

[REDACTED]
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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Recovering From Coup Attempt

Security and government officials have turned to the task of managing the fallout from the attempted coup. Local security officials reportedly are concerned about the potential for retaliatory terrorist activity, and a 150-man regional contingent is freeing the Trinidadian force to mop up Abu Bakr supporters not directly involved in the hostage taking. [REDACTED] the government will charge the rebels with murder and kidnapping rather than treason; it hopes to begin the trials this week. Ruling-party officials reportedly fear they have lost credibility because they underestimated the rebel threat. They plan to blame the National Security Minister publicly and ensure that Prime Minister Robinson takes a lengthy leave of absence. (S NF)

Comment: Convicting and executing the rebels would help mend the government's strained relations with the security forces and ensure continued military subservience to civilian authority. But such a move risks terrorist actions by Abu Bakr supporters. Ruling-party officials almost certainly believe that shunting the long unpopular Robinson to the political sidelines will help them rebuild popular support and improve their chances in the general election to be held by early 1992. (S NF) -CIA, [REDACTED]

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