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Caribbean Women and Politics to be Focus of 4th-annual Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture

MIAMI, Fla. (Aug. 27, 2002) -- Three experts in the field of women and politics in the Caribbean will lead a panel discussion at Florida International University as part of the African-New World Studies Department's fourth-annual Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture set for Fri., Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m. at FIU-University Park's Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Participants will be:

- ? Cynthia Pratt, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Bahamas
- ? Mia Mottley, Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, Barbados and
- ? Beverley Anderson-Manley, former First Lady of Jamaica and an authority in gender issues and communications.

The forum, titled *Women, Politics and the Caribbean*, will be moderated by Colin Palmer, Dodge Professor of History at Princeton University, who is currently writing a biography of Williams. The panel discussion is free and open to the public.

Carole Boyce Davies, director of FIU's African-New World Studies program, said she sees the event as a complement to the three prior lectures. "We are fortunate that this lecture will feature several Caribbean women of prominence who will have an opportunity to present their ideas and solutions to today's problems," said Boyce Davies. "We feel this lecture promises to be one of the most intellectually stimulating to date."

The memorial lecture, which was inaugurated by American historian John Hope Franklin, is named after Trinidad and Tobago's first prime minister and internationally renowned scholar, Eric Williams. Williams is best known for writing *Capitalism and Slavery*, published in 1944. "The Williams Thesis" was cited in the *New York Times Book Review* (1997) as continuing to be on "the cutting edge of slave trade research in academic circles."

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Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture Set for Sept. 20 at FIU-University Park / page 2

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Eric Williams Memorial Collection (University of the West Indies), which was dedicated in 1998 by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. The collection has been named to UNESCO's prestigious *Memory of the World Register*.

For more information call Rosa Henriquez, 305-919-5521 or Erica Williams Connell, 305-271-7246.

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