

# Venezuela honours Seaga

CARACAS, Sept. 10, (API): Prime Minister Edward Seaga tonight received the Grand Collar from Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins at a state banquet in his honour at Miraflores the presidential palace.

In accepting the honour, the country's highest civilian award, Seaga expressed satisfaction with the strengthening bonds between Jamaica and Venezuela and hailed the emerging of the Caribbean region as "the new centre of growth in the developing world."

Seaga told the audience of state officials and leaders of the private sector: "We are growing rapidly in numbers, as independent and sovereign nations. Our peoples have demonstrated the political will to preserve the region as the greatest concentration of democratic countries in the world with more than 30 countries successfully establishing and practising democratic systems of government. With equal political decisiveness, we have

strengthened our resolve that the market place is the source of economic growth, and that the motivation of reward for personal initiative is the greatest economic force.

"These are great political and economic assets of our region, which create a strong base on which we can develop the future stability of the Caribbean basin and the prosperity of its people."

## NEGLECTED REGION

"We are emerging from a long period, when we were a neglected, and exploited region. Let us now go forward decisively and with a vision that will guide us to what is good for our peoples, integrity that will guarantee what is good for our nations, and for the strength of purpose that will resolve our problems for the good of all."

"May the historic bond of friendship between our countries grow ever stronger, and may we always be dedicated to

the goal of unity, and prosperity for our part of the globe."

11 SEP 1981

EARLIER TODAY, Seaga, his wife Mitsy and the Jamaica delegation arrived at Caracas' La Carlota Airport, where they were received with military honours and greeted by president Campins and other senior Venezuelan officials.

Mr. Seaga who is staying at the exclusive La Vineta Protocol House, which is reserved for visiting heads of state, is also the first head of government ever to be housed there. Today his first engagement was the laying of a wreath at Panteon Nacional in honour of Simon Bolivar. Later he called on President Campins at the Presidential palace where he was accompanied by Ambassador Reginald Phillips, Foreign Affairs State Minister, Dr. Neville Gallimore and Hugh Hart, chairman of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica.

In discussions with President Camp-

ins, Seaga congratulated Venezuela on its role in the Caribbean and remarked that while his visit was nothing new in bilateral exchanges within the region, it emphasized a new and progressive development toward stability and mutual understanding among nations of the Caribbean basin.

He spoke of the historic ties between Jamaica and Venezuela, and he invited President Campins to underline the good friendship with an early visit to Jamaica.

President Campins reciprocated the compliments and expressed the hope that he would be able to make an early visit to Jamaica.

Tomorrow Seaga and his team will hold discussions with representatives of state and of the private sector. He will also pay a courtesy call on the President and Vice President of the Venezuelan Congress and make a tour of the Congress Room.

In the afternoon he will hold a second meeting with President Campins.