

B/N - Patterson, P.J.

'I shall return' — P.J.

By Clinton Pickering

FORMER Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Development and Planning, P.J. Patterson has served notice that "I shall return."

Following his decision not to accept a post in the new Cabinet, Mr. Patterson said he will be devoting his time to rebuilding the Peoples's National Party.

He said at a press conference at PNP Headquarters in Kingston

yesterday that the latest polls which show a slippage in public confidence in the party, added weight to his decision to stay out of the new Cabinet.

As Chairman of the Party and Chairman of the Campaign Committee, Mr. Patterson said: "The last thing that I would like to see happen is after we have taken the bold decisions that we have, we are responsible for presiding over the period of transition and because there is not a sufficient communication of the message to the electorate, they lose faith and

return to office a party that has neither the commitment nor the vision to sustain this process. And this has been a very very important factor in influencing me to take the decision now."

He said he was not worried about his constituency rating in the polls, arguing that the reason was that he had to discharge very onerous duties within the Government and particularly as the Minister of Finance. "The people want to see you, the more often, the better — one of the reasons why I've asked to be released is

that the people can see me more often...all over Jamaica," he said.

Mr. Patterson dismissed any notion that there would be infighting in the PNP with his withdrawal from Cabinet, given that he was seen as the most likely successor to Mr. Manley: "I want to make it clear that I have not resigned from the Cabinet in protest; I have asked the Prime Minister not to consider me for inclusion in the Cabinet so as to enable me to devote my attention to political work in the rebuilding of the party." (*Support for Manley, p.2*)