

# Shearer to be buried July 18

**T**HE State Funeral for Jamaica's third prime minister, Hugh Lawson Shearer, will be held on Sunday, July 18, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kingston. He will be buried at the National Heroes' Park.

Shearer, who served as prime minister from 1967 to 1972, died at his St Andrew home on Monday. He was 81.

The former prime minister's body will lie in State at the Vere Technical High School in his former South East Clarendon constituency on Wednesday, July 14; at the headquarters of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU) in Kingston on Thursday, July 15; and at the National Arena in Kingston on Friday, July 16 and Saturday, July 17, according to Eleanor Felix, a member of the committee planning the State Funeral.

The committee is chaired by Information Minister Senator Burchell Whiteman, and includes Ruddy Spencer, vice-president of the BITU; Bruce Golding, chairman of the Opposition Jamaica Labour Party, and representatives of the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jamaica Defence Force, Jamaica Constabulary Force, National Housing Trust, National Works Agency and the Jamaica Information Service.

All flags will continue to be flown at half-mast until after the burial of the former Jamaican leader.

Meanwhile, a number of persons yesterday turned up at Jamaica House — the prime minister's office — and at the headquarters of the Jamaica Labour Party to sign condolence books opened for the former prime minister. Among those signing the book at Jamaica House were Governor General Sir Howard Cooke; Acting Prime Minister Peter Phillips; Information Minister Burchell Whiteman; and the former prime minister's son, Lance Shearer.

Yesterday, secretary-general of the Organisation of American States (OAS) César Gaviria said Jamaica, the western Hemisphere and the world at large have lost a great son in the passing of Hugh Shearer.

The OAS secretary-general, in a statement from St George's, Grenada, where he is attending the 25th Conference of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, recalled the invaluable contribution the former Jamaican leader had made to the Hemisphere. "As prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Jamaica, Mr Shearer ushered his

then young Caribbean nation into the OAS on June 27, 1969, thus commencing Jamaica's active and well-respected participation in hemispheric affairs," Gaviria noted.

"As a stalwart labour leader, Hugh Lawson Shearer was truly an inspiration to his compatriots in their quest for social justice and development, and he assumed the reins of national leadership in 1967 to usher his country into a period of remarkable economic growth, just a few short years into independence," Gaviria said.

He added that the consensus among leaders of all political stripes was that Hugh Shearer was a rare politician and a man of consummate decency. "This will certainly stand as a lasting tribute to the man and his indelible mark on the Jamaican society."

For his part, the labour minister, Horace Dalley, said Shearer's passing marked the end of an epic chapter in trade unionism in Jamaica.

"There is little doubt that industrial relations in Jamaica today have been shaped by his will, leadership and vision," Dalley said.

The trade union movement, the minister said, will be stronger and better for the work of Hugh Shearer.

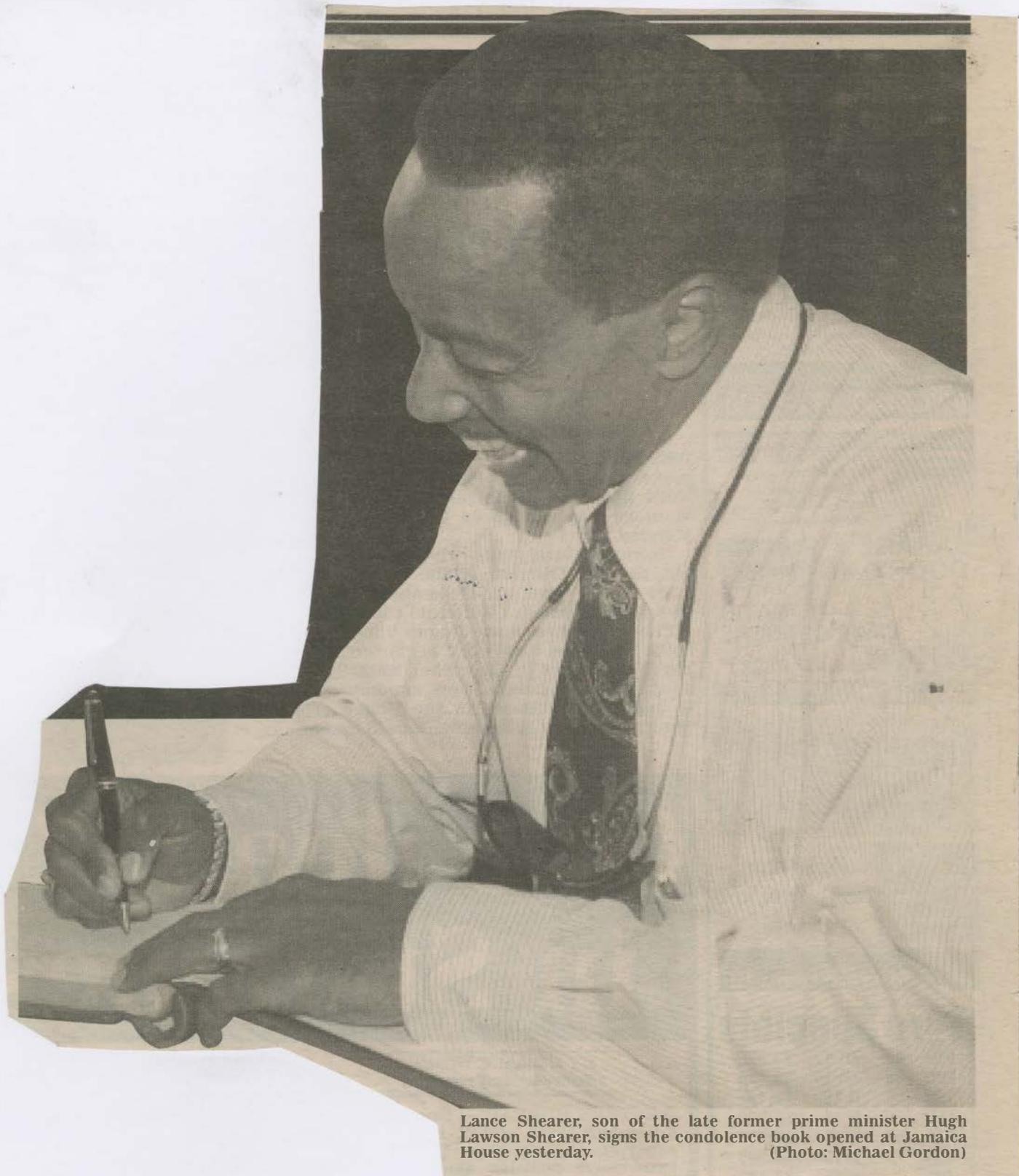
At the same time, the Jamaica Council of Churches yesterday hailed Shearer for the significant contribution he made to important aspects of life in Jamaica and said his fashioning of

a nation will be indelibly etched in the annals of the country's history.

"We recognise with gratitude the sterling service that he gave to his country in various capacities over the years in the domestic and the international spheres, most notably as labour leader and as the third prime minister of independent Jamaica. During his long life of public service, his command of the respect of colleagues on both sides of the House of Parliament and the ordinary people of varied political allegiance has won him wide acclaim as a true statesman. His passion in pursuing the cause of the working class in this country is well known and the benefits he has won for them will not soon be forgotten," said the Council of Churches.

The People's National Party Youth Organisation, in its tribute, said Shearer will be remembered with reverence for his contribution to Jamaica's continued progress into a mature democracy and for the nationalism that inspired him.

(SEE PAGES 20 & 21 FOR MORE TRIBUTES TO HUGH SHEARER)



Lance Shearer, son of the late former prime minister Hugh Lawson Shearer, signs the condolence book opened at Jamaica House yesterday.  
(Photo: Michael Gordon)