



THE NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

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THE Third Session of the Thirty-sixth 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

It is four years since I first addressed you in Parliament assembled. My term as representative of Her Majesty the Queen in this, the country of my birth, is now drawing to a close. No greater honour could have been bestowed on me and no commission could have given me greater pleasure. When my wife and I depart later this year we shall leave behind many friends, but take with us memories of a beautiful country and a warm and friendly people whose loyalty to their Queen is second to none.

Honourable Members, my Ministers have welcomed the signs of relaxation of tension and the improvement in the relationships between the Great Powers, the United States, the Soviet Union, and the People's Republic of China. They regret that areas of instability persist in Asia. They are concerned that the conflict in Indo-China has erupted with renewed aggression by North Vietnam. My Government will continue to support the efforts being made to bring an end to the war and to achieve a settlement which preserves the freedom of choice of the people of South Vietnam.

My Government was concerned also by the failure of the United Nations to grapple seriously with the situation in East Bengal and it joined in the humanitarian initiatives taken to promote a peaceful settlement. It has recognised the new State of Bangladesh and will continue a substantial programme of economic aid to that country.