

Siting of Seabed Authority headquarters —

Patterson calls for C'ttee to work with Commission in making the selection

Star Western Bureau

Mr. P. J. Patterson, former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister has called for the establishment of a Special

Committee to work in collaboration with the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority, in finalising arrangements for the selection of the siting of the Seabed Headquarters.

As he saw it, the Committee for which he is advocating should be comprised of representatives of Jamaica's two political parties, the communities campaigning for

the siting of the Headquarters and Technical Advisers.

Mr. Patterson made the call on Thursday, December 10 during his address to Montego Bay Lions at their bi-monthly meeting at Richmond Hill Inn.

He said: "The question of whether the Headquarters should be sited in Montego Bay or Kingston is a vexed and controversial one and should be handled in a manner which would be approved by the majority".

Mr. Patterson further said that it was the first occasion that Jamaica was asked to facilitate an international organisation of such magnitude. Thus, based on the importance that the Organisation would have on the country, it was necessary that all arrangements for the siting of the permanent headquarters be the decision of a national consensus rather than a political issue, he said.

He also commented on the part played by the former

government and the present administration in having Jamaica be selected for the siting of the International Seabed Headquarters, and urged that all Jamaicans be united to ensure the advancement of the country. Mr. Patterson said that "the honour bestowed to us should be handled so effectively as to show to the world what a nation could achieve by uniting towards one common goal".