

October 15, 1956 Anti-Communist Youth and Students Conference, Remarks by Unidentified Speaker

Citation:

"Anti-Communist Youth and Students Conference, Remarks by Unidentified Speaker", October 15, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-392-019, Documents Related to the Asian Anti-Communist League Conference, Papers Related to Treaty-Making and International Conferences, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University. https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/118359

Summary:

Remarks from an unidentified speaker from Korea at the Asian Youth and Students Anti-Communist Conference.

Credits:

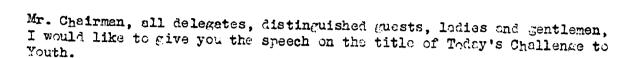
This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan



It not only seems altogether fitting that youth has its day at this great anti-Cimmunist Conference, but - if I may be permitted to say, in all humility - necessary.

For if it co as to a show down in any or all of our countries, it will be the youth of each country, as always, who will have to dothe fighting; and if the showdown may mercifully be evoided, without loss of honor and dignit; a major responsibity for finding the way will necessarily fall on the shoulders of youthful people all ever the world. They, like us here today, are already trying to tackle the problem with the beginnings of meturity.

All of us, in every country, have heard it said that it is the coming younger generation that will make the world we're going to live in. It should better be phrased, it seems to me: make - or break - the world of the future.

Let none of us ever forget -- particularly here in Asia where we know Communism so well, even intimately -- that the great basic power of the Communist movement is the way it keeps everlastingly at it, without a moment's letup in its insensate drive for world conquest, and that this cuts right down through the lives (if it can be called living) of its slave peoples, clear to the first glimmerings of its educational processes.

For our part, we of the Free Vorld have been taught from the cradle that the freedoms of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are cherished possessions of great price, worth whatever it might take to preserve them; end that they have to be practiced and I ved and, above all, actively protected, lest they parish from the earth.

Yet we are equally aware, if we have given it reasonabl thought, that the inherent weakness of our democratic system lies with those who would enjoy its benefits without keeping constantly alert against all the subtle and some not so subtle — forces that would subvert and destroy it. Many of us, highly as we regard our liberties, are too prone to take them for granted. We ask only to be let alone and not be bothered about keeping them fit by exercising them. And should this become sufficiently endemic, we easily could wake, some bitter morning, to find these prized freedoms suddenly a memory, lost to us beyond our now yearning reach.

This, I submit most earnestly, is today's challenege to youth: Can we possibly, in conscience and decency, give less devotion to the democratic ideals we hold dear than the Communists give to the twisted irrationale of their slave-state dogma?

There's a fine phrase from America that says much of this very simply and, to me, very movingly; Democracy is everybody's business. I say each of us should engrave it on his heart. Nowhere in today's world can it have greater application or potency than in Free Asia. For freedom-loving Asians - above all freedom-loving Asians - there can be no preservation of the democratic ideal unless we willingly - nay eac rly - think, work, believe and live the good fight 24 hours a da, 7 days a week, right down to the family and individual level.

This is a subject on which we Korean -- I say it in both humidity and bitterness -- are all too qualified to speak. We know, intimately, the agovnies of Communist armed aggression. We know today, with our country still so cruelly divided against itself, the full import of the creeping paralysis of that seemingly popular and obviously naive concept called coexistence.

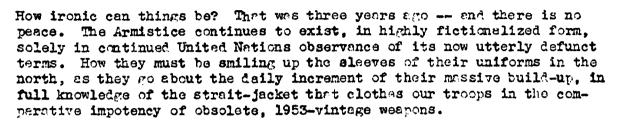
Our ill-fated /rmistice is a notable example of seeking a live-end-let-live accord with the Communists. It was entered into, in genuine sincerity and hope of success, by the United Nations forces, against the repeatedly expressed better judgment of our leaders. And what has come of it?

The ink was not dry before the Communists started their continuous and continuing violation of every important provision in it. By its own terms, it was to have a maximum life of 180 days and to lead directly into a Political Conference and Peace.

11







Yet ... there are "none so blind as will not see." We, in Korea, just cannot understand why anybody in the Free World-fails to realize what has been so clearly demonstrated: Any attempt, like the Armistice, to establish a coexistence, live-and-let-live accord with the Communists is -- exain like it -- foreordained to fail. In all accuracy, it shouldn't even be called an Armistice. It should correctly be given the far more appropriate label of non-resistance. For as we have seen all too clearly, it has only the effect of giving the violence-bent Communists both the time and the opportunity to "soup up" their violence potential to more dangerous proportions than ever.

I believe, firmly and devoutly, that we cannot - at least in any decency -- coexist with evil. I believe people of humanity and genuine good will always will try their utmost to crush the evil that corrupts decent society.

And yet... there are those, even among our own allies who, though they have eyes, still will not see. Their own soldiers have shed their blood on Korean battlefields in defense of freedom, in defense against the world-branded Red-Chinese aggressor. But they are so strangely ensmored of the non-resistence, coexistence posture that they actually seem to be forming a welcoming committee to facilitate acceptance of this aggressor in the very society of nations that branded it so. And manwhile, they show little or no apparent interest in the impellingly honorable membership claims of the Ropublic of Korea, the first and very lightmate child of the world body itself.

So what has youth to suggest to its elders and, perhaps even more perticularly, to itself?

We suggest that the so-called realists of the world, who have been both sire and dam of the non-resistent coexistence school, take a really under stending look at existing, realistic, demonstrable facts -- in Korea, for instance. We suggest realization, once and for all and at long lost, that whatever the tectic of the moent, the single, unwavering, unrelenting goal of the Communists, repeatedly and publicly proclaimed themselves, is world conquest and/or domination. We suggest recognition of the basic proposition that no one has a prayer against such a bully with his hands tied behind his back or by exhibiting the weekness of non9resistence. Finally we suggest, and with particular point to the youth of the world, that we prove the devotion we profess, and do feel, for the democratic ideal that has lifted the spirit of man as no other before it; that we demonstrate to all the world our positive helief that it's worth fighting for, if necessary, by taking the wraps oof the prodigious strength still latent in the Free World and before the bully chips it away bit by bit; that we then stend up to him and tell him off with the only thing he has ever, but repeatedly, shown he respects -- power.

Admittedly, this presents the danger of war. But isn't the danger always with us anyway? Cartainly it's present, every moment, in Korea. No one, from bitterest experience, could possibly hate the very idea of war more than Koreans. But equally we hate the idea of facing it as we must now, and of having our allies face it with us as they must now, with inadequate, obsolete arms and equipment. And we know that resistance to the Communist menace -- and resistance through trength -- has no alternative except, sooner or later, signing the world over to this evil thing.

For our part, the part of youth, the choice is clear and certain. It's between freedom and slavery, between right and wrong, between international low and Communist ty anny. In Korec, we shall always find renewed inspiration, as we hope you will, in the way our President Syngman Rhee has said it:

"If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my children may have peace."

Trank you.