

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.

My Government will continue to strengthen the capacity of the integrated Canadian Defence Forces to provide for the security of Canada and to contribute abroad to the preservation of peace. Amendments to the National Defence Act will be laid before you.

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.

In its relations with the Provinces, my Government is guided by the conviction that Canadian federalism must draw its vitality and strength from the mutual respect and co-operation of the national and provincial governments. The Canadian people can be well served by their political institutions only if each element in our federal system is able to act effectively within its constitutional sphere. While respecting fully the responsibilities of the provinces, the Government is equally resolved to maintain the constitutional responsibilities of the federal authority.

The Tax Structure Committee, in which the federal and provincial governments, by a common effort, are making a fundamental review of their relations in matters of finance, is nearing the end of its task. The Committee is expected to present recommendations to the Federal-Provincial Conference which will meet later in the year to consider how fiscal relations between the federal and provincial governments might best be adjusted to strengthen each authority in the discharge of its constitutional responsibilities.

My Government will accordingly submit to you legislation respecting federal-provincial fiscal arrangements to become effective in 1967.

It remains the objective of my Ministers to provide that the Constitution of Canada may be amended in Canada.

You will be asked to authorize my Government to provide that "O Canada" shall be the national anthem and that "God Save the Queen" shall be the royal anthem in Canada.

A measure will be placed before you to provide for the re-organization of certain departments of government, in order to adapt the structure of administration to new and changing conditions and so better meet the needs of our people. The purpose of this re-organization is to provide for closer and better co-ordinated action in the following areas of public policy: manpower policies, which are essential to the sustained growth of a highly productive economy and to the elimination of pockets of poverty within that economy; rural development programs, which are necessary to agricultural progress and a better rural life; integrated federal policies with respect to energy and resources; the special needs of the indigenous people of Canada and of the development of the North; the federal responsibility for laws relating to the conduct of business activity; the problems of corrections and crime, particularly in regard to