

Lady B: Peace accord historic, mature

The peace accord during the current Local Government elections campaign, agreed upon by both Prime Minister Seaga and People's National Party, President Michael Manley, was described yesterday as a "most historic, mature and sincere" happening in Jamaica's political history by the Hon. Lady Bustamante, O.J. She said the peace accord was the total realization of a dream.

Delivering the keynote address at a prayer breakfast to launch this year's festival activities at the Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston, Lady Bustamante appealed to Jamaicans "to break down the barriers between ourselves — the frightening barriers which block our national vision."

The prayer breakfast was organized by the Committee for Religious Affairs in the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC).

"We need to keep in the forefront of our minds, from now on, not so much our problems, but our achievements," Lady Bustamante told her

large audience, which was made up of members from various religious denominations and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

She added that there was an urgent need for Jamaicans to relate to each other with greater feelings of trust, expressions of honesty, kindness and respect.

In times like these, she said, it was necessary to draw strength from one another "for the nation that prays together will stay together."

Jamaica's cultural heritage, she said, had been blessed in the ability of its older people working and living together in harmony, tolerance and with respect for each other.

Give thanks

"In a world currently preoccupied with eradicating the inhumanities of apartheid and terrorism, Jamaicans should continue to emulate the words of their motto 'Out of Many One People,' and allow this legacy of tolerance and racial harmony to emanate to others in and around our Caribbean region as well as the world at large," declared Lady Bustamante.

She went on: "Let us thank God for the past stalwarts of Jamaica, who through their dedication, alertness and fortitude kept Jamaica safe even when she might have been pressured by strange factors — and today let us thank God for our present leaders."

Both the Minister Youth and Community Development, the Hon. Edmund Bartlett, representing the Prime Minister, and Mr. Robert Pickersgill, a Vice-President of the PNP, representing the leader of his party, who also spoke, reiterated their party's willingness to abide by the peace accord.

Mr. Bartlett called for a National Day of Prayer to pray for the nation and the peace accord "so that it will continue with us into prosperity."

Hope

The Rev. Everald Allen, pastor of the Browns Town Baptist Church, St. Ann, in delivering the sermon, praised Prime Minister Seaga and the President of the Peoples' National Party for the peace accord agreed upon by both leaders.

He said: "Our nation wants peace;

the whole world wants peace... If you and I are to walk safely in the path of peace we must first understand the path we walk to our present situation... we have got to understand history."

"History is the arena in which God acts, confronting men in justice and in mercy; challenging them with a call to which they must respond. When men respond to God in obedience we experience mercy; when we respond in disobedience we experience the judgement of God," declared the Rev. Mr. Allen.

Noting that there was hope for the future, the pastor said: "The ultimate cause of our crisis is not the Jamaican politicians; the ultimate cause is not the International Monetary Fund. The crisis in the international order is due ultimately to the judgement of God upon a world crazy in its worship of the creator..."

He went on: "God sends confusion in human affairs that man might know that we are flesh and not God. Fundamentally the meaning of our present predicament is God's judgement upon our way of life."