

Chinese Representation in the United Nations

A STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, NOVEMBER 17, 1965.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY has again considered the issue of Chinese representation. Once again it has voted not to seat representatives of the Government of Communist China in the United Nations at the price of expelling the representatives of the Government of the Republic of China. Canada would have welcomed the opportunity to see Communist China take a seat in the world organization had Peking made this possible. If that has not yet happened, it is because Peking itself has set a price on participation which is unacceptable. In the view of the Canadian Government it is not for the United Nations to accommodate itself to the views of a single nation, however powerful or populous. It is for Communist China to make that accommodation. Much to the regret of the Canadian Government, there is no present evidence that she is ready to do so.

Background to Vote

This year's vote was taken against a background of growing disquiet over the purposes and policies of the Government of Communist China. There is concern in many countries of Africa and Asia about the circumstances in which Communist China forced the postponement of an Afro-Asian Conference which it concluded it could not dominate. There is concern over the attitude of Communist China towards the recent unsettling events in Indonesia. There is concern over the declared opposition of the Government of Communist China to any kind of negotiated solution of the situation in Vietnam. And there is also concern over the doctrine of armed revolution which has only recently been reaffirmed by the Government of Communist China and from which no government, whatever its status, is apparently immune.

These actions and attitudes on the part of Communist China have led some countries to conclude that it does not meet the qualifications of membership in the United Nations. The opposition of these countries has been reinforced by the attitude of the Government of Communist China itself, which has attacked and sought to discredit the United Nations to the point of urging the creation of a rival world organization. Other countries, however, feel that the course of recent developments in the policies of the Peking Government makes it all the more necessary to bring representatives of that Government into some form of relation with the international community as represented by the United Nations and its organs.

As far as Canada is concerned, we have consistently supported the principle of universality in the United Nations. We supported that principle ten years ago,