



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEBATE:** The Prime Minister, Mr. Louis S. St. Laurent, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, made policy statements at the outset of the annual Parliamentary debate on external affairs which opened in the House of Commons on March 25.

Mr. St. Laurent's statement concerning mainly the Government of China summed up Canadian policy in these words; "The policy of the Canadian Government at the present time is to keep an open mind as to whether or not at any time, under any conditions which may develop in the future, there should be recognition of the Government which at that time will exist as a matter of fact in China."

Mr. Pearson touched on the Berlin Conference, E.D.C., the coming Geneva Conference, atomic control and NATO but dealt most extensively with United States defence strategy. He said that within the last few weeks "some very important and reassuring clarifications had been made in Washington. . . . I know that personally I feel better after having heard some of these statements."

Spokesmen for the opposition parties in the House of Commons followed immediately, Mr. J.G. Diefenbaker for the Official Opposition, the Progressive Conservatives, Mr. M.J. Coldwell, Leader of the C.C.F. Party and Mr. Solon E. Low, Leader of the Social Credit Party, and the debate continued, with the Progressive Conservative Leader, Mr. George A. Drew, speaking on March 26.

The Prime Minister said, in part:

"Under present conditions I do not see any reason why we should consider diplomatic recognition of China. But those conditions may change and I think it would be most unfortunate . . . to tie ourselves down by declarations and commitments that would make it impossible for us at any time to come to the conclusion that even the diplomatic recognition of China would not be helpful to peace and security in the world.

"We are not in that position at the present time, and when I said there was no consideration being given by the Government to that kind of recognition at this time I did not mean, as I saw suggested in at least one newspaper, that it was just something that had not yet come officially before the Cabinet as a Cabinet. I meant that I was not thinking of it and I did not know of any of my colleagues who were thinking in terms of diplomatic recognition of China under present conditions. But I felt that none of us were thinking in terms that would make it impossible for us to make the right kind of a decision when, under changed circumstances, a decision had to be made.

"Of course, that decision would have to be made in such a manner as would not involve flouting the opinion of our allies. We have many allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and we have others whom we can, I think, regard as allies, in the United Nations. It would be something of world concern. I