

But I can see a further drawback to this whole procedure of asking questions at this stage. I would submit that the real responsibility of any committee we appoint is to devise a basis on which this Assembly would consider it reasonable for the people of China to be represented in our midst. The time for asking questions is after, not before, such a basis has been devised. The real responsibility which is ours is to formulate proposals which can be put to the parties in full confidence that they represent a reasonable approach to this issue. We can commend our proposals to the parties but we cannot compel their acceptance. At the very least, however, we should have absolved ourselves of the responsibility for perpetuating a situation which lacks the elements of common sense.

In providing guide-lines to an appropriate solution, the proposal before us refers to "the existing situation and political realities of the area".

What are these realities? Among the most important are the fundamental changes which have taken place since the founding of the UN. When the Government of the Republic of China signed the UN Charter, the island of Taiwan was under the control of the Government of Japan. By 1949, a revolutionary upheaval on the mainland of China resulted in the removal of the Nationalist Chinese Government to Taipei and the establishment of a Government of the People's Republic of China in Peking. The real situation since then has been, and continues to be, that we have two governments exercising control over two areas of territory each claiming to be the government entitled to the Chinese seat in the UN.

One of these is the Government of the Republic of China, with which Canada has had long and close diplomatic relations. This Government has been a member in good standing of this Assembly and its subsidiary bodies ever since the founding of the UN. It controls a territory whose economic development can serve as a blueprint for progress in other developing countries. Its representatives have played an important part in the economic and social organs of the UN and in programmes which are designed to raise the standards of living throughout the developing world.

The other Government, the Government of the People's Republic of China, which controls a far greater area and a far greater population, is not represented here and never has been. This is a situation we deplore, both because we firmly believe in the principle of universality and because we believe that lasting solutions to certain important problems facing the world community today cannot be found without the participation of the Government of Peking.

The Canadian Government, for its part, has consistently, both by its statements and by its actions, done whatever it could to encourage mutually-advantageous contacts between Canada and continental China and, for that matter, between it and the rest of the international community. This position should not, of course, be considered by anyone to involve any endorsement of the policies or ideology of the Peking regime.