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System Aiming at Leeward Islands, Including USVI and Puerto Rico, Projected to Become a Depression or Tropical Storm in 48 Hours

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A system located over the central tropical Atlantic about midway between the coast of Africa and the Lesser Antilles, has become better organized and is projected to become either a depression or tropical storm in the next day or two, according to the National Hurricane Center's 2:00 a.m. forecast of the system. The storm is aiming directly at the Leeward Islands, among them the USVI and Puerto Rico.

N.H.C.'s 2:00 a.m. forecast gives the storm an 80 percent chance of development in 48 hours. "This system is expected to begin affecting portions of the Lesser Antilles on Wednesday or Wednesday night, and interests on those islands should continue to monitor its progress," N.H.C. said.

Environmental conditions are expected to become increasingly conducive for development of this system, and a tropical depression or tropical storm is likely to form within the next day or two while moving westward to west-northwestward at 15 to 20 mph," N.H.C. said.

Most models have the system heading directly over the Leeward Islands, passing through the USVI, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, before titling north while coming close to Florida.

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