

# Seaga gets Gold Mercury award

Prime Minister **Edward Seaga** on Sunday received the Gold Mercury International Award for his contribution to productive development and international co-operation in the world.

The presentation ceremony which took place at the Military Academy Theatre of Venezuela in Caracas was attended by a large gathering of international statesmen, leaders and dignitaries headed by President Luis Herrera Campins of Venezuela.

The Award was presented to Mr. Seaga by Dr. Gonzalo Garcia Bustillos, Minister of the Presidential Secretariat of

Venezuela and Dr. Enrique Perez Olivacas Minister of Tourism.

The Gold Mercury International Award is presented annually in different categories. Only one award is made each year to a Head of State of Government for outstanding international contribution. In receiving the Gold Mercury International Award this year, Mr. Seaga has joined a distinguished group of outstanding world leaders who have received the Award in previous years.

They are 1980 — Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary Central Committee Communist Party of Soviet Union and Chairman Praesidium of Supreme Soviet USSR; 1979 — Kurt Waldheim, United Nations Secretary General; 1979 — Anwar El Sadat, late President of Egypt; 1978 — Jose Lopez Portillo, President of Mexico for the Mexican Government; 1978 — Sheik Kalifa bin Sulman Al — Kalifa Prime Minister Bahrain; 1977 — King Juan Carlos of Spain; 1977 —



**Prime Minister Seaga**

Marshal Josef Tito of Yugoslavia; 1976 — U.S.

President Gerald Ford; 1974 — Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands; 1973 — King Baudouin of Belgium; 1972 — Georges Pompidou of France; 1971 — Gustav Heinemann, President of the Federal Republic of Germany and 1970 — Giuseppe Saragat, President of Italy.

## The award

The Award is a six-inch high statuette of pure gold, mounted on a pedestal of marble. It depicts the Roman God Mercury whose winged feet and mythical speed symbolized the rapid trans-continental interchanges of the world of diplomacy and international relations.

Awards were also made to other distinguished leaders in their capacities as Heads of State or former leaders of Government. President Luis Herrera Campins received the award as President of Venezuela. Three former

Presidents from the Latin American region were also honoured in this category. They are former President Jose (Pepe) Figueres of Costa Rica, former President Carlos Lleras Restrepo of Columbia and former President Galo Plaza of Ecuador. A third category of the award honoured public and private institutions for their roles in international co-operation.

Among those receiving the award in these categories were the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany.

## Selection

Selection for the award is made by the Gold Mercury International Award Association which is comprised of representatives of 50 countries. These are usually

Ministers of Government, Ambassadors or distinguished leaders of Industry, Commerce, Public Administration, Education, Science and the Arts.

The Association meets annually in a different member country each year to hold seminars on Peace and International Co-operation and to make the awards. The annual meeting took place in Venezuela this year. Prior to the meeting however, a selection committee of members of the Executive Committee of the Association met to collect and screen the names of candidates and guarantee applications of the International Rules for the final assignment of the Gold Mercury International Award.

Among the 50 countries from which representatives of Gold Mercury International Award are Afghanistan, Angola, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Great Britain, India, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Panama, Rumania, Sweden, U.S.A. and Venezuela.