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**Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist Conference, Press
Release No. 5**

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Summary:

Jose M. Hernandez insists that "the people of the Philippines are devotedly against Communism."

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ASIAN PEOPLES' ANTI-COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

17 June 1954
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Address by Jose M. Hernandez, Chief Delegate of Philippines.

The people of the Philippines are devotedly against Communism. We are unshakably opposed to Communism because it is against our government and our religion. We know that the Communist philosophy denies man his fundamental rights as a human being and the very existence of God Himself.

We are a democratic people and therefore must allow other people with other ideologies to exist on God's earth. But we cannot tolerate the existence of an ideology that seeks our own destruction. To us as to the rest of the freedom-loving peoples in Asia it is a question of life and death. It is either we or they. If we do not fight Communism and destroy it, Communism will destroy us.

Democracy in its present form in the Philippines may not be perfect; but any decent man who wants to live and work in peace would prefer it a million times to the Communist regime that negates the existence of God, denies man his right to choose his religion and way of life, destroys the family, violates man's fundamental freedoms, and disregards the institution of private property.

Thus our government and people are determined to stamp out Communism in the Philippines. Under the leadership of our beloved President, who is man of the people and real man of action, we have broken the stronghold of the HUKS or COMMUNISTS on the masses, we have brought the government nearer to the villages, we have improved our living conditions, we have strengthened our defenses against internal and external aggression, and we have started on the road to final economic, agricultural, and industrial rehabilitation. The die-hard Communist leaders are in the mountains.

They are very few and they are in mortal fear of our government forces. The thousands of misguided followers who used to obey their wishes and to harass the innocent villagers all over the country have surrendered to our Army and are now facing trial. The few who have refused to come within the pale of the law now live the life of the hunted. A great many of them have been killed in their hopeless military engagements with our government forces. Soon, very soon, we should be able to announce to the world that the last Communist has been destroyed in the Philippines.

But we are not oblivious of the danger from external aggression by foreign Communist powers. We are also aware of the existence of intellectual leaders who under the guise of modern liberalism and a make-believe attachment to Asiatic culture and tradition now occupy positions of trust and importance in our government as well as in private institutions. These intellectual giants are the men to watch. Fortunately, we know who they are and we know what they are doing. When the first opportunity arises, we shall rounce upon them and bring them before the bar of justice just as we have brought LUIS TARUC, the notorious HUK leader before the courts.

We are on the alert and we want other peoples in Asia to maintain the same spirit of vigilance against the forces of insidious and malevolent Communism. Fortunately the government is being helped by religious and civic organizations now engaged in the life-and-death struggle against all forms of Communist infiltration, indoctrination, or all-out military operations. Some of these loyal and civic-spirited organizations are the Committee for Free Asia, the Committee for Philippine Agricultural Development and Rehabilitation, the Catholic Action of the Philippines, and the Committee for Good Government.

The Philippines is predominantly a Catholic country. This is an important fact to remember for as President Syngman Rhee of the great Republic of Korea has told me, the greatest ally in the epic crusade against Communism is Catholicism. So to us it is a fight between Catholicism and Communism. Catholics fight to the death in defense of the Cross, the very symbol of man's redemption and human dignity; the Communists believe in the Hammer and Sickle which are the symbol of man's destruction and inhumanity. To us, therefore, the road is clear. There is no middle ground. The CROSS must win or we shall perish. If we are vanquished while defending our immortal Cross, it shall be a death infinitely sweeter than slavery and perishing under Communism.

That is why we have come to CHINA, KOREA, to pledge our support to the other brave and liberty-loving peoples of Asia whose illustrious representatives it has been my distinguished pleasure and honor to work with in the last three days. LONG LIVE ASIA FOR FREEDOM.