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Jamaican Prime Minister Announces Resignation

by Erika Harding

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On March 15, Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley announced his retirement, citing health problems. Manley will also step down as president of the People's National Party (PNP). The resignation is effective March 28. Manley's successor is to be selected the same day at a PNP general assembly meeting. Manley, 67, has had five operations in recent years, including one for prostate cancer in 1990. After the cancer surgery, he spent weeks in the hospital suffering from pneumonia. Likely candidates to replace Manley include former PNP secretary D.K. Duncan, Finance Minister Hugh Small, Women's Affairs Minister Portia Simpson and former deputy prime minister Percival Patterson. Patterson resigned in January over a US$29.5 million duty waiver he granted to the local Shell subsidiary for unleaded gasoline imports. (Sources: Inter Press Service, 03/11/92; Associated Press, 03/15/92)

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