

Through international organisations and in association with like-minded countries, the Government will seek to promote peace and co-operation and to ensure effective responses to threats to peace and security and to breaches of fundamental norms of international behaviour.

The deteriorating strategic situation emphasises the importance of the ANZUS alliance as the ultimate guarantee of security in our region. The Government is determined to maintain forces capable of operating effectively alongside those of our ANZUS partners. In keeping with this obligation, an extensive armed forces re-equipment programme has been approved. It will progressively upgrade and modernise equipment for all three services and provide a real and tangible contribution to our collective defence commitments.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I commend all these matters to your careful consideration and I pray that divine guidance will attend your deliberations.