

Mr. Pearson, seconded by Mr. Martin (Essex East), by leave of the House, introduced Bill C-1, An Act respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office, which was read the first time.

Mr. Speaker reported that, when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of Parliament, and to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy, which is as follows:

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I welcome you to the first session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament of Canada. As we meet on the eve of our Centennial year, it is fitting to reaffirm the values and purposes that unite all our people, and to work, with resolution and patriotism for their realization. We should be very proud to be Canadians.

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.

The recent official visit to the Caribbean region made by the Prime Minister reflects the importance my Government attaches to strengthening relationships in economic matters between Canada and Commonwealth countries in this area.

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.

International objectives must be pursued by economic and social as well as political means. My Government will recommend to Parliament further measures to improve and develop international economic conditions and to strengthen the Canadian economy.

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