Kathryn Boryc	USAID
122	Charles Court	Canadian High Commission
123	Fakhr-e-Alam Khan	CSIH

APPENDIX VII

THANK YOU LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
New Garden Street & South Road
Georgetown, Guyana

October 02, 2006

His Excellency Jose Miguel Insulza
Secretary General
Organisation of the American States
17th Street & Constitution Avenue NW
Washington DC 20006
United States of America.

Dear

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of 8th September, 2006 congratulating me on my re-election to office.

I also write to thank you and through you, the Organisation of American States [OAS] for the mission which was dispatched to observe the August 28 election in Guyana under the able leadership of the Assistant Secretary General Ambassador Albert Ramdin.

The presence of these observers certainly served to enhance the transparency, credibility and legitimacy of the results.

I was especially heartened by the fact that the outcome was peaceful. With commitment and effort, we hope to build on this promising achievement to provide a future for the Guyanese people that is free from fear or want.

Please convey our appreciation and gratitude to all members of the team for their participation and support.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Bharrat Jagdeo.
President of the Republic of Guyana.

APPENDIX VIII

SUMMARY OF VOTES

Guyana Elections Commission

Summary of General Votes Cast By Party and District
Tabulated As At: 31-August-2006 5:45:00 PM

Dist #	Number of Electors	Total Votes Cast	Total Rejected Ballots	Tot. Valid Votes	AFC	GAP/ROAR	GMC	JFAP	LJ	NDF	PNCR_1G	PPP_C	PRP	TUF
1	12,273	7,383	384	6,999	1,009	217	0	29	0	0	1,041	4,473	0	233
2	25,668	20,879	265	20,414	1,722	291	0	61	0	0	3,662	14,643	0	135
3	69,459	50,014	705	49,309	2,805	186	0	679	0	0	10,890	34,671	0	78
4	217,168	148,349	1,719	146,630	13,876	335	0	1,582	0	0	68,112	62,388	0	339
5	34,071	26,036	358	25,678	877	0	0	54	0	0	8,770	15,904	0	61
6	80,434	58,252	852	57,400	3,091	222	0	53	0	0	11,852	42,248	0	154
7	10,686	8,336	131	8,205	818	845	0	43	0	0	1,846	2,420	0	133
8	4,755	2,850	93	2,757	429	481	0	0	0	0	540	677	0	433
9	9,910	7,447	217	7,230	479	1,589	0	29	0	0	903	3,176	0	1,054
10	24,911	14,071	316	13,755	3,168	83	0	31	0	0	7,212	3,189	0	74
	482,359	**341,426**	**5,061**	**338,375**	**28,356**	**4,248**	**0**	**2,571**	**0**	**0**	**114,606**	**183,887**	**0**	**2,694**
Percentages:		69	1.4794	99	8.433	1.263	0	0.764	0	0	34.071488	54.867	0	0.8

Chief Election Officer
COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION

Guyana Elections Commission

Summary of Regional Votes Cast By Party and District

Tabulated As At: 31-August-2006 5:38:53 PM

Dist #	Number of Electors	Total Votes Cast	Total Rejected Ballots	Tot. Valid Votes	AFC	GAP ROAR	GNC	JFAP	LJ	NDF	PNCR_1G	PPP_C	PRP	TUF
1	12,273	7,381	432	6,949	931	186	0	33	0	0	1,048	4,488	0	273
2	28,669	20,679	362	20,317	1,724	322	0	60	0	0	3,650	14,415	0	146
3	69,459	49,898	836	49,062	2,719	183	0	857	0	0	10,752	34,307	6	123
4	217,188	148,373	1,921	146,452	13,568	459	123	2,179	172	0	67,726	61,896	0	340
5	34,071	26,034	435	25,599	860	0	31	77	0	0	8,710	15,769	105	57
6	80,434	57,878	1,028	56,850	3,033	230	0	44	0	0	11,628	41,713	0	202
7	10,886	6,420	179	6 241	748	898	0	50	0	0	1,858	2,449	27	143
8	4,782	2,844	100	2,744	407	480	0	0	0	0	543	885	0	449
9	9,910	7,446	242	7,203	414	1,734	0	21	0	0	871	3,073	0	1,090
10	24,911	14,207	366	13,841	3,016	114	0	24	0	25	7,369	3,201	0	92
	482,369	341,157	5,899	335,256	27,387	4,898	184	3,436	172	25	114,283	182,186	132	2,915
Percentages:	69.2889		1.7291	98.2709	8.172	1.368	0.06	1.025	0.05	0.01	34.088075	54.333	0.04	0.87

Chief Election Officer
COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION