



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
 EXTRAORDINARY

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THE First Session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament of New Zealand was on the twenty-second day of February opened by Commissioners under the authority of Letters Patent, and His Excellency was this day pleased to make the following statement of the causes of the calling of this Session of Parliament together:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

My Ministers have been fully seized of the importance of affording you early opportunity of discussing matters relating particularly to the Dominion's effort in the war and its prosecution, and in conformity with their advice this first session of the new Parliament has been summoned as soon as circumstances permitted.

Since I last addressed Parliament the war situation in nearly every theatre has shown a vast improvement, and to-day the fortunes of the United Nations engaged in this world struggle against the forces of aggression are in the ascendant. The sustained offensive on land, sea, and in the air has rendered the defeat of Nazi Germany more certain and more imminent. The military and productive centres of Western Europe have been, and are being, ceaselessly bombed in preparation for the Allied invasion, and in no theatre have the Forces of the United Nations achieved greater results than have those of our Russian Allies in Eastern Europe. It is upon this groundwork that other victories have been based and hopes of further victories have been built. Here in the Pacific the menace of Japan has been removed further from our shores, and the initiative has been taken from the enemy. The peoples of the United Nations everywhere fully realize that the phase of supreme effort has now arrived and that bigger and more costly battles are still to be fought. Though our enemies are in retreat their Forces have not yet been overcome, and, while final victory is assured, the end is by no means in sight.

During the past year, as throughout the whole of this war, the New Zealand people, Maori and pakeha alike, have contributed to the common cause to the full extent of their resources. It is a source of justifiable pride that Forces of this Dominion are still foremost in the attack and that the devotion of the total effort of the country to the purposes of war continues to be the foremost aim.