

rejected the idea advanced by Chou-en-Lai for a conference on the Indo-chinese elections?

Mr. Lloyd: One of the jobs which I inherited has been co-chairman with Mr. Molotov of the Geneva conference. The position is that we have received a communication; that is known, and we are obtaining the views of the other governments concerned. I think it would be premature for me to announce any United Kingdom decision on the matter until we obtain the views of the other people. Let me make it clear that it is our policy to sustain the 1954 agreement.

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Question: Is your government going ahead with plans for the visit to the United Kingdom by Premier Bulganin and Mr. Khrushchev following their interesting tour of the Far East and the remarks that they made?

Mr. Eden: The invitation stands.

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Question: Yesterday you mentioned that the Commonwealth conference may take place some place else. Would that mean it may take place in Ottawa or some other Commonwealth country?

Mr. Eden: Yes, I am glad you have taken that up. I was hoping somebody would. I hope I did not say anything to embarrass anybody. The word I used was "revolve". I used it deliberately because I would have thought there would be a good deal to be said for a Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meeting taking place occasionally in other capitals than London. Ottawa obviously has a very high claim but there are others, too, to which in due course we may go. I do not mean they are never coming to London because that would be bad indeed, but just occasionally to move around I think brings a new atmosphere, a new sense of the worldwide nature of this organization to which we all belong, the different atmospheres in which it works; that is what I really had in mind.

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Question: Do you feel it has been helpful to the West, the United Kingdom recognition of communist China, under present conditions? Is it a good thing to have a British representative in Peking?

Mr. Eden: That is a thing about which many people could have different points of view. For quite a while our representatives in Peking had practically no contacts with communist China. In fact, the position was we recognized Peking and they did not recognize us—at least, not so you would notice. That was the position for a while. Then, after the Geneva conference there have been more contacts which have certainly been useful, and I think not only useful to us. But my only word on that is that I do think it is a matter of opinion and judgment by everybody, and the best of friends can disagree about it or have different views. Generally speaking, as I say, our recognition is never based, as some people seem to think, on approval or disapproval—our recognition of foreign countries. It is based on what we think is a recognition of fact.

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Question: With regard to Palestine, there was this suggestion while you were in Washington that Canada might contribute observers to act as sort of police officers. If Canada does do that, how might that prejudice the position of General Burns who is a Canadian serving for the United Nations, and how do you balance, so to speak, General Burns against a possible contribution of Canadians to the truce team there?