



THE
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 EXTRAORDINARY

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THE Second Session of the Twenty-ninth 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 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

Since I last addressed you in Parliament assembled, detailed preparations have been proceeding for the visit to New Zealand next year of Their Majesties the King and Queen and the Princess Margaret.

His Majesty's New Zealand subjects, both Maori and European, look forward with warmest enthusiasm to this opportunity of demonstrating their loyalty and affection to His Majesty's throne and person.

It is a matter of concern that His Majesty's health has lately given cause for renewed anxiety, and it is our heartfelt prayer that His Majesty will soon be restored to full health.

The concord and welfare of the Commonwealth are matters of first concern to my Advisers. Both at the meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers, which he attended in London in January last, and elsewhere throughout his mission abroad, my Prime Minister laid special emphasis on the significance the New Zealand people attach to the solidarity and unity of purpose of the British Commonwealth, and to the importance also of the closest possible understanding with the United States of America. The close attention paid by my Government to Commonwealth and external affairs has been reflected in the participation by my Ministers in various overseas conferences. Last year my Minister of External Affairs represented New Zealand at two Commonwealth meetings on Assistance for South-east Asia. In pursuance of plans initiated at Colombo, the Government is planning the expenditure of £400,000 within three years for technical assistance and £1,000,000 a year for three years for economic development in Commonwealth countries in the area.