

But even if we solve these Korean questions they are only one aspect of the more fundamental question of relations with the Far East and with Asia generally. We should ask ourselves, as I am sure we do, and it is very much in our minds now with the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) to that part of the world, what should be the basis of our policy as a government, as a country, towards what I think we can call now the new Asia. I suggest we would be wise to observe the following principles in our relations with these Asian states. We must not compromise with Communist military aggression in Asia or in any other place. But while, I think, it is easy to be clear on that point, that does not mean that we should assume that every anti-colonial, nationalist or revolutionary movement in Asia is Russian Communist in origin or direction any more than we should assume that, with patience and sympathy, every Asian Communist leader can be turned into a Tito.

Secondly, I suggest that we must convince or try to convince the Asian peoples that democracy, our kind of democracy, free democracy, can do more for the individual than Communist tyranny can ever hope to do. We can do this in many ways, by constructive policies in our own countries, by plans for mutual aid, and also by avoiding giving the impression that the western allies are in the east associated only with regimes and societies that do not meet the desire for change of the awakening masses of that part of the world. Our policy in Asia then, if this principle is correct, must be more than a policy merely of opposition to communism. It must be constructive, and anti-communism should not be the only claim to our assistance.

We should recognize, and I think we do recognize in this country, that social, national and economic forces are at work in Asia that would have erupted in disturbing ways if there had never been a Communist revolution in Moscow. We cannot reverse these forces and we ignore them at our peril. Where communism has been able to take over these new forces, as in China, we should neither, I think, blind ourselves to the dangers of the situation by wishful thinking that this is merely an agrarian revolution, nor increase these dangers by rash and provocative policies. Furthermore, as I see it, by associating counter-revolution, which can develop indigenously as the whole history of China shows, with foreign intervention and foreign assistance we may strengthen rather than weaken Communist regimes.

The fate of our world may be decided quite as much by the direction taken by the march of Asian millions as by the failure or success of the Kremlin's plans for Communist imperial domination. Canada has a special obligation and a special opportunity in these matters as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, for the Commonwealth is now of Asia and Africa as well as of the Western world. We can, I think, be happy that our relations with the other members of the Commonwealth remain close and friendly though problems, especially economic and financial problems, exist to test our co-operation. I think these relations will be even closer and even more friendly as the result of the voyage of friendship, goodwill and exploration which our Prime Minister is beginning at the end of next week.