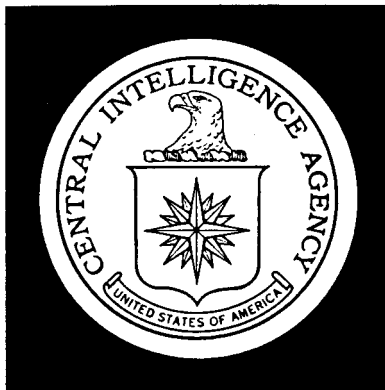


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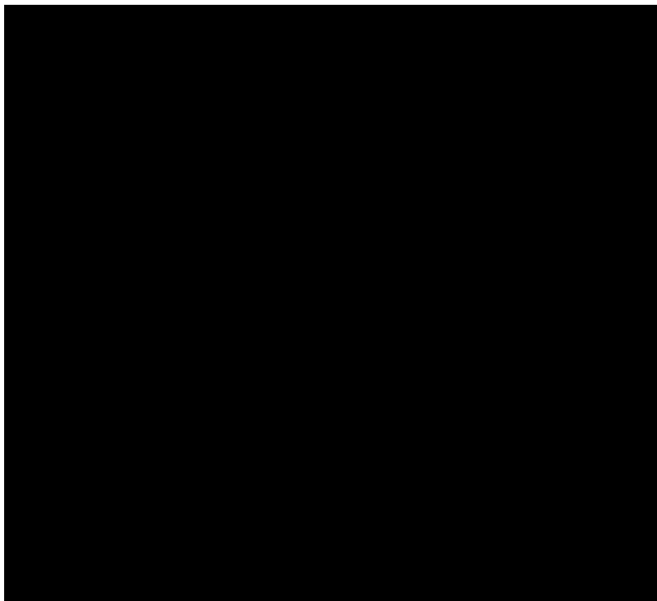
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Trinidad's Prime Minister in Trouble

Prime Minister Eric Williams' political strength is dwindling, and opposition elements are attempting to take advantage of his difficulties.

Williams has done little to alleviate basic socioeconomic problems since the political crisis last spring, which was engendered by racial demonstrations. Instead of attempting to resolve the causes of discontent—the high rate of unemployment and East Indian - Negro dissidence—the prime minister has apparently concentrated on centralizing his control of security forces to ensure their loyalty to the government should another crisis arise. Although on 30 June he proposed an ambitious plan for national reconstruction, local support has not been forthcoming on the scale he envisioned.

Last week former foreign minister A.N.R. Robinson, who resigned in April, publicly condemned the government's economic programs as "farcical" and stated that Williams' Peoples' National Movement (PNM) had virtually ceased to function as a political party. [REDACTED]



In July two opposition groups announced an informal coalition in preparation for future elections. Opposition groups have been factionalized and contain no effective critics of the administration. A united front, however, could pose serious problems for Williams, whose popularity has eroded seriously since the riots, which lasted from February to April of this year. Williams is constitutionally obligated to call elections before March 1972, but he probably will hold off as long as possible, hoping that his position will improve. [REDACTED]

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