

The New Zealand legislature has long maintained a progressive, humanitarian, and far-sighted approach towards the problems of New Zealand's neighbours in the South Pacific. This was demonstrated in a practical way when you passed the Act endorsing the recommendations of the United Nations concerning Western Samoa's independence.

My Government has in contemplation measures to promote further the well-being and constitutional progress of the Pacific islands under its administration. In particular it is preparing for the establishment by 1965 of full internal self-government in the Cook Islands and Niue.

My Ministers recognise, however, that many economic and social problems also call for action on a regional basis. Accordingly, they look forward, in the Pacific, to an extension of the responsibilities of the South Pacific Commission and, in Asia, continue to regard support for the Colombo Plan as a basic element of New Zealand's foreign relations. My Government considers it important that additional emphasis should be placed on the policy of bringing students to New Zealand for technical training. This will contribute directly, and in the manner best suited to New Zealand's capacities, to the economic development of friendly nations in South-East Asia and to the promotion of wider international understanding and goodwill.

My Government will continue to give full support to the United Nations in its efforts to preserve peace and advance the economic and social aims of its Charter. In the General Assembly and the other organs of the United Nations, New Zealand attaches particular importance to those principles which are fundamental to human freedom and are also a special feature of the Commonwealth association.

The achievements of nine short years since my previous visit to New Zealand confirm my belief in the determination, imagination, and ingenuity of my New Zealand people and strengthen my confidence in their ability to meet and solve the problems of the future.

My Ministers have deemed it advisable to introduce at this session a Bill to provide for the continued operation of the law in relation to Tanganyika which, having become a Republic, remains a member of the Commonwealth. You will also be asked to consider a Bill to establish the Queen Elizabeth the Second Postgraduate Fellowship of New Zealand. This will make provision for an annual fellowship, administered by the Maori Education Foundation, as the gift of the Maori people to commemorate the occasion of my visit to Waitangi.

My Ministers will also present for your consideration a resolution affirming their intention to introduce at the Fourth Session of this Parliament a Bill to establish the Queen Elizabeth the Second Arts Council as the nation's commemoration of my visit to New Zealand.

I pray that Divine guidance will attend your deliberations.