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Wilson Skirts Issue of CIA in Jagan Fall

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LONDON — Prime Minister Harold Wilson sidestepped questions yesterday about any possible role by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in bringing down the left-wing regime in British Guiana before that British colony became independent.

Wilson told Parliament the present Labor government was not responsible for the South American colony in 1963, the year in which the CIA reportedly gave heavy backing to a general strike that crippled the regime of then Prime Minister Cheddi

Jagan. Wilson was elected in 1964.

"So far as British-administered territories now are concerned," he said, "I know of no activities of this kind, and you can be pretty sure if there were any I should know."

THE EFFECT of his remarks was to leave unchallenged a story in the London Sunday Times which gave what it said was an account of how the CIA allegedly poured money into British Guiana, using British and American unions as "fronts."

Left-wing laborites urged an investigation of these charges, but Wilson replied that the former colony — independent since May, 1966, as Guyana—

was self-governing and that Britain had no responsibility.

It is deemed unlikely that Guyana's present prime minister, Forbes Burnham, would approve an investigation since the ensuing controversy would benefit his chief adversary, Jagan.

The Sunday Times article alleged that the CIA had spent more than \$700,000 over a five-year period to aid a union uprising which culminated in a general strike that lasted 79 days in 1963.

ACCORDING to the paper, the funds flowed to Guiana through the Public Services International (PSE) of London and the U.S. Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

The PSI is an international organization representing 3.5 million government workers in 80 countries.

In a statement yesterday, PSI denied it had done anything improper in sending money to an affiliated union on strike in British Guiana. But the statement admitted that the PSI affiliate in America, the Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, had been a past beneficiary of CIA largesse.

On all sides, there is agreement that the general strike led Britain to change the colony's voting laws in a manner that favored the anti-Jagan parties in a 1964 election.