



THE NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

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THE First Session of the Thirty-sixth Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by Her Majesty the Queen, when Her Majesty was pleased to make the following statement of the causes of the calling of this session of Parliament together.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

I am very glad to be once more among the elected representatives of the people of New Zealand and to exercise my prerogative of opening the First Session of this Thirty-sixth Parliament.

My husband and I were delighted by the warm welcome which we received when we arrived in Wellington. We look forward to renewing our acquaintance with my people in the cities, towns, and countryside. This will be a source of strength to me in the fulfilment of my duties as Queen and as Head of the great Commonwealth association of nations.

We are both glad that on this occasion The Prince of Wales and The Princess Anne are able to be with us and that they will be able to share our pleasure.

Our visit takes place on an appropriate occasion because it is from the first voyage of Captain James Cook that New Zealand's close association with the British Crown is derived. We are now celebrating the bi-centenary of this voyage and I know what a deep significance this commemoration has for all New Zealanders. It is a time to reflect on the achievements of those who have built this country and to look to the goals which should be set for the future. In recalling with pride the work and enterprise that have been devoted to building modern New Zealand, my people may look forward with a renewed confidence in their destiny.

My Ministers are aware that the prosperity and security of New Zealanders is largely dependent upon the promotion and maintenance of the welfare of the whole community of nations. Through its activity in the United Nations and its specialised agencies, my Government will continue to play its part in the search for harmony among nations and the creation of conditions in which they may devote their resources to the pursuits of peace, the raising of living standards and the improvement of the quality of life for the peoples of the world. My Government believes that it is of the highest importance, especially in this year in which the Organisation is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, to renew efforts that will allow the principles of the United Nations Charter to be fully realised.

In Europe endeavours to move closer to the goal of Western European unity, a goal to which New Zealand has consistently lent its political support, have quickened. The countries of the European Economic Community are on the threshold of substantial economic integration. Negotiations for membership of the EEC are expected to resume this year with my Government in the United Kingdom and other countries that wish to play a full part in the Community. 1970 may well prove to be a turning point in European history with important consequences for the stability of the region and for its role in international affairs. Developments in this area will accordingly be followed with the closest attention by my Government in the months ahead. As a result of preparatory consultations with the governments concerned, my Ministers have been able to ensure that the vital nature of New Zealand's trading interests in the United Kingdom market is understood.

My Government is actively engaged in promoting closer co-operation with the countries of Asia and in encouraging regional solidarity. Through organisations such as the Colombo Plan, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, and the Asian Development Bank, New Zealand is contributing materially to the economic and social development of the region. The recent decision to double the Colombo Plan appropriation is a practical demonstration of the importance my Ministers attach to this endeavour and constitutes a significant step towards the accepted target of 1 per cent of gross national product for external aid. In June this year my Government will be host to the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Council, the success of which signals the growing sense of confidence and cohesion among the countries of the region.

New Zealand's contribution to defence arrangements in South-East Asia complements its efforts in the economic, social, and political fields. My Government is making the necessary arrangements to give effect to the decision to maintain units of the three Services in Malaysia and Singapore following the withdrawal of United Kingdom forces at the end of 1971.

The search for a peaceful and just settlement of the tragic conflict in Vietnam has the full support of my Government. My Ministers are disappointed at the lack of progress in the Paris talks. They hope that a more realistic and constructive attitude will prevail in the coming months, leading to a settlement which will ensure freedom and security for those who have for so long been exposed to the terrors of war.

Geographical closeness and a common Polynesian heritage are the foundation of the special concern and sympathy New Zealand has always felt for the people of the South Pacific. My Government will continue to give particular attention to the needs of my people in the

Cook Islands, Niue, and the Tokelau Islands. It will give full support to efforts to strengthen the South Pacific Commission as an instrument for regional co-operation and the assistance to the new regional University of the South Pacific in Fiji will be maintained.

It gave me particular pleasure to welcome my Prime Minister along with other Commonwealth leaders when they held their meeting in London in January 1969. This was a memorable occasion coming at the end of a decade that has been a significant period in the evolution of the Commonwealth. The membership of the Commonwealth now represents some quarter of the world's population. My Ministers believe the potential of the Commonwealth as an instrument for good will, mutual respect, understanding, and accommodation in the international community is yet to be fully explored. Throughout its history it has remained faithful to the characteristics that make it unique: a group of nations, associated by their free choice and welded together through a common heritage and through a profound belief in certain fundamental values. At the same time it has consistently demonstrated its capacity for renewal and growth to meet changing circumstances. The vitality of the Commonwealth concept is amply reflected in the large and growing number of organisations that bring together professional people, administrators, and private individuals throughout the Commonwealth. My Government looks forward to the continuing extension of areas of practical co-operation.

Honourable Members, over the last 2 years the balance of payments situation has been greatly strengthened and this is reflected in the record current account surpluses of recent months. The recovery from the external payments problems faced in 1967 and 1968 has been assisted by the rapid growth of overseas exchange receipts both for traditional exports and for new products from New Zealand's increasingly diversified economy.

There has been a rapid recovery in domestic output and incomes. Recently however the rate of increase of expenditure has been causing some concern to my Government. Evidence that this rate of acceleration is too fast can be found in the unsatisfied demand for labour and in the increasing pressure on costs and prices. My Ministers believe that while fluctuations in the level of activity within the economy are inevitable it is necessary to ensure that they are kept under control. Without such control the conditions favourable to balanced economic growth may be replaced by an inflationary situation in which an efficient and internationally competitive economy cannot flourish. My Government is determined that the progress made in recent years to strengthen the economy will be maintained and its decisions in the field of economic policy will be made with this basic consideration in mind.

My Ministers intend to make further progress in implementing the major long-term economic policies formulated by the National Development Conference. A fundamental objective is the further diversification of the New Zealand economy. The dairy industry beef scheme was introduced by my Minister of Agriculture last year to encourage the greater production of beef, for which there is a growing export market, at the expense of milk production, of which there is a world surplus. My Ministers are confident that the proven capacity of the New Zealand farmer to respond to the changing requirements of international markets will ensure that agriculture will continue to play a major role in the New Zealand economy.

Industrial development has made further significant progress during the past year. The foundations of a great new industry are being laid with the production of steel billets from New Zealand ironsand. In

September last my Government reached agreement with overseas interests on the terms under which an aluminium smelter will be established near Bluff. There has been a renewed interest in mineral exploitation in New Zealand, strongly reinforced by the recent promising indication of a large petroleum field off Taranaki.

My Government considers that the significant growth of exports of manufactured goods over the last 2 years demonstrates that New Zealand industry is developing on a sound competitive basis. My Ministers will continue to provide incentives and other forms of appropriate assistance to enable manufacturers to make an even greater contribution to the nation's export drive.

My Government will negotiate bilateral and other arrangements where these can lead towards an expansion of New Zealand's overseas trade. There has already been considerable success in these fields. Over the first 5 years of the New Zealand - Australia Free Trade Agreement there has been a substantial increase in trans-Tasman trade. My Government is examining means of giving further impetus to this trade in 1970.

My Government will continue to urge other governments, both bilaterally and through the appropriate international agencies, to establish arrangements for the orderly production and marketing of primary products, in particular dairy products. The agreement recently negotiated in respect of the marketing of skim milk powder demonstrates that progress can be achieved by patient endeavour in this very difficult field.

Honourable Members, my Government is concerned that the nation's social welfare services should be fully equipped to meet the needs of my people. It believes that further co-ordination of social services is necessary and it intends to amalgamate the Social Security Department and the Child Welfare Division to form a new department of Social Welfare. You will accordingly be asked to consider an amendment to the Social Security Act. The necessary amendment to the Child Welfare Act will be placed before you in conjunction with a general revision and consolidation of the legislation.

My Minister of Health will ask you to consider this Session Bills to consolidate and revise the Pharmacy Act 1939 and the Nurses and Midwives Act 1949. In respect of the latter measure it is proposed to substitute an independent corporate body, the Nursing Council, for the present Nurses and Midwives Board.

My Government recognises that the equality of opportunity which exists for all races in New Zealand cannot be fully effective until all its citizens are in a position to take advantage of those opportunities. My Ministers believe that the provision of adequate facilities for education is an essential precondition to enable the nation's young people to develop their talents to the full. Following the report of the National Development Conference an Advisory Council on Educational Planning has been set up to advise my Government on the action to be taken on appropriate Conference recommendations. My Ministers are confident that further significant progress will be made this year in implementing these recommendations.

The improvement of the standard of education of my Polynesian people in New Zealand is seen by my Ministers as the key to their further economic and social progress. Pre-school training and trade training schemes for Maori and other Polynesian youths are being extended and they are also being encouraged to train for general farming and horticultural work.

Honourable Members, my Government's policy on systematic reform of the law will result in several measures being placed before you this Session. They will include Bills relating to the carriage of goods, hire purchase, and chattels transfer. There will also be amendments to the licensing legislation. Legislation encouraging the building and individual ownership of flats will also be introduced. It is likely that legislation lowering the general age of majority to 20 will be prepared.

Honourable Members, my Government is aware of the world-wide concern regarding man's environment. New Zealand's environmental problems are not great when measured against those facing some heavily populated areas of the world. However, New Zealand is a fast-developing nation and thought given now to this fundamental aspect of development will ensure that New Zealand continues to be a country in which it is a pleasure to live.

Later this year the Physical Environment Conference, jointly sponsored by the New Zealand Institution of Engineers and the National Development Conference, will be held in this city. My Government will give close attention to its recommendations.

A Marine Reserves Bill will be included in the measures submitted to you and you will also be asked to consider a Bill to revise and consolidate the Apple and Pear Marketing Act 1948, a Veterinary Surgeons Bill, and a Bill to revise the Orchard and Garden Diseases Act 1928.

My Government anticipates that during this Session you will complete the consideration of the Mining Bill and the Fisheries Amendment Bill which have been studied by select committees during the recess.

I commend all these matters to your careful consideration and I pray that divine guidance will attend your deliberations.



