

(8) Finally, we believe that the events of the last world war, the initial problems of a change from colonial to independent status, revolutionary turmoil and economic problems have delayed the assumption by some leading Asian nations of their proper role in regional and world affairs. We have confidence that Japan, India, Pakistan and Indonesia can, along with China, do much to end abnormal situations in Asia and achieve a better balance of power and political influence in the world generally. We can scarcely speak of Canada being able, by itself, to promote such broad developments to any significant degree. To the extent, however, that this approach can have a bearing on specific policy decisions of our own or can be reflected in joint action, this is our viewpoint.

These are considerations which can usefully be listed to indicate general directions of policy. Their application in any given circumstances cannot, however, be predicted by any hard and fast formulas.

It would be appropriate, therefore, to turn now to some of the specific policies pursued at the moment with respect to central issues of Asian affairs. I propose to make these comments under three headings:

- (1) current policy with respect to recognition of Communist China and UN membership;
- (2) the Vietnam situation;
- (3) the relevance of other developments in our relations with other Asian nations to the chief problems of peace and stability in Asia.

The Chinese Question

I believe that few subjects cause greater concern at present to Canadians reflecting on foreign affairs than the position of Communist China in the world community. That is one reason why this question is the object of constant review and reappraisal on the part of the Government generally and on my part as Minister of External Affairs.

Canada recognizes the Republic of China, sometimes called Nationalist China. At the United Nations, most recently in November of last year, we voted against a resolution which called for the seating of representatives of the People's Republic of China and for the expulsion of the representatives of the Republic of China. I am aware that there is a substantial body of opinion in this country which disagrees with this policy. I think, however, that those who urge a radically different position on us sometimes neglect the thornier aspects of the problem of China. Alternative policies are, of course, possible; but those who advocate them should explain clearly how they propose to overcome some of the serious difficulties which the choice of those alternatives inevitably entails.

Those, for example, who urge the diplomatic recognition of Communist China must face the uncomfortable fact that the Government of that country demands that it be recognized as something which it patently is not: that is, the Government of the island of Taiwan