



## U.S. "Friendship Medal" For Prime Minister Seaga...

United States President Ronald Reagan (left) applauds, at a recent ceremony in the White House State Dining Room, as Prime Minister Edward Seaga (right) accepts the American Friendship Medal from Robert Miller (center), president of Freedoms Foundation, a private, non-profit organization based in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. President Reagan and Mr. Seaga met earlier for talks. The Medal is one of Freedoms Foundation's most prestigious awards, and is presented to

non-Americans who have made outstanding contributions to the ideals of democracy, peace and freedom. Previous recipients include Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Soviet writer; the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Dr. Konrad Adenauer. Accepting the award, Mr. Seaga said that he saw it as representing a bridge of friendship between the peoples of Jamaica and the United States.

## "Few People More Deserving Than Edward Seaga" — Reagan

PRIME MINISTER EDWARD SEAGA recently met with President Ronald Reagan in the Oval Office at the White House, where he had been invited by the president to

discuss matters of mutual interest. The discussions included U.S. Government purchases and barter of bauxite from Jamaica, and the progress of the Caribbean

### Basin Initiative.

The expansion of Bauxite transactions beyond the already announced 1983 purchase of 1 million tons for the strategic mineral stockpile was explored. Proposals were made by Prime Minister Seaga to barter bauxite for food items in a move which would save Jamaica direct outlays of foreign exchange.

In a ceremony in the state dining room of the White House immediately following the meeting, President Reagan opened the proceedings at which Mr. Seaga was presented with the 1982 American Friendship Medal by Freedoms Foundation "for his furtherance of democratic institutions and a free market economy and for his courageous leadership in the cause of freedom for all people".

Addressing the audience — which included several Caribbean and Latin American

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## Seaga "Persistent, Eloquent Spokesman", Says Reagan

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Ambassadors, and the senior members of the U.S. administration and congress, headed by vice-president George Bush; Secretary of State, George Shultz; and National Security Council chairman, William Clarke — President Reagan said: "Few people are more deserving of this tribute than Prime Minister Seaga".

He lauded the Prime Minister as "a leader who has long opposed totalitarian inroads in the Caribbean Basin, and who fought for the adherence of basin states to the principles of free elections, respect for basic human rights and other democratic ideals that we all cherish".

President Reagan also paid tribute to the Prime Minister's role in the development of

the CBI, describing him as the region's "most persistent and eloquent spokesman for the CBI".

Accepting the award the Prime Minister said he regarded it **not** simply as a personal tribute — but as a symbol of the friendship which existed between the people of the United States and the people of Jamaica. He was delighted that the award was associated with President Reagan, whose personal friendship for Jamaica has been translated into many acts of support for the country.

But the Prime Minister said that the friendship that existed between the people of the United States and of Jamaica was based on far wider consideration than this. Both countries share the belief that "personal reward is the greatest motivation for

personal initiative, and that by this system we can best make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before", Mr. Seaga observed.

"We share the objective", he said, "that betterment for self and family is the strongest driving force in building a prosperous nation. We are devotees of the principles enshrined in your Declaration of Independence; and enunciated by the founding fathers of your country — that government must be by the consent of the governed".

Pointing out that one in every four Jamaicans lived in the United States, the Prime Minister described the relationship between the two countries as "a people thing".