

year of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen on the occasion of the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

"During this present session you have welcomed and heard in Parliament the President of the United States, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the Prime Minister of Ghana. These visits have provided a valuable and timely opportunity for discussions of problems of mutual interest and for an exchange of impressions on broader issues.

"My Government has been encouraged by indications of progress during the last few months in the field of disarmament and by recent developments in the Middle East situation but the general outlook remains uncertain and in particular, the current tension in the Far East is a source of deep concern.

"My Government took an active role at the Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in promoting measures that would serve as a basis for a comprehensive effort to reduce tension and improve conditions in the Middle Eastern area.

"My Ministers have welcomed the announcement by the United States and United Kingdom Governments of their readiness to suspend tests of nuclear weapons for one year while negotiations for a political agreement take place; they hope that as a result there will emerge an effective agreement among the nuclear powers continuing the suspension of testing under effective international supervision. The prospect of further technical talks to examine possible safeguards against surprise attack gives ground for hope of additional progress in this important field of disarmament.

"My Ministers welcome the approval you have given to the air defence of North America. Measures are being worked out to ensure that such defence is maintained on an efficient and economical basis consistent with the rapid technical changes in this field. Furthermore, arrangements have been initiated for closer consultation by ministers with members of the United States administration in the field of defence policy.

"Your support of programmes to provide practical assistance to the peoples of the less developed regions of the world through the medium of the United Nations, under the

Colombo Plan and under special arrangements for the West Indies and Ghana has been further evidence of the desire of Canadians to participate in international programmes of economic as well as humanitarian importance.

"You have had laid before you a report on the International Conference on the Law of the Sea held in Geneva early this year and the five conventions agreed upon by that conference. My Ministers will support the early convening of a second International Conference on the Law of the Sea to deal with the important questions left unsettled at Geneva".

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NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER

The newly appointed High Commissioner for New Zealand, Mr. Foss Shanahan, made his first call on the Prime Minister, September 5. The High Commissioner was introduced by the Chief of Protocol, Mr. H.F.B. Feaver. Mr. R.Q. Quentin-Baxter, first Secretary at the High Commissioner's Office was also present.

Mr. Shanahan was born in 1910. He has occupied a number of important posts in the New Zealand Civil Service, including that of Secretary to the Cabinet. During his career he has served as his country's representative on the Council of the South East Asia Treaty Organization, Ambassador to Thailand, and High Commissioner to Malaya. Prior to his transfer to Ottawa, Mr. Shanahan was Commissioner for New Zealand in South East Asia.

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FIRST WOMAN AMBASSADOR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced September 5 the appointment of Miss B. Margaret Meagher as Canadian Ambassador to Israel. Miss Meagher, who has been Chargé D'Affaires in Israel for the past year and a half, is at present in Canada and will return shortly to Tel Aviv to take up her appointment as the first Canadian Ambassador to Israel. She is the first woman to be appointed as a Canadian Ambassador.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs also announced the raising of the status of the Canadian Mission in the Lebanon from Legation to Embassy. The appointment of an Ambassador will be announced in the near future.