

I cannot believe that the war in Vietnam must proceed inevitably towards a complete military victory for one side or the other. I cannot believe that the political discussions at world level are unreal or that diplomacy is irrelevant.

### China

I have spoken of relations with Communist nations almost entirely in terms of the Soviet Union and Europe. It is essential to recognize the special problems of Communist China and Asia.

Canada does not have diplomatic relations with the Communist nations in Asia. Outer Mongolia does not pose any problem of recognition but each of the others poses the intractable problems of a divided state and all are involved in the very great tensions which characterize the Far East today.

I cannot speak, therefore, of experience in normal relations. However, while we recognize the unique and difficult aspects of the Asian situation, Canadian policy has long been characterized by a desire to work towards normal relations and by a conviction that the problem of relations with Communist China was not inherently different from that of relations with the Soviet Union.

We have, therefore, engaged in substantial trade with mainland China on a basis of mutual advantage and entered into the direct commercial contacts necessary for major transactions. We have also encouraged contacts and exchanges in the scientific, educational and informational fields. Private citizens can visit China without difficulty, so far as the Canadian Government is concerned.

We have long hoped that an arrangement could be made which would permit the entry of mainland China into the United Nations, as one vital step towards a normalization of relations of the type which has been under way in Europe.

### European Problems

Finally, I shall, of course, be very much interested in the course of my trip to Europe to hear from representatives of Italy, our close NATO ally, from His Holiness the Pope, and from the leaders of Poland and the Soviet Union their impressions of developments in Europe - East and West.

At the Brussels meeting of the NATO powers in June, emphasis on improving East-West relations and on extending bilateral contacts with countries of Eastern Europe was one important element in the discussions. I have indicated how Canada views the prospects for contacts in its own case. Several Western countries have, since June, taken the opportunity, in visits or in official statements, to propose closer contacts with Eastern Europe.