

nations so as to work towards that world peace and stability that is the agreed objective of all sectors of public opinion in this country.

The most serious situation in the world today remains that in Vietnam. The government continues to attach the highest priority to initiatives designed to bring about a peaceful settlement of this conflict and we will continue to exert every effort to this end through diplomatic and other peaceful means. The government is prepared to cooperate in the establishment of an international presence in Vietnam to provide the assurances and guarantees which may have to form part of any settlement. We are also prepared to assist in the economic reconstruction and rehabilitation in that area once peace has been restored.

The government will also continue to press vigorously for effective international action in the field of disarmament. It regards curbing the nuclear arms race as a first and essential step on the road to general disarmament.

With these objectives in mind, Canada is joining with its NATO partners in a review of the future tasks of the alliance. Besides the changing requirements of collective defence, we will have in mind the progressively important political rôle which NATO has undertaken in the pursuit of a peaceful settlement in Europe.

The United Nations remains for Canada a major consideration in foreign policy. Until the end of 1968 Canada will have the responsibility of membership on the Security Council, and in that rôle the government will strive to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations fully to discharge its proper functions.

It is also expected that the "Kennedy Round" of International Trade and Tariff Negotiations will soon be completed in Geneva. In the light of its conclusions, you will be asked to approve changes in tariffs and related laws necessary to implement the undertakings Canada will give in order to gain improved access for Canadian products in export markets.

The government also intends to play an active part in the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as it attaches great importance to the trade problems of less-developed countries.

Unless there is a concerted international endeavour to promote economic, technical and social advances in the developing countries, the world will soon face a major crisis. The advances painfully won by the nations of Asia, Africa and the Americas must not be lost through the lack of aid or through impediments to trade. Steps will be taken further to develop Canada's special relations with the Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean.

The government also intends to seek approval for a substantial increase in the external aid program, as a further step towards the aid target of one per cent of national income.

External aid, trade and the activities of a host of international agencies today bind the peoples of the world more closely together than ever before in human history. There is an international flavour to modern life that was unknown to all but a select few in years past, but which will become commonplace for people generally in the years ahead.

All this is dramatically demonstrated by Expo 67 which recently opened in Montreal and by the Pan American Games to take place in Winnipeg this summer. These are features of our Centennial party, to which the whole world has been invited. Expo provides an extraordinary opportunity to extend hospitality to those who join with us in celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of Confederation. It is attracting visitors to Canada in greater numbers