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THE Second Session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by the Governor-General, when His Excellency was 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,—

On the last occasion when I addressed you, New Zealand and other United Nations were fighting bitterly in all theatres of the war against Germany and her satellites, and in the East against Japan. The grave suspense experienced before the invasion of western Europe has ended. We meet to-day deeply thankful that Germany and our other enemies in Europe have been totally defeated. The countries of Europe which were overrun by the Nazi aggressor are now liberated, and all men of good will are turning to the task of ensuring for all time that Germany shall not again possess the power to disturb the peace of the world.

The task of conquering Japan, however, is still before us. My Ministers have been giving full and earnest consideration to the contribution that can appropriately be made by New Zealand towards this end. The United States of America are bringing men and materials in increasing measure into this theatre. Already Forces of the Royal Navy are operating in the Pacific, and a major redeployment of Forces from the United Kingdom is in train. Australian Forces are taking a prominent part in the Pacific campaign, and Canada also proposes to make a substantial contribution. My Ministers are sensible of the determination of the Parliament and peoples of New Zealand to continue the war to a victorious conclusion, and will present in detail the measures which will be taken by New Zealand to assume her full share in securing the defeat of Japan.

In the final phases of the war in Europe the Forces of New Zealand were joined with those of our Allies. Under the distinguished command and vigorous leadership of Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Freyberg, the Second New Zealand Division has added to its laurels. In the long, grim campaign through Italy they fought with unremitting valour. As operational conditions permit they are being progressively withdrawn from the positions they occupy in north-east Italy, and are proceeding to their base camps in Egypt.

In the victory in Europe New Zealand airmen have played their part. These young men, the majority of whom were trained in the Commonwealth Air Training Scheme, have acquitted themselves with distinction in the Royal Air Force. The