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INFO ROUTINE ANGUILLA, BELMOPAN, BRIDGETOWN, GEORGETOWN  
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SUMMARY

1. A happy, well organised and smooth running visit.

DETAIL

2. Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Bahamas from 6 to 8 March as part of a wider tour of the Caribbean region. There was a warm welcome everywhere for the Royal visitors even though crowds on the streets were not as large as those in the visits to the Caribbean proper. The set piece events were, with one exception, well attended. A vast reception for 6,000 was held at Government House. The Queen's reception on board Britannia, attended by more than 300, was greatly appreciated.

3. The Queen's first visit to Freeport gave special pleasure to many people in Grand Bahama, Sir Jack Hayward, the leading British businessman in the Bahamas, was singularly honoured by the holding of the Prime Minister's lunch at his house. This symbolised the strength of Anglo-Bahamian links.

4. The visit was enjoyed by all those involved. The Government, midway through their second year in office, certainly appreciated it. Sir Lynden Pindling, in his unaccustomed role as Leader of the Opposition, attended the main events in Nassau and managed to be punctual this time. The Queen's visit was the lead story in the newspapers throughout and the extensive live t.v. coverage was excellent.

5. There were no untoward incidents in the very full and well managed programme. A few Rastafarians popped up once or twice but were kept on the sidelines.

6. The visit will benefit Anglo-Bahamian relations in the short

term. There is great admiration and affection here for the Queen. Sentiment is much stronger among the over 45s than in the younger generation, who constitute the majority. Republican views attract little support at present.

7. A fuller report will follow by bag.

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