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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

The following is a partial text of the Speech from the Throne opening the first session of Canada's Twenty-seventh Parliament on January 18:

...Our country is continuing to make economic and social progress while playing a responsible role in world affairs. As a member of the United Nations, as a member of the Commonwealth of which our beloved Queen is the head, and as a partner in the North Atlantic alliance, Canada will strive to make the greatest possible contribution to improve international relations and assure peace with justice to all peoples. Our capacity for national achievement, like that of other countries, depends on the peace and prosperity of the world community.

Canada will continue strongly to support the efforts of Britain, the Commonwealth and the international community to bring an end to the present illegal situation in Rhodesia. My Prime Minister has recently attended a meeting of Commonwealth leaders in Nigeria, at which this critical issue was discussed and the value of the Commonwealth as a multi-racial association confirmed....

UN AND NATO

In the United Nations, Canada will continue its efforts, in concert with other countries, to develop means of keeping the peace and strengthening the influence of the world organization. My Government will also do everything it can to assist in finding a basis for negotiating a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam conflict. We shall do our utmost, through the United Nations and the Disarmament Committee, to foster arrangements for preventing the spread of

nuclear weapons and for progress towards disarmament. For the security of the North Atlantic community and the stability of Europe, my Government will seek to preserve and strengthen the unity and effectiveness of the North Atlantic alliance....

My Government intends progressively to develop its external aid programmes. You will be asked to approve Canada's participation in the Asian Development Bank.

My Government recognizes that Canada has an obligation to share in efforts to prevent or limit armed conflict. Our object, within the limits of our capacity, must be to improve the prospects of world peace and prosperity....

IDENTITY AND UNITY

The preservation and strengthening of Canadian identity and unity is the most important trust and responsibility of Parliament and of my Government. That unity rests on a Canadianism based upon the two main cultural strands, British and French, enriched by the contributions of other cultural groups, and recognizing the essential contribution of all to the development of Canadian identity.

The approach of the centennial of Confederation makes it of the utmost importance that Canadians in all parts of the country should look to Ottawa as its true capital where they can feel at home. To this end my Government will continue to work toward the broadening of the bilingual character of the public service. The national capital should increasingly reflect the nature of the Canadian society.