

the end of its second year and it continues to be one of the most important and constructive elements in our foreign economic policy.

The significance of the Commonwealth, however, rests on more than trade and economic development factors. In today's world the effort to bring the condition of men a little closer to the ideal of brotherhood, though an aim which we share with many others outside the Commonwealth, can be felt and understood within the Commonwealth as something with a special and I think a deeper meaning.

Today the Commonwealth, including its Asian nation members, is able to do much in promoting this understanding and co-operation, especially between the West and Asia. The presence at Her Majesty's coronation next June of representatives of all nations of the Commonwealth, whether monarchy or republic, from East and West, will be a striking demonstration of this free world-wide association of which our young Queen is the gracious symbol. Furthermore, since the Commonwealth embraces territories which, though not yet qualified for membership, are nevertheless advancing toward self-government, it may before long be faced with proposals for the inclusion of new members. The old Empire gave way to the new Commonwealth, and that new Commonwealth in its turn is developing and changing and gathering, I hope, new opportunities of service and usefulness in the process.

This influence of the Commonwealth with its Asian members is one reason Canadians think more about Asia and the Far East than they did a few years ago. Today the Far East is also close to our interest because fighting is actually going on there in Korea, in Indo-China and in Malaya, and it threatens in other places. We continue to do what we can to end this fighting, especially in Korea, as a prelude to a general settlement in that area.

As I said a few moments ago the most recent attempt at the United Nations General Assembly to end the war in Korea has failed. But the effort to that end must not stop, and I am sure it will not stop. The guiding principle of Canadian policy in Korea is to continue to do everything possible to limit the present hostilities to the Korean peninsula, and to take advantage of any opportunity for an early settlement of these hostilities by peaceful negotiation. It follows from this that our general attitude in the United Nations General Assembly, as elsewhere, is to support proposals designed to facilitate an armistice agreement, and to oppose proposals which, in our judgment, would impede such an armistice.

On the specific question, for instance, of the disposition of prisoners of war, the Canadian position has been quite clear and consistent. We do not believe that any prisoner should be compelled by force to return to what was once his homeland or should be prevented, through any kind of moral or physical force, from so returning.

We consider also that the purpose of the United Nations in Korea remains the defeat of aggression there, and does not include intervention in the civil war in China. So long as Chinese troops act as aggressors in Korea they must be opposed and that aggression, if possible, defeated. This does not mean that we who oppose them, by so doing, are committed to the overthrow by force of the government now in effective control of the mainland of China. As we see it we are engaged not in a national war against Communist China or in intervening in a Chinese civil war, but as a member of the United Nations in a police action against aggression.