

Mr. THOMPSON: But is this the official policy that has been accepted?

Mr. TAYLOR: I could not say. That is the sort of thing a foreigner would have very little way of knowing. I would think it is a generational thing, that the young, being taught it in school, will accept it automatically.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: The Committee will sit for a few more minutes so that Mr. Macdonald can get his questions in.

Mr. MACDONALD (*Rosedale*): Mr. Taylor, would it be fair to say that China's relations with France at the moment are warmer than her relations with other Western European countries?

Mr. TAYLOR: Yes. There is only one cloud on that picture that I am aware of, and that is the French government was severely criticized by the Chinese for the way in which the French police clashed with Chinese students who were being recalled a few months ago during the great cultural revolution. Knowing the Chinese students and knowing the French police I would hesitate to say what really happened or where the blame would lie, but there was a certain furor over that and the French Commercial Counsellor with his wife, were forced to stand in the snow on a Peking street for, I think, seven hours by Red Guards who surrounded his car in the course of an incident. That has undoubtedly clouded relations. I would not say that relations with France or any Western country have ever been warm. They have been correct and formal on the best of occasions.

Mr. MACDONALD (*Rosedale*): Assuming that an incident involving the Commercial Counsellor was a conscious act of decision on the part of the Chinese authority—

Mr. TAYLOR: I would not necessarily assume that.

Mr. MACDONALD (*Rosedale*): Well, are they in authority there or not? Surely over a period of seven hours they could do something.

Mr. TAYLOR: I am going to state this and I believe it to be true. I know it sounds naive but to those of us who look upon the Chinese government and party structure as monolithic, all powerful and totalitarian, it would be very hard, once Red Guards had fabricated an incident, for anybody short of the very most senior government level in Peking to call them off. No cop could do it; no director of a police station could do it; no junior official in the foreign ministry could do it. This is a time when anybody who sticks out his neck too far is really in trouble, if he can be condemned for attacking the revolutionary fervour of the young people who are trying to suppress it and so on. I do not know what caused that incident. It could have been fabricated, of course. I think much more likely it got out of hand. I know from my own experience during much more tranquil times in China that incidents and difficulties can occur by chance, and they tend to blow up, accelerate and escalate, and it is sometimes very difficult for a Chinese official to step in and say, stop.

Mr. MACDONALD (*Rosedale*): To use your own terms, if we stuck our neck into China because of diplomatic recognition and introduced a mission there, Canadians too could be submitted to seven hours in the snow.

Mr. TAYLOR: I sort of set myself up for that one. Yes. But fair enough. It happened; it cannot be ignored. It is a rarity. I think it would be irresponsible