



THE NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

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THE First Session of the Thirty-eighth 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

You meet ~~here today~~ as members of the thirty-eighth Parliament. It is a privilege for me to exercise the prerogative of Her Majesty The Queen in opening this the first Session.

In doing so it is fitting that I should refer to the projected visit of The Queen and Prince Philip to New Zealand early next year. I am sure that all New Zealanders are anticipating the visit with great pleasure: and all the more so as the occasion will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne.

Today we are reminded sadly of the absence of the Honourable Sir Stanley Whitehead who died on 9 January 1976. Sir Stanley served Parliament well both as Speaker of the House and as a member. His death brought to an untimely end more than 18 years of faithful service to Parliament and his country.

At the General Election last November, the people of New Zealand elected a new Government to manage the affairs of the country. That the transition of Government occurred smoothly and with dignity is a tribute to our community and serves to strengthen the firm belief we hold in our system of democracy.

The Government's first priority is to reduce the balance of payments deficit to a level that New Zealand can afford. Some measures to achieve this have been taken already. These include steps to restrain the Government's own expenditure which will help to reduce the overall level of spending and have a significant impact on imports.

The Government will ensure that adequate incentives continue to be made available to exporters. There has been over recent months an encouraging increase in export receipts brought about by renewed economic growth in a number of overseas markets as well as the impact of devaluation of the New Zealand dollar. However, grounds for concern still exist in relation to trade access for our products in the major industrial countries.