

As far as Canada is concerned, we have consistently supported the principle of universality in the United Nations. We supported that principle ten years ago, when Canada was instrumental in breaking the deadlock that had been responsible for barring a substantial number of countries from United Nations membership. When I addressed the present General Assembly on September 24, I reiterated Canada's support for the principle of universality and expressed the hope that the United Nations could make progress towards the achievement of universal membership as soon as possible. If the United Nations is to be an effective organ of international opinion it must be able, ultimately, to bring all members of the international community within the framework of the obligations and responsibilities laid down in the Charter.

Canada has endorsed the view of the Secretary-General that it is in the interests of the international community to have Communist China exposed to the currents and cross-currents of international opinion. We also believe that there are problems in the realm of international peace and security which require the co-operation of Communist China for their solution. We have made it clear that we regard disarmament as one such problem and have supported Communist Chinese participation in any world disarmament conference.

It is in this spirit that Canada approached the problem of Chinese representation at the current session of the General Assembly. Nevertheless, after very careful consideration, the Canadian Government decided that it could not, in present circumstances, do other than vote against the resolution which was before the Assembly. In voting as it did the Canadian Government was guided by the following considerations.

First, in a press conference on September 29, the Communist Chinese Foreign Minister, Marshal Chen Yi, posed a number of new conditions which would have to be satisfied if Communist China was to agree to take its seat in the United Nations. As part of these conditions the United Nations was being asked to rescind its resolution condemning Communist China as an aggressor in Korea, where Canadians fought and died to defeat aggression. It was being asked to review and revise its Charter. And it was being asked to admit to membership all so-called independent countries and to eject from membership all those which Peking chooses to regard as "imperialist puppet states". It seemed to the Canadian Government that these new conditions raised the fundamental question whether Peking itself still desires to participate in the United Nations.

Second, there is another condition of long standing from which Communist China has never departed. This is that the population of Formosa must be denied any form of representation in the United Nations. The Canadian Government cannot be unmindful of the fact that the Government of the Republic of China is a founding member of the United Nations and one which exercises control over a population of some 12 million people. It cannot disregard the claim of the population of Formosa to be allowed to play their full and honourable part in the life of the international community. Canada, for one, could not agree that it would be in accordance with the principles of the United Nations to support an arrangement which would result in a denial of that claim.