



SHERLOCK... sought to imbue spirit of nationalism in Jamaicans

Official funeral for Sir Philip Sherlock tomorrow

FORMER vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Sir Philip Sherlock, will be given an Official funeral, the state news agency, JIS News, reported yesterday.

The funeral service will take place at the University Chapel tomorrow, starting at 10:00 am.

Since his passing at his home on Monday at the age of 98, a number of persons and organisations have paid tribute to Sir Philip. Among them are the Caricom Secretariat, the Jamaica Teachers Association (JTA), and the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions (JCTU).

"Sir Philip will be remembered for his firm belief in, and lifelong dedication to the education of the people of his beloved homeland, Jamaica, and of the entire Caribbean," the Caricom Secretariat said in its statement.

According to the Secretariat, school children in the region are indebted to Sir Philip for the school text, *History of the West Indies*.

This text, the Secretariat said "introduced generations to our history and culture and, coming at the time that it did, gave a West Indian interpretation of the events which shaped our region and its peoples".

The Secretariat also said that Sir Philip, who gave years of service to the UWI, saw the institution as a unifying force in Caribbean development.

"Indeed he (Sir Philip) stated that "...the university represents a special kind of partnership between many peoples. It represents a West Indian effort at collaboration that is in direct opposition to the fragmentation and divisions imposed on the region by the imperial rivalries of distant powers. It represents the co-operation of free peoples in a community whose history has been one of competition".

The JTA said Sir Philip's passing not only signalled the end of an era, but heralded the onset of a new epoch.

They described his influence on Jamaica's social life, especially in the field of education, as profound and said he believed in education being a means for persons to lift themselves up from the quagmire of destitution.

The JCTU, in their tribute, said Sir Philip dedicated his life to the cause of transformation and sought to imbue a sense of pride and spirit of nationalism in Jamaicans.

"In the formative years of our struggle for self-government, Sir Philip's passionate zeal was very evident in his contribution to the nationalist movement," the JCTU said.

The trade union umbrella body said, too, that Sir Philip assailed the dispiriting effects of colonialism on the psyche of Caribbean peoples and, through education and the arts, "set about the formidable task of creating the kind of surrealism which is so much a part of nationhood".