

# JAMPRESS LTD.

EC/3119/97

NEWS

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA

26/3/97

## THOUSANDS PAY FINAL TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL MANLEY

KINGSTON, March 16 (JAMPRESS):

They came from all parts of Jamaica on foot, in buses, and from the Caribbean region and the wider world, to pay their last respects to a man who had touched the lives of many, personally, in the trade union movement, the political sphere and the diplomatic circles.

The late Jamaican Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Michael Norman Manley who died on March 6, was today laid to rest at the National Heroes Park in Kingston in the presence of his family, the rest of Jamaica and world leaders.

"Mr. Manley's loss is not just to Jamaica, it is a loss to the world. He was a remarkable man, and those of us who have been touched by his grace, his courage and generosity, have been truly blessed," Harry Belafonte, humanitarian, and cultural icon told JAMPRESS today, giving an indication of the reason behind the strong international presence at the Park today.

Among the other foreign dignitaries attending were, President of Cuba, Fidel Castro; Trinidad's President, Basdeo Panday; Antigua Prime Minister, Lester Bird; Haiti's President, Rene Preval and Nation of Islam Leader, Louis Farrakhan.

Before the church service for the late Prime Minister had even begun, thousands of persons converged on the National Heroes Park. Televisions and public address systems were set up in the park to facilitate the large crowd who watched the church service which was in progress at the Holy Trinity Cathedral on North Street in Kingston.

After the funeral procession from the church, Mr. Manley's casket draped in the national flag and borne by soldiers from the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), arrived at the National Heroes Park.

It was preceded by the Guard of Honour of the JDF performing its death March. In the background a 21-gun salute echoed across

JAMAICA'S NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY

3 Chelsea Avenue, Kingston 10, Telephone: 92-63740; Telex 3552

the hills.

Major Raphael Mason and Bishop C.A. Holdsworth performed the committal at the graveside, following which wreaths were laid by members of the family, Mr. Manley's Political colleagues and foreign leaders.

Mrs. Glynne Manley, wife of the late Prime Minister, Michael Manley; Governor General, His Excellency, the Most Honourable, Sir Howard Cooke; Prime Minister, P.J. Patterson; Opposition Leader, Edward Seaga; Minister of Labour, Social Security and Sport, Portia Simpson; Chairman of Mr. Manley's party the People's National Party (PNP), Robert Pickersgill; Fidel Castro and Rene Preval, were among those laying wreaths. Following this the dignitaries greeted Mr. Manley's family.

Led by Prime Minister P.J Patterson, the crowd broke into a song and serenaded Mr. Manley in his final resting place.

CONTACT: PRUDENCE N. BARNES

National Library of Jamaica