

June 15, 1954

Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist Conference, Minutes of the Opening Session

Citation:

"Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist Conference, Minutes of the Opening Session", June 15, 1954, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-387-039, Documents Related to the Asian Anti-Communist League Conference, Papers Related to Treaty-Making and International Conferences, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/118328>

Summary:

Delegates from South Korea, China, Macao, the Philippines, and the Ryukyu Islands discuss the anti-communist struggle in the Asia Pacific.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

15 June 1954
Chinhae

ASIAN PEOPLES' ANTI-COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF THE OPENING SESSION HELD
AT 0930 HOURS, 15TH JUNE, 1954
AT CHINHAE

Chairman Mr. Young P. Lee, the Republic of Korea

Mr. Young P. Lee opened the meeting with one minute of prayer for those who died in the fight against Communist aggression.

The Chairman proceeded to make the following opening remarks:

It gives me great pleasure to call to order this first session of the Chinhae Conference of Anti-Communist Peoples. Please understand that my position as presiding officer will be of brief duration. In a little while you will employ the practices of democracy to elect your chairman and such other officers and committeemen as you wish to name.

This is truly a memorable occasion. Gathered together here are outstanding representatives of the free peoples of Asia. In the next few days we shall draw closer the bonds that have brought us together. We shall, I think, make a great contribution to liberty in our part of the world. Our concern is not only with the menace of Communism, but with any nation or people that resorts to aggression to gain its selfish ends.

It is appropriate that you should be welcomed to the Republic of Korea today by a man whose thoughts and deeds symbolize the ceaseless struggle against those who try to push other people around. I need not tell you of his lifelong fight for the freedom and independence of this Republic, nor of his unswerving dedication to the principle that the will of the people is supreme and paramount.

He is an international leader who can give us tremendous inspiration for the tasks that lie ahead. Ladies and gentlemen, His Excellency, Dr. Syngman Rhee, President of the Republic of Korea.

The Chairman introduced President Syngman Rhee who made the following address of welcome:

First of all, my very good friends and neighbors, let me bid you a most cordial welcome to Korea and Chinhae. We are deeply happy that you have come, and I am sure that all of us are firmly resolved to make this Conference a truly momentous occasion in the history of Free East Asia. I shall try to tell you briefly this morning about some of the purposes and intentions that led us to call you together. Please understand that I am not attempting to influence you in any way, but am merely citing the record so that all of us will start these proceedings with a common fund of information.

We have heard much discussion, in recent months, of a Pacific Pact or Alliance of Mutual Security. But until today all of this has been only talk. Nothing really concrete has been done -- not because of disinclination to act, but because the Pacific countries themselves did not get together. Attempts by other nations of other continents to establish such a movement will come to naught, as we already have seen in Europe. NATO stands as the prime example that such an alliance must come from within instead of being superimposed from without. The individual national member of NATO does not realize the nature of the Communist menace, and some of them are so far gone as to be unwilling to make equal and just contributions of their own to the common cause. This is not the kind of an organization we want in the Pacific. As a contrast, look at what the Communists are doing; they are willing to sacrifice everything for Communism.

So it is that we feel the time has come for the Pacific countries to do something for themselves -- to take a common action for the common security before it is too late. In our certainty that the Pacific nations have a strong desire for their own organization, we took steps to make possible a conference where Pacific countries and peoples could get together and express their desires. All of us who realize so strongly the grave dangers of Communist expansion thus may begin -- even on a small scale -- a movement that will stop the enemy and eventually push him back toward the oblivion that is so essential if Free Man is to survive.

As you all know, President Chiang Kai Shek and myself happened to be together some months ago and thought of this question. We agreed at that time to invite the Anti-Communist nations to get together, and have been trying to do so ever since. This sort of thing is a large undertaking that is fraught with difficulties. We have therefore not been successful in persuading all the nations that should be here to come. In some cases, however, that is probably not the result of a lack of interest, but of the fact that some countries do not know precisely what we are trying to do. We cannot blame them for their caution. In the troubled world of today we cannot expect nations to shut their eyes and plunge into movements that they feel they do not know anything about.

Some nations may have thought that we were seeking to get them together to tell them what to do -- that we were inviting our neighbors to come to endorse some plan that we had arrived at unilaterally. That is not the case. It is not the spirit of this conference. Our idea is very simple and represents the essence of democratic practice. It is simply that we all get together to express our feelings and our suggestions. We shall give voice to ours, and you to yours. Then we shall put our ideas and proposals together and let the majority decide in favor of those that appear to have the greatest merit. That is why there is no fixed and definite agenda for this conference. What we say and do will grow out of our needs and of our common experience.

We have come to realize, in setting up this conference, that governments involved in international relations do not feel at liberty to act freely until they have consulted all their friends and neighbors, and until they find everything is fully and clearly understood. Until that time comes, they hesitate. But it was not possible to be completely explicit preliminary to this conference. That is the prime reason for the holding of this meeting: so that we can be definite and to the point in our further relationships with all the Free Nations of our own region and of the rest of the world.

We presumably are most interested here in getting the peoples of the East Asian nations to exchange views, to discuss ways and means, and to draw up a resolution agreeable to the majority on an effective joint effort to check and eventually to reverse the terrible reality of continued Communist expansion. The Communists are successful everywhere because they are organized. They speak, act, and plan with concerted efforts. Their final aggressions are achieved by force of arms, but their ideological front is even stronger and more important than their military front. Utilizing propaganda, infiltration, sabotage, and similar weapons, they are winning the support of millions of people everywhere. Mere military strength will not be enough to save the Free Nations. We can establish great armies, navies, and air forces, but if we do not win the battle of ideas, our military victories will mean little or nothing. If we can win back these lost peoples, we may not have to fight another world war. We are in awful peril today only because we have done nothing at the peoples' level during the last 40 years.

The Communist movement places strong emphasis on the unity of peoples, and that is perhaps the principal reason for its awesome successes. We, too, must make our bid to unite the people of the world in the cause of freedom and justice. We must try to win back the uneducated, uninformed, and disinterested, and all those who have been deceived by Communist propaganda. We must persuade them of the horrors of Communism, which destroys the individual, and enlist them in an anti-Communist crusade that affords the only hope for saving all that we hold precious. This campaign must include the organization of anti-Communist societies, the conducting of investigations of Communism and its nefarious plots, and the encouragement of searchlight publicity that will expose the enemy and the enslavement that he is planning for us all. The people of the world must be enlightened. They must be told and shown the menace of Communist aggression. If we can do that, we can be assured that all decent, thinking, liberty-loving peoples will be on our side -- including the countless millions of Chinese and Russians who hate Communism as deeply as we do.

In some countries the governments are already Communist or Communist-inclined. You, who are patriotic citizens of your beloved homeland and who realize so well that the Communists seek to make your countries satellites of the Soviet, may have to risk your lives by organizing revolutionary movements or anti-Communist fronts. In doing so you will profit by following the example that the Communists have set in their own international conspiracy. Make your movement as strong as possible, and do it

-4-

quickly. Leave no avenue of appeal or persuasion untraveled. Unless you fight back now, and persuade millions of others to fight with you, your own nation will perish, and the end of all freedom everywhere will be that much closer. Today your life is not your own; it is dedicated, as are the lives of all free men, to the principle that death is better than life under Communist oppression.

These have been some of the things, my friends, that are uppermost in our minds. If all or some of you should agree with our views, in general, we shall accept that agreement as an expression of your true sentiments and not as merely a courteous affirmative. On the other hand, if all or some of you disagree, we want you to feel perfectly free to express your own views. Then, after full exchange of ideas and adequate discussion, we can arrive at common understanding and agree upon objectives and a statement of them. We shall support just as enthusiastically and persistently as we can anything that you do here which is helpful and to the advantage of democracy and the freedom of man.

As everyone knows, one of our primary aims is the establishment of an anti-Communist movement. We believe that if such a movement is to be effective, it must start with a singleness of purpose that will bar membership to any nation or people whose attitude is not definitely and positively anti-Communist. We must, in other words, protect ourselves against destruction from within. This same singleness of purpose also should lead us to invite the immediate participation of every nation and people that is known to be definitely on the side of democratic principles and opposed to the Communists. Likewise, every organization and every single individual arrayed against Communism should stand with us -- regardless of where they may be. In this crusade, which seeks the perpetuation of all that is worthwhile in civilization, we can find common cause in a plan and program for our own security.

We do not presume to suggest which nations or groups should be invited to join with us and which should not be invited. That should be decided after democratic discussion and democratic majority vote. I am fully persuaded that this can be the beginning of a movement that will have great and perhaps decisive global significance. If all anti-Communist peoples of the world can be brought together in common endeavor, a great step forward will have been taken in the struggle for survival and for a Free World. After you have thoroughly discussed the problems involved, and have agreed upon definite plans for a course of action, I am quite sure that other nations and peoples will become interested, will find out what we are trying to do, and then will join with us. We hope that in a few months we can have a much larger conference, with far more nations and far more peoples represented. This, as you are all aware, is only a preliminary conference. But that is still another reason for its great importance. What we do here will make possible the growth and the eventual triumph of our cause.

In bidding you a most heartfelt welcome, I want to express my regrets that we lack better quarters for those of you who have come so far because of your interest in fighting Communism. You all understand, I know, that this wartorn country has no really adequate place for a conference such as this. Chinhae happens to be the only possible site available, and even here we have very limited buildings and accommodations. We were forced to limit the number of representatives attending, and even so you are finding that there are certain unavoidable inconveniences and discomforts. I hope that you will not mind too much, and that you will believe me when I say that the hospitality in our hearts far transcends the physical poverty of our stricken land. It is our earnest hope that your love for your country, your people, and for freedom itself is so great that you are willing to sacrifice almost anything to guard and perpetuate them. We are here, after all, not for our own personal pleasure, but to protect all who love liberty against a Communist totalitarianism that is the enemy of human freedom everywhere.

Some people have quite naturally been anxious to find out whether certain nations were interested in this movement. What we are concerned with, however, is not so much what other countries think of us, but what we -- the Asiatic countries and people -- think of this movement. If you and I are interested enough in the common cause, and are willing to sacrifice a great deal for it, this small beginning will soon have grown into a great power for good. If that happens, and I am fully confident that it will, we shall find that all the Free Nations will be fully prepared to participate and to assist us in every way possible. We purposely did not discuss with any of our friendly governments the question of whether or not they are in favor of this undertaking. The reason, as I have said before, is that we have no definite objectives nor plans -- nothing that you can put forward as a concrete proposal -- until after we agree on something here. I obviously still do not know what this group will do; that is purely up to you to decide.

As a believer in democracy and freedom, I have not been in a position to tell you what you are going to do and what you are not going to do. Instead, I merely say to you that if we stand on principles of right and justice and on the determination to defend the Pacific World and Asia against Communist aggression, we shall not lack for support. I am fully confident that the people and the governments of the United States and all the rest of the Free World will cooperate and will stand together in a great crusade to end oppression and bring that better world of tomorrow into existence today. We ask no more -- and certainly no less -- that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall prevail not for just a few, but for every man, woman, and child of this earth. May God guide us wisely in our deliberations and thus speed the certain triumph of brotherhood, of peace, and of freedom.

.....
The following words were addressed by the President to the members of the press, photographers, etc..

I know you are interested in the delegates to the conference. If you sufficiently understand the importance

of this please help us by staying away from this gathering. We believe it is very important for the freedom of man and to the entire world. These small beginnings have great hopes. Those who are here can have the opportunity to express all they have in their minds and compare notes and exchange views and have a thorough understanding among themselves. What they decide to do here is vitally important. I am very anxious to keep these people together for a day or two for the conference without outside interference. I honestly tell you there is nothing we are trying to conceal. We are more anxious to reveal everything we do. I know you are interested in it but please help us so that this important meeting can be held and the objective can be achieved. Thank you.

The Chairman introduced the Chief Delegate from China, Mr. Ku Chin Kang, who made the following address:

Your Excellency President Syngman Rhee, Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates ladies and gentlemen.

We are greatly honored to have the opportunity to be present today at the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist Conference in Chinhae and to listen to the inspiring speech by President Syngman Rhee. We wish to extend our profound respects for the anti-Communist determination of both Dr. Rhee and the people of the Republic of Korea. When President Rhee paid a call to President Chiang in Taipei the plan of initiating an anti-Communist alliance between the anti-Communist peoples of Asia was taken up. It may be recalled that in August 1949 a meeting between President Chiang and President Rhee was held at this very exquisite place Chinhae. The main object of that meeting was the same. Today the anti-Communist Asian Peoples' Conference is inaugurated. We deem it a fine start for a united anti-Communist front for Asian peoples and we are gratified. Ever since the conclusion of World War Two Asia has been the main battle ground for Communist Imperialistic aggression. China bore the initial brunt, Korea came next and Vietnam followed. The fate of the entire South East Asia is in the balance. At this juncture the anti-Communist peoples, inaugurated ~~delegation~~ ^{CONFERENCE}. My delegation considers this move in great measure a directing in collective security and inspiring new hope for the peoples of Asia to renew their strength. None of the Asian nations can escape the danger of Communism today. China, Korea and Vietnam in particular are fighting a life and death struggle. The nations of Asia therefore must be united and fight together. This conference needs a common aim and common belief. We hope something great and effective can be evolved in order to permit a united front amongst the anti-Communist nations in Asia. In the coming three days of conference we are going to offer our frank and true views for discussion as called upon by Dr. Rhee and we wish to play our part to ensure this conference's success. On behalf of my delegation I wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere thankfulness for the warm welcome and the generous hospitality to the people of the Republic of Korea for which we are all the more grateful. Thank you.

The Chairman introduced the Chief Delegate from Hongkong and Macao, Mr. Hsia Tung Pei, who made the following address:

Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: We have just heard the great speech made by President Syngman Rhee. First of all, we wish to express our deep respect and gratitude to President Rhee and the people and soldiers of Korea, for without his great leadership and the courage of the Korean people, this Conference would have been impossible.

It is a great honour to us who have come from the fringe of the Iron Curtain, or the Anti-Communist front, Hongkong and Macao, to participate in this Asian Anti-Communist Conference. We are greatly encouraged and feel the heavy responsibility that rests on us. The Asian situation has come to a most critical moment, and the Chinhae Conference inaugurated at this time has a very important meaning. The success or failure of this conference will determine the destiny of Asia - whether the future be bright or dark, whether the peoples be free or enslaved, will be decided by the accomplishment of this conference. Therefore, we delegates from Hongkong and Macao, hold the opinion that there will be born an organization of the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist Alliance, which will develop into an alliance among the Asian nations and further into an Asian Federation.

Secondly, we hope that at the fringe of the Iron Curtain, Reception Stations will be established to encourage freedom-loving people and the awakened Communist rank-and-file to choose freedom, thus hastening the downfall of the Communist regime. We also hope that we will make a declaration urging all the free world to outlaw all Communist organizations, and to oppose all the resolutions made by the Geneva Conference. This is what we sincerely hope for.

In conclusion, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to President Rhee and all the Korean people for their warm welcome and generous hospitality. Thank you.

....

The Chairman introduced the Chief Delegate from the Philippines, Miss Michaela A. Montemayor, who made the following address:

Each year since 1951, our country the Philippines, has continuously sent to Korea a battalion of soldiers under able officers to help fight communism. Those who return alive are proud with the thought that they have contributed something, little and humble though it may be, for a worthy cause. The parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, friends and countrymen of those who came back minus their lives console themselves with the feelings that their loved sons have died that others may live. The tears shed by them have only served to strengthen the desire of our soldiers to be given the chance to come over so that they too may fight side by side with your people in the defence of all that is right and noble.

Like our good President, our people are men of action.. efforts exerted and lives sacrificed, if need be, when their cause and that of their brothers is at stake. Such is the attitude of our country and people towards yours. Your problems are our problems, your cause is our cause.

After seeing your country and people, the stronger is our belief that after all Korea and his people are just like us - with one enemy, one ideal, one spirit, and even one love. Because of these like traits, our course of action shall be one, great and immediats, to that we, our children and our children's children may live in one free, happy world.

Thank you, your excellency, and may you have many more years of fruitful administration as a leader, a friend and a patriot.

.....

The Chairman introduced the Delegate from Ryukyu, Mr. Tsai Chang, who made the following address:

At this historic opening of the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist Conference called as a result of the judicious anti-Communist principles held by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Korea, and the heroic anti-Communist struggle and spirit of the people and armed forces of Korea, I am very grateful for this opportunity to participate in this great event as representative of Ryukyu. I consider it indeed a great honour.

The glorious independence which Republic of Korea enjoys today, and the success which it is achieving in its historic anti-Communist mission, are the crystallization of the resolute and great spirit of national independence and anti-Communism always maintained by His Excellency, the President, and by the people and armed forces of Korea. All are indeed to be congratulated. Their record impresses us all.

Our Ryukyu has been the victim of 80 years of Japanese imperialistic aggression and has suffered most unspeakable slavery and discrimination. However, as the consequence of Allied victory in the last World War, Ryukyu was freed from the fiendish hands of Japan and 820,000 people of Ryukyu are making every effort to explore their new destiny, namely to attain self-Government and independence with every resource of our people's wisdom and with the close cooperation of the United States Government. At this time, our Ryukyu conslders it a great honour to have this opportunity to make public our determination to re-establish a new state of free and democratic Ryukyu in the corner of the West-South Pacific. We hope to do this in the near future, drawing upon the processes and achievements of the Republic of Korea. The experience of the people and armed forces of Korea in establishing a state will provide a great example for us.

We cannot also sit by and look indifferently on the tide of Communist evil from which Korea has suffered. We feel that we are in the same boat, and should save each other by cooperating closely to achieve our common objectives and to establish a common defense system against Communist aggression.

At this Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist Conference, we must revive true Asian morals, establish on a firm basis the new anti-Communist order, and let all peoples in the free parts of Asia automatically participate in the anti-Communist campaign. We must encourage their moral stamina,



-9-

and further establish a starting point and foundation to demonstrate in action our united front against Communism. Sitting by and looking on with indifference will mean suicide and surrender. In this sense, I happily foresee that this Conference will obtain sufficient guarantees to achieve its initial objective, will be crowned with perfection and will show the way to anti-Communist victory. May I also express my profound appreciation to the people and armed forces of Korea for their heroic guiding spirit of anti-Communism and national independence.

(See next page 10)

The Chairman introduced the Delegate from Thailand, Mr. B. Chuang, who made the following address:

Your Excellency The President, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen who are members of this Conference.

I feel very happy and appreciative of the warm welcome by the Korean people here, Your Excellency, and meeting with my friends who came from various countries. I know that all of us came here for the same principal and hope that this conference will proceed without any trouble and succeed.

As you know, Your Excellency, the Thai peoples and the Royal Thai Government are entirely anti-Communist 100 per cent. That is why our troops were sent to join with the ROK troops to fight against Communists hand in hand. For the same reason our relationship with Koreans is very close.

First of all I would like to have the honor to ask our friends to bear in mind how to set up our anti-Communist Organization and secondly how to obtain a large fund to support and strengthen this organization to meet its aims successfully.

Before I conclude this short impression of mine I would like to extend thanks to those who had the excellent idea of arranging this very very important conference. Thank you.

The Chairman introduced the Chief Delegate from Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Van Tam, who made the following address:

His Excellency President Rhee, Honorable Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Vietnam delegation wishes to pay sincere respects to the valiant people of Korea and to those friendly nations who have sent their delegations to this conference.

The cause of Korea is that of Nationalist China. Tomorrow it may be that of all the Southeast Asian countries, if we do not take measures right now.

I do not want to make a long speech. The events that have occurred during these years have sufficiently demonstrated that the imperialistic ambitions of the Communist World are without limit.

Successively, in Europe and in Asia, many small countries have been, one after the other, attacked and enslaved by the Communists. In the Far East even a great nation like China could not be saved from Communism. After China, the same thing took place in Korea. Now it is Vietnam. Whose turn will it be again by tomorrow?

Positive facts have proved that we cannot wait with our arms folded and see our neighbors fall into peril one by one. We are all as brave and animate as whoever has an ardent desire to fight against the Communists. Yet the reason for the Communist victory to date is that we have not been united.

Now we have learned our lessons. Ever since the first call of the Korean Goodwill Mission, we have been ready to come here. That is because we feel more and more the necessity of putting our joint efforts together when ever and wherever we have to fight against our common enemy.

It is obvious that compromise with the Communist World is unthinkable. Our experience has indicated up to present that those who believe it is possible to be on good terms with the Communists are mistaken and soon they will bring about their own destruction.

The man who is speaking to you personally fought day after day during the past twenty-five years against the Communists. He has seen his country ruined, stained with blood by eight years of savage war and terror stricken. He therefore can tell you firmly through his own experience that this is a deadly struggle against Communism because the Communists will never give up their arms as long as they have not enslaved the entire world.

For the Communists, their methods might be changeable but their aim of dominating the whole world and disregarding human liberty, morals and justice will remain unaltered.

I conclude by addressing to His Excellency, President Syngman Rhee, the expression of hearty admiration of the Vietnam delegation for his firm determination and courage and by applauding with both hands the Anti-Communist People's Front of Korea as well as its Chairman, Mr. Lee Bumm Young, who has taken the initiative of convening this conference. With him, we believe the world cannot be saved from the Communists unless we totally and decisively destroy them.

Down with Communism!
Long Live the Republic of Korea!
Long Live the Union of Free Peoples!