

The high toll of death and injury on New Zealand's roads continues to cause concern. You will be asked to consider amendments to existing legislation recommended by the Select Committee on Communications and Road Safety as a result of its inquiry into drunk driving.

In the Justice area, a Crimes Bill and a Sale of Liquor Bill will be introduced. There will also be legislation to revise the legal aid statutes and to improve access to the law for everyone.

The Chattels Transfer Act 1924 as it affects motor vehicles will be replaced by new provisions offering much greater protection for those who deal with motor vehicles subject to encumbrances.

Reviews of consumer law will be matched with information and education programmes to ensure that people know their rights and can secure a fair deal for themselves.

Strategies will be devised to ensure that the public has a greater understanding of the criminal justice system and what it can realistically be expected to achieve.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government takes a comprehensive view of New Zealand's security. The South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and our non-nuclear legislation are elements in a policy of limiting the threat posed by nuclear weapons. The Government has taken a further initiative by appointing the first ever Minister of Disarmament and Arms Control. The new Domestic and External Security Committee of Cabinet will also co-ordinate planning.

The security of the South Pacific region will remain the principal consideration in the Government's defence policy. Recent events underline the importance of preserving stability in the region. Elsewhere the conduct of New Zealand's external relations will call for a continuing review of priorities. Changes will not lead to neglect of any of the friendships we value.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Parliament has been summoned for what will be a full and demanding session. I commend all these matters to your careful consideration, and I pray that Divine Guidance will attend all your deliberations.