

*External Affairs*

misunderstanding, but they are too anxious to get there first with the most startling and sensational. That is the trouble. I think we have to understand that.

I have expressed our view on the matter of recognition of the communist regime in China on several different occasions, and I am going to express it again tonight. I do not agree for one second with the leader of the C.C.F. party. He softened considerably in what he said today compared with what he said over the air on the 23rd of March. If we were certain that the people of China wanted the government they have it might put a different complexion on the matter. So far as recognition is concerned, I do not consider that it is recognition in any accepted sense of the word to negotiate with them as we must negotiate at the conference in Geneva.

Why, of course, we have to negotiate. In my opinion recognition means exchange of diplomatic representatives. It means allowing them to send their diplomats into this country and, if they wish, to set up consulates in every city, town and village from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, from which they can launch their nefarious practices of propaganda and espionage if they so desire. That is what diplomatic recognition would convey.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the time may come, and probably will come, when we will have to recognize the government of China. I am not speaking of the present regime, although even if that regime were there and the people of China indicated that was the government they wanted and were determined to have, then of course I do not see that it would do any good for us to stand up in this house or anywhere else and say we would not recognize them. We have to be sensible about it in every respect. But certainly we should not at this time think of exchanging diplomatic representatives with them and giving them *de jure* recognition. I am speaking, I believe, for the group which I represent in saying that.

Here again, Mr. Speaker, one of the considerations that we ought to keep in our minds is that we owe something to the people of China. You know, for a great many years the people of China were our friends. I have strong feelings today they are still our friends, if they could get through to us and we to them. We did not do our duty by the Chinese people. We stood by while venal men pushed China into the control of the communists. In many ways we have condoned the actions of these men. Our newspapers, for example, have done their level best over the years, all the time that action of pushing China into the arms of communist Russia was taking

[Mr. Low.]

place, to tell the people of Canada and the United States that Mao Tse-tung and his people were not communists but were merely agrarian reformers. They did their level best. Of course, everyone with a lick of sense today knows that is not true, and they have known it for some years. We still have some of these editorial writers, however, who act as if they do believe it.

In my judgment what we must do today is to make certain that by no action of ours do we contribute to the sense of hopelessness in these people in China, that sense of hopelessness that destroys the spirit and the will to freedom. I am satisfied that they will react to sympathetic understanding from us. They will react favourably to any help we can extend to them in even a small way. Some day they will rise and throw off their yoke. The seeds of self-destruction are inherent in evil things, and they certainly are in communism.

I was in Washington in early February, and listened to a speech made by Walter Judd, a member of the United States congress. He told of a journey he had just completed around the world. He had gone into practically every one of the Asiatic countries, and had talked to the people on the street wherever he could go. He brought back some very interesting convictions. He said that the Asiatic peoples expressed gratitude for the things the western world has done for them and particularly the many material things the United States has sent to them. However, they hesitated to accept other offers of assistance because they were afraid the West might want to help them to death, as they so often had.

Too often when we have moved in to try to help these people we have been like the camel who drove the Bedouin out of his tent; that is our trouble. As a consequence, these people feel they have been betrayed; they feel they have been let down. They are just a little wary of expressing faith in us and our good intentions. It is quite true, Mr. Speaker, that so many times we in the western nations have used the peoples of Europe and Asia as pawns that they have lost faith in us. I say we must regain that faith by establishing that our word is as good as our bond and that when we undertake to do a thing we will fulfil our commitment 100 per cent. That is the only way we are ever going to regain their good will and their faith, and they must have faith.

I should like to say just a word about the Geneva conference. I do not know how much hope can be placed in it, but I am willing to put every bit of faith I have in the outcome. I do hope that something can come