

B/N Manley, Michael

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Manley awarded Order of the Caribbean Community

FORMER PRIME MINISTER Michael Manley was among four Caribbean nationals invested with the Order of the Caribbean Community (OCC) at yesterday's opening ceremony of the 16th CARICOM heads of government meeting in Georgetown, Guyana.

Other recipients of the Order were Dame Nita Barrow, retired chief justice of Barbados; Dominican born Phillip Telford Georges, and vice chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Grenadian born, Sir Alister McIntyre.

Sir Alister and Justice Georges were present to receive their awards while Jeannine Comma received for Dame Nita and Douglas Manley for Michael Manley.

Another highlight of yesterday's ceremony was the formal invitation to Suriname to join the community. Suriname's admission was a historic achievement as it was the first non-English speaking country admitted. It was also the first time that CARICOM would have two member states - Guyana and Suriname — with a common border.

The OCC is being conferred for the second time. The first investiture was in 1992 when the award was given to former Commonwealth Secretary General, Sir Shridath Ramphal; poet and playwright, Derek Walcott and former CARICOM secretary general, William Demas.

Addressing the opening ceremony were CARICOM's secretary general.

Dr Edwin Carrington; prime minister of Belize and outgoing chairman, Manuel Esquivel; prime minister of Dominica and chairman, Edison James; president of Guyana and incoming chairman, Dr Cheddi Jagan; Grenada's prime minister, Dr Keith Mitchell; and Suriname's president, Ronald Venetiaan.

Eleven of the 13 heads of government, including Prime Minister P J Patterson, attended yesterday's formalities.

The first working session of the Conference begins today and the conference ends on Friday.



MANLEY... one of original signatories to CARICOM treaty