

Whether this process will be followed by recognition is to be seen; but I say this emphatically, that it will depend upon the success that we have in improving our relations in limited fields, and our assessment of the advantage to be gained by such an act. We have never stated that we will never recognize the Peking Government. In the Prime Minister's words:

"The question of the recognition of Red China is one that has been receiving consideration for the last several years and the question is continually and continuously before members of the Government."

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In conclusion, to return to the Berlin and German situations, I would hope that we may develop and extend the areas of understanding in East-West relations through the same technique of improvement, in limited fields. I am bound to say that there is little, if any, agreement on surprise attack. There have been protracted discussions on the cessation of nuclear tests. There has been a road block in the way of reaching agreement on machinery for the use of outer space. There is not much comfort to be gained from the difficult starting point from which discussions on Berlin and Germany may begin. But, Mr. Speaker, I do think that there is some evidence that the international climate may be improving. The U.S.S.R. wants to discuss with us many problems. Certainly it should be evident to all sane men that there is a great interest in avoiding the mutual destruction of mankind in a nuclear conflict. May the desire for discussions on the part of Mr. Khrushchev and his comrades be a genuine readiness to negotiate in this particular instance of Berlin and Germany, rather than an attempt to impose their will on the three occupying powers and the two and a half million people in West Berlin to whose security we have pledged ourselves.

I conclude by saying that we wish and hope, as I am sure does every member of this House, that a meeting or meetings between the West and the Soviet bloc will provide a greater mutual trust and confidence, even if that desideratum be reached only gradually.

S/C