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CHINESE REPRESENTATION AT THE UN

The following is a partial text of an address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, at the twenty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, on November 23, 1966:

The issue of Chinese representation in the UN is again before us. It has been before us in one form or another for 16 years. In spite of all our best efforts, the UN has not yet been able to discover a way out of the impasse in which it finds itself today.

One reason why better progress has not been made is that the options we have had before us do not reflect the real nature of the problem. The real nature of the problem is that the China of today is not the China of 1945.

UNACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES

One of the options which has been before us would have us ignore changes that have taken place altogether. It would have us act as if the People's Republic of China did not exist. It would have us continue to exclude from our deliberations and from the whole framework of internal co-operation a government which has the capacity to influence the shape of world affairs for good or for ill.

The other option also asks us to close our eyes to a part of the reality of the Chinese situation. It would have us do so by extinguishing, for all practical purposes, the international personality of a government which controls the destiny of some 12 million people, a greater population than that of three-fifths of the member states of this organization. That is why these options have not carried us forward. They do not take account of fundamental

changes which have occurred in China since the UN was established. They do not point to a rational solution of the problem. They do not point to a solution which is in accord with that common interest which should be the basis of a world organization.

I do not think we shall ever be able to resolve this question on a reasonable basis so long as we proceed from the narrow concept of a contest of votes. If we are to proceed in the spirit of the Charter, any solution should be sought in terms not of contest but of consensus.

Only by agreement among ourselves on a way out of the dilemma, followed by negotiated acceptance of a reasonable solution by the parties concerned, can we hope to reach any just and satisfactory outcome. I do not suggest that this can be an easy process or that what we in Canada have been proposing in our consultations is a short-cut to a solution. There are no short-cuts which do not violate both common sense and the spirit of the Charter. What I do suggest is that, unless we are to throw up our hands and turn away from our responsibilities, a start must be made in an effort to find a consensus on this issue.

SEARCH FOR CONSTRUCTIVE OPTION

What we have to decide at this point in time is this: are we content once more to choose — or refuse to choose — between a set of unsatisfactory options, or should we devote our full efforts and energies to a search for a constructive alternative?

We cannot afford to shelve this issue for very much longer if the realities of a diverse world are to find effective expression in the UN. I also want to make it clear that the Canadian Government, for its