

On this great occasion New Zealand will be officially represented by my Prime Minister, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Maori Affairs and Lands, the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, and Members of both Parties in Parliament. They will be able to express to Her Majesty in person the loyal devotion and affection of her subjects in New Zealand and its island territories.

A Military Contingent, drawn from all branches of our armed forces, including a detachment from Korea and ex-servicemen from both world wars, is being sent to take part in the Coronation ceremonies. At the Coronation Naval Review at Spithead the Royal New Zealand Navy will be represented by H.M.N.Z.S. "Black Prince".

Throughout New Zealand Coronation Day will be marked by local celebrations and festivities appropriate to so great an occasion.

At the London Conference of Prime Ministers last December further discussions took place concerning changes in the Royal Style and Titles made necessary by constitutional developments in the Commonwealth. Each member Government will in future use its own form of title, and a Bill approving the form to be used in respect of New Zealand will be introduced during the present session.

A further joyful event eagerly awaited by the New Zealand people is the visit of Her Majesty the Queen, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. It would be a memorable event under any circumstances, but it will be especially so on this occasion as it will be the first time in the history of New Zealand that the reigning Sovereign has visited these shores. The Royal visitors are assured of a warm and loyal welcome when they arrive here shortly before Christmas.

The itinerary for Her Majesty's visit is a comprehensive one and, in order to reduce the physical strain involved, my Government, in co-operation with the representatives of the various local authorities, is reducing to a minimum the number and duration of official indoor engagements and receptions. This will permit the Queen to spend as much as possible of the time available out of doors amongst the people, especially the children.

A special and short session of Parliament to be held in January next will be opened by Her Majesty in person in this very Council Chamber, when she will read the Speech from the Throne. This historic and unique ceremony will be broadcast not only to New Zealand, but to the rest of the world.

Following the Coronation a special Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers will be held in London at which my Prime Minister will attend. These meetings of Her Majesty's principal Ministers provide an important and welcome opportunity for exchanging views, and for formulating and co-ordinating plans designed to promote the advancement of the Commonwealth, and to strengthen its influence in world affairs.

In the field of international affairs the Government continues to pursue a policy of firm support for the United Nations. At the Seventh Regular Session of the General Assembly held in New York towards the end of last year the New Zealand Delegation, led by the Minister of External Affairs, participated fully in the consideration of the many vital issues with which the Assembly is confronted. This applies particularly to the negotiations in connection with the attempt to remove the one outstanding issue, namely, the repatriation of prisoners of war, which bars the way to the conclusion of an armistice in Korea.

Latest developments encourage the hope that wiser counsels may yet prevail to bring an end to hostilities and pave the way for the unification and rehabilitation of Korea.

My Government bases its foreign policy upon the strength of the British Commonwealth, the principles of the United Nations Charter, and the maintenance of a firm alliance with the United