



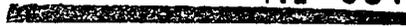
Weekly Review



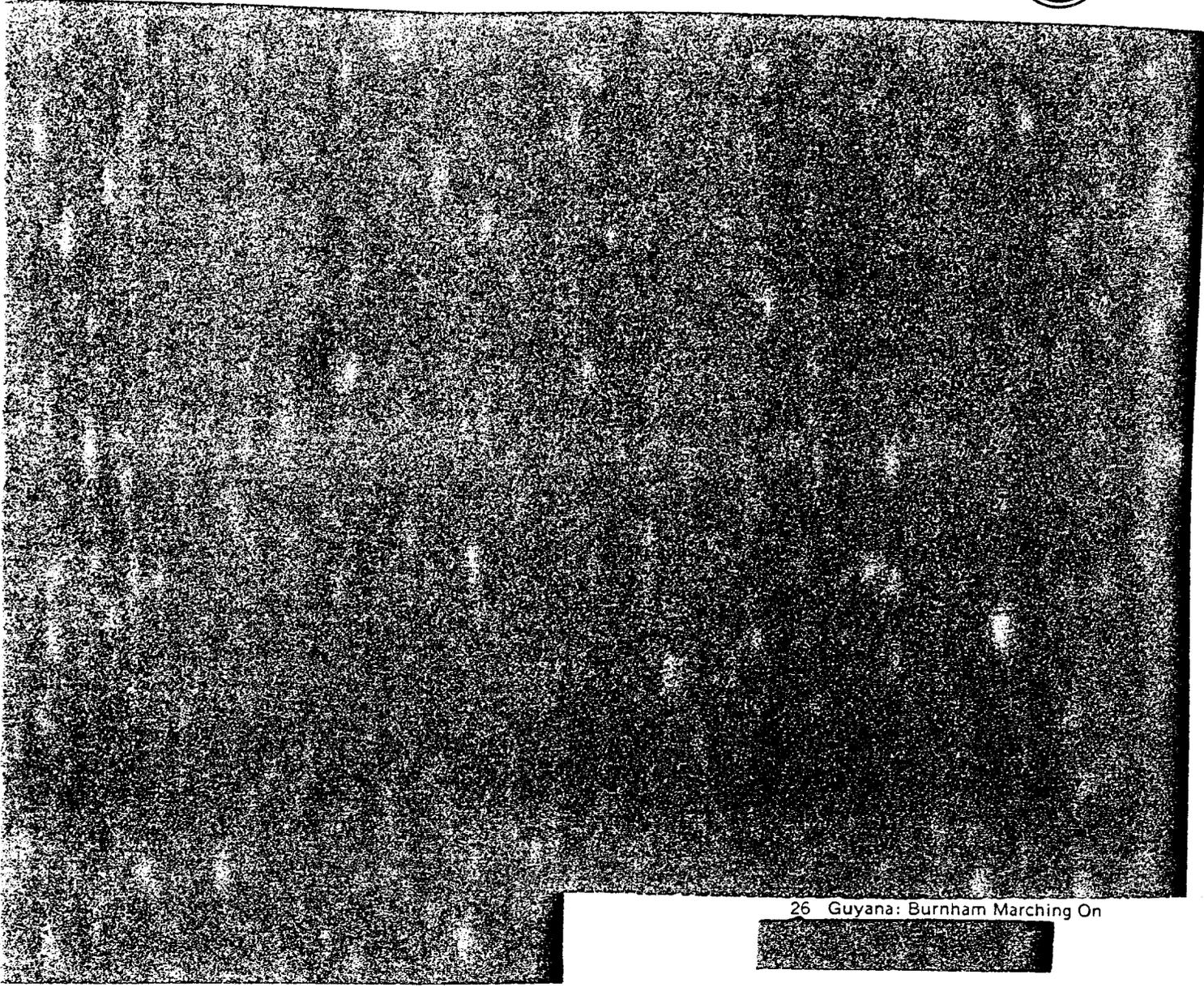
13 July 1973



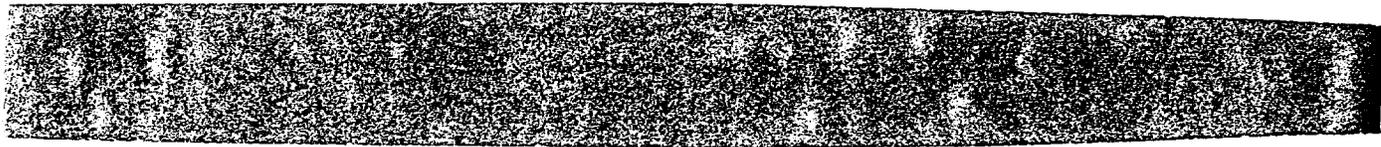
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CONTENTS (13 July 1973)



26 Guyana: Burnham Marching On



[REDACTED]

GUYANA: BURNHAM MARCHING

Chances for a wide margin of victory for the ruling People's National Party in the general election on 16 July have diminished, and the vote is likely to be closer than Prime Minister Burnham had been predicting. He may again need the overseas vote, which ran heavily in his favor in 1968, to gain a clear majority.

[REDACTED]

Although four parties have submitted lists of candidates, the race is essentially between Burnham's black-oriented party and the predominantly East Indian People's Progressive Party, led by Marxist Cheddi Jagan. The opposition parties were unable to agree on a common list of candidates, but they have agreed to challenge government efforts to pad its vote.

[REDACTED]

As a counter, Jagan may instruct his supporters to surround polling places and block access roads to force election officials to make a count before the ballot boxes are taken to government-run tabulating centers. He probably hopes to avoid clashes with government security forces, but his younger followers may decide to move on their own. Violence has occurred already, and more is likely as the hour to vote draws near.

The East Indian support Burnham has been counting on will be reduced by the resurgence of the racial issue. Some East Indians in the larger cities will still vote for him, partly because his party is in power.

The vast majority remain loyal to Jagan, even though few share his Marxist views. A few dissatisfied Indians—and many middle-class moderates—may turn to the small multi-racial Liberator Party; the relatively few anti-Burnham blacks are likely to



Burnham

support the People's Democratic Movement. The Prime Minister reportedly has made a last-minute effort to attract the support of business groups that appeared to be leaning toward the Liberator Party.

[REDACTED]

At any rate, the racial animosity that has been a large factor in keeping the country economically underdeveloped is certain to continue.

[REDACTED]