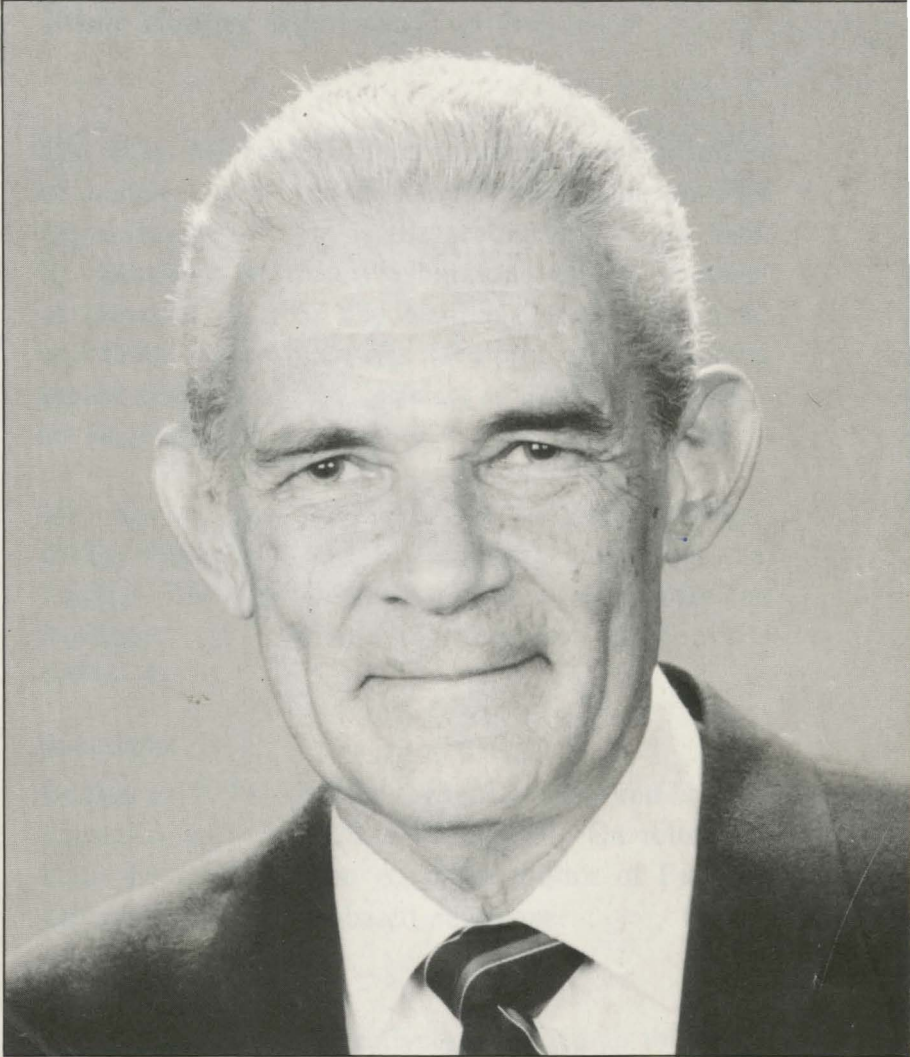


# Profile

*Hon. Manley Michael*



**: The Hon. Michael Norman Manley**  
**: Prime Minister of Jamaica**

# Profile

## **The Hon. Michael Norman Manley Prime Minister of Jamaica**

The Hon. Michael Norman Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica, was born in Kingston, Jamaica on 10th December, 1924. He is the second son of the late Rt. Excellent Norman Washington Manley (Premier of Jamaica, 1955–62 and National Hero of Jamaica) and Edna née Swithenbank (sculptor of international repute and one of the founders of Jamaica's modern art movement).

Mr. Manley was educated at Jamaica College (1935–1943), and was an Honours student at the London School of Economics where he read for the Bachelor of Science degree in Economics (1945–49).

### **Journalist**

Between 1949–52, Mr. Manley worked as a journalist with the B.B.C. (London). On returning home he worked as an Associate Editor of **Public Opinion**, a Kingston-based newspaper.

### **Trade Unionist**

Mr. Manley has been actively involved in the trade union movement since 1952, when he was first appointed Union Organizer of the National Workers'

Union (NWU) one of the largest unions in the Caribbean. In 1955, he became Island Supervisor of the NWU, and since 1984 has held the office of President of that union. During 1964-72, Mr. Manley also served as President of the Caribbean Bauxite Mine & Metal Workers' Federation.

**Politician**

Mr. Manley entered the field of politics in 1952 when he was elected to the National Executive Council of the People's National Party (PNP). He was appointed to the Senate (the Upper House of Parliament) from 1962 to 1967, and was elected to the House of Representatives (the Lower House) in 1967 when he won the seat for the Central Kingston constituency in the General Election held that year. Mr. Manley retained this seat in the subsequent 1972, 1976 and 1980 elections. He was elected Vice-President of the PNP in 1967 and became President of the party in 1969, a post he has held since.

In 1972, Mr. Manley led his People's National Party to a landslide electoral victory, over the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) to become the country's fourth Prime Minister.

In the General Election of 1976 when the PNP again won a landslide victory (the second largest in Jamaica's history) Mr. Manley was returned as Prime Minister, retaining that office until October 30, 1980 when the General Election was won by the JLP.

Mr. Manley served as Opposition Leader in Parliament from 1980-83.

The PNP did not contest the "snap elections" called in December 1983. The Party asserted that in calling the elections when it did, the Government of the day had breached an agreement that no elections would be held until agreed reforms to the electoral system had been completed. The PNP was, therefore, not represented in the Parliament which existed from December 1983 to January 1989. However, a *de facto* Opposition was maintained through a series of People's Forums staged by the PNP.

In the General Election held on February 9, 1989 the PNP, under the leadership of Mr. Michael Manley, won a resounding victory, and Mr. Manley for the third time took the oath of office as Prime Minister of Jamaica on Monday, February 13, 1989.

**International Statesman**

In 1983, Mr. Manley was elected Chairman of the Socialist International Economic Commission, and has been a Vice-President of Socialist International since 1979. He was also made a member of the South Commission (chaired by Mr. Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania) in 1987.

**Lecturer and Intellectual**

Since 1984, Mr. Manley has been a visiting lecturer at several North American universities and colleges, including Columbia University, Howard University, York University, University of Pennsylvania,



Berkley, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), Wisconsin, Miami, and the University of Texas.

### Major Achievements

In his 30 years in trade unionism, Mr. Manley has contributed significantly to the modernization of negotiation techniques. He introduced sophisticated labour contract methods and pioneered regional co-operation between various mine and metal workers' unions in the Caribbean.

Under Mr. Manley's leadership between 1972-1980 the Government instituted a wide range of social and economic reforms including a minimum wage, compulsory recognition of labour unions and land reform.

In addition, by waiving fees to Government-aided educational institutions, educational opportunities were made much more widely available. Significant progress was also made in the area of equal opportunity for women and women's rights generally.

His Government's insistence on the principle of a fair return to Jamaica from its bauxite/alumina industry led to the introduction of the Bauxite Levy in 1974.

In the international arena, Mr. Manley has been in the forefront of the struggle of Third World countries to achieve greater parity in international trade and international affairs generally. He fought

for the acceptance of the concept of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) and played a leading role in persuading the Bureau of Socialist International to set up the first Commission to study and make recommendations for an International Economic Strategy for Social Democracy Worldwide. He was unanimously chosen as its first Chairman and the first report of this Commission, "**Global Challenge**" was published in 1985.

Mr. Manley has also been an outspoken critic of apartheid in South Africa. His role in this area was recognised when in 1978 he became the recipient of a United Nations Gold Medal and the Juliot Curie Peace Award of the World Peace Council in 1979.

### Awards

- Honorary Doctor of Laws, LL.D. (Hon.) Morehouse College, Atlanta, 1973
- Order of the Liberator (Venezuela), 1973
- Order of the Mexican Eagle, 1973
- Order of the Jose Marti (Cuba), 1976
- United Nations Gold Medal, 1978. (This is the highest award of the Special Committee Against Apartheid, and was presented for "*significant contribution in the co-operation with the United Nations and in solidarity with South African liberation movements to the international campaign against apartheid.*")
- Juliot Curie Peace Award of the World Peace Council, 1979. (This award was presented for his contribution to the struggle of the Jamaican people and all peoples of

the non-aligned world fighting for economic independence.)

- Subject for Citation by Socialist International (for his contribution to the world economic debate on the New International Economic Order, and for his contribution to the deepening of democracy and social justice in Jamaica and the Caribbean.)

### Other Interests

Mr. Manley is also a coffee farmer and horticulturist, and an avid sports fan.

### Publications

- 1973      **Politics of Change**  
Andre Deutsch, London (English & Spanish)
- 1973      **A Voice at the Workplace**  
Andre Deutsch, London
- 1977      **Search for Solutions**  
Maple House, Canada  
(a collection of his speeches)
- 1982      **Jamaica: Struggle in the Periphery**  
Writers & Readers, London
- 1985      **Global Challenge: From Crisis to Cooperation: Breaking the North-South Stalemate**  
Report of the Socialist International Economic Commission chaired by Michael Manley, Pan Books
- 1987      **Up The Down Escalator**  
Andre Deutsch, London
- 1988      **A History of West Indies Cricket**  
Andre Deutsch, London

### IN ADDITION, PUBLISHED ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS AND SPEECHES WHICH INCLUDE :

- "Address to the United Nations General Assembly 33rd Session - October, 1978"
- "Address to World Peace Council International Seminar (W.P.C. Information Centre) - March, 1979"
- "Interview" Third World Quarterly, (London) - July, 1979
- "Address to Sixth Summit of the Non-aligned Nations in Havana - September, 1979"
- "Inaugural Third World Lecture (Third World Foundation) 1979"
- "Address to Inaugural Conventions of Jamaica Nationals in Washington, D.C., U.S.A." published by C.L.R. James, 1979

*Author of numerous articles on sports, politics and Third World affairs in international media - 1982 to present.*

### Forthcoming Publication

- **Imperialism & Third World Development**  
Columbia University lecture series 1984/1985.



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