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GUYANA: Burnham Assumes New Powers

The new "socialist" constitution that came into effect this week in Guyana makes Prime Minister Burnham the president of the country, formalizing the sweeping powers he has accrued during his 15-year rule. Burnham, who postponed elections two years ago in a [redacted] referendum that scrapped the British-drafted constitution, is now required to convoke an election before next January. Opponents charge the government is engaged in gerrymandering as a prelude to another rigged balloting. Pro-Soviet opposition leader Cheddi Jagan is considering boycotting the election [redacted]

