

Canada would welcome the opportunity to see Communist China take a seat in the United Nations. I said so last fall. In the General Assembly, I said as well:

"... I hope that as events in Asia unfold, it may prove possible in the interests of this organization, and of mankind, to make progress toward what the Secretary-General in his annual report has described as the imperative need for the United Nations to achieve universality of membership as soon as possible."

But how to achieve this is another problem. Here, too, alternative policies are, of course, possible. But they are accompanied by similarly uncomfortable facts.

Those, for example, who would have us vote for the resolution which has until now been presented on this subject must accept the fact that it calls not only for the seating of Communist Chinese representatives but also for the denial of any status in the United Nations to representatives of over 12 million people on the island of Taiwan. Those who wish to be realistic and would give formal consecration to what they see as a situation of fact, by promoting a so-called "two Chinas" solution to this dilemma, must face the fact that it is no realistic solution at all so long as both governments which lay claim to China reject it indignantly.

In view of the dilemmas I have noted, therefore, we have been forced to the conclusion that, until now, no acceptable means of bringing Communist China into the United Nations has been offered or, indeed, has seemed possible. The Canadian Government has long advocated and striven to encourage the establishment of mutually beneficial contacts between Communist China and Canada, as well as with the rest of the international community. It has not so far seen it possible to establish relations of diplomatic recognition with the government of that country. At this particular juncture I cannot say what the immediate future holds. The matter is, however, very much on our minds.

The weighing of alternatives on these questions must continue and informed public debate on them is to be welcomed. But, while such study and discussion goes on, we still continue to take those practical steps which are possible to reduce the dangers which must inevitably arise from the continued isolation, whether self-imposed or not, of a country of the size and potential power of Communist China. Canada has sought to do its part in promoting the contacts which may in the long run reduce that isolation. We are glad that in extensive trade transactions the two countries have found mutual benefit. Canadians welcome signs that the United States, in particular, is moving also towards greater contact. It is to be hoped that Communist China will recognize the value of engaging in such contacts.

In a question as difficult as that of China's present and eventual place in the world, the modest beginnings involved in discussions of a few routine matters can develop the mutual knowledge and the reciprocal respect on which peace must eventually rest.