

A: No. I think you had better make the comments yourself, Sir. You seem to know much more about the Asian situation than I do.

Q: Are you convinced that American military assistance to Pakistan is not in any way directed against India?

A: I am convinced that, if there had been the slightest suspicion that it could be directed against India, it would not be agreed to.

Q: Our Government has been saying that we do not think it is in our favour. Then how do you say it is not against us?

A: Well, I am not saying that you haven't the right to feel that it could operate against you. I was asked whether there was any intent to extend military aid to be used against India. Well, I am convinced that there wouldn't be one per cent of the American public that would go along if it was proposed to extend military aid to any nation directed against India.

Q: One more question, Sir. Did you get the impression during the course of your talks with Mr. Nehru that but for the presence of the Kashmir problem India might not have raised such a serious objection to military aid?

A: Well, I would not like to speak for Mr. Nehru and of course my conversations with him were confidential and he was endeavouring to inform me to instruct me and I think it would be improper for me to say anything that might be construed as divulging a confidential conversation with the Prime Minister of India.

Q: Why I asked was because Mr. Eden in London yesterday said that this question about aid to Pakistan is just one friendly power giving aid to a member of the Commonwealth?

A: Well, I think we would be very much concerned if there was an exchange of military aid between India and any country that we look upon as a potential aggressor. We do not look upon India as a potential aggressor of our community of nations and we do unfortunately look upon Russia as a potential aggressor. I do not think that I shall live to see aggression and I expect to live on for some years; nevertheless there was this shadow of totalitarianism over Europe and we have found from our experience that when trouble breaks out in Europe we in North America just cannot keep out - we are necessarily drawn into it.

(China)

Q: Yesterday in your speech you said the countries of Asia should have a greater say in the affair of Asia. In view of that statement would you advocate wider representation for Asia at the Geneva Conference and would you also say that China should be admitted to the United Nations?

A: China is already a member of the United Nations. The difficulty is to determine who in China is the proper representative of the Chinese people there. China is a permanent member of the Security Council.

Q: With regard to Chinese representation you said you feel it is a problem that the United Nations will have to face up to but that at the present moment the situation in Korea - if settlement were to take place in Korea - do you think that it might be a logical time for the United Nations to make such a consideration on the basis of the Geneva Conference?

A: I do not know whether it would be on the basis of the Geneva Conference but I think that it is the fact that at the present time it is not the Nationalist Government in Formosa that represents that great mass of humanity that constitutes the people of China and that whether I think that the other government is the kind of government China should have or not does not change the facts. If China is to be there it should be the Government that China gives itself in fact. We think from our own experience, you know, that it is the people of a country who have a right to determine what kind and form of government they should have for their country and we are not suggesting that the form of government that exists in Russia should be changed; that is something which concerns the people of Russia and I think we have to be realistic. And if the people of China are to be represented, they will some day have to be represented by those that they consider the government that represents them in fact.

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ATOMIC ENERGY POWER: Canada's progress in the study of atomic energy for power purposes was the subject of the following question, by Mr. George H. Hees (Broadview) and answer by the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. C.D. Howe, in the House of Commons on March 2.

Mr. Hees: "With reference to the Reuters news despatch appearing in a morning paper headed 'Atom Generator for Electricity Planned for the United Kingdom', could the Minister advise the House what steps are being taken towards producing electric power from atomic energy in Canada?"

Mr. Howe: "Several weeks ago a group was established to make an evaluation study of atomic energy for power purposes. The members of the group are representatives of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission and of several private power companies. The study is well advanced, and it is hoped that actual plans for the installation can be undertaken shortly."

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Average time required to complete housing units built last year was six months and nine days, 21 days less than in 1952, one month less than in 1951.

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22,200,000 barrels of wheat flour were milled last year, 1,900,000 or 8% less than in 1952.