

from that act. On the other hand, others, without recognizing communist China, have seen their trade grow substantially. It is true that on occasion Peking has used the question of trade as a special weapon. I would draw to the attention of the House the fact that the Peking Government has used trade as a political weapon. I am thinking of the action in 1958 when that Government cut off trade with Japan and later with Malaya and Singapore, because the Governments of those states acted in a certain way, within their own jurisdiction and within their own prerogatives as sovereign governments, but which the communists considered unsatisfactory. I do not regard trade, in that context, as being an argument in favour of recognition. Indeed there are dangers inherent in trading with communist China.

There are, however, other arguments in favour of recognition. It is undeniable that, unless the Government which has effective control of the mainland of China is represented at international meetings, there will be less possibility of settling issues that create tensions and endanger the peace of the world today. This is in no way to say, however, that we cannot deal at all with communist China. The West has done so at Geneva when discussions took place on topics relating to Korea and Indochina. The United States is doing that very thing now in the ambassadorial talks in Warsaw. It does not follow, either, that if we and other friendly governments were to recognize communist China all the problems which beset us in the Far East would immediately be solved. This is to say that non-recognition of communist China is a symptom and not a cause of the tensions which endanger peace in the Far East.

"What really is required, fundamentally, is a desire on the part of the Chinese to settle the outstanding problems. I mean to say that the pronouncements of the Peking Government on international affairs in the past year, which is under review, give few grounds for believing that they are actually interested in removing those causes of discord separating them from the West.

"It remains true, however that the present exclusion of China--and I come back to this point--from the United Nations and other councils of the world, except in isolated instances, makes international diplomacy more difficult to carry on. Disarmament is a case which I have in mind. What would be the use of an agreement or a treaty with respect to the cessation of nuclear tests--and I give this just by way of an example--if mainland China was not somehow involved in the working out and implementation of such a treaty? I must observe also, Mr. Speaker, that the authority and prestige of the United Nations has been weakened to some extent because many important international negotiations, such as those on Korea and Indochina, have not taken place within that organization.

"I trust--and I say this very carefully--that I am not being unfair if I say that some of the arguments in favour of immediate recognition of communist China seem to me to overlook, to a certain extent, the complex nature of the problem. The problem of relations with communist China is an extraordinarily delicate one, for however much we may wish to develop an acceptable basis for relations with this increasingly important Asian state, it is by no means clear that recognition would accomplish this end. Indeed, we could contemplate that it would give rise to fresh problems.

"The attitude that I commend to the House is one of prudence based on an appreciation of the realities of the situation. This Government has taken a positive attitude with respect to trade. My colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Churchill) this afternoon in the House mentioned one aspect of that trade. I remind the House that in 1957--and these figures have been presented already this session to the House--our exports to China amounted to \$1.5 million. In the first eleven months of 1958 this figure rose to \$7.7 million. In the difficult question of exports by Canadian subsidiaries of United States firms, as a result of the Prime Minister's discussions with President Eisenhower in July of last year, we have an understanding with the Government of the United States which aims to protect the interests of Canadian producers and provides greater scope for trade. Despite the considerations to which I referred, we hope to increase our trade with China in the coming years.

"Many Canadians visited China last year and that fact is responsible for increased interest in this topic. We are not unhappy that they have gone there. The reports of their impressions published in the Canadian press have been a source of information to the Canadian public. We hope that more personal contacts can be built up on the basis of these individual visits. In this way, by developing friendly relations in limited sectors, we may break down some of the political distrust which unavoidably exists between Canada--and indeed, the whole Western world--and the Peking Government.

"On the specific issue of the establishment of diplomatic relations as opposed to relations confined to cultural and trade matters and the like, I realize that there are weighty considerations on both sides. As I have mentioned already, there is an opinion that friendly relations will flow from recognition. We believe that we should proceed prudently while we discover to what extent relations with communist China can be improved. We do not see much point in extending recognition to communist China, if the result of such an act will be to put us in a position similar to that of other countries which have recognized China and then have been berated and extravagantly attacked because they have not always