

*External Affairs*

It is for these reasons that it is the view of this government that we must go carefully. We should take the initiative in limited fields—in fields of trade and in other ways to which I have referred—and we should take every opportunity that presents itself to overcome the causes of discord between the west and Peking China. We must be patient. We should not be hasty. Otherwise we may undo the good work that has already been accomplished in laying the basis for progress toward the goal of removing the occasions for misunderstanding now existing between Canada and communist China.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Vancouver East emphasized in his speech the considerations that had been raised either before the office or the general assembly of the United Nations Organization. In fact, during the thirteenth session, this important matter was discussed in two distinct places, first before the office, a body whose function is to assist at all times the chairman of the general assembly. In fact that office, before the regular meetings of the general assembly, prepares the agenda by deciding what matters are to be raised and discussed by the Assembly. The agenda submitted for the first meeting of the thirteenth session of the general assembly, brought that very question before the 81 members of the United Nations Organization. It was not a question of discussing the matter on its merits, nor of going into the pros and cons of recognition of the Chinese People's Republic; the issue was whether, during the thirteenth session, the question would be discussed during its sittings. Now the president, Dr. Malik, right at the outset of that sitting of the 13th session, warned delegates of the countries which had to take part in the proceedings that they had to abide by the procedure instead of dealing with the question on its merits, since the issue was merely whether the question was to be discussed. But during the course of the debate some countries started to discuss the recognition of communist China, and Dr. Malik, perhaps to allow various countries which were anxious to make a clean breast of it allowed them to discuss the question at length on its merits. Thus, various countries voiced their opinion on the matter. And a few minutes ago, while listening to the remarks made by the hon. member for Vancouver East, I realized that the gist of his statement was nothing but an echo of the arguments set forth by Mr. Gromyko at the 13th general assembly and of the arguments exploited by communist countries which are Moscow's satellites and by countries which have a sympathetic consideration for Moscow and communist China. It is odd how far the human mind can indulge in distortions and contrive all kinds of formulas and arguments to justify a situation and to reach a conclusion.

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to review briefly some other arguments which no doubt the hon. member for Vancouver East has forgotten. Bulgaria raises a problem of international law.

Mind you, Mr. Speaker, this is a subtle argument. Apparently, it is the state, as such, and not the government, which answers for the rights and duties toward the country. Now in 1945, when as a result of the treaties of Potsdam, the islands of Taiwan went back to China. They were handed to the Chinese state and not to the Chinese government. If since 1945, the Chinese government has changed, Taiwan still belongs to the Chinese state. According to the Bulgarian concept it would therefore be wrong to claim that Peking is now guilty of aggression by its actions with regard to Taiwan. And if Peiping is not being aggressive, it would represent the Chinese people and deserve to sit as such at the U.N.

According to Rumania, during the same debate, American policy contained a wrong principle, i.e.: What is not convenient for the U.S., is not convenient for the U.N. If Washington were to recognize Peking, it would imply its admission to the United Nations. Now, according to the Rumanian representative, Washington is not recognizing Peking because recognition would endanger American policies in the Far East.

Russia in its turn is afraid that if Peking is kept away, the universal character of the United Nations would be impaired, as the Chinese continent has a population of 600 million people, whereas Chiang Kai-shek only rules over 10 million subjects. The Soviet thesis sees an increase of prestige for the United Nations, if Peking were accepted in this organization.

Another country brought another facet into the argument. Cambodia claims that the Chinese people love their communist government, that they are proud of their new life and their new industrial and economic development.

Such arguments seem almost identical to the remarks of the hon. member for Vancouver East.

And Cambodia goes on saying that the Chinese people certainly do not seem to wish ever to return to Chiang Kai-shek's rule.

As far as Burma is concerned, it favours discussion, in the General Assembly, of Peking's admission to the United Nations, in order to avoid war. The United Nations, it says, were created to avoid the meeting of those nations on the battlefields. Now, the position seems so explosive in that area of the Far East, that it becomes urgent to solve it before it is too late.