

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I have the honour to welcome you to the First Session of the 29th Parliament of Canada, with a special word of greeting to those who are entering for the first time upon their important duties as legislators.

The New Year promises much of special interest to all of you, in common with other Canadians. Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Canada twice. In late June and early July they will take part in celebrations marking the Centenary of the entry of Prince Edward Island into the Canadian Confederation, the Tercentenary of the City of Kingston, founded in 1673 by Le Comte de Frontenac, and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I speak for Canadians generally when I say how pleased we shall all be to have Her Majesty and His Royal Highness with us for these national celebrations.

In August Canadians will again welcome Her Majesty, not only as their Queen but in her role as Head of the Commonwealth. She and the Duke of Edinburgh will be present in Ottawa for the Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth. The Government, which will be host for the first time for these periodic meetings, attaches much importance to the Commonwealth and its common traditions, institutions and language. In this connection I note that not two years have passed since Canada was host to a Conference of l'Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique which brought together representatives of many countries of French expression. These two successive events illustrate the richness of Canada's linguistic duality and the special world associations that we derive from it.

Multilateral Preparatory Talks for the long-awaited Conference on European Security and Co-operation are now under way. Canada has urged that the main conference, to which Canada will be a party, give due weight to the questions of freedom of movement of people, of trade, of information and of technology between East and West.

Separate from the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, but closely connected with it, the second round of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks between the United States and the Soviet Union is now under way, and talks on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions between the nations of the North Atlantic Alliance and the Warsaw Pact are projected.

As one of the world's great trading nations Canada is sensitive to every development in world trading patterns and world monetary arrangements. The Government is participating actively in the Committee of Twenty established for the reform of the International Monetary System. For three years now the Government has been pressing upon the nations of the enlarged European Common Market the need to be outward-looking and is

actively engaged in consultations aimed at strengthening trade and other relationships between Canada and the Common Market. This was a principal subject of discussion when the Prime Minister visited the Prime Minister of Britain last month. The Government has just announced the appointment of an ambassador solely accredited to the European Economic Communities.

As we set about strengthening our long-established economic, cultural and political ties with Europe we do not lose sight of our closest ally and our primary market beyond our borders, the United States. The Government will continue its discussions with the United States to settle certain difficulties that have arisen in our trading arrangements with that country, and to maintain and expand our trading opportunities there.

Access to foreign markets for exporters will receive particular emphasis. A new round of multilateral trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is planned for the fall of 1973. The Government will participate vigorously in these negotiations.

At home, the Government remains fully committed to two pre-eminent goals, national unity and equality of opportunity for all Canadians.

In pursuit of these goals, the Government assigns the highest priority to two policy areas:

- economic policy, to reduce unemployment, contain inflation and strengthen the economy generally
- social policy, to bring about, in consultation with the Provinces, a re-organization of existing social security programs.

In the area of economic policy, the Government has four main objectives:

First, to expand job opportunities at a rate that will bring about as rapid as possible a decline in the numbers of unemployed

Second, to promote stable economic growth at a rate that will sustain rising standards of living for all our citizens and provide for more satisfactory realization of the potential of the economy

Third, to attain reasonable price stability

Fourth, to ensure that all regions of the country benefit from the prosperity brought about by the expanding economy.

To attain its economic objectives, the Government has set in motion a two-part program.

The first part consists of measures to provide more jobs immediately by strengthening and broadening existing programs. These measures have been announced and are already taking effect:

- increased funding for the Local Initiatives Program
- increased funding for on the job training