

QUESTION (2):

What attitude will be adopted with respect to Communist China during the UN General Assembly?

ANSWER:

It is difficult to forecast the Canadian position concerning the problem of Communist China at the United Nations since we do not yet know exactly what situation we shall then encounter. As you are probably aware, an item on the representation of China has been proposed by Cambodia and supported by a number of other member states. This item is unlikely to be discussed before February 1965 at the earliest. We do not yet know what sort of resolution the Cambodians will be putting forward. They did, however, co-sponsor a resolution last year that called for the ejection of representatives of the Nationalist Chinese Government and their replacement by representatives of Communist China. Canada has not supported this sort of solution to the China problem in the past, and I have no reason to believe that we shall change our position during the current session.

We do not know yet whether there will be other proposals before the Assembly on this question. If there are, they will probably be concerned with the continuing problem of the status of Formosa and the fact that the General Assembly has no right, by its action on a representation problem, to prejudice the international status of a member already represented in the United Nations. The Canadian Government is anxious to see progress toward a solution of the problem of Chinese representation and the wider question of the entry into the international community of Mainland China. Progress can be hampered, however, by the entrenched positions of the parties chiefly concerned. We must also keep constantly in mind the possible effect of developments in the United Nations on the difficult political and military situation in Southeast Asia. These various factors will be of considerable importance in determining the Canadian position on this subject at the nineteenth session of the Assembly.

QUESTION (3):

What is the attitude of the Canadian Government respecting the deterioration of the situation in South Vietnam, and what is its policy on Southeast Asia?

ANSWER:

As I have commented on several occasions recently, the situation in Vietnam is a cause for serious concern, not only in terms of the hardship and suffering the people of that unhappy country are being forced to undergo as a result of Communist aggression, but also in terms of the implications of this situation for peace and stability in Southeast Asia. All available evidence points inevitably to the conclusion that the basic reason for this instability, both political and military, is the determination of North Vietnam to interfere in the affairs of South Vietnam by sponsoring the Viet Cong insurgents in their programmes of subversion, terrorism, sabotage and murder, and by directing and supplying the armed rebellion in South Vietnam.