

welcoming to Ottawa the Ministerial Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. My Government is convinced that on the foundation of the present alliance a true community of the Atlantic peoples will one day be achieved.

In recent weeks the Prime Minister has had friendly and constructive discussions with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and with the President of the United States of America. By such visits and other means the Government will continue to improve political and economic relationships with other countries. It is my ministers' intention to assist in enhancing the unique value of the Commonwealth partnership in international relations.

Canada's economic progress is vitally dependent on vigorous economic expansion throughout the world. We must expect continuing rapid changes in international trading relationships, changes that face Canada both with problems of adjustment and with new opportunities. My ministers believe that the nations can best achieve economic progress through policies that steadily reduce the barriers limiting trade. It is equally important to pursue active policies for the economic development of the newer nations, for the expansion of trade in primary commodities at reasonably stable prices, and for the improvement of international payments.

Canada will take a constructive part in trade and other economic negotiations. In order to increase employment and production in Canada, it is the purpose of my ministers to expand Canada's export trade, to strengthen our payments balance with other countries, and to ensure increasingly high confidence in our economy and currency.

Steady work is the basic need on which men and women depend for the well-being of themselves and their families. Unemployment, on the serious scale of recent years, is therefore the most urgent of our domestic problems. To provide the many new jobs that are needed every year, we must create new industries. The fiscal and monetary policies of the Government will give priority to the encouragement of soundly-based industrial expansion.

Provision will be made to assist labour and management to make manpower adjustments required by technological and other industrial changes. The special assistance for technical training will be extended in co-operation with the provinces.

Other measures will be put before you to assist in increasing production and employment in Canada.

You will be asked to provide for the early establishment of a Department of Industry, which will foster industrial expansion and provide a central point to which industry can look for consultation, stimulus and assistance.

It will be proposed that, within the new Department, there will be established an Area Development Agency. This agency will work with the provincial governments and other organizations to co-ordinate programs for parts of the country where, because of chronic unemployment, a special thrust for development is needed.

Amendments to the Atlantic Development Board Act will be proposed, to strengthen the Board and to provide for a capital assistance fund through which it can promote basic projects in the Atlantic region.

You will be asked to establish a Municipal Development and Loan Board, through which municipalities may obtain, with the approval of the provinces, loans and grants to carry out projects which will increase employment and improve services. Amendments to the National Housing Act will also be proposed.

A measure will be placed before you to establish a Canada Development Corporation, by means of which Canadians can more readily direct their savings to the building of new Canadian industries and to increasing the Canadian ownership of existing industries, which is one of the important objectives of the Government.

A measure will be placed before you to establish an Economic Council of Canada, in order to assist the Government, industry and labour to develop means of ensuring in Canada the highest possible levels of employment, of efficient production, and of sustained growth for our economy.

My ministers will pursue constructive policies for the development of Canada's great resources for the benefit of Canadians.

The Government will undertake discussions with the government of British Columbia and with the United States, aimed at securing action on the development of the Columbia River.

A new Department of Agriculture Act will be placed before you, to provide for two ministers in order that the needs of agriculture in both eastern and western Canada may receive closer attention. My ministers will institute new programs to make farming as a whole more stable and more prosperous. They will strive to expand markets for Canadian farm products both at home and abroad, with special attention to dairy products.

The Government is initiating consultation with the provinces to work out a program for national fishery development. My ministers intend to secure the establishment of a twelve-mile limit for the use of the Canadian fisheries, taking proper account of treaty and historic rights.

You will be asked to continue the existing payments to the railways, pending the approval of long-term measures concerning