

The difficulty in bringing Communist China into any meaningful discussion of how to end the conflict in Vietnam has only served to emphasize what have for many years impressed us as the dangers which can arise from the exclusion of a major world power from international councils.

We recognize that the absence of mainland China from the United Nations is due, at least in part, to the attitude of the Chinese themselves, who have seemed to relish their self-imposed isolation. But we do not believe that the international community could afford in the long run to encourage that isolation. Without in any way losing sight of the very real difficulties which lie in the way of bringing Peking's representatives into the United Nations, we believe that it is wrong to continue the essentially negative policy which has marked United Nations discussions of this fundamental problem for many years.

It was for this reason that I proposed to the General Assembly last November what I should call an interim solution to the Chinese representation issue. I told the Assembly that I thought that we must take into account the realities of the political situation in the Far East, and that, until such time as the Taiwan Government and the Peking Government could come to some settlement of their jurisdictional claims, both governments should be represented at the United Nations. I also suggested that we might further face up to the realities by offering Peking the permanent seat on the Security Council.

I made these suggestions not with the idea that they would gain immediate acceptance but rather in the hope of opening up new avenues in the hitherto deadlocked situation. Depending on developments inside China, I should hope that further progress could be made towards a reasonable and equitable solution of this long-standing problem.

Although it is in Asia that the most immediate threats to world peace are to be found at the present time, we must not lose sight of the continuing need to find a more lasting basis for peace in Europe. Both the United States and Canada, which owe their origins and so much of their civilization to Europe, must be intimately concerned with the evolution of the situation there.

Canada, even more than the United States, has maintained its ties with Europe, particularly through our two founding countries, Britain and France. Canada was involved from the beginning in the two great wars in Europe, and it was only natural that Canada should also be involved from the beginning in NATO, the first collective defence effort in Europe in peacetime.

There have, of course, been great changes in Europe since the North Atlantic Treaty came into being 18 years ago. In part owing to the generosity and imagination of the United States, the countries of Western Europe have restored their war-torn economies and have achieved a new prosperity, stability and self-confidence. With increasing prosperity, they have been able to assume an increasing share of the responsibility for their own defence; we welcome this trend, and hope it will continue. Meanwhile, largely owing to the success of NATO itself, the threat of military aggression in Europe has receded and the chances of restoring more normal relations between Eastern and Western Europe have much improved.