

AT THE COURT AT ST. JAMES'S

The 8th day of February, 1952

HER MAJESTY'S DECLARATION

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

By the sudden death of my dear Father, I am called to assume the duties and responsibilities of Sovereignty.

At this time of deep sorrow, it is a profound consolation to me to be assured of the sympathy which you and all my Peoples feel towards me, to my Mother, and my Sister and to the other members of my Family. My Father was our revered and beloved Head, as he was of the wider Family of his subjects; the grief which his loss brings is shared among us all.

My heart is too full for me to say more to you to-day than that I shall always work, as my Father did throughout his Reign, to uphold constitutional government and to advance the happiness and prosperity of my Peoples, spread as they are all the world over. I know that in my resolve to follow his shining example of service and devotion, I shall be inspired by the loyalty and affection of those whose Queen I have been called to be, and by the counsel of their elected Parliaments. I pray that God will help me to discharge worthily this heavy task that has been laid upon me so early in my life.

Printed by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE PRESS,
Drury Lane, W.C.2

(D.C. 848) 1, 40