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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN  
FROM: MARGARET VANDERHYE *MV*  
SUBJECT: Press Announcement of Eric Williams Office Visit

The President will meet Friday at 2:30 p. m. with His Excellency Eric Williams, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Prime Minister Williams is in the United States on a private visit and the President invited him to come to Washington in order that they might have an opportunity to meet and discuss subjects of mutual interest.

The above is guidance for a press announcement which you may post this afternoon or use in your briefing tomorrow morning. You should know that the Government of Trinidad is announcing the meeting at 4:00 p. m., EST, today.

Back-up Q's & A's:

If Asked: I would expect that they would discuss a range of matters, including hemispheric and international subjects of interest, as well as the relations between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago.

Q. Have They met before?

A. No. The President and the Prime Minister have not met previously.

Meeting with Prime Minister Williams of Trinidad & Tobago

The President met this afternoon with Prime Minister Eric Williams of Trinidad and Tobago for about \_\_\_\_\_ minutes. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Minister of Finance, George Chambers, and of course Secretary Kissinger was present, as well as the respective Ambassadors and General Scowcroft. The meeting was a frank and friendly one. The President expressed his pleasure at the opportunity to meet with the senior head of government in the Commonwealth Caribbean and a man who is not only a distinguished political leader but a teacher and author of renown.

The Prime Minister described his plans for the continued development of his country through new investments from oil revenues. President Ford noted the mutually advantageous growth in trade between our two countries and investment by U.S. business in Trinidad and Tobago, and he described our support for efforts at development of the Caribbean region.

Q: What was the reason for this particular meeting?

A: The President wanted to take advantage of the Prime Minister's presence in this country, to meet with him and discuss matters of mutual interest.

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Q: Did they discuss Trinidad's oil exports to the U.S. or plans to expand them?

A: No, that was not specifically addressed, though of course the growing economic prosperity of Trinidad and Tobago based on oil revenues affects many other economic matters such as trade and investment, which were discussed.

Q: Does the U.S. have a bilateral assistance program in Trinidad?

A: No, we have provided \$32.2 million in loans to the Caribbean Development Bank, of which Trinidad is a member.

Q: Are there any significant bilateral problems with Trinidad?

A: No.

Q: Was Cuba policy discussed?

A: The subject of Cuba policy may have come up in passing; however, it was certainly not a major topic of discussion.

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