ABSTRACT

This study seeks to look at the career of one man, Solomon Hochoy, who was Colonial Secretary and then Governor between 1956 and 1962. That era was most significant in Trinidad and Tobago’s history as it saw the emergence of Party government with the triumph of the People’s National Movement in the 1956 elections. The period also saw the transition of this country from the status of a colony to independence in 1962. Hochoy, by virtue of the offices which he held, was intimately bound up in the issues and events of that era. The research has sought to identify Hochoy’s involvement as far as possible. However, for a number of reasons, it has not been possible to present a detailed picture of the role which Hochoy played. After some twenty years, most of the informants have had difficulty recalling the precise details of those years and positions adopted by Hochoy on particular issues. In addition, the unavailability of official papers and even diaries has made it difficult to pin down at every turn, Hochoy’s involvement. What has emerged, therefore, is a general picture, though not a wholly superficial one, of Hochoy and of his relationship with the national movement, its personalities, its goals and above all, its leader.