Announcement of the Adoption of National Anthems for New Zealand

With the consent of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II it is hereby announced that Government has decided that the national anthems of New Zealand shall be the traditional anthem, "God Save the Queen" and the poem, "God Defend New Zealand", written by Thomas Bracken, as set to music by John Joseph Woods, both being of equal status as national anthems appropriate to the occasion.

D. A. HIGHER, Minister of Internal Affairs.

God Save the Queen!

By way of explanation, for guidance in choosing which anthem should be presented on any occasion, Her Majesty has agreed that "God Save the Queen" would be specially appropriate at any occasion where Her Majesty the Queen, or a member of the Royal Family, or the Governor-General, when within New Zealand, is officially present or when loyalty to the Crown is to be stressed, while "God Defend New Zealand" would be specially appropriate whenever the national identity of New Zealand is to be stressed even in association with a toast to Her Majesty as Queen of New Zealand.

Both anthems may be presented at the same occasion, if this course should appear to be appropriate, but the usual situation will be for one or the other to be played or performed as is appropriate to the occasion.

D. A. HIGHER, Minister of Internal Affairs.