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CASTRO ARRIVES FOR MANLEY'S FUNERAL

KINGSTON, March 16 (JAMPRESS):

Cuban President, Dr. Fidel Castro, arrived in the island this morning to bid final farewell to his friend and political supporter, the late former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Michael Manley who died on March 6 and will be buried today at National Heroes Park.

President Castro was met by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, Seymour Mullings; State Minister, Ben Clare; Health Minister, Dr. Peter Phillips; State Minister for Finance, Danny Buchanan, other Government officials, and the Cuban Ambassador to Jamaica, Her Excellency Silvina Santos.

This is Dr. Castro's second visit to the island and his first in 20 years.

Prior to his arrival, the atmosphere at the airport was one of anticipation, excitement and tight security.

Members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, the Jamaica Defence Force, and airport security personnel maintained a strong presence. In addition, members of Dr. Castro's personal security team who arrived on a previous flight, were also on hand to ensure the safety of the controversial President.

Streams of aircraft bringing other foreign dignitaries were also arriving. Trinidadian President Basdeo Panday; Haitian Leader, Rene Preval; the Dominican Republic's Foreign Minister, Eduardo de la Torres, and Mexican Tourism Minister, Sylvia Hernandez, were among those who arrived before President Castro.

When word came that the Cubana flight bearing Dr. Castro was about to land, throngs of curious onlookers gathered on the waving gallery, while dignitaries, airport workers and members of the media converged on the tarmac.

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Dressed in his customary military garb, President Castro alighted from the aircraft to the cheers of an excited Jamaican crowd, and a flood of photographers.

He waved in acknowledgement and was immediately surrounded by security personnel. Jamaican officials then escorted him to a waiting Government vehicle.

Accompanied by a motorcade, the President left the airport for an undisclosed destination.

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