

most efficient army; and a third group in west China in Szechwan province where there are probably a couple of hundred Canadians. There has been almost complete collapse of the government positions in the northwest.

Now, I think the question that we may well ask ourselves in these circumstances is what becomes of the Canadians in the communist territories of China or those territories which are threatened with being overrun by the communist forces. Naturally, each one of the Canadians who saw this lengthening and darkening shadow coming had to weigh for himself what his purposes were in China. I think it is not for a government official to pass a pronouncement of any kind on the objects of Canadians there. Each one had to make his own decision. A great number of missionaries who probably constitute three quarters of the Canadians in China, both Protestant and Roman Catholic missionaries, decided they would stay on; that they had certain long-standing obligations to the people in the territories where they were working which they did not wish to pass up. And they have stayed on to make an effort at least to continue with their work. Whether or not they will be permitted to do so by the new authorities I think they and we will have to see as the months progress. A few Canadian businessmen also remained on in Shanghai, or those who had investments of one kind or another, in the hope that in due course it would be possible to resume trade and normal relations between Canada and China.

I think it would be a natural question to ask what the government is able to do for those people. We maintain an Embassy in Nanking and a Consulate-General in Shanghai. Well, in the first place the communist authorities do not recognize the position of our Embassy in Nanking or the position of any consular officers of powers which have not recognized their so-called Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, which was set up in Peking on the first of October. We have constantly tried to impress upon the Chinese, whoever the local authorities are, that we feel that our consular officials should be permitted to carry on their functions, their internationally recognized functions, of giving assistance and protection to Canadians there. Their position is not now officially recognized by the local communist authorities, but I feel reasonably confident that having those officials there even in an unrecognized capacity has a certain steadying effect on Canadians there. Our Ambassador has been in communication with all of those Canadians who have kept their addresses up to date with our Embassy and Consulate-General in Shanghai, but I think we should also remember here when going over the numbers of Canadians in China that it is not compulsory for any Canadian abroad anywhere to register. There is no law or anything else that requires a man to register at his consular office except if he wishes to record a birth or something of that kind. In those circumstances we can never be certain, particularly at times when mails are most uncertain, whether we have all of the names of the people who may be in the areas overrun or threatened by the communists. Perhaps that is sufficient as a preliminary statement.

*By Mr. Graydon:*

Q. Might I ask Mr. Menzies one question with which a great many people are concerned. I understand that the West China Union University of the United Church which I understand is at Cheng Tu is recognized by all as doing a wonderful piece of work particularly with respect to their medical school and hospitalization there. I think someone today mentioned there was something like two hundred and fifty Canadians in that general territory. Have you any information, Mr. Menzies, as to the possibilities of their carrying on that work after the communists gain control if they do succeed in gaining control?—A. Well it is certainly a decision for the missionaries themselves to make. There are two or three general observations that can be made. The first is that the Canadian missionaries, like other missionaries out there, whether