

of strengthening the powers of the central broadcasting organisation and improving administrative and economic efficiency.

The Government will establish a National Trust which will co-ordinate the separate land protection, recreation, and open-space responsibilities of the National Parks Authority, the Department of Lands and Survey, the Forest Service, the Historic Places Trust, and local and regional authorities.

Because of the adverse social and economic impact of land aggregation upon local communities, it is intended to review completely this year the Land Settlement Promotion and Land Acquisition Act 1952.

Proposed amendments to the Public Works Act 1928 will give effect to the Government's undertaking to improve compensation arrangements for properties taken for public works.

The Government plans the early introduction of a major revision and consolidation of the Town and Country Planning Act 1953. It intends to give effect to many of the recommendations of the earlier Review Committee (set up in 1972). The Government wishes to see regional planning strengthened and related more directly to Government's economic, social, and development policies.

New Zealand is in a most fortunate environmental position. Aware that this situation will be retained only with sound environmental management, the Government is determined that policies to safeguard the environment should continue to be implemented despite the economic pressures faced.

The Government believes that an essential ingredient of local government is the ability of those affected to determine the manner in which local affairs shall be managed. A Bill amending the Local Government Act 1974 will be introduced to give effect to this view and other aspects of Government policy on the organisation of local government.

A Bill will also be introduced to extend the provisions of the Rating Act 1967 so that differential rating can be applied to rates other than general rates.

There is a clear need to revise the legislation on New Zealand citizenship and the control of aliens. A Bill will be introduced to this effect.

International issues will be approached realistically and in accordance with principles that reflect New Zealand values. Policy will be based squarely on the United Nations Charter. The Government totally rejects all doctrines of racial discrimination. Proliferation of nuclear weapons and their testing will continue to be opposed.

Consultation with Australia will be close. Our friendship with the United States will be maintained and strengthened, co-operation with European and Asian countries further developed, and promising relations with other areas actively pursued.

The Government will continue to adhere to a policy of collective defence which provides for the protection of New Zealand's security interests. It will maintain forces capable of operating with our allies at a level appropriate to New Zealand's resources. During this Session the Government will introduce legislation designed to improve the conditions of service, and thereby the effectiveness of the armed forces as a whole.

Honourable Members, I commend all these matters to your careful consideration and I pray that divine guidance will attend your decisions.