

not itself decide the question of Chinese representation in the United Nations which can only be decided by the United Nations itself. The most any such meeting could do would be to express a view on this subject. And I do not see any reason why the members, at such a meeting, should not do this if they so desired. Such a conference might, in effect, be considered almost as taking the place or performing the function which has now been assigned to the Assembly's Committee on Chinese Representation which was set up at the beginning of the session and which is still under instruction to report to the General Assembly.

In the discussions at the Conference of Far Eastern problems, I would suggest that any government especially concerned with a particular problem should be invited to participate during that part of the discussion.

Then I would suggest, as part of this idea, that the recommendation in question -- if it ever became a recommendation -- should be transmitted by the Political Committee to the Central People's Government at once, with an indication that a reply would be required within a very brief period indeed -- perhaps forty-eight hours after its receipt in Peking -- in order that the Committee might know whether it would be possible to proceed with arrangements for convening the conference on the date proposed.

My delegation would have been glad if consideration could have been given to some such procedure as that suggested above. We felt that it would not have involved us in prolonged discussions, and that if it had been unacceptable to Peking -- and we would know that within a few hours -- we could then have proceeded to condemnatory action, with a far greater chance for a united front than seems to be the case at present.

It was with a view to ascertaining whether the above procedure would be worth considering that my Prime Minister, on receipt of the Chinese reply of January 17, suggested to the Prime Minister of India, with whom he had been in consultation on these matters during and following the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London, that certain questions might be addressed to the Peking Government, with a view to clearing up, if possible, some of the ambiguous points in their reply. If Canada had had its own representative in Peking, we would, of course, have been in a position to ask these questions ourselves. As this was not the case, we relied on the assistance and co-operation of the Indian and United Kingdom Governments, and we are grateful to them for that co-operation.

Meanwhile, we already have two resolutions before us. One, sponsored by the twelve Asian States, proposes a procedure by which the intentions of the Chinese could be finally clarified and steps taken toward a settlement. Though I and my delegation approve of the objective of this resolution, I regret that we cannot regard the procedure suggested in it as the best method of reaching that objective. The terms of reference of the conference proposed in the Asian draft resolution are very wide and, as we understand them, do not specifically embody the conception of an orderly sequence of events, beginning