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Statement by Prime Minister as to Proposed
Procedure in the Early Weeks of the Present
Session of Parliament

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In view of the fact that the present session of Parliament is meeting somewhat in advance of the usual date, with the Christmas and New Year season only a few weeks away, I think it might be helpful if I were to ask leave of the House to make a brief statement on the procedure and programme which the Government proposes for the immediately coming weeks.

I do not think that I need enlarge upon the reasons which have made it desirable to have this early opening of Parliament. In announcing that Parliament would be summoned to meet on December 5th, I emphasized the importance of placing before this House at the earliest possible date the far-reaching agreements on tariffs and trade which were signed on October 29th at Geneva. As Honourable Members are aware, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will be brought into force provisionally on January 1st by Canada and a number of other signatory countries. The Agreement, with its provisions on trading practices and other related matters, is of the greatest significance for future world trade. The schedules thereto,