

2-14-1989

Jamaica: Manley Wins With 57% Of Vote

John Neagle

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur>

Recommended Citation

Neagle, John. "Jamaica: Manley Wins With 57% Of Vote." (1989). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/2714>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Jamaica: Manley Wins With 57% Of Vote

by John Neagle

Category/Department: General

Published: Tuesday, February 14, 1989

On Feb. 9, Michael Manley was elected prime minister by Jamaican voters over incumbent Edward Seaga. At 10 p.m. EST, with 65% of the ballots counted, the state-run Jamaica Broadcasting Corp. reported that the People's National Party headed by Manley had won 34 of 60 seats in the parliament. The network said Seaga's Jamaican Labor Party (JLP) had captured eight seats, with the remaining 18 undecided. Many polling stations closed early because of violence, mainly in Kingston and nearby areas, and soldiers fired shots and used tear gas to break up skirmishes. About 10,000 police and soldiers were deployed to maintain order at more than 6,000 polling stations. One woman was killed, and at least six persons wounded in shooting incidents. The killing of Glenna Williams, a 25-year-old pregnant housewife, raised to at least 12 the number of people killed in politically related violence since the campaign began on Jan. 15. Throughout the day, the two candidates accused each other of fraud, intimidation and voting irregularities. Early Thursday, Seaga said his party would challenge the results in court. Then, on Thursday evening in his concession speech, Seaga indicated he would not challenge the results despite his earlier allegations of fraud. On Feb. 10, election officials said that although they did not have a final vote tally, preliminary calculations indicated that the PNP won 44 of the 60 seats in the parliament. On Feb. 13, Manley was sworn in as prime minister at a ceremony attended by more than 5,000 people. The new leader pledged to strengthen relations with the US, Canada, Britain and sister nations in the Caribbean. In taking charge of Jamaica's economic recovery during the 1980s, Seaga under pressure by the International Monetary Fund imposed austerity measures. The poor, who account for about 80% of all Jamaicans, were the most affected by austerity. An estimated 1 million of 2.4 million Jamaicans were eligible to vote in the general elections. (Basic data from AP, AFP, 02/09/89; New York Times, 02/10/89, 02/11/89; Xinhua, 02/13/89)

-- End --