

effect that failure will have on our obligations in the commission.

This work in Indochina is arduous and difficult, as I have said, and it imposes a heavy burden on the armed forces of our country and upon the Department of External Affairs. We are most anxious to complete it at the earliest possible date. Nevertheless we shall not abandon that work so long as we are convinced that it is making an important contribution to peace.

Recognition of Communist China

I should also say a word about a problem which is very much in our mind these days, namely that of the legal recognition of the communist Chinese Government in Peking. One of the most difficult questions which face this country and many other countries is that of determining our relations with the two rival and bitterly hostile governments of China. It is not as simple an issue to decide as some seem to think. There is more than one factor to take into account before any decisions can wisely be taken. Such a decision requires a careful balancing of many national and international factors, moral, political and economic.

Some time ago—indeed, last summer—I expressed the view that we should have another look at this question in the light of the cessation of hostilities in Korea and in Indochina, in the light of the situation in and around the Formosa straits and in the light of the recent policy of the Peking Government in so far as it is possible to determine it. We have made this re-examination and we feel that the careful policy we have been following, and are still following, has been the right one; rejecting on the one hand immediate diplomatic recognition but rejecting on the other hand the view that a communist regime in Peking can never be recognized as the Government of China.

The arguments for and against recognition of this government have more than once been discussed, and in detail, in this House, and I do not intend to repeat them at this time. I wish merely to state as briefly as possible the considerations which determine our policy as a government in this matter.

The first consideration is the interest of our country, remembering that the paramount interest of us all is international peace and security. In addition, we are obliged to give consideration to the interests and views of our friends and allies, some of whom are even more directly involved than are we in the consequences of diplomatic recognition. It is also important not to confuse recognition with approval. There are, of course,