

Conclusion

These are some of the highlights of our policies, and of our convictions about Asian affairs. It is impossible to discuss all the aspects of this vital subject, but I have tried to indicate where the Canadian Government stands with respect to some of the greatest issues you have been discussing this week.

I think that most of you would agree that all such discussions tend to come back to one central question - what are the intentions of mainland China and what are the prospects of coming to a realistic, to a mutually beneficial and I hope friendly, understanding with that country?

Whether one considers the situation in Vietnam or in its neighbouring states, on the borders of India and Pakistan, or throughout the continent, so far as general stability and peace are concerned the question of Chinese attitudes arises.

I can envisage interim measures which could serve to reduce tensions in Asia and perhaps to re-introduce an uneasy peace. I firmly believe, however, that central to all the issues you have been discussing in Banff this week is the question of China's position in the international community. I suggest to you that the working out of a modus vivendi with China will be the real test of the next decade, perhaps even the next generation, for both the governments and the peoples of the West and Asia. Developments in the past year, particularly amongst our good neighbours to the south, reveal a growing realization of the urgency of this central issue. And it is this issue, I suggest, which governs the formulation of our policy towards Asian problems, even where Canadian actions may seem unrelated or even inimical to this long-term aim.

This is why we have to search for some equitable solution in Vietnam; why we must encourage the end of disputes which sap the strength of China's neighbours; why we have lent support to India in that country's efforts to protect its territory against Chinese pressures. But this is also why we urge that China be brought into disarmament talks and that some equitable way be found to seat its representatives in the United Nations, and why we encourage trade and work to increase contacts with the Chinese people.

It will obviously be a most difficult and slow process at best to move towards a real understanding with the government of the mainland Chinese. But I would borrow a Chinese maxim - "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". If both we and the Chinese are willing to embark on this long journey, in spite of its obvious difficulties and hazards, then we can hope for a new era in Asia's history worthy of the greatness of its past.

S/C