

GOVERNMENT



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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA: In reply to questions by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. George A. Drew, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made a statement in the House of Commons on March 10 on the comments of the Prime Minister in Korea and the Philippines in regard to the Communist Government in China.

He said:

"The Prime Minister has stated that, as accurately as he can recollect, and this corresponds with notes that were taken at the time, the immediate recognition of the Communist Government of China, as a government which had been committing aggression against the United Nations, was not under consideration. The Prime Minister then went on to state that, however, it was necessary to be realistic in regard to this matter and that no doubt in due course we would have to recognize any Government of China which the Chinese people themselves recognized as their Government, regardless of whether we liked the Government or not.

"He added that if there was to be any solution to problems in which China was directly involved, and which could not be settled with-

out co-operation from the Chinese Government in control of that country, it seemed clear we would have to deal with that Government. That, concluded the Prime Minister, was merely common sense and did not mean in any way the acceptance of responsibility for or the giving of endorsement to the actions or views of any particular regime."

Mr. Drew asked about words attributed to the Prime Minister in a press report, "that we would be bound to recognize the Government that the people want".

Mr. Pearson replied on this point:

"The words to which my hon. friend refers were in another reported statement made by the Prime Minister on arriving at the Philippines, and I am not questioning the accuracy of that particular report. As my hon. friend has stated, it was to the effect that sooner or later we are bound to recognize the Government that the people want in China. Of course, Mr. Speaker, we do not know whether the people of China now have the Government they want, because it is a Communist Government and a Communist Government, or indeed any totalitarian Government, does not give the people an opportunity to express their views freely on the form of Government they have."