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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

TRENDS IN TRINIDAD AND JAMAICA

Political ferment has increased in both Jamaica and Trinidad since they became independent of Britain in August. While both are basically aligned with the West, some contradictory trends in their foreign policies have developed, particularly regarding the US and Cuba.

On 21 September, Prime Minister Williams reiterated the charge that the US has not fulfilled its aid obligations under the 1961 Defense Areas Agreement by which the US retains the Chaguaramas naval base and radar research facility until 1977. Williams' interpretation of the agreement is that it commits the US to finance completely almost any project Trinidad decides is worthwhile. His accumulated aid demands total more than \$130 million. Acting Prime Minister Solomon's repetition of Williams' charges on 24 September suggests that Trinidad may be beginning a new pressure campaign for more aid and renegotiation of the agreement.

In any case, Williams probably finds this issue useful in rallying domestic political support. He apparently does not wish to eliminate the base. A recent press editorial implying that there is a need to keep Chaguaramas as a US base because of the USSR's support for Cuba is believed to reflect the majority view in Trinidad.

Rumors continue to circulate that Williams may retire from active politics in favor of Solomon.

Solomon could keep the governing party together "not from popularity but through adroitness" despite the disunity known to exist within the cabinet. Solomon

would revive old tensions between the governing Negro party and the East Indian minority.

Since independence Prime Minister Bustamante's government in Jamaica has been increasingly criticized as disunited and for refusing to debate important issues. notes that tension has also risen within the governing party, largely because of the maneuvers of the aging prime minister's subordinates, who are looking ahead to the time of his retirement. considers that the fears of a right-wing dictatorship expressed by Bustamante's opponents are unwarranted. Despite the heightened political activity, there is little likelihood of a change of government for some time.

In foreign affairs, both countries now are UN members and are moving cautiously with regard to other affiliations. Jamaica is anxious to join the Organization of American States, but Trinidad is adopting a wait-and-see attitude, partly because Williams sees little advantage in participation. With respect to the Common Market, Williams has expressed interest in acquiring associated status for Trinidad; whereas Jamaica has reserved its position.

Neither government has responded to Cuban overtures for full diplomatic relations. Jamaica's attitude has been affected by the detection of attempts by the Cuban Consulate in Jamaica to circulate Castro propaganda. These activities by the Cubans could have a substantial inflammatory effect on local malcontents. Jamaica's hesitation stems also from concern over the possible complications that can arise over the more than 25,000 Jamaican nationals resident in Cuba. The principal factor in Trinidad's attitude appears to be Prime Minister Williams' avowed anti-Communism.

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