

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Canadian provincial offices recorded 31,354 births in September, a 17.0 percent decrease from the September 1965 total of 37,779, bringing the nine-month total for 1966 to 297,611, a drop of 7.8 per cent from 322,904 last year. Marriage registrations increased from 18,536 in September 1965 to 20,058 during the same period this year, and, during the nine-month period, they rose from 106,437 in 1965 to 114,654 this year. The number of deaths recorded dropped from 12,623 in September of last year to 12,090 in September 1966, bringing the cumulative total to 113,730 during 1966, a rise from the 1965 figure of 110,859.

* * * *

CANADA AND THE NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE

(Continued from P. 2)

ASIAN PROBLEMS

...The necessity of encouraging the political dialogue between Western and Communist powers is clear when we consider some of the major Asian and European problems.

Since the beginning of the present United Nations General Assembly a few weeks ago, there has been a renewal of diplomatic activity concerning the war in Vietnam. The leaders of many nations have interested themselves anew in the possibilities for reaching a settlement.

I have discussed with Mr. Rusk and Mr. Goldberg our appreciations of the situation in Asia and the world as it affects the outlook for a settlement. I have discussed the possibility of constructive action by Canada as a member of the International Control Commission or in any other capacity. I have spoken to Mr. Gromyko on this same subject and I look forward to resuming conversations with him in Moscow....

So far as the situation on the spot in Vietnam is concerned, it is very difficult to predict the course of events or the nature of the military situation which would lead to a cease-fire and negotiated settlement. Canada has had civilian and military personnel in Vietnam for 12 years and has tried to make its contribution through the International Control Commission to the achievement of stability. Under present con-

ditions, it is very difficult for the Commission to impose limits on the scale of the conflict.

We do think, however, that the Commission may have a part to play if the two sides were agreed on using it as an instrument for disengaging their forces on the ground. The Commission could also, no doubt, make a new contribution in the context of any eventual settlement of the Vietnam problem.

We cannot consider the Vietnam situation in isolation. We must consider it in the wider perspectives of the foreign policies of those nations chiefly concerned, of East-West relations, and of the world situation generally....

I cannot believe that the war in Vietnam must proceed inevitably towards a complete military victory for one side or the other. I cannot believe that the political discussions at world level are unreal or that diplomacy is irrelevant.

CHINA

I have spoken of relations with Communist nations almost entirely in terms of the Soviet Union and Europe. It is essential to recognize the special problems of Communist China and Asia.

Canada does not have diplomatic relations with the Communist nations in Asia. Outer Mongolia does not pose any problem of recognition but each of the others poses the intractable problems of a divided state and all are involved in the very great tensions which characterize the Far East today.

I cannot speak, therefore, of experience in normal relations. However, while we recognize the unique and difficult aspects of the Asian situation, Canadian policy has long been characterized by a desire to work towards normal relations and by a conviction that the problem of relations with Communist China was not inherently different from that of relations with the Soviet Union.

We have, therefore, engaged in substantial trade with mainland China on a basis of mutual advantage and entered into the direct commercial contacts necessary for major transactions. We have also encouraged contacts and exchanges in the scientific, educational and informational fields. Private citizens can visit China without difficulty, so far as the Canadian Government is concerned.

We have long hoped that an arrangement could be made which would permit the entry of mainland China into the United Nations, as one vital step towards a normalization of relations of the type which has been under way in Europe....

* * * * *