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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

The second session of the 24th Parliament of Canada was opened on January 15 by His Excellency, the Governor General, Mr. Vincent Massey, who read the following Speech from the Throne:

"I welcome you as you foregather to resume your Parliamentary duties.

"All Canadians look forward with the greatest pleasure to the forthcoming visit to Canada of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, on the occasion of the official opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. It is particularly gratifying that Her Majesty also plans to visit all the Provinces and the two Territories in order to meet her Canadian subjects in many parts of our country.

"Canada's close relations with the other countries of the Commonwealth, and the sense of community of interest within this association of free nations itself, have been confirmed and vitalized by the recent visit of my Prime Minister to the Commonwealth capitals of the United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Ceylon, Malaya, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. These consultations between heads of government provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on international questions, on the possibilities for expanding trade and on other problems of mutual concern.

"Canadians recognize that the most pressing need of all nations is an enduring peace. My Government will continue to work steadfastly and in a spirit of genuine co-operation

towards the settlement of outstanding issues which threaten that peace.

"My Ministers are concerned over recent developments in the Berlin situation. They deplore the attempt by the Soviet Union to abrogate unilaterally the inter-allied agreements relating to Berlin, and they believe that the freedom of West Berlin must be assured pending agreement on the establishment of a united and free Germany.

"My Ministers have been pleased to note that some advance has been made during the past year in the vital field of disarmament. The drafting of an agreement for the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests is a hopeful beginning.

"It is Canada's desire that the scientific achievements which now have made possible the penetration of outer space should be a blessing to all mankind. My Government is convinced that international agreement must be reached without delay to ensure that outer space is used only for peaceful purposes with full co-operation among all nations.

"In concert with its allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Canada has reaffirmed its determination to maintain and improve the power of the alliance as a deterrent against aggression. You will be asked to provide for maintaining the effective power of Canada's defence forces. The importance of the alliance was re-emphasized by the visit of my Prime Minister to the United Kingdom, France, West Germany and Italy. His consulta-

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