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# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

TRINIDAD

Trinidad and the nearby island of Tobago on 31 August will become independent as a unitary state within the British Commonwealth. The new country's prospects are good for continued economic viability, based primarily on petroleum and agriculture. Generally pro-Western, Trinidad wants to join the Organization of American States (OAS). Premier Williams, however, who bears a personal animus against the US, has stated that his first consideration after independence will be to "raise the whole question of aid."

Williams evidently intends to reopen the financial provisions--which he helped draft and then signed--of the 1961 Defense Areas Agreement, under which the US holds the naval base and associated radar research facility at Chaguaramas until 1977. In the agreement the US expressed readiness to contribute to Trinidad's economic development, and specified for priority consideration several projects it would help finance. Williams interprets this as a US promise to underwrite the total cost of these specified projects--now estimated at more than \$80 million--and in addition infers from the agreement a US commitment to pay for other projects he has since added. On 11 August he blamed Trinidad's continuing high unemployment on alleged US nonfulfillment of the 1961 agreement, and attacked both the US and the UK for not providing his latest addition, a \$30 million housing loan.

Williams has invited many countries to send delegations to the independence ceremonies. Representatives include the Soviet ambassador to Mexico, the Chinese Nationalist ambassador to Brazil, and a nonentity from the Cuban Foreign Ministry. The invitation

to Cuba was evidently intended primarily to annoy Washington and London; there is practically no contact between Cuba and Trinidad, and Williams indicated previously that he will be reluctant to agree to any Cuban request to open consulates.

Personally anti-Communist, Williams has kept tight government surveillance over Trinidad's small Communist party, which is not represented in the legislature.

[REDACTED] no evidence to support recent local comments about Communist penetration of the labor movement.

[REDACTED] suggests, however, that Williams may gravitate toward the Afro-Asian bloc at the UN if Trinidad has difficulty getting into the OAS.

Williams is ambitious to become a regional leader despite Trinidad's long rivalry with Jamaica and current friction with the smaller British islands. For about six months he has been promoting a Caribbean common market. His visit to Surinam in early August yielded a joint declaration recommending closer cultural and economic ties; the potential for trade between Trinidad and Surinam is small, however, because their economies are not complementary. Williams also plans to visit the French Caribbean territories soon to promote his common market project.

Williams favors more trade with British Guiana--now mainly in rice--but is hostile to Premier Cheddi Jagan on ideological and racial grounds. Williams is alert to the possibility of a future political alignment between the East Indian minority in Trinidad, chafing under Williams' Negro government, and the East Indian party governing in British Guiana.

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