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THRONE SPEECH, JANUARY 1962

The Speech from the Throne, which opened the fifth session of the Twenty-Fifth Parliament on January 18, began with a word of welcome to the Queen Mother, who will visit Canada during the summer and to the Duke of Edinburgh and the Princess Royal, who will also be guests of the nation in 1962. The Governor-General next turned to the international scene as follows in part:

"...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.

DISARMAMENT

"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 re-constituted, 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 Programme 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 programme.

"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.

CANADA AND NATO

"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

(Over)