

October 15, 1956
Anti-Communist Youth and Students Conference,
Remarks by Chung W. Cho

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Summary:

Acting Foreign Minister Chung W. Cho tells audience members at the Anti-Communist Youth and Students Conference that "Communists and their indoctrinated youth are challenging us at every turn."

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On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I extend to you the most cordial greetings of this country and of the Korean people. We are glad to have you here and we hope you will return again. But above all, we hope that you will do your work well -- so that the whole Free World may be inspired by your example.

Perhaps it is trite to say that youth is the hope of mankind. Something of the sort is said at every high school and college graduation. Yet I cannot help but feel that it is said because it is true, and some of the greatest truths are those which are the simplest.

Why do the Communists and all other aggressors place such great stress on the indoctrination of youth? They do so because youth represents the future, and they are trying to create a future in their own image. They are trying to perpetuate their own evil system, and they also are trying to make sure that youth will be willing to fight for that system. The Communists know that in any showdown of strength, the ability and determination of youth will be decisive.

We of the Free World do not indoctrinate our youth. Instead, through the institution that we call education, we try to emphasize that freedom of thought is essential to progress and to the protection of the human values that have been created through thousands of years of history. Our faith is pinned upon belief that youth will discard what is bad and keep what is good.

At this meeting, part of your task is to decide what you want to get rid of and what you want to keep. In the long run, the protests of your elders will be of no avail, because eventually you will be the elders, and masters of tomorrow. You, and you alone, are the future.

It is not for me to advise you. I can only hope -- with deepest humility, and with realization that my own generation has not done so well -- that you will let truth and the inherent, inalienable rights of men and women be your guides.

My young friends, we are at a crossroads of civilization. The Communists and their indoctrinated youth are challenging us at every turn. They say they have a better way. They say that if man sacrifices himself to the state, surrenders his individuality, all questions are answered. They say that the man or woman does not matter -- that the collective entity is everything. With this negation of humanism, they have accomplished much. They have won half the world, and are well on their way toward winning the other half.

Yet I still think they are wrong. And I think that you also believe they are wrong. If you did not so believe, you would not be here. I think you are convinced, as I am convinced, that the individual is of the very greatest importance. I am sure that you believe truth is the supreme arbiter, and that no commodity is more precious than liberty.

The elders of Asia have always been respected. They have done their best. But I say to you young people that their best was not good enough. You -- the youth of Asia -- must do better.

The challenge to you is not merely one of making a few changes and then going on in the pattern of the past. Your challenge is one of survival, of finding the ways to stand up to and defeat those who want to return us to the status of unthinking, mass life animals. If you can meet that challenge, your names will go down in history. You will have the everlasting gratitude not only of your ancestors and your elders, but of your children and the generations to come after them.

Again, I say to you, a most sincere welcome to Korea. I hope you will have a cordial and happy fellowship together. I wish you a hard-working and successful conference. The measure of your success may well be the survival of the Free World.

Acting Foreign Minister Chung W. Cho