

A lasting peace between nations, founded upon understanding and tolerance, is the strongest aspiration of Canadians. The Government continues to regard as a primary goal the achievement of the greatest possible measure of controlled disarmament. Canada will devote every effort to discharging its responsibilities as a member of the ten nation disarmament committee. Some progress has already been made by those nations possessing nuclear weapons in preparing a treaty to discontinue the testing of such weapons and to establish a system of international control.

We are heartened by the unanimous approval given by the United Nations to the Canadian proposal to sample and analyse more widely and effectively the radioactive content of the atmosphere, soil and food. For this purpose necessary funds to enable Canada to take a leading part in this work will be requested.

It must be expected that the recent technological advances in the penetration of outer space will lead to further dramatic developments. Canada welcomes the opportunity to participate actively in the United Nations Committee intended to ensure that outer space is used only for peaceful purposes.

Economic and technical assistance to the less developed nations of the world continues to be needed both on humanitarian grounds and to provide the economic basis for peaceful and orderly progress in those nations. You will therefore be asked to continue programmes of aid to other, less developed nations, particularly those in the Commonwealth. You will also be asked to vote support for the programme of scholarships and fellowships to be exchanged within the Commonwealth adopted at the suggestion of Canada.

Substantial progress has now been made in finding a satisfactory basis for the development of the power of the Columbia River in cooperation with the United States and negotiations for this purpose have now been initiated with the Government of the United States. The results will be placed before Parliament for approval and for the authority to take the measures necessary to bring about the full use of this most valuable source of power. The Government of Canada remains ready to participate with British Columbia in the joint development of the potentials of this great river.

International trade is one of the chief bases of Canadian prosperity and must continue to be a major interest of this Parliament. The growing exports of various countries are presenting us with both increasing opportunities for trade and problems of competition. Developments of far-reaching importance to Canada's trade are now taking place in Europe, and two of my Ministers are in Paris today consulting on these subjects with representatives of other nations.

Canada's general economic position has greatly improved during 1959 and the prospects for 1960 are favourable. The recurrent problem of seasonal unemployment remains, however, but apart from this, expansion in production and employment has been general across the nation.

My Government is pleased that its national development programme has stimulated a large increase in Northern exploration. Last year's discovery of oil and gas in the Yukon is being followed this year by a score of new exploratory wells over a wide area of Northern Canada. Coupled with a revival of mining activity, this makes it evident that private enterprise is now active in the opening up of the North. New oil and gas regulations will emphasize opportunities for Canadians to participate in the ownership of these Northern resources.