

*Commonwealth Conference*

as far as two Chinas are concerned there is no nation or group of nations that would have any justification for preventing her from joining the United Nations.

This is one of the responsibilities that the government of China has to face up to. In this matter I think it is our responsibility to reaffirm our own convictions and our own principles as they relate to the freedom loving people of the world, and we should reaffirm the principles of free democracy and give the assurance to the people of Taiwan that we take a stand, even as the Prime Minister has mentioned, which will guarantee them their protection and their right to freedom. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I agree with what the Prime Minister said in this regard.

We are dealing with motions, and much time has been spent today in discussing this topic. However, I think we are justified in taking this time, because it is a very important matter. I would just close, reiterating that if the commonwealth is to amount to anything in the world and is to accomplish that for which I think it has the potential, we must show a more positive attitude toward the commonwealth at times other than the holding of conferences. I would like to see the enthusiasm, which I believe the Prime Minister has passed on to us in this house as a result of the conference, carried into a very definite program of planning that will put this spirit into motion and produce the results that can be produced and which every country of the commonwealth is seeking.

Again I would say that in a very special way this opportunity comes to Canada. The suggestion has been made by some of the newer members of the commonwealth that we should have a permanent secretariat. In the evolution of the commonwealth this is most significant, and I think there is another opportunity for Canada here. I believe we should move ahead and encourage the setting up of such a secretariat, and I do not believe there is a better place in all the commonwealth for the headquarters of such a secretariat than right here in the capital city of Canada.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I trust that the government will follow through on some of the points the Prime Minister has made so clear to us this morning, which will prove in a practical way just what the commonwealth can mean in our troubled world.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, we wish to add our own expression [Mr. Thompson.]

of satisfaction and pleasure on welcoming back the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) from the conference of the prime ministers of the commonwealth in London.

Judging by his statement, the conference was most successful.

This morning when I saw the Prime Minister entering the house with a happy look on his face and a smile on his lips, I thought he was bringing back from London the Canadian constitution. I also felt that, at the same time, he was going to tell us which of the eighteen countries represented in London had also considered providing their respective people with two national flags.

Mr. Speaker, I turn now to the serious matters dealt with this morning by the Prime Minister. I shall not take much time, because many things have been said. Two most important points emerge from this conference; the economic point of view and the political point of view.

As far as politics is concerned, discussions dealt with the recognition of communist China by the United Nations, the racial struggles going on in certain African countries, the independence of certain countries still considered as colonies within the commonwealth, and various other subjects. Discussion referred also to the understanding or the ties that should bring us still closer together within the commonwealth, so as to give the whole world an example of tolerance, understanding and agreement.

In my opinion, this is a very important consideration, if we want the free countries of the world to remain free. Canada can play a significant part within the framework of the commonwealth, and I have no doubt that the Prime Minister stressed this point strongly in the course of the London discussions.

Mr. Speaker, the question of Africa, China and the independence of all those countries, within the commonwealth as well as outside it, depends to a great extent on three things:

1. We must be charitable toward one another. Charity is the cornerstone.
2. The spirit of justice must prevail. We can achieve lasting peace as long as justice exists, but it is not with discrimination or injustice that we will attain the peace so ardently desired by all the countries of the world.
3. Within the commonwealth we have common problems, political as well as economic problems. But outside it, as a commonwealth