

External Affairs in Parliament

Speech from the Throne

The following passages from the Speech from the Throne on September 27, opening the first session of Canada's Twenty-Fifth Parliament, deal with international affairs:

The meeting of Commonwealth prime ministers just concluded has again provided an opportunity for frank discussions at the highest level and a demonstration of the close relationship which distinguishes this unique association of free nations. Canada joined in welcoming four new self-governing members of the Commonwealth — Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Commonwealth conference discussed Britain's negotiations with the European Economic Community and the economic and political implications for the Commonwealth and its members of possible British accession to the Community. Canada has a vital concern in these issues and the Government will spare no effort to safeguard the interests of Canada while preserving the unity and strength of the Commonwealth as a whole.

Canada has continued to play an increasingly effective role in international affairs. The division of Germany and the position of Berlin remain a source of friction despite continuing efforts to find a basis for a negotiated settlement. So long as the Communist powers continue actions that bring tension and distrust, Canada's defensive capability must be maintained both at home and on the frontiers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Europe and in the Atlantic.

The threat of war can be eliminated only by reaching effective international agreement on disarmament verified by means that inspire confidence. Canada will persist in its efforts to achieve this end.

Canadians have noted with satisfaction the establishment by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of a World Food Programme based on a proposal put forward by my ministers. You will be asked to authorize a Canadian contribution to that Programme. . . .

Canada and the Cuban Crisis

Asked on October 2 whether the withdrawal of the Canadian Commercial Counsellor in Havana meant "a change at least in some aspects of our relationships with Cuba", the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, replied:

There has been no change in the Government's policy toward Cuba. In recent months there has been a great falling off in the amount of goods purchased from