

External Affairs

It is a mistake to proclaim too loudly that China is a satellite of Russia. China, I believe, is firmly in the Russian camp at present and regards Russia as her friend. But the oriental mind is always suspicious of the foreigner and once they realize that they are being dominated by Moscow she will leave her orbit very quickly without much prodding from abroad.

I want to state here briefly some of my own experiences while I was in China. I reported in Washington in the fall of 1945, and I spent a full month there.

When I got badly depressed, which I did once in a while, I went in to have a little visit with the then Canadian ambassador, who now happens to be Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson), and I always felt better after I came out. I want to add this, that in the training we received in Washington before we went to China, while we were not told this in so many words, the general belief with respect to the over-all picture was that we must support the regime that was there.

I went over to China fully convinced that the government that was there was a modern Moses that would lead the people to the promised land, and that that was the only way we could get peace and harmony in China. I remember distinctly reading an article which appeared in the *China News of February 16, 1946*, and entitled "Soong Lauds Canada for Loan to China". The *China News* was a daily publication in English, that had a Chinese edition as well, and was printed by the Soong interests. I think Dr. Kung really was the owner. At any rate it was published daily in China. This dispatch, dated at Chungking, states:

Commenting on the Canadian loan of U.S. \$60,000,000 that has just been completed with China, Dr. T. V. Soong, President of the Executive Yuan, said:

Canada had an enviable war record. Literally from scratch, she developed the munition industry that, despite her small population, made her the third or fourth largest arsenal of democracy. During the war, she was most generous and forthcoming in sending assistance to her allies, and China's war efforts were greatly benefited therefrom.

In giving to China her first post-war foreign loan, Canada, under the leadership of Prime Minister Mackenzie King, is carrying on the co-operation between China and Canada into a new era of reconstruction, and it is fortunate for us that, along with the United States, she constitutes our next door neighbours across the water.

I read that with a good deal of pride, and kept it, as I did many other clippings from China, and brought it home. In six months' time, after living with the people and after visiting the major cities in China, I was convinced we could not possibly win with

the government that was there. It was my conviction that we were backing a government that could not possibly succeed.

Indeed, I was so convinced of that that, believe it or not, I wrote letters in the matter. I wrote weekly or monthly letters, and certainly always occasional letters to the press which, occasionally, were published. I was not surprised to find that the press did not publish all of them, because I am not a good letter writer, and I appreciate fully the fact that all of them were not worth publishing.

Mr. Martin: Did the hon. member write in Chinese?

Mr. MacKenzie: However, quite a few of them were published. I should like to read an excerpt from a letter of June 9, 1947. I kept copies of my letters, of which this is one. My good friend the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) knows that some of my letters appeared in the *Windsor Star*. This is one that did, and it is part of it I shall read.

At the time in question there was a large quantity of raw cotton in China. UNRRA had sent in 1946 about 540,000 bales of raw cotton. Much of this was not sold and the suggestion was that permission be given to sell it so as to get enough money to keep the army of the Chiang machine going. My letter was, in part:

For many months support from the U.S. had been proposed in the nature of a \$500,000,000 loan and this would doubtlessly help, but temporarily only, as it would only be a dollar each, which in my opinion would only be a spot on the blotter and doomed to ultimate failure, unless the government is willing to put into effect immediate and sweeping reforms that will put its governing and fighting machinery on an honest and efficient basis. The facts are that the vast majority of the thinking people of China have little confidence in the present administration.

Bear in mind that this was written after I had been there a little more than a year. Later in the same letter I wrote:

The army is very poorly paid, and when the troops pass through a district they take their living from the land. Can you imagine how the farmers feel when their crops and all farm produce are confiscated? Communism surely thrives under such conditions. In any event it seems that the time has come when we must admit there is virtually no hope of foreigners settling this question. The Chinese people and the government must realize that they cannot go on indefinitely asking for and receiving help, for China must get on her own feet, and soon.

UNRRA has shipped huge relief supplies into China, up to the present over two million long tons.

When I returned to Canada I stated publicly and in many places that my views had changed. I had changed my mind—and I do not see anything wrong with changing one's mind. It is clear that people throughout the country do that. I am sure many people in Canada must have changed their minds between the