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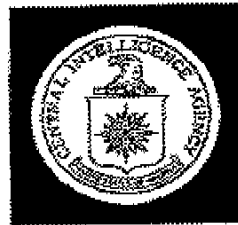
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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

The Guianas: Development and Discord

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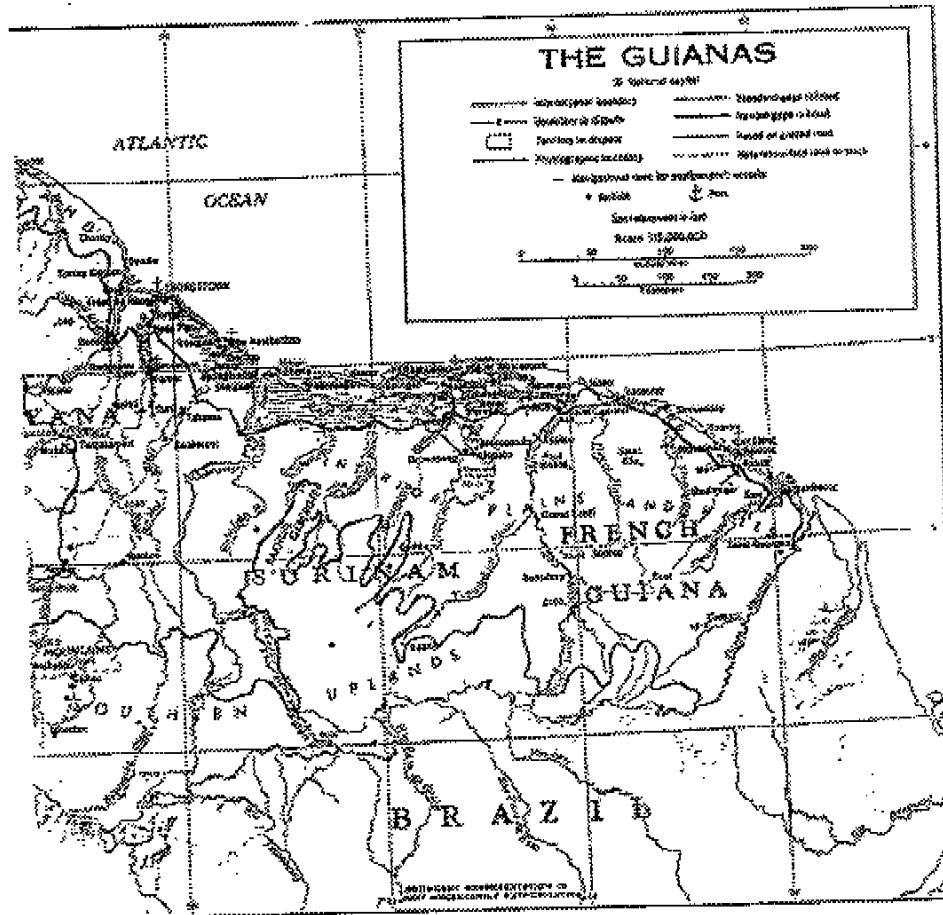
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business, bought up real estate, or entered the professions.

In Guyana the East Indians, by far the largest group of indentured workers, tended to remain on the sugar estates as *coolie* hands after their periods of indenture, but later many turned to rice farming and established their own communities. The East Indians have a strong family solidarity and attachment to the land. Increasingly within the last generation, however, they have established small businesses and entered the professions in town. Now they compete with Negroes in most economic activities. They have, nevertheless, maintained a relatively closed society. Constituting about 45 percent of the total population, they are multiplying faster than the Negroes. Rural villages tend to be predominantly East Indian or Negro, while the cities are mixed.

In Suriname the East Indian, or Hindustani, arrived later than they did in Guyana. Following the abandonment of most of the plantations, they turned to rice cultivation, and the great majority now own or lease small rice farms. Recently, significant numbers of enterprising Hindustanis have moved into the Paramaribo metropoli-

tan area and purchased shops and grocery stores. Young Hindustanis are also entering private firms and the professions in increasing numbers. Comprising about 35 percent of the Surinamese population, the Hindustanis are beginning to challenge the dominance of the Creoles.

The Indonesians were the last major group of indentured workers to enter Suriname. Economically, they are at the bottom of the ladder, working on the plantations and cultivating their own small plots of rice and other subsistence crops. Culturally, they are closely knit and place a high value on tradition and kinship ties. Having opted to retain Indonesian citizenship, most are precluded from holding public office or voting in Surinamese elections. Indonesians constitute 15 percent of the total population of Suriname and about 85 percent of them live in rural settlements.

In French Guiana about 90 percent of the population live along the coast, and 35 percent of the people are concentrated in Cayenne. Assimilation here has been much more successful than in Guyana and Suriname. In general, job categories cannot be differentiated by race, although the enterprising Chinese monopolize the grocery