

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

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Summary:

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

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Mr. Chairman, all delegates, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to give you the speech on the title of Today's Challenge to Youth.

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

For if it comes 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 do the fighting; and if the showdown may mercifully be avoided, without loss of honor and dignity, a major responsibility for finding the way will necessarily fall on the shoulders of youthful people all over the world. They, like us here today, are already trying to tackle the problem with the beginnings of maturity.

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 World 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; and that they have to be practiced and lived and, above all, actively protected, lest they perish from the earth.

Yet we are equally aware, if we have given it reasonable 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 challenge 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 from freedom-loving Asians -- there can be no preservation of the democratic ideal unless we willingly - nay eagerly - think, work, believe and live the good fight 24 hours a day, 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 humility and bitterness -- are all too qualified to speak. We know, intimately, the agonies 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 Armistice is a notable example of seeking a live-and-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.

How ironic can things be? That was three years ago -- and there is no peace. The Armistice continues to exist, in highly fictionalized form, solely in continued United Nations observance of its now utterly defunct terms. How they must be smiling up the sleeves of their uniforms in the north, as they go about the daily increment of their massive build-up, in full knowledge of the strait-jacket that clothes our troops in the comparative impotency of obsolete, 1953-vintage weapons.

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 -- again 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-hent 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 enamored of the non-resistance, 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 meanwhile, they show little or no apparent interest in the impellingly honorable membership claims of the Republic of Korea, the first and very legitimate child of the world body itself.

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

We suggest that the so-called realists of the world, who have been both sire and dam of the non-resistant coexistence school, take a really under-^{standing} look at existing, realistic, demonstrable facts -- in Korea, for instance. We suggest realization, once and for all and at long last, that whatever the tactic of the moment, 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 weakness of non-resistance. 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 belief that it's worth fighting for, if necessary, by taking the wraps off the prodigious strength still latent in the Free World and before the bully chips it away bit by bit; that we then stand 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? Certainly 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 strength -- 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 law and Communist tyranny. In Korea, 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."

Thank you.