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A HISTORY OF BARBADOS' FOREIGN POLICY, 1966 to 1998

A Thesis

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ABSTRACT

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This dissertation analyses the external relations of the Government of Barbados with its closest and most influential neighbours. This is done through the examination of the Ministry that was established to be the principal mechanism through which foreign policy was to be executed. A conceptual background is provided that encapsulates the methods applied to the research. The elements which informed the process of foreign policy creation and the fledging organisation that emerged out of that context are described. Major events that helped to define or emphasise the character of the country's foreign policy are examined in specific reference to the Cubana aircraft disaster, Barbados' engagement of the United States of America on the Oceanographic Research Station, and the involvement of the Administration of Tom Adams in the USA-led intervention in Grenada. Barbados' relations with its counterpart Commonwealth Caribbean colleagues are analysed specifically in the context of its interaction with the government of Trinidad and Tobago. The importance of convincing larger more powerful countries of the need to respect national laws; and to abide by or construct multilateral guidelines to address issues that transcend national boundaries is also highlighted. Finally, the prospects for the role and functioning of the Ministry responsible for foreign affairs are outlined.

Keywords: Barbados, Ministry, external relations, foreign policy, hegemony