

exist between Canada and the millions of Asians living on the Chinese mainland. In view of the lively interest that is shown by the Canadian people in the future of our relations with the Chinese people, I feel sure that the House will expect me on this occasion to discuss in some detail the Government's attitude toward the recognition of the government of the Chinese People's Republic. As this House knows this Government as did the government which we succeeded, has been giving continued consideration to the advisability or otherwise of extending recognition to the Chinese Communist Government. We are aware of the arguments in favour of such a step. It seems to me, however, that in discussing this question we must make a clear distinction between the legal factors which apply when Canada extends recognition to any new government, and the national and international considerations.

Let me deal with the legal aspects of the question first. It is true that recognition is usually extended to a government when that government exercises effective control over the territory of the country concerned, and when that government has a reasonable prospect of stability. Then, there is a second legal factor. The government of that country should indicate its willingness to assume international obligations inherited from its predecessor. So far as China is concerned, there is some doubt about the Peking Government's willingness to assume the obligations and responsibilities of its predecessor. The Peking Government made known, in September, 1949, that it would in effect, regard as binding only those obligations which it considered to be in its own interest. There is little doubt, however, that the Peking Government commands the obedience of the bulk of the population. It must be admitted, therefore, that most of the legal requirements for recognition have been fulfilled by the government of the People's Republic. In any event, I say this: the Peking Government has fulfilled its obligation to at least the same extent as some governments which we do recognize now, and about whose political systems we have the same kind of reservations.

I have just mentioned the legal factors, the legal conditions for recognition. This does not mean however, that any government which has fulfilled these legal requirements is automatically entitled to recognition. This is a decision that should only be taken on the basis of national and international interests. It is to such considerations that I now address myself. It is stated that if Canada recognized China, greater opportunities for trading with the Chinese mainland would be created. There would almost inevitably follow an era of renewed friendly relations with that country. By this argument diplomatic recognition is made the key to trading relations with China. I must say, however, that I know of nothing to suggest that recognition would bring increased trade.