CANADA

Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 8, 1957

OPENING OF FIFTH SESSION TWENTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT

Parliament having been summoned by Proclamation of the Governor General to meet this day for the dispatch of business:

The Senate met at 2.15 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have received the following communication:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE Ottawa

December 20, 1956

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the main entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 2.30 p.m., on Tuesday the 8th January, 1957, and, when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open formally the Fifth Session of the Twenty-Second Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Lionel Massey,
Secretary to the Governor General

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate,

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At 2.30 p.m. His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and, that House being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Fifth Session of the Twenty-Second Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate,

Members of the House of Commons,

It is again a pleasure for me to greet you as you resume your parliamentary duties in this New Year.

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The international scene continues to be characterized by instability in the Middle East and in Eastern Europe.

My ministers remain convinced of the need to maintain the basic unity of the Commonwealth and the reality of the Western Alliance, to contribute effectively to the supervision of the cessation of hostilities between Israel and Egypt under the authority of the United Nations and to the achievement of a lasting settlement of Middle East problems.

Visits to Canada in the last few weeks by the Prime Ministers of Ceylon and India have been conducive to a renewed strengthening of the bonds which unite the peoples of the Commonwealth in their constant aim to co-operate in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress.

An encouraging advance is being made, as evidenced by the latest Ministerial Meeting of the Council, in the development of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the non-military as well as in the military field. My ministers remain strongly convinced of the need to maintain the North Atlantic Treaty as the keystone of the defence of the Western nations.

In the Middle East Canadian servicemen, as part of the United Nations Emergency Force proposed by Canada at the General Assembly of the United Nations, are performing valuable tasks in the interest of world peace.

The United Nations has served to focus world opinion on the brutal repression of the heroic Hungarian people in their endeavour to throw off the yoke of Soviet imperialism. The vast humanitarian problems that have arisen as a result of Soviet intervention require the joint efforts of many countries. Through the United Nations, the Red Cross, and in co-operation with the Government of Austria, this country is playing its part in relieving suffering and resettling the refugees.

The entrance into Canada of Hungarian refugees has been greatly facilitated and free transportation provided from Austria to new homes in this country. Already thousands of these Hungarians have been welcomed to Canada and we look forward to receiving thousands more during the winter and spring.