

recognized. The Americans rather tend to put a moral issue along with it. I gathered from what you said that you lean to the idea that there should be a moral connotation.

Mr. Pearson: I think recognition or non-recognition of a country is a political matter. I do not think it is primarily a moral matter. If it were, we would not recognize any Communist government because of what we feel about their methods of government. It is a political matter but it has moral overtones - and undertones. The element of morality in this is that this particular Communist Government has been an aggressor against the United Nations and, therefore, we should hesitate before we recognize it.

Question: Would it be going too far to say that, if the recognition had taken place before the aggression began, there would be no occasion for withdrawing it?

Mr. Pearson: We have recognized governments who have later taken aggressive action - not against us directly - but aggressive action and we haven't withdrawn recognition. Recognition is something you do in your own interests and that is why I think it is a political matter rather than primarily a moral matter.

Miss Francis: Mr. Pearson, I wonder if I could change the subject. I wanted to ask about a statement made by President Eisenhower in his State of the Union address last week. He said that the United States was going to increase spending on continental defence by about a billion dollars. Now how is that going to affect us, because we live on this continent too?

Mr. Pearson: We are, of course, just as interested in continental defence as the United States because, as you say, we are part of the continent - the northern part, too. There is a renewed interest in continental defence, I think, derived in large part from atomic developments in the U.S.S.R. We have in the last six months or so increased our attention and our efforts in Canada, and in the United States, towards continental defence.

Mr. McKeown: If the United States are to spend an extra billion dollars, will we have to spend a proportionate amount on continental defence?

Mr. Pearson: That billion dollars is, of course, a figure that has been mentioned but it doesn't indicate over how many years it will be spent or what kind of continental defence is envisaged. A lot of it may be spent in the United States.

Question: Oh, I understood him to say that he had asked for an additional billion dollars to be appropriated this year.

Mr. Pearson: For continental defence - but that might be spent in the continental United States.

Question: It doesn't necessarily include a large addition of United States forces on Canadian soil?