

It is fitting on this occasion that I should record the undying gratitude of the nation towards all those who fought and worked, and, in diverse ways, contributed so selflessly towards the attainment of victory.

It shall not be forgotten that, for the sake of their fellow-countrymen and in the cause of freedom and justice, so many of the bravest of the two races, Maori and pakeha, gave up their lives.

It is, I know, the fervent desire of all that the gratitude of the nation should find expression in practical form, and that all possible assistance should be rendered to those who have returned, and to the dependants of those who have fallen. To this wholehearted resolve must be added the pledge that the people of New Zealand will do their utmost to ensure that there will be no recurrence of the tragedy of war which has engulfed the world for six long and terrible years.

Technically, the state of war still exists, and it is indeed most disappointing that the armistice regime should be so prolonged and that the final treaties which should usher in the state of peace should still be undetermined.

My Ministers share to the full the disquiet engendered by the lack of unity which has characterized peoples who were so united in the achievement of a common cause but a few months ago, and, because they are convinced that the maintenance of peace throughout the world is as vitally important as was the achievement of victory, my Advisers continue to make their fullest contribution towards the attainment of a just and lasting peace.

To this end my Government pledged itself to uphold and carry out the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, which was signed a year ago to-day. Throughout the period since the cessation of hostilities my Ministers have devoted much care and attention to the problems associated with the conduct of international affairs.

My Prime Minister attended the first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations held in London in January and February of this year, and his report will be placed before you at a very early date.

One of the matters to be discussed at the second part of the first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which is to meet in New York in September, will be that of trusteeship. In accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations it is necessary for New Zealand, after discussion with the "states directly concerned," to submit a trusteeship agreement which will replace the League Mandate for Western Samoa. This document will be placed before you at as early a date as negotiations with the other States permit.

My Minister of Finance, the Right Hon. Walter Nash, represented New Zealand at the Conference of Prime Ministers recently held in London, at which were discussed problems relating to the international situation, the proposed peace treaties, British Commonwealth relations and defence, and the advantages to be derived from co-operation on economic and welfare matters in the South Pacific and in South East Asia.