

It is the firm opinion of my delegation that there must be preserved for the people of Formosa the right to self-determination. The right of all peoples to a voice in their own destinies is one that is fundamental to the purposes of the United Nations.

Subject to due respect for that right in this matter before us, the Canadian delegation will, I repeat, give the most earnest attention to any proposals which may be advanced.

Mao Tse-Tung, the Chairman of the Communist Party of China, said some months ago in an interview with a foreign correspondent - and I quote "Taiwan is China's affair. We will insist on this." It is quite clear that what he meant was that the future of Taiwan was Peking's affair and no one else's.

My delegation, Mr. President, cannot accept that claim. We believe, on the contrary, that the future of Formosa is the affair of the people of Formosa. Canadians would never understand or accept a solution by which this Organization sanctioned the forcible extinction of the political identity of Formosa. Canadians have always been led to believe that the United Nations function is to prevent the imposition by force on any people of a political regime unacceptable to them;