

## Surinam, in South America, Faces the Same Youth Problems as the United States

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Surinam, in South America, is a lot like the United States. There are people here from many different backgrounds, so it is a melting pot of cultures. Its people love freedom and will soon achieve independence from Holland. Even the hit tunes on the radio are often from America. And yet Surinam has a unique character of its own.

In the Surinam coat of arms stands a "king's palm," the symbol of the righteous man. Surinamers are very friendly and thoughtful of others. And there is a strong national pride and dignity, among the common folk as well as the elite. Because there exists a variety of cultures and races, people tend to be very open-minded.

Not a few Surinamers are thinking on a predominantly international scale, rather than confined to their own land. It is a very healthy and refreshing trait.

Although there exists this foundation in righteousness, there are also many deep problems which need to be solved. For one, even though Surinam people are very religious, highly Christian, with Moslem, Hindustani and other religions as well, there is nevertheless much immorality among the youth. As in the U.S., with the youth running unstopped by today's religions into the muddy pool of immorality, where can they turn? This is the major, urgent question for Surinam youth and indeed for the nation as well.

The menace of Communism has not ignored Surinam. The official party has been established here for five years, but generally the peace-loving Surinamese people turn away from their violent revolutionary doctrine and tactics.

In general, it appears that what Surinam needs most is a fortification of the family unit and universal brotherhood.