

understood abroad in order that we may all try to adopt the best course in our relations with each other.

Of course I do not feel that I should be absent from Canada for too long a period, especially while parliament is in session, and it will not be possible for me to make a long stay in any one country; but this is no doubt the most appropriate season to visit the east. By taking advantage of air travel I will try to make the best possible use of what time will be available. From the conversations I will have with the leaders of many countries I shall visit, I hope that I shall be able to bring back with me and also to leave behind not only useful information but perhaps a clearer picture of the problems which all of us have to face together.

I have wanted for some time to visit Australia and New Zealand, both because I should like to see those sister countries of the Commonwealth with which our relations have become so close, and also because we have recently, been honoured by the visit of their Prime Ministers. The time available, however, would have been regrettably short and my visit to Australia would have taken place at a time when Her Majesty the Queen will still be in that country. I therefore proposed to the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, for that reason, and I can assure the House that it is for that reason alone - that my visit to their countries be postponed, and to this they kindly agreed. But I sincerely hope that such a visit may be arranged in the not too distant future. In fact, you know, it is not very much more difficult to go by air from this continent to Australia and New Zealand than it is to go there by air from Tokyo, from which point it had been originally planned that I would set off to visit Australia and New Zealand.

Europe, which I shall visit during the first part of my tour, is faced at present with a decision of great importance. Our own future may be quite largely influenced by its outcome. The presence of our soldiers and our airmen over there is an indication of our interest in the maintenance of some efficient method of collective protection against aggression, and I think all members will feel that this method is apt to be all the more efficient if we can all participate in it.

But the main purpose of my tour is a visit to Asia. That vast continent, which contains in fact well over half the world's population, was once a vague and rather romantic concept far over the horizon for most of us in this part of the world. Today we are vitally concerned with what happens in Asia. This concern arises both from our membership in the United Nations and from our membership in the Commonwealth which now includes three important Asian countries, India, Pakistan and Ceylon.

We have joined with other members of the United Nations in helping to repel aggression in Korea. Only a few months ago our troops were engaged in actual and violent fighting, which I trust will not be renewed. I look forward to visiting these troops during my brief stay in Korea and to bringing them greetings from all Canadians.