

External Affairs in Parliament

THE Speech from the Throne opening the 3rd session of Canada's 24th Parliament contained a number of references to foreign policy. During the latter half of January and during February, statements of varying length on Canada's external relations were made by Prime Minister Diefenbaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Green, and the Minister of Finance, Mr. Fleming.

Speech from the Throne

The Throne Speech, read on January 14 by Governor-General Vanier, contained the following paragraphs on international topics that would be given special attention during the session:

... My Prime Minister looks forward to meeting with the leaders of the other Commonwealth governments early in May. The Commonwealth is in a state of rapid constitutional development. During the course of the year Nigeria is to become an independent member following those constructive processes by which the Commonwealth has set a lead in peaceful evolution of new nations from dependent territories.

We welcome the spirit which has made possible the progress of the past year in meetings between the leaders of great nations and we believe that with wisdom and patience the series of meetings arranged to commence in Paris in May can bring about the results which all desire. Canada will be prepared to assist wholeheartedly by consultation, particularly in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with those immediately involved in these efforts to achieve just diplomatic settlements.

A lasting peace between nations, founded upon understanding and tolerance, is the strongest aspiration of Canadians. The Government continues to regard as a primary goal the achievement of the greatest possible measure of controlled disarmament. Canada will devote every effort to discharging its responsibilities as a member of the Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee. Some progress has already been made by those nations possessing nuclear weapons in preparing a treaty to discontinue the testing of such weapons and to establish a system of international control.

We are heartened by the unanimous approval given by the United Nations to the Canadian proposal to sample and analyse more widely and effectively the radioactive content of the atmosphere, soil and food. For this purpose necessary funds to enable Canada to take a leading part in this work will be requested.

It must be expected that the recent technological advances in the penetration of outer space will lead to further dramatic developments. Canada welcomes the opportunity to participate actively in the United Nations committee intended to ensure that outer space is used only for peaceful purposes.