

*External Affairs*

reference today. With regard to the admission of China to the UN, or the recognition of China, I think it is well to look back to what was said by me in the debate in January as to the viewpoint of the Progressive Conservative party. I read from page 1595 of *Hansard* where I said, referring to China:

Is she to be recognized? Certainly recognition will be hard to justify, however much it may appeal legally to students of international law, so long as the people's government continues its program of virtual annexation of North Korea, supplying arms in Indo-China and apparently doing everything it can to spread communism and disruption in other parts of Asia. While it is impossible to say with finality that China should never be recognized, a good case has not been made for recognition. I believe that if Britain and France had had before them in 1949 the situation that we have today, and the knowledge of events that have since taken place, recognition of China would, to say the least, have been delayed.

Personally I believe that we should not recognize China at this time. To say that we will never recognize her is to look too far into the future . . . In 1945 or 1946 we might have said that we would never admit Japan to friendship, and that Germany would never again be welcomed back into the family of nations. Events change thinking, but with the world situation what it is I believe that Canada would take a retrograde step should the government feel constrained to recognize China at this time.

That was our attitude then; that is our attitude on this problem now.

Many Canadians were concerned by reports of statements the Prime Minister was presumed to have made on the question of recognition on his world tour. Those words of his, as reported, were incapable of any other interpretation than that given to them by Canadians generally.

Referring to a press report, I find this:

"We are going to have to admit the present government of China is the government the people want."

Many Canadians took strong objection to that statement. The Prime Minister today has rather altered the interpretation of his remarks on recognition of Red China as spoken by him on two or three occasions during his trip. If his predecessor were in office, I presume, applying the words used on another occasion, the Prime Minister's stand today would be: Not necessarily recognition, but recognition if necessary.

I say to the Prime Minister, that in the words he was reported to have said he could not but have given encouragement to the forces in Red China. The expression of the hope that in the future recognition would be inevitable could not but have the effect of arousing hopes in the hearts and removing the fears of those in control in Red China that whatever their further aggressive action might be that ultimate recognition would be given.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Those words could not have failed to be effective in arousing hopes in Red China that, however unfair and unjust her aggression has been—and is—in Indo-China and elsewhere, ultimately recognition would be granted. And we cannot separate recognition from admission to the United Nations. For, after all, once recognition by Canada takes place, according to the juridical principles of international law, Red China will then be in a position where she will be able to demand admission into the United Nations, or at least anticipate the support of Canada for admission.

My belief is that no international thug should be allowed to shoot its way into the United Nations. Apparently, today the Prime Minister now has taken a stand that is more generally in line with the view that we in the official opposition have taken in the past and adhere to still. No one can say that never will any eventuality take place. As the Prime Minister said, every possibility must be exhausted to the end that peace be achieved. But certainly such possibilities should not contemplate anything in the nature of raising hopes in the hearts of an aggressor nation like China that ultimately out of victory may come admission to the United Nations.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) will deal with this question at greater length when he speaks in this debate. But the views that I expressed in a previous debate on behalf of this party in respect of the recognition of China have not changed, namely that we do not believe there is any case made out for the recognition of China. As future events occur, they will be dealt with as occasion arises. Sufficient unto the day—and we do not intend to hold out any hope to Red China that at some time in the future we will support recognition.

We believe that in a changing world there is no justification for dealing with future eventualities which may be years ahead of conditions prevailing now. We believe that no recognition should be considered, much less contemplated, by the Canadian people now.

I shall now refer to various matters raised by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I shall deal with them in the order in which he did as closely as I could follow them. Before doing so I wish to make reference to the Prime Minister's trip. I did hope that he would have dealt with the eastern situation; and I would hope that at an early date he will place before parliament his considered opinions regarding eastern questions in general rather than restricting his remarks to the question of the recognition of China.