

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Nothing that adds very much to the knowledge we are getting in the press, which seems to me pretty complete in so far as the dangerous effects of this new weapon are concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Nesbitt.

Mr. NESBITT: Mr. Knowles referred to Mr. Dulles speech before the Overseas Press Club a few days ago in which he made the remark that the United States would not take action by itself but that united action would be taken. I gather that you do not care to comment at the moment any further on that, but I wonder, in following up Mr. Knowles' questions, if the External Affairs Department received any explanation from the United States government as to what Mr. Dulles did mean in his remarks?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Well, I would hesitate about replying to that question asked by Mr. Knowles because we are still discussing the matter with them. However, I can go a step further and say that by united action they mean action in which those countries directly concerned would participate; in other words, that the United States would not "go it on its own;" that they would not go on their own, or without consultation with other governments directly concerned in Indo-China but would act together. Whether he means by "united action" action under a United Nations resolution, that kind of united action, remains a little doubtful.

Mr. NESBITT: One other question in the same area, so to speak: when the Prime Minister was making his recent tour, was he invited to Formosa?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I cannot answer offhand, but I would be glad to get the answer because there would be no reason to keep it secret. I have the impression that the Chinese National government—when they heard that he was taking his world tour, and after his itinerary had been completed—the Chinese Nationalist representative here expressed the hope that the Prime Minister would be able to go to Formosa. But I will be glad to get that information for you.

Mr. NESBITT: If the Prime Minister was not formally invited, did the Department of External Affairs make any representations to the Chinese National government that the Prime Minister might visit Formosa?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: No, no. The Prime Minister's original itinerary did not include Formosa. Formosa and a good many other countries had expressed an interest in his appearance if he could fit it into his tour, and they assured him of a very warm welcome in their territories. I am thinking of at least half a dozen countries and it is my impression that the National government in China was one of those governments who told the Prime Minister that he would be given a welcome if he could come to Formosa. But there were considerations of time and place. Also in practically every case he was returning visits that had been made to Canada by the heads of governments. That was the formal reason for his going to those particular countries.

Mr. NESBITT: There would not be any relationship between the failure of the Prime Minister to visit Formosa and the Prime Minister's slip of the tongue in the Philippines regarding the possible recognition of China?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: No relationship of any kind. The Prime Minister stated to the various governmental representatives of the countries he was not able to visit how sorry he felt that he was not able to do so, and that he was returning visits which had been made to Canada by those governments. No significance should be attached to the fact that he was not able to visit them at this time.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Cannon.