

A Local Government Amendment Bill, revising and consolidating into one enactment a substantial portion of the Municipal Corporations and Counties Acts, will be introduced. Further Bills of this nature will be submitted by the Government until the very major task involved in this revision of basic local government legislation is completed.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II graciously indicated at the Second Session of this Parliament that she was pleased to associate her name with the proposed National Trust in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee. A Bill will be introduced this Session to establish the Trust.

Honourable members, the Government will pursue New Zealand's political and economic interests overseas with determination and will seek to promote greater co-operation between countries.

The Prime Minister's recent talks with leaders in Australia, Britain and Europe and his proposed visit to the United States underline the fundamental importance the Government attaches to sustaining and developing New Zealand's relationships with the Western community.

Of equal importance to New Zealand is its partnership with countries of Asia and the Pacific. The Government will work for a secure and long-term economic relationship with Japan within a framework of mutual co-operation. It will also strengthen relationships with the ASEAN countries.

The Prime Minister's attendance at the London meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government will enable contacts with a wide range of countries to be renewed.

The Government will give full support to the United Nations in its work of maintaining peace and security. It will work with both East and West for the conclusion of a nuclear weapon test-ban treaty. It will oppose all forms of racial discrimination and support international endeavours to secure full human rights for all people.

The Government, consistent with its adherence to a policy of collective defence, attaches high priority to the maintenance of armed forces adequate for New Zealand's foreseeable needs and capable of timely expansion should the need arise. In the light of recent changes in the global and Pacific strategic situation, and modifications in the defence policies of our major allies, the Government is undertaking a review of defence needs in the 1980s.

Honourable members, it is now my privilege to exercise, for the last time, the prerogative of Her Majesty The Queen in opening this Third Session of the thirty-eighth Parliament. In doing so I commend all these matters to your careful consideration and I pray that divine guidance will attend your decisions.