



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
EXTRAORDINARY

Published by Authority

WELLINGTON: THURSDAY, 26 MAY 1966

THE Third Session of the Thirty-fourth 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:

Just three weeks ago Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother left these shores after a memorable visit. The warmth of the welcome extended everywhere to the Royal visitor demonstrated the affection in which the Queen Mother has long been held. It reflected also the people's joy that, following her recovery from the illness which had earlier caused the tour to be postponed, Her Majesty felt able to undertake such a full and varied programme.

In the year that has passed since I last addressed you, the international scene has been marked by mounting violence in South-East Asia and by dissension within the Commonwealth.

For New Zealand, the areas of most direct and grievous concern have been the war in Vietnam and Indonesia's campaign of confrontation against Malaysia. In addition to its substantial forces in Malaysia and Singapore, New Zealand is reinforcing its artillery unit in Vietnam as a practical expression of its willingness to uphold the right of small states to choose their future free of coercion and attack.

My Government is determined that New Zealand shall play an effective part in collective action to sustain security in South-East Asia. Next month, at meetings of the SEATO and ANZUS Councils in Canberra, my Prime Minister will have renewed opportunities to discuss defence matters with United States and British Ministers, as well as with the Australian Government. It is a source of satisfaction that Britain has expressed its intention to maintain a military presence in this area.

My Ministers will shortly present to you a White Paper setting out the basis of defence policy for the period until 1970. The White Paper will also record the specific measures which are being taken to develop the effectiveness of the Armed Forces.