

Mr. Daniell: I wonder now that Russia has the atomic and hydrogen bomb if there isn't a great deal of value in the western nations exchanging what information they have. Are we not defeating ourselves by not exchanging information?

Mr. Pearson: I think a lot of the argument against the exchange of information has been removed by the spread of knowledge of atomic energy amongst so many countries. Surely, as you say, it is sensible to bring about the widest possible exchange of information.

Mr. McKeown: If I might move on to another topic, about four years ago we had the impression that Canada favoured recognition of Communist China and I think a change came about when the Korean War started and we thought we would have to wait until it was over before we could recognize Communist China. If a peace is reached in Korea, should Canada move in the direction of recognition?

Mr. Pearson: We certainly couldn't recognize Communist China as long as they were considered as an aggressor state; in aggression against our forces and the United Nations. Nor do I think that we should recognize Communist China as a reward for having stopped fighting against us. But, if there could be a satisfactory peace made in Korea and if the Chinese Communist Government has purged itself - if I may use that expression of its aggression - and things are improving in the Far East, then of course it becomes a problem of having another look at this whole issue of recognition or non-recognition. But we have not yet made peace in Korea.

Question: What do you think the hope is of making peace?

Mr. Pearson: I am always hopeful in these matters but, as you know, this is a very difficult and complicated question. If a satisfactory peace settlement can be made in Korea it would seem to me a big step forward towards the settlement of many Far Eastern problems. They are all tied up together and Korea is just one aspect.

Miss Francis: Even if we made what we thought was a satisfactory peace in Korea, can we be sure of what Mr. Syngman Rhee might do the next day?

Mr. Pearson: You cannot be sure of anything in the world these days - not even Mr. Syngman Rhee.

Question: You say "a satisfactory settlement in the Far East". What kind of settlement would you regard as satisfactory. I don't want to be difficult with hypothetical questions but there is that big island of Formosa there with Chiang Kai Shek established and a half-million troops and yet everything we have ever heard United States and yet everything we have ever heard in the last five years indicates that Canada would be in favour of recognizing the Communist Chinese Government, shall we say, as soon as possible or as soon as it seems reasonable and plausible. What are you going to do with Formosa in that case?

Mr. Pearson: That is one of the difficulties and one of the obstacles in the way of a general Far Eastern settlement - the relationship between the Chinese Government in Formosa and the Communist Government