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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. TAYLOR: In some ways the Chinese react even more angrily to the Russians. I think, on this psychological principle, that they regard the Americans as enemies, but they regard the Russians as heretics; and you always hate somebody whom you feel has betrayed your own cause more than you hate an outright enemy. Certainly the dispute was evident during my time and it is intensely deep. It will be difficult to heal because it is not only an ideological dispute but a matter of issue between two great bordering neighbouring states which have areas of that border in dispute. I can see a rapprochement but not a fundamental healing.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Have you any knowledge of any build-up of military forces on either side of that border between China and Russia.

Mr. TAYLOR: I would have no special knowledge that had not been made available in the press, but there have been accounts of the Russians transferring troops from eastern Europe to the border; there have been accounts of the Chinese sending up extra troops. It is a heavily fortified border; it is also a very long one, and there has been trouble along parts of that border, especially in Sinkiang to the far north west of China, going back to about 1961 and 1962.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Part of it is disputed territory.

Mr. TAYLOR: Part of the border is disputed. Another problem is that the people on both sides of the border are neither ethnic Chinese nor ethnic Russian and great numbers of them are various minority tribesmen.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I have one final question. You mention that there are representatives of forty foreign countries in China. Are the views that you expressed this morning generally held by foreign diplomats you met in China.

Mr. TAYLOR: That would be hard to say because they range, of course, from Russians to British ideologically, with many Asians and Africans in between and I do not think there would be any single consensus among the foreign community.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Take the Western powers that are represented there— Britain and France. Is West Germany represented?

Mr. TAYLOR: No. West Germany is doing a lot of trade with China, more than Britain and France. Again, I think it would be very difficult to sum up because Britain and France would look at it differently, because they look at the whole Asian situation differently. I would not pretend that every diplomat in Peking would share my assumptions and my conclusions.

Mr. CHURCHILL: You mentioned in your talk something about Canadians and the language. Are there any Canadians now specifically studying the Chinese language for our diplomatic service.

Mr. TAYLOR: External affairs would know more on this of course, but to the best of my knowledge there has always been a language student studying mandarin at any one time.

Mr. THOMPSON: May I ask a supplementary, Mr. Chairman. Is mandarin, or has it become, the universal language of China?

Mr. TAYLOR: It is becoming the universal language; it will take, I would think, at least one more generation to make it effectively so.