

hearts of all Canadians. We shall also have the pleasure of receiving Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Edinburgh and the Princess Royal.

During the past year, I have visited several provinces and made an extensive trip to the Northwest Territories. The great North brought home to me the vastness, the far horizons and the beauty of our country. Flying over it, I thought of the wonderful heritage which Providence has entrusted to us. May we be worthy of this stewardship.

While the world outlook contains elements of continuing danger, there are some grounds for cautious optimism. Major military conflicts have been avoided and the processes of conciliation and negotiation are in progress or in prospect on many of the important international issues. The Canadian Government remains devoted to peace as its primary objective.

Recurrent Soviet pressure on Berlin makes it necessary for the Governments of the North Atlantic Alliance to reconcile the preservation of essential rights and interests with a constant readiness to discuss and enter into equitable and safeguarded engagements. My Government has consistently worked towards that end, and approves the resumption of preliminary talks with the U.S.S.R., the success of which will depend on Soviet good faith.

In other areas of tension, Canada has been prominent in international efforts to relieve political, economic and administrative strains which have sometimes accompanied the transition from dependent to independent status of new nations. International peace-keeping arrangements continue to warrant effective Canadian support.

International agreements on measures of controlled disarmament remain vitally necessary if the world is to be freed permanently from the menace of war. As a member of the expanded disarmament committee recently reconstituted, my Government supports the decision to resume disarmament negotiations in March.

The Commonwealth continues to grow as an important instrument for freedom and peace, linking five continents and people of many races. The strengthening of this association is a primary objective of my Government. During 1961, Canada joined in welcoming Cyprus, Sierra Leone and Tanganyika to full membership in the Commonwealth.

My Government derives particular satisfaction from the endorsement by the United Nations of a World Food Program sponsored by Canada, for which you will be asked to authorize a contribution.

You will also be asked to appropriate funds to maintain Canada's external aid program.

Canada's diplomatic representation has been expanded in the Commonwealth, in the French-speaking countries of Africa, and as well in Latin America and in Asia.

While striving to reduce international tensions and promote the peaceful settlement of international disputes, my Government still considers it necessary to provide the support required to strengthen and maintain the defence forces necessary to continue an active role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Important negotiations are now under way between the British Government and the European Economic Community following the decision of Britain to ascertain whether terms can be negotiated on which it might become a member of that Community. My ministers are following these negotiations carefully, having in mind that their outcome should give full recognition of the vital interests of the Commonwealth and to Canada's position and interests as a major trading nation.

My Government in recent international meetings has reiterated its support for the expansion of world trade on a multilateral non-discriminatory basis and its readiness to play a constructive role in the promotion of world trade. It stands ready to work with other countries in the pursuit of this goal.

My Government plans to recommend to you a number of measures that will constitute further steps in working out the purposes of Confederation and identifying more clearly the Canadian nationality in various aspects of public and business affairs. With this purpose in mind, you will be asked to give effect, with modifications, to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Publications.

By means of conferences with representatives of provincial Governments, progress has been made toward agreement on a means of amending our constitution in Canada, which would be the final step to bring our formal legal position into line with reality. A formula to accomplish this purpose has been sent to provincial Governments for their consideration.

Legislation will be proposed to require reports to be submitted by business and labour organizations concerning the extent and nature of their operations and whether, and to what extent, they may be owned or controlled outside Canada.

A measure relating to the Senate will be placed before you.

My Government will ask you to take steps to ensure that the forthcoming redistribution of electoral districts is made in an equitable manner upon an objective basis. To this end you will be asked to approve for the first time