

attacked because they have not always backed Communist China pursuant to what the Peking Government feels was an obligation arising out of recognition.

I ask three questions, Mr. Speaker. The first one is this. Should we recognize mainland China until we have reason to believe that our act will not result in deterioration of relations other than the opposite? My second question is this. Should we recognize mainland China if our act will give rise to misinterpretation of our attitude in the countries of Asia; that is, if those countries were to say that since Canada and other Western powers have recognized Communist China, there is no point in their resisting the growing influence of the Peking Government not only in international affairs but in domestic affairs as well. My third question is this. Should we not also bear in mind the effect of recognition by Canada and by other countries on Peking's position among the overseas Chinese in South-East Asia? They might take out of that act of recognition the view that they would be free to undermine the national interest of those countries by being willing then to transfer their loyalties wholly to the Peking regime.

These are questions which we are weighing extremely carefully. It is, moreover, a matter of some concern that in the past year Communist China has given us little warrant to believe that it has much conception of its responsibility for the maintenance of world peace. As a result of Mr. Dulles' visit to Taiwan in October last, a joint communique was issued by Chiang Kai-Shek and Mr. Dulles to the effect that the Nationalist Government would not resort to force as the means of returning to the mainland. It is disturbing to find, however, that no similar renunciation of force has been made by the Government of Communist China in respect of their intentions towards Formosa and the offshore islands. I am not discussing at this moment the place of the offshore islands but I am merely saying that there is on the part of the Peking Government no manifestation of intention corresponding to that which was given by the Nationalist Government. That is their right. The mere fact that they have not done that is not necessarily an indication that we should not recognize China. But we are equally free to judge that in such circumstances recognition might be of little value and advance none of our interests.

It is for these reasons that it is the view of this Government that we must go carefully. We should take the initiative in limited fields - in fields of trade and in other ways to which I have referred - and we should take every opportunity that presents itself to overcome the causes of discord between the West and Peking China. We must be patient. We should not be hasty. Otherwise we may undo the good work that has already been accomplished in laying the basis for progress towards the goal of removing the occasions for misunderstanding now existing between Canada and Communist China.