

THE PRESS: Mr. Sharp, supposing that Taiwan should withdraw its own representatives here, would this in any way condition what action you might take in so far as there was some success with the Red Chinese negotiations?

MR. SHARP: I cannot answer a hypothetical question like that. I do not expect that the regime in Taiwan will withdraw their representation in Canada now, not because we are exploring this possibility of recognizing the People's Republic Government as the government of mainland China.

THE PRESS: Mr. Sharp, what criteria do you or the Prime Minister use for determining whether a government represents the nation it governs?

MR. SHARP: This is a matter of fact and no one I think has challenged the fact that the People's Republic government in Peking is effectively in control of the mainland of China.

THE PRESS: Is it not true, then, by the same token that, for example, the Ian Smith government in Rhodesia governs effectively over Rhodesia?

MR. SHARP: Yes, but the Rhodesian government is now subject to condemnation in the United Nations.

THE PRESS: The Chinese government in Peking is still under U.N. condemnation for aggression in Korea. The resolution of the United Nations has never been rescinded.

MR. SHARP: Yes, but the question of whether the People's Republic of China government is in control of the mainland is not in question and, as I said, we are going to negotiate to see if we can bring about a recognition of that government because we believe that the fact that there is a gap between China and the rest of the world is a serious threat to peace. We are not suggesting that we approve the government of mainland China any more than we approve the actions of many governments that we recognize. But we believe we should recognize the existence of the fact.

THE PRESS: Mr. Sharp, we have recognized the Nationalist Government of China for a number of years and since 1962 we have been running a trade deficit with them. Why have we not had an ambassador in Taiwan?