

RT. HON. GEORGE CADLE PRICE

A Timeline of his life and the Struggle for Independence



THE FATHER OF THE NATION

January 1919 to Sept 2011

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George Price: A Timeline

From: www.belize-times.bz, Sept. 25, 2011

1919 Born January 15

1924-1930 Holy Redeemer School

1931 Almost lost his life in Hurricane

1931-1935 St. John's College

1944 Entered politics, lost 1st election

1947 Won 1st election on Town Council elected for 6 terms

1950 Along with others George Price forms People's United Party. He is Secretary General until 1956.

1954 Universal Adult Suffrage

1954 Member of the Legislative Council until 1956

1956 Becomes leader of Peoples United Party until 1996

1958 March 22 – Arrested for sedition, tried and acquitted. Mayor of Belize City (1958 – 1962)

1964 Self-Government (Governor's powers reduced to 'defense', Executive Council replaced by Cabinet headed by Premier). George Price becomes Premier.

1965 Member of the House of Representatives 1965 – 1984 and 1989 – 2003.

1970 Government moves to new capital, Belmopan

1973 June 1 – Name British Honduras changed to Belize

1981 September 21 – Independence. George Price becomes Belize's 1st Prime Minister (1981 – 1984 and 1989 – 1993)

1984 People's United Party loses 1st General Election

1996 George Price steps aside as Party Leader. Said Musa becomes Party Leader.

2000 George Price awarded Order of Belize

2001 George Price awarded Order of CARICOM

2011 Dies in his 93 year of life

Highlights of the Struggle for Belizean Independence

From: www.belize-times.bz

September 25, 2011

1950-January 1st

The struggle begins – People’s Committee formed

1950 – February 1st

The Belizean flag is presented to the people.

1950 – September 29th

The People’s Committee is dissolved and the People’s United Party is born.

1951

The People’s United Party adopts the Belizean flag, then called the Baymen Flag, to propose as the FLAG OF BELIZE. It also agreed to restore the ancient settlement name of BELIZE to the new nation.

1951

The PUP wins majority in the City Council but it is dissolved when the PUP majority refuse to hang the Queen’s picture in its Meeting Room.

1954

Belize achieves Universal Adult Suffrage. PUP wins 8 out of 9 seats to the Legislative Council. The Membership System is introduced. Sir Arthur Wollfishon is First Speaker.

1955

Hurricane Janet hits Corozal District. The PUP Government launches rehabilitation programme.

1956

The PUP is split. The dissident faction forms the HIP (Honduran Independence Party)

1957

The PUP wins the National Elections 9-0.

PUP splits the Granados Incident in London. The dissident faction calls itself the Labour, Agriculture and Development Party.

The BELIZE TIMES is born.

1958

Premiere Price tried for Seditious. The intention by the Colonialists was to have him in prison before the visit of Princess Margaret.

Mr. Price welcomes Princess Margaret at City entrance and puts off a show of strength of his PUP in a massive demonstration that passed Government House but not allowed to enter.

1960

The National Party merges with the Honduran Independence Party (HIP) and forms the National Independence Party (NIP).

The party joins with the PUP to form the UNITED FRONT which goes to London to ask for a more advanced constitution.

The United Front returns with a Ministerial Constitution.

1961

The PUP sweeps the polls and takes all 18 seats – Sir Harrison Courtenay is Second Speaker.

First Minister Price goes to Santiago de Chile and succeeds in gaining admission for Belize to be an associate of ECLA.

Hurricane Hattie destroys Belize City and badly damages the Stann Creek District.

1962

First Anglo-Guatemalan talks are held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

First Minister Price makes his famous “not one square centimetre” policy statement.

1963

The London Self Government Constitution.

Breakthrough in the Southern Highway construction.

New automatic telephone system introduced for Belize City. Radio Belize gets new studios.

1964

Belize becomes Self Governing. George Price becomes first PREMIER.

The Internationalisation of the Belize desire for Independence begins with a Ministerial Tour of Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Mexico.

1965

PUP wins 16 out of 18 seats in elections under the new Self Government Constitution.

A new round of talks in Anglo-Guatemalan dispute opens in Miami. It decided to go to mediation.

President LB Johnson appoints Ambassador Bethuel Webster as mediator.

1966

Opposition riot in Belize City over incomplete Webster proposals.

Work on Belmopan begins.

1967

New Tower Hill Sugar Mill opened.

New Tower Hill Bridge opened.

TACA introduces jet airplanes.

Runway and apron at International Airport extended and improved

1969

The Belcan Bridge is opened.

PUP wins 17 out of 18 seats in the National Assembly.

1970

Seat of Government moves to Belmopan

1971

Belize joins CARIFTA, which later became CARICOM.

1973

Belize joins CARICOM

1974

PUP wins National Elections 12-6

1975

Belize opens mission at the UN to get support for Independence.

1977

General Omar Torrijos visits Belize. Panama votes for Belize at the U.N.

1978

More than 100 countries voted for Belizean Independence at the UN General Assembly, including some Latin American nations which had voted against or abstained the previous year.

1979

The UN vote showed that the Nicaraguans had been the first of the Guatemalan allies to come over to Belize's side. This was after the overthrow of the Somoza regime.

The PUP won 13 of 18 seats in General Elections.

1980

Belize's aspirations for independence were boosted with the vote of the United States of America in the UN General Assembly. A total of 139 countries voted "YES" for Belizean Independence and the UN Resolution set the end of 1981 as the deadline for this achievement.

The PUP won a landslide victory at the polls in the City Council elections.

1981

Preparations began for independence and the government of Premier Price intensified its efforts to solve the Anglo Guatemalan dispute.

The Heads of Agreement proposals were announced in March. It was hoped that the "Heads" would have resulted in a solution but they failed after the Guatemalan government withdrew from the negotiations.

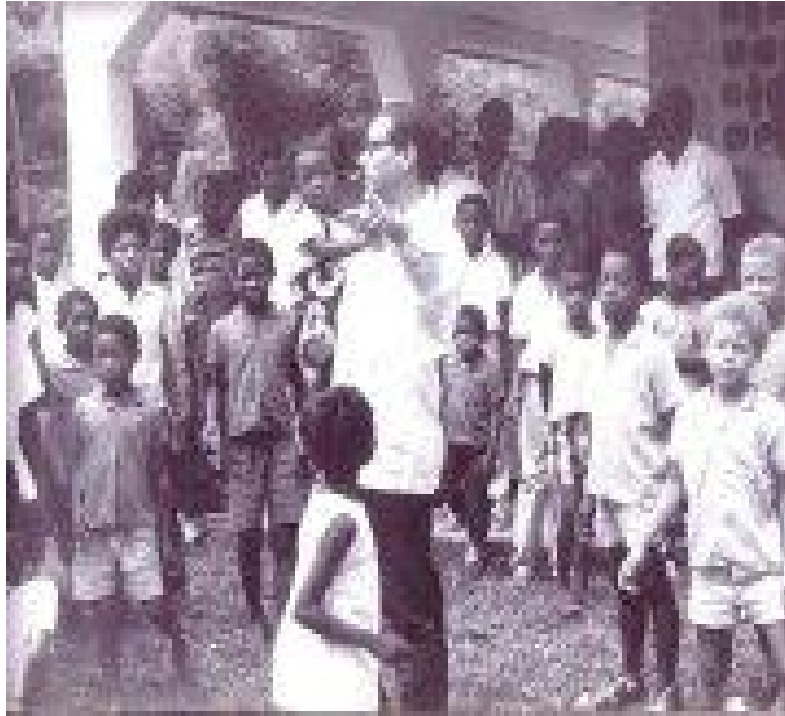
The alternative as had been explained earlier by Premier Price was independence with a suitable security guarantee for Belize after independence.

Following the failure of the July 06-10 talks in New York, the Premier went to London to discuss the alternative route to independence.

On July 26, the Premier went on the radio to announce the date for the Independence of Belize – September 21, 1981. He told a convention at the City Center on the same day that the Heads of Agreement will still serve as a basis for seeking a solution to the Anglo Guatemalan dispute over Belize.

September 21, 1981

The Union jack is lowered and the Belizean flag is hoisted as the world welcomed the new nation of Belize.



The Man among the People



The Man at Work



PUP Convention, 2011

“SERVE THE PEOPLE”



In Death



