

essentially unaltered since that time. The Japanese have to make their peace with the neighbours, the people she wronged, and with whom she will have to live in the future. The Canadian government believes that the settlement with Japan, which must inevitably be of great consequence to all Pacific and Asian nations, should be one that embodies the views of all the countries particularly interested, which includes Canada, and should be the product of the work of a representative conference.

There are of course very great difficulties to be overcome in convening such a conference, and one of the greatest of them is the emergence of a communist government in China and the effect of this on Japan. We also recognize of course the heavy responsibility that the United States bears in this matter. Nevertheless I think there may be greater dangers in an indefinite postponement of this peace conference, than in making another effort to push forward with it.

This brings me to the present situation in China, a matter which is of course of very great interest, I am sure, to all hon. members. I do not try to minimize the gravity or the magnitude of the recent events in China. A small revolutionary party there, espousing an alien philosophy, looking to the Soviet Union as the author and interpreter of that philosophy and as a guide in international relations, has seized military and governmental power throughout the greater part of China. It has done so, I believe, by riding in on the crest of a wave of a peasant revolt begun more than a hundred years ago in the great Tai-ping rebellion; by building a tough peasant army during the war of resistance to Japan; by exploiting the failures of the national government and by shrewd political manoeuvring in the Chinese manner. The "Central Government of the People's Republic of China", as it is called, was proclaimed in Peking on October 1, 1949. Other co-operating parties and individuals are represented in that government, but effective control is held by the Chinese communist party. The new regime has invited recognition from foreign governments on a basis of equality, friendship, respect for territorial integrity and withdrawal of recognition from the national government. The Soviet government and its satellites promptly accorded recognition on this basis. No other state has yet done so.

What should be our attitude in the face of these profound changes in China? Well, it is not an easy matter to talk about. One must speak of it with a certain amount of hesitation and with I think reservation, as conditions change, and may change again, quickly in that part of the world. But I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the first thing we should do is to try to understand what has happened. We must understand that today China is under the control of a communist party, which professes Marxist-Leninism as its social philosophy, and which has patterned its government on that of the new "popular democracies" of eastern Europe. It will set about, I assume, the introduction in China as soon as it can, of what it will call socialism. This kind of socialism will not be, however, the liberal democratic socialism of western tradition, but the kind called for in communist doctrine.

China, as the greatest eastern country to come under communist control, has become significant as a testing ground for the adaptation of Marxist-Leninist principles to the Asian scene and as a base for further pressures against the rest of Asia. Of course we in Canada reject completely the Marxist-Leninist principles espoused by the Chinese communists, but we cannot reject the fact of China and its 450 million people. For seventy-five years Canadians have been in direct contact with the Chinese people. We respect their ancient and humanitarian culture. We admire the cheerful industry of the Chinese peasant. We accept the Chinese as good neighbours across the Pacific with whom we would live on terms of friendship and respect. We are interested in the welfare of the Chinese people as an end in itself and not as a means to somebody else's end. We know that the problems and sorrows of China cannot be confined within the borders of that ancient land.

There is also the continuing friendship by the people of Canada for the people of China which has been expressed in a variety of ways for so many years. We have been asked to recognize the new communist government in Peking which does in fact control a large part of that country. Recognition, of course, does not