

Since you last met, the people of Canada have been given an opportunity of extending once more an affectionate welcome to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. They have also had the pleasure of greeting again the consort of our Sovereign, the Duke of Edinburgh, who came to attend the British Empire and Commonwealth Games held in Vancouver during the summer and to visit northern parts of Canada.

While there is hopeful evidence that the increasing strength of the free world has lessened the likelihood of aggression, the terrible destruction that war would bring to North America and indeed to all mankind has been magnified by the increase in the number and effectiveness of atomic and thermonuclear weapons and the means of delivering them.

My Ministers are convinced that, while the resources of diplomacy must never be neglected in the search for peace, the efforts of the free nations in building their deterrent forces must be maintained. To this end, Canada was represented at the London and Paris Conferences which formulated an alternative to the European Defence Community and provided for the entry of the Federal Republic of Germany into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. You will be asked to approve the agreements reached at those meetings.

Our country continues to give full support to the United Nations. The Canadian delegation took an important part in the deliberations of the recent meeting of the General Assembly in New York. It is earnestly hoped that the adoption of the resolution on disarmament introduced in the political committee by the Canadian delegation may lead to agreement on an effective system of international safeguards.

While no final settlement has been reached in Korea, the lessening of the threat of renewed aggression in that area has made possible the withdrawal of a substantial portion of the Canadian forces.

At the invitation of the Geneva conference Canada has accepted the heavy responsibility of serving on the Armistice Commissions which have been formed to supervise the restoration of peace in the Associated States of Indo-China.

Last autumn our nation was the host at the annual meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Colombo Plan. You will be asked to approve Canada's continued participation in the Plan as well as in the United Nations' Technical Assistance Programme.

A meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers will be held in London at the end of this month to consider a number of problems affecting the peoples of this great association of nations. My Prime Minister plans to attend this conference.

During the summer arrangements were completed to permit the navigational facilities of the St. Lawrence River to be enlarged and a hydro electric project to be undertaken in the International Rapids section.

Work on these two projects has already begun and my Ministers are convinced the stimulus to the national economy resulting from their construction will be shared in all parts of the country.

Since you last met, Cape Breton Island has been linked with the mainland by the new causeway which will be ready for service as soon as the ship canal has been bridged.