

as dual relations both with Red China and Taiwan and whether the Government intends to follow the course followed by General de Gaulle when he recognized Red China at the price of breaking off relations with Taiwan?

MR. SHARP: As I recall the circumstances that surrounded the recognition by France of Communist China, the Republic of China Government on Formosa withdrew its representation.

THE PRESS: Do you intend to pursue that -- ?

MR. SHARP: We intend to have negotiations with the People's Republic Government of China designed to bring about recognition of that government. We also have to recognize that there is a government on Formosa and I would not call it a two China policy; I would think there would be one China and the Government of Formosa.

THE PRESS: Sir, we would be recognizing Red China by sacrificing the Formosan -- the Taiwan regime recognition here? If it comes to priorities is it Red China first?

MR. SHARP: If we followed this policy, we would not be recognizing the Government of Formosa as the government of China. To that extent of course we would be sacrificing that particular claim of the Government of Formosa: that it is the legal government of the whole of the Chinese mainland as well as Formosa. But our aim is to recognize what is de facto - the government of mainland China.

THE PRESS: To come back to my original -- one of the questions I put to you. Do you know of any government which has dual diplomatic relations, both with Red China and Taiwan?

MR. SHARP: No, I do not. But, of course, the world is changing and it is not out of the question at all that that sort of a situation should emerge. Indeed, if you have been following developments in the United States there are some indications of a movement in this direction.

THE PRESS: Have you in fact started discussions with the People's Republic on this question?

MR. SHARP: No, but we are beginning our examination with our own embassies around the world on the question and investigating the best way of proceeding.