

External Affairs in Parliament

Speech from the Throne

The following are the parts of the Throne Speech, delivered on November 17, that dealt with Canada's international relations:

. . . We meet in a world of continued international tension, which has prompted my Government to redouble its efforts to bring about a general acceptance of peaceful means of settling disputes. It has reaffirmed its readiness to co-operate, in the United Nations and elsewhere, in the development of conditions that would lead to the attainment of this goal. My Prime Minister and other representatives of the Government have stated forcefully the views of Canada on these matters and they have received widespread support from the Canadian people.

The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth has continued to demonstrate its vitality. Nigeria was welcomed to full Commonwealth membership at the beginning of last month and additional new members will enter this coming year. Continuing constitutional development in the Commonwealth is likely to be considered at a Prime Ministers' Conference in 1961.

Canada's Disarmament Position

Disarmament under international control is the key to an enduring world peace. My Government has accordingly maintained its unremitting efforts to achieve progress in this field. Until such time as disarmament under effective control can be achieved, however, it is necessary to ask you to maintain well-trained and well-armed Canadian defence forces, adequate to meet Canada's defence obligations. My Ministers will reaffirm Canada's support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a defensive alliance dedicated to maintaining the peace.

International Food Bank

The unanimous approval given by the United Nations to a joint resolution embodying the essence of the Canadian proposal for a United Nations Food Bank is a matter for satisfaction.

Tariff Talks

Important international tariff negotiations began in September in Geneva and will last well into next year; my Ministers have made clear that these negotiations should be used as a means of finding solutions to the current European trade problems in a manner that will not harm the interests of other trading nations. . . .