

BRIEFING PAPER

JAMAICA

I. PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

To demonstrate our interest in Jamaica (and through Jamaica, the distinctiveness of the English-speaking Caribbean democracies) and more generally in the Caribbean as a whole.

To show, by our willingness to work with the Manley Government, that we accept political diversity in the Caribbean, and acknowledge Jamaica's role in the North-South dialogue.

II. SETTING

You are visiting Jamaica at a time of political tension and economic crisis. Prime Minister Manley's policies of "democratic socialism" and close relations with Cuba are subjects of bitter controversy. The national economy is on the verge of collapse.

After more than a year of deteriorating relations, the U.S. and Jamaica have taken steps to restore our traditional friendship and cooperation. A U.S. team visited Jamaica in early May to see if we could help economically. Your visit will be seen as a further indication of American friendship for Jamaica and acceptance -- if not endorsement -- of Manley's policies.

Michael Manley was elected to a second five-year term as Prime Minister in December 1976. His People's National Party (PNP) won 57% of the vote and a landslide 48-12 margin in Parliament. The opposition Jamaica Labor Party (JLP), led by Edward Seaga, was almost destroyed and has retreated into a defensive posture on sniping at Manley's ineffectual economic policies.

Jamaica has been independent only fifteen years and its leaders are intensely nationalistic. Michael Manley's father, Norman, was a union leader and founder

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State Department review completed

Briefing paper assesses the purpose of President Jimmy Carter's upcoming visit to Jamaica. Carter will show, by the willingness of the U.S. to work with the government of Prime Minister Michael Manley, that the U.S. accepts political diversity in the Caribbean, and acknowledges Jamaica's role in North-South dialogue. Department Of State, n.d. U.S. Declassified Documents Online, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/CK2349721314/GDCS?u=nclivedc&sid=bookmark-GDCS&pg=1](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CK2349721314/GDCS?u=nclivedc&sid=bookmark-GDCS&pg=1). Accessed 1 May 2024.