

In furtherance of the Government's policy, provisions now before the House to set up a council for traditional Maori and Polynesian arts will be resubmitted for your consideration.

Progress towards improving and rationalising immigration procedures and legislation will continue in 1978. The Immigration Amendment Bill currently before a select committee will be resubmitted for your consideration.

Relations with New Zealand's traditional friends in Europe, North America, Australia, and the Pacific will continue to be given the highest priority. The Government will play an active part in the economic development of New Zealand's close friends and neighbours, particularly through its programme of assistance to the smaller Pacific states, including the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu which will shortly become independent.

The Government will continue to lend its strong support for the United Nations. It will oppose racial discrimination in all its forms wherever it occurs. It will work to achieve greater universal respect for human rights. The necessary steps will be taken to ratify this year the International Covenants on Human Rights. At the forthcoming Special Session of the United Nations it will press for substantive disarmament and arms control measures.

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