

CHINA
AND THE
ASIAN-AFRICAN
CONFERENCE

(DOCUMENTS)

C H I N A
AND THE
ASIAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE
(Documents)

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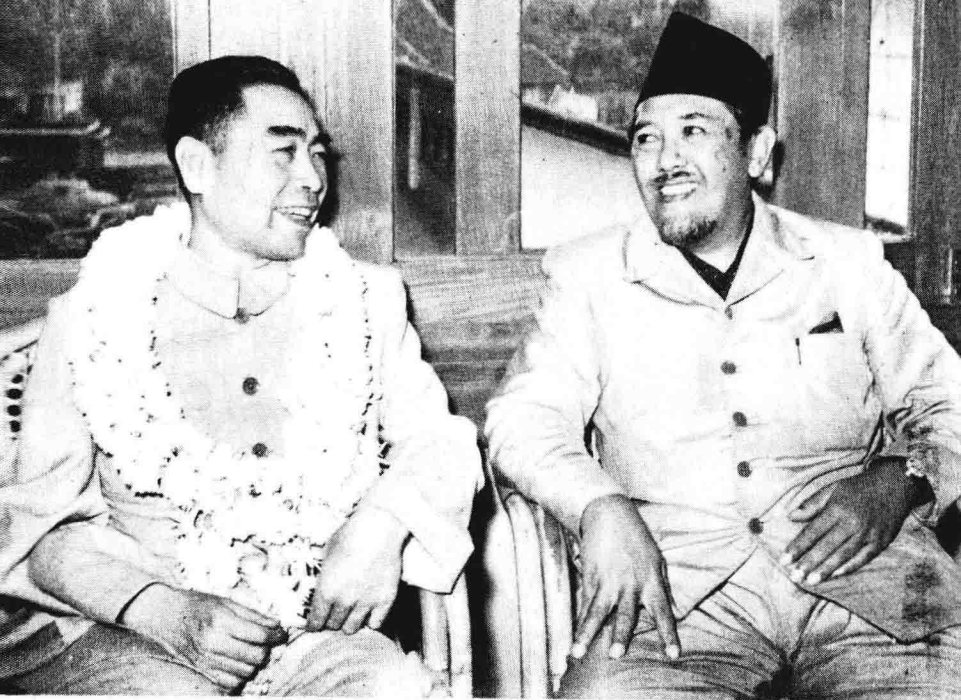
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Chou En-lai, Premier and leader of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China, addresses the plenary session of the Asian-African Conference on April 19



Members of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China at the Conference.
Front row, from right to left: Premier Chou En-lai, leader of the Delegation,
interpreter, Vice-Premier Chen Yi, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs
Chang Han-fu



Premier Chou En-lai (left) and Ali Sastroamidjojo, Prime Minister of Indonesia, who came to meet him on his arrival at the airport of Bandung on April 17



At a banquet given by Premier Chou En-lai. * Standing, from left to right: Seifel Islam Hassan, leader of the Delegation of Yemen, U Nu, Prime Minister of Burma, Walid Salah, leader of the Delegation of Jordan, Ismail El Azhari, leader of the Delegation of the Sudan, Sami Solh, leader of the Delegation of Lebanon, Premier Chou En-lai, Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, Mahmud Muntasser, leader of the Delegation of Libya, Ali A Alireza, member of the Delegation of Saudi Arabia. Sitting, from left to right: Madame Huang Chen, wife of the Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia, Amir Faisal Al Saud, leader of the Delegation of Saudi Arabia, Madame Indira Gandhi, daughter of Prime Minister Nehru



Premier Chou En-lai with Gamal Abdel Nasser, Prime Minister of Egypt and leader of the Egyptian Delegation



Vice - Premier Chen Yi (left) with Sovag Jung Thapa (centre), leader of the Delegation of Nepal, and Prince Wan Waithayakon, Foreign Minister and leader of the Delegation of Thailand



✓ Premier Chou En-lai signs for representatives of the Bandung People's Committee which is formed to support the Asian-African Conference

✓ Premier Chou En-lai toured the city of Djakarta, during his visit to Indonesia following the Asian-African Conference. He was accompanied by President Sukarno, and received a warm welcome from the residents



Contents

EDITOR'S NOTE	7
MAIN SPEECH BY PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, DISTRIBUTED AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE ASIAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE, <i>April</i> <i>19, 1955</i>	9
SUPPLEMENTARY SPEECH BY PREMIER CHOU EN- LAI AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE ASIAN- AFRICAN CONFERENCE, <i>April 19, 1955</i>	21
STATEMENT BY PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI ON THE SITUATION IN THE TAIWAN AREA, <i>April 23, 1955</i> .	28
SPEECH BY PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE ASIAN-AFRICAN CON- FERENCE, <i>April 24, 1955</i>	29
PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI'S REPORT ON THE ASIAN- AFRICAN CONFERENCE, MADE AT THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, <i>May 13, 1955</i>	32

APPENDICES

LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER ALI SASTROAMID- JOJO OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, <i>January</i> <i>15, 1955</i> (with a memorandum)	59
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PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI'S TELEGRAM TO ALI SASTROAMIDJOJO, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, CONCERNING CHINA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ASIAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE, <i>February 10,</i> <i>1955</i>	65
FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE ASIAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE, HELD AT BANDUNG FROM 18TH TO 24TH APRIL, 1955	67

Editor's Note

From April 18 to 24, 1955, 29 Asian and African countries held a conference in Bandung, Indonesia. After thorough discussion, agreement was reached on problems of common interest and concern to the countries of Asia and Africa, particularly on problems concerning dependent peoples, the promotion of world peace and co-operation, human rights and self-determination, economic and cultural co-operation. The Conference adopted a declaration on the promotion of world peace and co-operation.

Keeping consistently to the principle of seeking common ground while reserving differences, the Chinese Delegation headed by Premier Chou En-lai, together with other participating countries, did their utmost for the success of the Conference. The efforts of the Chinese Delegation manifested China's consistent foreign policy for maintenance of world peace and friendly co-operation among all nations.

In this book are collected the speeches made by Premier Chou En-lai at the Asian-African Conference and his report on the Conference to the Standing Committee of the First National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China. These documents will help the readers to understand the significance of the Asian-African Conference and the practical implementation of China's peaceful foreign policy.

**MAIN SPEECH BY PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI,
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, DISTRIBUTED
AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE ASIAN-
AFRICAN CONFERENCE**

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Delegates:

The Asian-African Conference on which the whole world is focusing its attention has begun its session. The Delegation of the People's Republic of China deems it a great pleasure to be able to discuss the common problems of our Asian and African countries at this Conference with the delegations of the other participating countries. We must first of all thank the five sponsoring countries, Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia and Pakistan, whose initiative and efforts have made it possible for us to meet here. We should also thank the host of this Conference, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, for the excellent arrangements it has made for the Conference.

It is the first time in history that so many countries of Asia and Africa have gathered together to hold a conference. On these two continents live more than half of the world population. The peoples of Asia and Africa created brilliant ancient civilizations and made tremendous contributions to mankind. But, ever since modern

times most of the countries of Asia and Africa in varying degrees have been subjected to colonial plunder and oppression, and have thus been forced to remain in a stagnant state of poverty and backwardness. Our voices have been suppressed, our aspirations shattered, and our destiny placed in the hands of others. Thus, we have no choice but to rise against colonialism. Suffering from the same cause and struggling for the same aim, we the Asian and African peoples have found it easier to understand each other and have long had deep sympathy and concern for one another.

Now the face of the Asian-African region has undergone a radical change. More and more countries have cast off or are casting off the shackles of colonialism. The colonial powers can no longer use the methods of the past to continue their plunder and oppression. The Asia and Africa of today are no longer the Asia and Africa of yesterday. Many countries of this region have taken their destiny into their own hands after long years of endeavours. Our Conference itself reflects this profound historical change.

However, the rule of colonialism in this region has not yet come to an end, and new colonialists are attempting to take the place of the old ones. Not a few of the Asian and African peoples are still leading a life of colonial slavery. Not a few of the Asian and African peoples are still subjected to racial discrimination and deprived of human rights. The courses which we peoples of the Asian and African countries have taken in striving for freedom and independence may vary, but our will to win and preserve our freedom and indepen-

dence is the same. However different the specific conditions in each of our countries may be, it is equally necessary for most of us to eliminate the state of backwardness caused by the rule of colonialism. We need to develop our countries independently with no outside interference and in accordance with the will of the people.

The peoples of Asia and Africa have long suffered from aggression and war. Many of them have been forced by the colonialists to serve as cannon fodder in aggressive wars. Therefore, the peoples of these two continents can have nothing but strong detestation of aggressive war. They know that new threats of war will not only endanger the independent development of their countries, but also intensify the enslavement by colonialism. That is why the Asian and African peoples all the more hold dear world peace and national independence.

In view of the foregoing, the common desire of the peoples of the Asian and African countries cannot be anything other than to safeguard world peace, to win and to preserve national independence and accordingly to promote friendly co-operation among nations.

Following the armistice in Korea, the Geneva Conference brought about a cease-fire in Indo-China on the basis of respect for the right to national independence and with the support of the Conference of the five Colombo powers. As a result, international tension did somewhat relax at that time and fresh hopes were brought to the people of the whole world, and particularly to those of Asia. However, the subsequent development of the international situation runs counter to the hopes of the

people. Both in the East and in the West the danger of war is increasing. The desire of the Korean and German peoples for peaceful unification is being frustrated. The agreements on the restoration of peace in Indo-China reached at the Geneva Conference are endangered. The United States continues to create tension in the Taiwan area. Countries outside of Asia and Africa are establishing more and more military bases in the Asian and African countries. They are clamouring openly that atomic weapons are conventional arms and are making preparations for an atomic war. The people of Asia shall never forget that the first atomic bomb exploded on Asian soil and that the first man to die from the experimental explosion of the hydrogen bomb was an Asian. The peoples of Asia and Africa, like those in other parts of the world, cannot be indifferent to the ever-increasing threat of war.

However, those who are committing aggression and making preparations for war are after all extremely few, while the overwhelming majority of the people throughout the world, regardless of what social system they live under, want peace and are opposed to war. The peace movement of the people in different countries has become more extensive and intensive. They demand the end of the armament race and preparations for war. They demand that first of all the big powers should reach agreement on the reduction of armaments. They demand the prohibition of atomic weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. They demand that atomic energy be used for peaceful purposes in order to bring welfare to mankind. Their voices can no longer