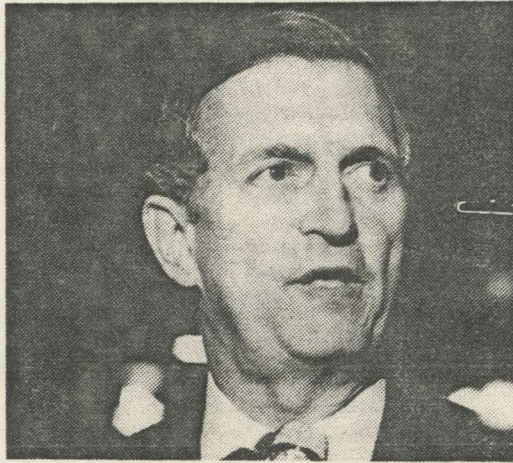


Seaga may step down at JLP conference

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Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga

KINGSTON – The ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) is to hold its annual Conference at the end of the month, at which Prime Minister Edward Seaga will step down as party leader unless he withdraws his resignation plan.

The November 29-30 conference date was disclosed last week by party chairman, Bruce Golding.

Seaga last month told a JLP retreat that he would not seek reelection at the annual conference and that he would give up the job as Prime Minister on August 12 next year.

The move was widely seen here as a ploy by Seaga to rally support in the face of criticisms following the JLP's

heavy defeat in July's local government election.

The JLP retreat declared support for Seaga, and officials, led by Golding, held a series of meetings with the Prime Minister urging that he change his mind.

Seaga has proceeded with a cabinet reshuffle, but Golding said he had not yet indicated his position on the Prime Ministership. "He has not yet advised us on anything as yet," Golding told a Caribbean News Agency reporter.

However, most political observers expect Seaga to use the platform of the conference to announce that he would stay on because of party urgings.

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