

Illinois Wesleyan University Digital Commons @ IWU

News and Events

Office of Communications

Fall 11-8-1995

Michael Manley to Receive Honorary Degree

Bob Aaron Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news

Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Michael Manley to Receive Honorary Degree" (1995). *News and Events*. 6460. https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6460

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Illinois Wesleyan University

NEWS RELEASE

Illinois Wesleyan University News Service, P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702-2900

(309) 556-3181

November 8, 1995

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181 Jamaica Medic

alocals , Chicago, Cent. IR, Intendind, Education

<u>Michael Manley to Receive Honorary Degree</u> Former Jamaican Prime Minister Slates Nov. 13-14 Illinois Wesleyan Visit

Castro, U.S.-Caribbean Relations, United Nations' Reform Among Key Discussion Topics

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Three-time Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley will deliver two addresses, receive an honorary degree at a special convocation, and meet with three classes during a Nov. 13-14 visit to Illinois Wesleyan University.

Manley served as Jamaica's prime minister from 1972-80 and 1989-92. He was elected prime minister of Jamaica in 1972, 1976, and 1989. He was defeated in a 1980 re-election bid, serving as parliamentary opposition leader from 1980-83. For health reasons, Manley retired from public office in 1992.

Manley served as an advisor to the Organization of American States and former President Jimmy Carter in diplomatic efforts to restore democracy to Haiti and return to office ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide.

Manley served as coordinator of the first summit meeting of the leaders of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), which took place in Trinidad and Tobago in August, 1995. A driving force in ACS's creation, Manley believes the group will end the colonial legacy of cultural, political, and economic divisions among the 25 member nations.

An outspoken opponent of apartheid, Manley headed a March, 1994, Commonwealth Observer Group for the first non-racial elections in South Africa.

Manley, a champion of Third World political and economic development, was an architect of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), an umbrella group of English-speaking Caribbean nations.

In the 1970s, he played a critical diplomatic role in Zimbabwe's (formerly Rhodesia) transition to black majority rule.

Manley's IWU Schedule

The former journalist, trade union negotiator, political leader, and author will hold a news conference at 11 a.m., Nov. 14, in the Davidson Room, IWU Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St., Bloomington.

1

Manley will deliver a public lecture at 7 p.m., Nov. 13, on "Third World Development." He will receive an honorary degree and address a special university-wide convocation at 7 p.m., Nov. 14. His convocation speech will focus on "USA-Caribbean Relations." Both public addresses are open to the public, free of charge, and will take place in Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington.

Manley will discuss key international relations issues with IWU political science, economics, history, and other students three times during his visit:

• "Reforming the United Nations," 9:30 a.m., Nov. 13.

"Latin American Relations--Castro and the United States," 1 p.m., Nov. 13.

• "Regionalism and Globalism: Its Interdependence," 2:35 p.m., Nov. 14. All three sessions with IWU students will take place in the Davidson Room, Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St., Bloomington. These sessions are open for news media coverage.

Manley, the author of the 1988 book "West Indies Cricket," will discuss the game with IWU students at 9:30 a.m., Nov. 14, in the Shirk Center (Activities Center), 302 E. Emerson St., Bloomington. This event also is available for news media coverage.

Manley Profiled

Manley launched his career as a journalist from 1949-52, working for the British Broadcasting Corp. in London and later as associate editor of *Public Opinion*, a Kingston, Jamaica-based newspaper.

He became a union organizer in 1952 for the National Workers' Union (NWU), one of the Caribbean's largest unions. Three years later, Manley became the NWU's island supervisor. Manley was elected NWU president in 1984. From 1964-72, he also was president of the Caribbean Bauxite Mine & Metal Workers' Federation.

Manley's political career began in 1952, when he was elected to the National Executive Council of the People's National Party (PNP), a social democratic party. He was elected PNP vice president in 1967 and became party president in 1969--a post he held until 1992.

Manley led the PNP to an election victory in 1972 over the Jamaica Labour Party, becoming the country's fourth prime minister.

As prime minister, Manley launched a wide range of economic and social reforms, including a minimum wage law, compulsory recognition of labor unions, and land reform. He also waived fees to government-aided educational institutions, making educational opportunity more widely available. Manley also supported women's rights. His government's insistence on a fair return for its bauxite and aluminum industry led to the introduction of the bauxite levy in 1974.

Jamaica's foreign policy under Manley's government in the 1970s moved toward closer ties with Fidel Castro's Cuba.

Prior to winning election as prime minister, Manley served in the Jamaican parliament. He was appointed to the Senate, the upper house, from 1962-67, and was elected to the House of Representatives, the lower house, in 1967, retaining his Kingston seat until 1983.

During his opposition years (1980-89), Manley reexamined Jamaica's economic strategy, becoming one of the first social democratic leaders to accept the need for a strong market economy as the engine for economic growth.

Political Philosophy Shift

In a 1994 appearance at Atlanta's Emory University, Manley discussed his well-known shift in economic philosophy. An *Atlanta Constitution* headline summed up the former prime minister's thinking this way: "Manley's Dream: Socialism that Works, Capitalism that Cares."

The newspaper reported Manley saying his political transition has taken him from dedicated socialist to an intellectual looking for a paradigm--or overall concept--that allows a country like Jamaica to develop an economy that may create a few millionaires but also must do justice to a large population that is poor.

Manley, according to the newspaper, said his own struggle as a political leader was to resolve the contradiction between the need for economic growth and the need for equity among Jamaica's people.

"It was a constantly painful part of my learning curve," Manley said.

By the 1980s, Manley said, socialist and capitalist models had failed. Capitalism, he said, tended to abandon social development, while socialism produced economies that are "too inflexible."

Manley experienced some tough economic times as Jamaica's prime minister. In April, 1980, for example, Jamaica narrowly avoided defaulting on debts to commercial banks.

The Washington Times cited Manley's philosophical shift in a Sept. 25, 1995, report: "After the election of the erstwhile socialist Michael Manley as

prime minister in 1989, U.S. assistance to Jamaica was significantly reduced. Ironically, Mr. Manley proved far more rigorous in restructuring Jamaica along free-market lines than his [conservative] predecessor, privatizing more stateowned enterprises in two years than the Seaga government had during eight years in office."

Background, Education, and Honors

Michael Norman Manley, born Dec. 10, 1924, is the son of Norman Washington Manley, premier of Jamaica from 1955-62, and Edna Swithenbank, an internationally recognized sculpture and a founder of Jamaica's modern art movement.

Manley was educated at Jamaica College (1935-43). He was an honors student at the London School of Economics, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in economics (1945-49).

For his opposition of South African apartheid, Manley received a United Nations Gold Medal in 1978. He received the Juliot Curie Peace Award of the World Peace Council in 1979 for his work supporting the struggle of non-aligned peoples for economic independence.

Manley is the author of eight books, including: "Politics of Change" (1973); "A Search for Solutions" (1977); "Jamaica: Struggle in the Periphery" (1982); "Global Challenge: From Crisis to Cooperation: Breaking the North-South Stalemate" (1985); and "The Poverty of Nations: Reflections on Underdevelopment and the World Economy" (1991).

Jamaica at a Glance

Christopher Columbus landed on Jamaica in 1494. Spain ruled Jamaica for 150 years, until a British invasion force captured the island in 1655. Jamaica remained under British rule until it won independence in 1962. Jamaica is a member of the British Commonwealth.

Jamaica, a mountainous island located in the northern Caribbean Sea, is 4,244 square miles, making it slightly smaller than Connecticut. It is a multi-racial society with a population of 2.5 million--77 percent of which are of African origin. The capital, Kingston, has a population of 566,200.

Staples of the Jamaican economy are bauxite, agriculture, and tourism. Discovery of bauxite in the 1940, shifted Jamaica's economy away from sugar and bananas. The State Department reports more than 80 U.S. firms have Jamaican operations and total U.S. investment--including that in the bauxitealuminum industry--is estimated at more than \$1 billion. While Jamaica's political system is stable, the U.S. State Department observed in a November, 1994, paper: "However, the country's serious economic problems have exacerbated social problems and have become the subject of political debate. High unemployment--averaging 16.3 percent in 1993--rampant underemployment, inflation, depreciation of the Jamaican dollar, and labor unrest are the most serious economic problems.

"The migration of unemployed people to urban areas," the State Department paper added, "coupled with an increase in the use and trafficking of narcotics--(crack cocaine, marijuana, and, more recently, heroin)--contribute to a high level of violent crime, especially in Kingston."

Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,850 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; a \$25 million Center for Natural Science Learning and Research opened in the fall of 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual U.S. News & World Report rankings. 101 of the Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities calls IWU "undoubtedly one of the finest small colleges in the country," adding, "Illinois Wesleyan has surged to national prominence on the basis of its reputation as a school with a rock-solid academic program."

--30---