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THE Fifth Session of the Thirtieth 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,

The last occasion on which you assembled for the opening of Parliament is fresh in all our minds. It was made memorable by the fact that our beloved Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh were present and that the Speech from the Throne was delivered by Her Majesty herself. That brilliant event, and the Royal visit of which it was part, will ever be remembered with pride and affection by all our people, who for their part demonstrated to Her Majesty a fervent and spontaneous loyalty unsurpassed throughout the Commonwealth and Empire.

It is worthwhile recalling that against this background of loyalty and affection for the Crown we have recently celebrated the attainment of one hundred years of parliamentary government in this country. Our economic and political development during that century are a tribute to the enterprise and resource of our people and justify confidence in the future progress of this fortunate land.

The tour of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness is of special importance to New Zealand, for our association with the United Kingdom and the other member States, and the strength of the Commonwealth alliance, is the foundation of our foreign policy. My Ministers will continue to ensure that this association is maintained unimpaired and, indeed, strengthened in the days that lie ahead.

Full support for the United Nations is also an essential element of New Zealand policy, and it was for this reason that New Zealand recently accepted appointment to the United Nations Security Council. Membership of that Council will afford my Government a greater opportunity of contributing to the task of encouraging the settlement of international disputes and the maintenance of peace and security.