

RESOLUTIONS AND APPEAL
OF THE
CONFERENCE OF ASIAN COUNTRIES

New Delhi, April 10, 1955

Supplement to **"People's China"**

May 1, 1955

Over two hundred delegates and observers from sixteen countries: Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, Egypt, India, Japan, Jordan, the Korean Democratic People's Republic, Lebanon, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Syria, the Soviet Union and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam attended the conference of the Asian peoples for peace which was held in New Delhi from April 6 to April 10. The conference discussed various problems concerning the defence of peace in Asia and the world, and on April 10 adopted resolutions on political, cultural, scientific, economic and social questions and issued an appeal calling on those of different religious faiths in Asian countries to co-operate for peace.

In the following pages we publish the full texts of the resolutions and the appeal.

—Editor

RESOLUTIONS ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS

(1). Prohibition and Control of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The international atmosphere is being continuously poisoned by threats of mass destruction and use of nuclear weapons against the peoples. Eminent scientists, leading public figures, religious leaders the world over have joined in mounting protest against the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

We support all the campaigns launched in various countries to channelize public protest against these weapons and to make the people fully conscious of their effects.

This Conference of Asian Countries demands that nuclear, bacteriological and chemical weapons must be banned.

We demand universal disarmament, prohibition and immediate cessation of experiments in nuclear weapons. We demand that the present stock-piles be dismantled and the same materials utilized for constructive and peaceful developments.

We urge strict international control for the implementation of the proposals regarding these weapons.

We call for observance of 6th August, 1955 throughout Asia, the 10th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombardment, as a day of protest against the use of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction.

(2). Danger to Asia from Military Pacts and Alliances Which Divide the Countries of Asia and from Military Bases of Foreign Countries in Asia.

This conference records its absolute and complete opposition to all military pacts and military bases in Asia, such as SEATO, the Turkey-Iraq pact and similar pacts that vitally and directly affect the Asian countries. We demand the removal of all foreign troops and bases from Asian soil.

We condemn the direct and indirect pressure being exerted on Asian countries to coerce them to join military pacts.

(3). Representation of the People's Republic of China to its Rightful Place in the U.N.O.

This conference demands that the People's Republic of China should be given a seat at the

Security Council and that of Chiang Kai-shek should be ousted; and this conference recommends that all countries should accord recognition to the People's Republic of China.

(4). Restoration of the U.N. to Its Original Purpose.

This conference regrets that the U.N. has been fast drifting away from its original purpose. We believe that unless the original spirit that animated the architects of U.N. is recaptured, this international body will never be able to discharge its duties and functions.

(5). Normalization of Diplomatic Relations Between the Countries of Asia.

This conference recommends that all Asian countries should have direct official relations with each other; that the relations that were severed during the war must be revived and normalized; that Japan must be accorded the status of full equality in the comity of nations and admitted to the United Nations and its agencies without any military obligations.

We deprecate any attempts by any country to make any stipulation, military or otherwise, prerequisite to Japan's admission to the United Nations.

(6). Racial Discrimination.

The peoples of Asia have suffered humiliating discrimination of one kind or other. We call upon the peoples of Asia and the world to put concerted pressure upon those governments which still practise racial discrimination, to end these practices, which negate the fundamental human rights.

This Conference of Asian Countries feels deeply concerned at the racial discrimination still being ruthlessly practised by the Government of South Africa against thousands of Africans who are the real sons of the soil and Indians who have been long settled in that country.

The conference warmly congratulates all those brave patriots of South Africa who are fighting for the abolition of all such discrimination and of immoral laws that perpetuate it.

(7). Colonialism and Foreign Interference in the Internal Affairs of Other Countries.

There are certain areas in Asia where colonialism or semi-colonialism still exists and where the rights of people to freedom are denied.

We fully endorse the right of all people to freedom and we condemn all attempts to deny this right and to encroach upon the sovereignty of countries.

We draw the attention of the world to the following:

1. TAIWAN.

Historically, geographically and juridically, Taiwan belongs to China, and the stationing of foreign troops on the soil of Taiwan is a flagrant infringement of the sovereignty of China.

We demand the withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces from Taiwan, the Pescadores Islands and offshore islands, and the immediate restoration thereof to China.

We demand the convening of an international conference consisting of India, Burma, Pakistan, Ceylon, Indonesia, the People's Republic of China, Great Britain, France and U.S.A. and the Soviet Union to find a peaceful solution of the problem of Taiwan.

2. INDO-CHINA.

We note with great regret that the situation in Indo-China is deteriorating because of violation by one party of the terms of the Geneva Agreement and foreign interference. We, therefore, urge that the Geneva Agreement be strictly and faithfully implemented.

We urge that there should be no foreign interference in the internal affairs of Indo-China.

We invite the powers concerned to recapture the spirit that prevailed at Geneva.

3. KOREA.

We declare that it is the inalienable right of the Korean people to settle their own destiny themselves and demand that all foreign armed forces be withdrawn from Korean soil.

We demand that an international political conference for the peaceful settlement of the Korean problem be convened at the earliest possible date, in which nations interested in such settlement should take part.

We demand that the terms of the Korean Armistice Agreement be strictly observed.

We appeal to all Korean people and the two parliaments of North and South Korea to make renewed effort for the peaceful reunification of their country.

4. GOA.

Goa, Damun and Diu, situated on the Indian mainland, are geographically, racially, linguistically, culturally and economically integral parts of India.

We congratulate the people of Dadra and Nagar Haveli for their liberation and we extend our warm sympathy to the Goan patriots for their courageous fight for freedom and their brave stand against the reign of terror started by the Portuguese authorities.

We demand that the Portuguese Government, following the example of the British and French governments, should immediately enter into negotiations with the Government of India for the peaceful transfer of those parts to the Indian Union.

5. WEST IRIAN (DUTCH GUINEA).

We demand that negotiations should be resumed immediately to return West Irian to Indonesia. We fully support the claim of the Indonesian people that West Irian forms an integral part of Indonesia.

6. OKINAWA.

We demand that Okinawa should be returned to Japan immediately.

7. MALAYA.

We demand complete freedom of the people of Malaya.

(8). Struggle of Arab Peoples for Freedom and National Independence.

1. This conference fully supports the Arab people in their struggle to preserve and regain their freedom and national independence.

2. This conference expresses its grave concern over the situation in the Middle East, which is kept at boiling point by constant outside interference. We condemn this interference, as it divides the Arab people, creates tension among them and thus endangers world peace.

3. This conference condemns the forming of military pacts and bases in Arab countries which are designed to retain imperialistic hold upon some countries and to re-impose upon those who have managed to liberate themselves. We also condemn pressure of all types that is being exerted by certain powers especially through Israel and Turkey to coerce the Arab countries to join military blocs.

4. This conference expresses its sympathies for the plight of the Arab refugees and upholds their right to return to Palestine.

This conference condemns the aggressive policy of the ruling circles of Israel; and we are confident that the problems of the Middle East can be solved on the basis of justice, equality and international rights.

(9). **Message to the Bandung Conference.**

This Conference of Asian Countries assembled here in New Delhi wishes the Bandung Conference of African-Asian countries great success.

(10). **Message to People of North Africa.**

This conference sends its deepest sympathies to the people of Kenya, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and other parts of North Africa. This conference expresses its indignation at the reign of terror and atrocities that have been let loose against the people of North Africa who are fighting for their freedom. We urge an immediate end to these barbarities. We stand for complete freedom of the peoples in North Africa.

(11). **Appeal to Asian Peoples.**

Fellow Asians, we meet in New Delhi here on the threshold of a new period of history. We had a long historic association in the past. We have witnessed periods of glory which remain our precious heritage, and memories of those days are enshrined in our hearts. Together we have also witnessed periods of stagnation, exploitation and national humiliation, dark, dismal periods. We are out of the valley now, and there are now urges and stirrings in the hearts of our millions. We are on the march, dedicated to the preservation of freedom, that hard-earned freedom which we shall never lose again. We are dedicated to peace, for peace represents the inner spirit of Asia.

(12). **On "panch shila" (Principles of Peaceful Coexistence).**

This Conference of Asian Countries fully endorses the five principles enunciated by the prime ministers of China and India and endorsed by many other countries:

- (A) Mutual respect for one another's territorial integrity and sovereignty;
- (B) Non-aggression;
- (C) Non-Interference in one another's internal affairs;
- (D) Equality and mutual benefit;
- (E) Peaceful coexistence.

This conference is fully convinced that these five principles constitute a sure foundation of mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence among nations.

This conference agrees with the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, that these principles are a challenge of Asia to the world and each country will have to give a direct answer to it.

We appeal to the peoples of all countries in Asia and the world to give their wholehearted support to these principles and secure intelligent understanding and appreciation of them.

We call upon all governments of Asia and the world to subscribe to these principles as the basis of their relations with all countries.

RESOLUTION ON CULTURAL QUESTIONS

This conference believes that without the atmosphere of full freedom no culture can develop and flourish according to its characteristic genius.

We are conscious of our common ancient cultural heritage, developed and enriched through contacts in many fields.

Our contacts were severed due to compulsion of historic circumstances.

These contacts must be revived and revitalized. We believe that we should evolve a synthesis of our Asian culture by the fusing and blending of the best in our culture with the best of other culture.

To realize these ends we recommend:

1. There should be adequate care of ancient monuments, research in great documents of ancient Asian literature. There should be publications of studies into various Asian national cultures with special reference to inter-connection between these cultures.

2. There should be special emphasis on the common factor in the cultural heritage of various Asian countries, big and small, as a means of encouraging pride in the achievements of Asian civilization and cultures.

3. There should be encouragement of renaissance of Asian cultures through revitalizing of the old cultural bonds and the promotion of new ones, through active cultural exchanges on all levels including frequent meetings of Asian peoples and transmissions of knowledge of this present-day creative activities.

4. We recommend that Asian countries should re-adapt their respective educational systems to pro-

mote common knowledge of the Asian culture, customs and habits of Asian people.

5. In order to implement the recommendations, we suggest that all the existing organizations for the promotion of friendship and cultural exchange between countries of Asia be asked to intensify the exchange. We recommend that this conference should consider the establishment of a cultural section in any organization it may decide upon to propagate its decision.

RESOLUTION ON SCIENTIFIC QUESTIONS

Resurgent Asia is taking a fruitful course of taking counsel together and planning the future on the basis of self-help and coexistence of various social systems. In this endeavour, the development of science and technology must play a vital role.

History which has been similar in many ways, has caused a number of problems of national reconstruction in Asia which are distinct from those of highly developed countries.

It is imperative, therefore, that Asian countries should co-ordinate their efforts in tackling their scientific, technical and engineering problems. Only on the basis of such collaboration and self-help can we develop our countries and make the best use of outside aid.

This co-operation can be given a practical shape by collection and distribution of information regarding scientific work being done in various countries and by arranging short and long-term exchange of various categories of scientific workers. A scientific liaison committee of representatives of Asian countries should, therefore, be set up to undertake the above-mentioned task.

Possibilities of peaceful utilization of atomic energy have further focussed world attention on this question. In this connection, the forthcoming United Nations conference in Geneva for peaceful application of atomic energy is to be heartily welcomed. It raises the hope that leading countries will agree to release valuable information about their scientific and technical experience in this field.

To develop this field and to make use of knowledge made available, Asian countries shall have special responsibility for creating an agency of their own for promoting co-operation and co-ordination in this field. By working in close co-operation and developing self-reliance, our countries shall be in the position to take the fullest benefit of atomic energy developments, while retaining scientific and economic freedom.

The factor of the utmost importance in development of atomic energy is free exchange of knowledge about this subject. Existing secrecy regulations hinder the growth and application of this science which can give immense benefits to the world. This secrecy can be removed only if the climate of greater mutual confidence in this vital field is brought about by banning of atomic and thermo-nuclear weapons.

We demand that atomic, thermo-nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction should be banned and stocks of these weapons should be dismantled and nuclear material should be utilized for peaceful developments. This conference also appeals to the governments concerned to immediately stop experimental explosions.

Given the climate of mutual confidence and free exchange of scientific knowledge in all fields, Asian co-operation can undoubtedly lead to rapid reconstruction and development in our countries. This will be the sure guarantee of lasting peace and of constantly improving social and cultural conditions in the world.

RESOLUTION ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

The economic position of Asian countries has undergone important changes since the end of the war, but in spite of the significant improvements in several respects, it is essential to take immediate and adequate action to remove stresses to which economies of Asian countries are still subjected, so as to accelerate their balanced developments to achieve a high level of economic prosperity and progress.

Full and complete resurgence of Asian countries requires that concerted measures be taken by them to remove repressive vestiges of the past and provide conditions for a rapid economic development, primarily in the interest of the people of these countries.

This Conference of Asian Countries, in view of these considerations, is of the opinion that the following measures are desirable and necessary for the purposes:—

1. Immediate lifting of the embargo on trade imposed by the U.S.A. between China and other countries and restoration of freedom of navigation of high seas in the Straits of Taiwan.

2. Shaping of national economic policies of Asian countries in order to eliminate economic

colonialism in all forms and guard against economic penetration and control.

3. Establishment of international economic relations on the basis of mutual benefit, complete equality, non-interference in one another's internal affairs and preservation and promotion of peace.

4. Removal of discrimination, restrictions and other hindrances to the free flow of trade with due regard for the vital needs of the countries concerned.

5. Formulation of policies with a view to changing the lop-sided character of trade of Asian countries and imparting greater diversity and balance to trade relations, without discriminating against any country or group of countries.

6. Rapid industrialization of Asian countries with due attention to cottage industries wherever thought necessary to suit the needs of each country as the basis for its sound economic development and promotion of inter-regional trade as a measure of mutual aid.

7. Exchange of information concerning trade and economic developments through agencies like public information bureaux, research institutions, committees for promotion of trade and chambers of commerce, etc.

RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL QUESTIONS

This conference is of the opinion that the study of conditions of women and children cannot be separated from the study of political, economic and social backgrounds of countries.

This conference believes that unless women enjoy equal status and full opportunities for active participation in all walks of public life, healthy growth of nations will be retarded.

We also believe that unless our children—the citizens of tomorrow—are provided with adequate facilities for healthy growth in congenial atmosphere, growth of our nations will be retarded and hampered.

We call upon all women of Asia to strive for elimination of colonialism and war, for it is only under conditions conducive to peace that women and children can enjoy their full rights. This conference, therefore, resolves:

1. Women should have equal legal rights, right to full franchise and shall have equal opportuni-

ties in political, educational, social, cultural and economic fields. We call upon all Asian women to see that their countries bring their laws into conformity with this principle.

2. Women protect their children from

- (a) exploitation from cheap labour;

- (b) literature that seeks to promote hatred, crime and war, particularly atomic warfare, while seeking to depreciate higher values of life;

3. Women shall help to promote consolidation of Asian rural and agricultural economies by helping the promotion of cottage industries and crafts, projects which are so essential for the stability of Asian rural economy by mutual exchange of cottage crafts on an equitable basis.

4. Women of Asian countries must unite their forces with those of women of the whole world in the common struggle for peace.

APPEAL OF RELIGIOUS DELEGATES

We followers of various religions from India, Pakistan, Burma, Korea, Viet-Nam, Japan, China, the Soviet Union and other Asian countries meet here in New Delhi as delegates to the Conference of Asian Countries to consider problems relating to peace in Asia.

All our religions teach love and respect of others, peace among nations, and abundant life for all. As religious believers, therefore, we cannot but be opposed to aggressive wars and all forms of self-aggrandizements which create enmity and which make wars possible.

We regret that in Asia today situations are being created by countries outside Asia, which have caused tension and fear throughout Asia and the world. As religious believers, we must be true to our faiths and unite for efforts to eliminate tension and to arouse public opinion of Asian people of all religions to oppose aggressive wars under whatever pretence they will be waged. We must do our utmost to stop the barbarous and inhuman tendencies

to commit crime against humanity and specially to oppose the use of atomic bombs and all other weapons of mass destruction which will bring new sufferings to the peace-loving people.

Instead, we embrace wholeheartedly the five principles of peaceful coexistence which the prime ministers of India and China enunciated for the extension of peace areas in Asia and the world. We uphold these principles because they are in accord with our deepest religious convictions and, in our view, constitute the surest road to peace. We appeal to all religious peoples of the world to give their whole-hearted support to these five principles.

We will not tolerate our religions to be polluted by reactionary forces for purposes of aggression. We shall uphold purity of our religions.

Asia is the motherland of all great religions of the world, and religious followers in Asia constitute a great force for peace. We are sure that the efforts of all peace-loving people in the world will stop war and win peace.