

Mr. STICK: Did Mr. Dulles say it was based on military reports?

Mr. FLEMING: My question was suggested by an answer made by Mr. Pearson to Mr. Garland concerning the agenda at the Geneva Conference. Mr. Pearson said there were only two things on the formal agenda, mainly Korea and Indo-China. Of course there might be opportunities for other discussions. Now China itself or the position of the Chinese government is not, I take it, on the formal agenda?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: No, not at all.

Mr. FLEMING: So that if this vexed question of recognition arises it would only be in the course of pour parlars that might accompany the formal conference?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: That is only where it could arise and I have no reason to believe it will arise. It might be suggested that because the Chinese government will have a delegation there including their foreign minister, I suppose—it has been suggested that we might take advantage of their presence and try to get in touch with them and protest about the treatment of Canadians under their regime in China. It might be possible to do that, but it might also be probable that the Chinese government would say, if you want to bring these matters up you had better send a diplomatic representative to Peking because we are not recognized here and we do not want to talk about it.

Mr. FLEMING: What would be your answer? I do not propose to take the question into hypothetical realms, but I think this is a fair question. Granted that this matter could conceivably be broached in informal discussion, what would be the position or what will be the instructions to the Canadian delegation in reference to (a) efforts to raise it, and (b) discussing it in informal conference if it should be raised by some other government?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: That is a very difficult question to answer because there are so many considerations involved. For instance, and this is pure hypothesis, if the United States, United Kingdom and French foreign ministers felt it would be proper for the Chinese communist government to introduce in this discussion the question of recognition as bearing on a Korean political settlement, that would be one question.

Mr. FLEMING: You mean in the formal conference?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: If the three big powers agreed it would be appropriate for the Chinese to do that in the formal conference, that would be one question; if the three governments agreed, which I assure you I think is a very hypothetical question.

Mr. FLEMING: I cannot imagine the United States doing that!

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: The United States view in this particular matter is to be respected and agreement of this kind would require United States participation. Then there are other ways it might be done; it might be that three foreign ministers of the western powers may discuss this informally with the people on the other side, but I have no reason in the world to think that is going to happen. In view of all the things that might conceivably happen I think it is difficult for me to give any opinion as to what the Canadian attitude would be.

Mr. KNOWLES: Under all circumstances?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Under all circumstances, yes. We are not going there to discuss the recognition of communist China. Nor have I at the present time any reason to believe that the subject will come before the conference, but I cannot say it will not, because I do not know. If it came formally before the conference as a result of the decision of those who called the conference, we would have to decide what we would do in these circumstances. The Canadian delegation in the first place would refer the matter back to Ottawa.