

Now a few words about the situation in Indo-China. We had a thorough discussion of that at Colombo, and we had vigorous differences of opinion as to what the situation was and what might be done to meet it. However, we all agreed that Indo-China occupied a key position in southeast Asia, politically because of the clashes that have occurred there between the communists and the nationalists, and economically because this country is the rice bowl of that part of the world. The communists are now making their greatest effort in Asia in the State of Viet Nam, which is one of the three in Indo-China, the others being Cambodia and Laos.

If for no other reason, our very close and friendly ties with France would ensure our special interest in the progress toward freedom in that area which the French government are seriously sponsoring, and for which I think they deserve our gratitude. We must be concerned, however, over the long continued disturbances in Viet Nam. I hope that these will soon be ended. I feel that the recent ratification by France of the agreements which it had entered into with the three Indo-Chinese states is a commendable step forward in the attempt to restore peaceful and stable conditions in Indo-China. I believe there is good reason to expect that these agreements, which set up three autonomous states within the French union, will provide a means by which the national aspirations of the people of Indo-China will be met.

More particularly we wish the government of Bao Dai every success in its efforts to bring unity and freedom to Viet Nam in the face of a serious communist menace, which has become a greater menace because of the political support it is being given by the U.S.S.R. and communist China. We recognize that only under the autonomous government of Bao Dai has Viet Nam at this time the opportunity to acquire freedom and unity and stability.

Then we came to the question of China, which also caused much discussion. In my review on November 16 last in this house I made some observations concerning the nature of the communist revolution in China, and also about some of the great underlying mutual interests which would always serve as a bond between the Canadian and Chinese people, regardless of such changes in government as might take place in China. I spoke also about the factors that had to be taken into account in weighing the question of recognition.

Since then four Commonwealth governments - the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan and Ceylon - and a number of the western European governments, have accorded de jure recognition to the Peiping regime. At Colombo there was a frank and useful exchange of views between those Commonwealth governments which had not recognized the Peiping government - Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Canada - and those which had. There was also discussion of future relations with China. From our point of view it was very helpful to have the points of view of the Asian members of the Commonwealth on these questions.

The fact that some governments have recognized the new regime in Peiping and others have not, has created an awkward situation in the United Nations and other international bodies; one which may become even more awkward in the not too distant future.

The Soviet delegations, in an exhibition of childish arrogance, have now withdrawn from United Nations bodies until such time as the representatives of the Peiping government are admitted in place of the present Nationalist representatives.