

~~Top Secret~~

GUYANA:

Hoyte Calls Elections

*President Hoyte's ruling party almost certainly will retain control following the national elections to be held on 9 December, and Hoyte may moderate some of Guyana's anti-US positions.*

Despite recent electoral reforms intended to mollify opposition parties,

[redacted] Hoyte has refused to permit foreign observers to scrutinize the voting.

[redacted] Hoyte may soften the government's anti-Western stance after the elections.

[redacted] some reduction of anti-US rhetoric in the local media recently.

Comment: Hoyte's decision to call elections before the March 1986 deadline probably reflects his desire to keep the initiative and to reinforce his position before making any policy or organizational changes. After the elections, Hoyte may

[redacted] try to improve relations with the US. Any such moves are likely to be undertaken cautiously, however, to avoid causing a split between ruling party moderates and hardliners.

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