

# Marley statue at casting stage

The Bob Marley statue has been completed and is now being cast in bronze at the foundry of Milton Osbourne, a Jamaican living in New York.

The sculptor, Christopher Gonzalez was in Jamaica recently to report on the progress of the work to the Office of the Prime Minister, from which he had received his commission, according to a JIS news release yesterday.

Work on the statue began in early June last year. The 7'7" piece features the late reggae singer in a prophetic stance — a mike in one hand, guitar slung over the shoulder and with eyes closed.

It is expected that the casting will be completed in time for it to be sent to Jamaica for an official unveiling in May, as part of Jamaica 21 celebrations.

It will be mounted at Jamaica Park, the site selected at an area outside the National Stadium — at the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and Arthur Wint Drive. Jamaica Park will house monuments and statues of outstanding Jamaicans who have achieved international distinction in the arts, sciences and sports as part of Government's policy in honouring such nationals.

Minister of State for Culture, Ed. Bartlett has underscored the importance of holding up

models to the society and hence the policy of paying tangible tribute to outstanding nationals.

The artist Christopher Gonzalez agrees with the Minister on the question of models producing inspiration and sought to include this quality in his work.

The overall image of the statue is full of symbolism even in some minute details which might escape the eye of the casual observer. The artist feels that the life of Marley justified this portrayal especially since he was a product of a particular cultural and spiritual group.

