

information on what we get by hearsay--seems to have been guilty of many things that we would not condone, may nevertheless have to be recognized. There are other governments with whom we have at the present time diplomatic relations who, we think, have done things we could not condone. But they are the government of those lands and the only governments with whom any dealings in respect of their populations can be had.

I think we all hope that there will be, even between these apparently incompatible worlds, the free world and the world made up of countries with communist regimes, some kind of a modus vivendi which will in fact allow us to live, and allow them to live. That would take place, without our interference, without our approval, without our responsibility, in any way in the lands we regard as unfortunate, because they are under such regimes. If we do not look upon that as possibly, we then have to look upon this state of cold war as something of very long duration, with always the possibilities of its flaring up into something worse than a cold war.

Once again I am sorry that I was not more careful in the language I used, and that it was the kind of language that could give rise to this concern and to this controversy; but as far as policy is concerned, I was not speaking about policy. And now I do venture to say that the policy of the Canadian Government at the present time is to keep an open mind as to whether or not at any time, under any conditions which may develop in the future, there should be recognition of the government which at that time will exist as a matter of fact in China. That again is something that I should not have put in exactly that language. We should keep an open mind as to when if ever conditions may be such that it will be in the interest of peace and stability in the world to recognize diplomatically whatever government happens to be in control of the forces of China.

That I think is the preferable position; but in the meantime whenever there does appear to be an opportunity to remove some of the tension from the international situation by discussions, by meetings and by discussions like that which are called for April 26 in Geneva, I think it is only realistic to feel that the government which is in fact in control of affairs in China has to be there if there is going to be anything accomplished that will produce beneficial results.

Mr. Coldwell: Will the Prime Minister permit a question? There was one other matter which caused some concern when he was overseas and that was the reference to the armaments and the supplying of military aid by the United States to Pakistan. There seems to be a conflict in the reports and the inference there was that the Prime Minister gave his approval to United States military air to Pakistan.

Mr. St. Laurent: I refused to express any opinion. I said that as far as we were concerned no such question could arise, because we had pledged to the NATO organization everything we could do in the form of aid and forces to maintain peace in the world, and that no government that expected to remain the government of Canada should ask for more than had been pledged by us to the NATO organization. I did also say that I felt quite satisfied in my own mind that the aid provided, or that might be provided, by the United States to Pakistan was not designed to be used against India, and that I felt quite sure that had there been any impression that it was going to be used against India there would not be one per cent of the United States people who would have supported it.