

My Government has authorised the re-equipment of the National Airways Corporation with the most modern aircraft. Agreement on the construction of a new airport at Mangere, Auckland, will ensure the completion of the chain of airports at the main centres. The international airport at Nandi, Fiji, the construction of which was directed by the New Zealand Ministry of Works, has been opened.

My Government has continued to encourage the development of the tourist industry, which has yielded increased earnings of foreign exchange. A Tourist Consultative Committee was established last year shortly before New Zealand acted as host to the Ninth Pacific Area Travel Conference.

The first Regional Commissioners for Civil Defence have been appointed to promote and coordinate local civil defence schemes under the general direction of the Ministry of Civil Defence.

My Government will give early consideration to the report of the Local Bills Committee on the structure of local government.

I pray that with God's blessing your deliberations on all these and related matters may prove to the lasting benefit of the people of New Zealand.