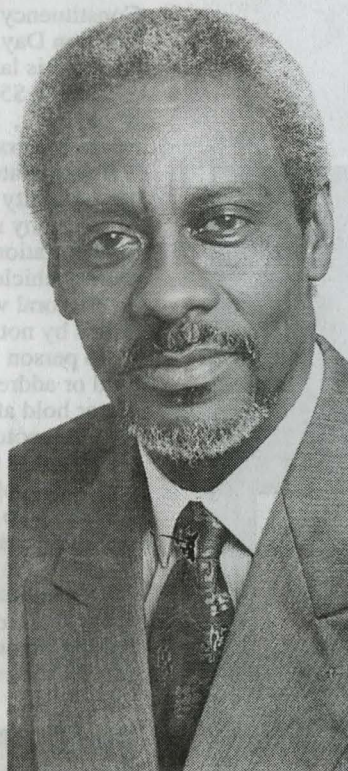


B/N PATTERSON, P.J.

Meet the leaders...

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA

P.J. Patterson, East Westmoreland



PERCIVAL JAMES Patterson was appointed Prime Minister of Jamaica in March 1992, after his election as President of the People's National Party and the retirement of former Prime Minister, the late Michael Manley. Mr. Patterson's ascension to the Office of Prime Minister was a fitting culmination to over 20 years of service to the State including the holding of various senior Cabinet positions. P. J. Patterson's vision for Jamaica is one in which "we build a land of opportunity and prepare for a brand new world in which every citizen -man, woman and child -shares a sense of self-esteem and a personal stake-holding in a modern, prosperous and truly enlightened Jamaica." Some of his achievements as Prime Minister have been as follows: Mr Patterson spear-headed

Jamaica's cessation of an 18-year borrowing relationship with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), creating the platform for Jamaica to once again exert control over its economic affairs. His efforts have led to a stabilisation of the economy with low inflation, a stable dollar and record high Net International Reserves. He has also promulgated a National Industrial Policy which will build on that stability to foster economic growth to take the country into the 21st Century. Under Prime Minister Patterson's Social Agenda Programme, a National Land and Shelter Policy has resulted in the accelerated provision of housing solutions. He has conceptualised Operation Pride, a comprehensive shelter programme, which is helping to regularise informal settlements and contribute to

the country's housing needs. He has spearheaded programmes for the most vulnerable social groups - the young and the elderly- such as the National Youth Service, Special Training and Empowerment Programme (STEP) and the Jamaica Drugs for the Elderly Programme. His education commitment is underpinned by his insistence upon an adherence to democratic principles, integrity in public life and a strong social ethic and moral principles, which should permeate all aspects of national life. Mr Patterson has been recognised for his contribution to Jamaica's dynamic role in world affairs. Prior to becoming Prime Minister, he utilised his legal skills in leading several successful negotiations in the international arena, especially in relation to the African Caribbean and Pacific

(ACP) countries. He is widely acknowledged as one of the chief architects of the LOME Convention negotiated in the 1970s. One of the principal actors in the evolution of the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) into the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Prime Minister Patterson now serves as Chairman of this regional body. His goal for the region is a Single Market & Economy (SME) before the end of the century. The consummate politician Mr Patterson began his career in the PNP as Party Organiser in the 1950s, shortly after completing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree in English at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona. He has served in other positions such as Executive Member, Vice President, Chairman and now President.