

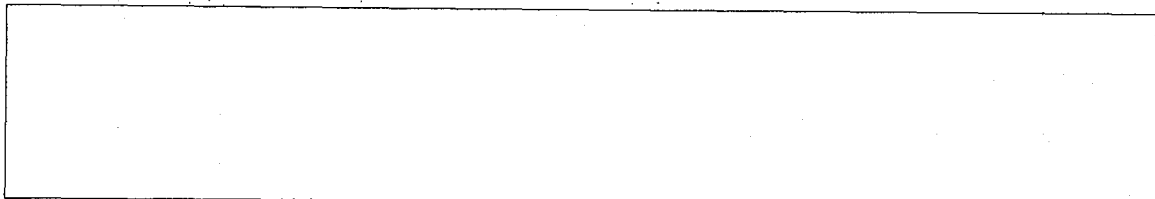
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 7, 1970

SECRET/SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Black Radicalism in the Caribbean



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Essentially, the study concludes:

(1) Black radicalism is not yet a major disruptive force in the area, but all indicators suggest that it may become so in the future. The mutiny in Trinidad early this year suggests the potential of black radicalism as a revolutionary force in the Caribbean.

(2) Most black radical groups are poorly organized and there is little coordination on a regional basis. The available evidence suggests that Communist influence, including that of Cuba, is a negligible factor in black radical movements. Cuba, which is in the best position to stoke the fires, is sensitive to black radicalism, largely because of its own large black population. However, if the movement grows stronger, the Communist intelligence services may attempt to exploit it -- they certainly have the capability.

(3) There have been infrequent contacts between US black radical groups and those in the Caribbean, the significance of which at this stage, is considered minimal. However, there are indications that these contacts will increase in the near future, and the movement could be greatly strengthened were black Americans to lend significant support to it. The threat, as the Caribbean governments recognize, is a serious one, and we can expect expressions of concern if the United States becomes a base of operations for black extremist activities in the area.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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There is a possibility that the Second Regional (Caribbean) Black Power Conference will be held this autumn in Atlanta. This first conference was held in Bermuda last July, and the second one was scheduled for Barbados this month until the Barbadian Government banned it.

We should be alert to both foreign and domestic policy implications of this conference, should it be held. Obviously, the Caribbean governments may be fearful of its implications for their survival. Additionally, we should be interested in its implications for our own internal security, since the American revolutionary extremists are in the import as well as the export business. I assume that we have no alternative but to allow it to be held, and in such event I recommend full coverage by the FBI of the sessions. We can share the intelligence collected with friendly intelligence services in the area and thus ease the concerns of those governments most involved.

I suggest that you glance quickly over pages 8-11 of the attached report.


TOM CHARLES HUSTON

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