

*Commonwealth Conference*

"No", he said; "nothing". That answer on his part distressed me greatly, for it represented a viewpoint totally out of keeping with recognition of the fact—that man whatever his colour has the right to equality. That was emphasized again today by the Prime Minister, and it cannot be overemphasized at this time.

Now I come to the question of communist China. Certainly the prime ministers' views are not those which were in general circulation at the last prime ministers' conference or at the several other conferences which I attended. The views then, as I recall them, were that it would have been appropriate to recognize communist China away back in 1950, and it should have been recognized at that time. Recognition is simply the legal application in international procedure of acceptance of the fact that the government which has taken over will be able to continue for a reasonable time in the future. But recognition not having been granted as it should have been at that time, with the passing years it has come to be interpreted, and was being interpreted at the last conference I attended, among peoples in Asia and Africa as the acceptance of communism rather than the application of a principle of international law which dates back some 300 or 400 years.

I should have liked to hear the Prime Minister tell us something of the views of the representatives from Asia, who apparently have changed their attitude since the conferences I attended, as to what measures should be taken, and must be taken, to preserve and maintain the integrity of Taiwan before any action is taken which will result in the sacrifice of the people there who have stood against communism, who have maintained their position through the years, and who have been a bastion for democracy alongside a great communist nation. Certainly one cannot forever place 500 or 600 million people in a position of ostracism; but you can demand as a principle to be accepted in advance that when there is recognition or admission to the United Nations, that recognition or admission shall be preceded by a declaration by communist China assuring the maintenance and preservation, and the lives themselves, of those who have stood with us on Taiwan for so many years.

Another question which was raised concerned the state of affairs in southeast Asia. The Prime Minister said that the communiqué indicated that the prime ministers had assured the prime minister of Malaysia of their support. The wording of the communiqué is

slightly different, in that it says that they assured him—

—of their sympathy and support in his efforts to preserve the sovereign independence and integrity of his country.

I should like an explanation of this circumstance. Apparently yesterday in the external affairs committee the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated that Canada was still giving aid in various forms to Indonesia. I should like to find out wherein there is consistency in giving aid or assistance to Indonesia, whose objective and purpose, according to the declarations of Sukarno, is the removal of Malaysia and the extirpation of the government of Tunku Abdul Rahman. I would think that this is one matter which should receive early attention; and any assistance in this regard, to which allusion was made yesterday, should end here and now.

I should also like the Prime Minister when he has an opportunity to do so to let the house and the country know what support Canada undertook to give to Malaysia. The prime minister of that country will be visiting with us in a few days, and I hope at that time it will be made very clear what, if any, are the undertakings given by Canada to carry into effect the particular section of the communiqué to which I have just made reference.

Now, sir, there is one other matter which is strangely missing from the communiqué, and that is the subject of peace keeping forces under the United Nations. The communiqué says the prime ministers undertook to consider practical measures. What about the suggestion which was made by the Prime Minister to the effect that forces should be mobilized in various countries who are members of the United Nations to act as a standby force? That was certainly brought before the conference in London according to the references in the press. What was the attitude of the countries of the commonwealth to that matter? On its face it would seem that the failure of the communiqué to mention any serious consideration of peace keeping activities as envisaged by the Prime Minister would indicate that there was division in this connection among the prime ministers. These are but one or two matters on which I feel we should have information.

As to the future, I was interested in the recommendations made to education. Certainly when we were in office we advanced the concept of an exchange of university students within the commonwealth. I brought