

A Message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod:

Mr. Speaker,

"His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Chamber of the Honourable the Senate."

The House attended accordingly;

And being returned;

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East), by leave of the House, introduced a Bill, No. 1, An Act respecting the administration of Oaths of Office, which was read the first time.

Mr. Speaker reported, that when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, and to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy, which is as follows:

*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.

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 cooperate 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