

# Venezuelan Shearer

# Order for



27 AUG 1982

Jamaica's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, on an official visit to Venezuela, was yesterday invested with the Order of Francisco de Miranda, First Class, by the Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Dr. Jose Zambrano Velasco.

Dr. Zambrano, in making the award on behalf of the Venezuelan Government, described Mr. Shearer as "a brilliant internationalist", who has worked actively "to overcome social and economic problems so that the people of the region can have a way of life that can strengthen democracy". He said that Mr. Shearer had "worked for the rapprochement of peoples".

He said the award to Mr. Shearer was "a maximum expression of friendship between Venezuela and Jamaica," according to a Jamaican Foreign Ministry report from Caracas yesterday.

In his response the Jamaican Deputy

Prime Minister, who said he accepted the honour "with a sense of humility" testified to the strength of that relationship existing between Jamaica and Venezuela. This strength, he said "is deeply rooted in similar historical experiences, shared principles and in joint participation in regional and international institutions".

Among these shared principles Mr. Shearer noted: "non-intervention in the affairs of other states; the sovereign equality of states, opposition to colonialism and racism and a commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes."

Mr. Shearer said the two countries are "at one in favouring the promotion of democracy and the institutionalisation of freedom within our region.

"We both agree", he continued, "that that Caribbean region should be a zone of peace and tranquility, free from great power rivalries and intrusion. It is for these and other reasons that we are both perturbed by developments in the region which threaten to break out into open warfare."

The Jamaican Minister said that "if serious, effective development programmes are not implemented to correct the acute social and economic distress of the peoples of the area who are facing poverty, malnutrition

and exploitation then their frustration and anger will inevitably explode into confrontation and conflict".

He said "it was to Venezuela's credit that the Government has recognised where priorities lay" and made special reference to the San Jose agreement whereby Venezuela and Mexico, sell oil to countries in the region under special arrangements.

Both speakers made reference to Simon Bolivar and the "Jamaican Letter" which he wrote, which Dr. Zambrano described as "a message of unity among Caribbean peoples".

The award given Mr. Shearer was named for a Venezuelan general and statesman who lived before Bolivar, and who is called the Precursor.

Earlier in the day, his first of two day visit, Mr. Shearer met with the Venezuela President, Dr. Luis Herrera Campins, who had issued the invitation for the Jamaican Deputy Prime Minister to visit.

Today Mr. Shearer will meet with two former Venezuela Presidents, Dr. Rafael Caldera, and Carlos Andres Perez.

Before returning home in the late afternoon, the Foreign Minister will visit the Jamaican Embassy in Caracas and attend a luncheon in his honour hosted by Jamaica's Ambassador Reg. Philips.