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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

BRITISH WEST INDIES

Despite London's efforts to persuade Trinidad's Premier Williams to commit himself to his obligations under the 1961 US - UK - West Indies Defense Areas Agreement (DAA), Williams will probably request that the agreement be renegotiated after the proclamation of Trinidad's independence--now set for 31 August. At the London constitutional conference concluded on 8 June, Trinidad agreed to assume the obligations of treaties entered into on its behalf by

Britain. Williams insisted, however, that this would not prejudice his right subsequently to "question the validity" of any such treaty or obligation.

In this connection, he mentioned particularly a 1942 British-Venezuelan territorial agreement. ██████████ ██████████ concluded from the tenor of his remarks that his real intention is to reopen the issue of the US naval station and

BRITISH WEST INDIES



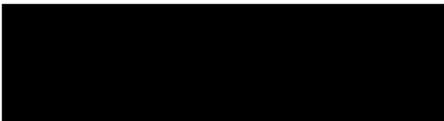
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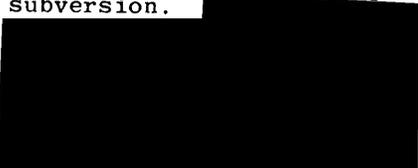
radar research facility at Chaguaramas. Williams' recent complaints about alleged inadequacies and delays in US aid promised in connection with the Defense Areas Agreement--which he signed as a member of the now defunct West Indies Federation--probably were intended to justify a later request for renegotiation.

Williams intends to press the UK to agree to give Trinidad the status of an overseas territory associated with the Common Market. Williams probably desires this partly to protect Trinidad's petroleum industry and partly for prestige. On his current visit to France, Williams is promoting the idea of a "Caribbean Common Market"--another indication of his continued aspiration to area leadership.

Williams' relatively circumspect behavior at the constitutional conference to his desire to achieve independence in time to permit his attendance at the 10 September Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. The desire to avoid racial conflict also contributed to the compromise reached between Williams and Trinidad opposition delegates on constitutional provisions for amendment, protection of minorities, and election regulations. However, local East Indian fear of domination by the Negro majority is likely to persist



Meanwhile in earlier negotiations in London Jamaica had agreed without qualification to accept the obligations of the Defense Areas Agreement after independence on 6 August. London, however, will retain responsibility for the Turks and Caicos Islands (formerly Jamaican dependencies) and thus for the site of the US missile-tracking facility on Grand Turk. Premier Bustamante, now visiting Washington, is anxious to combat Cuban subversion.



With regard to Grenada, where the government's financial malfeasances recently forced London to suspend the constitution, new elections to be held there soon may result in Grenada's opting to join Trinidad, instead of participating in the new federation of Barbados and the Windward and Leeward Islands as presently planned.

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