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**Peng Dehuai's Speech at the Warsaw Conference of European Countries on  
Safeguarding Peace and Security in Europe  
(12 May 1955, Warsaw)**

Comrade Chairman, comrade representatives,

The government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese people strongly support the Warsaw Conference of European Countries on Safeguarding Peace and Security in Europe, and are in complete agreement with the statements made by comrade Bulganin, leader of the Soviet delegation, as well as those made by leaders of other countries' delegations. Peace and security in Asia are inseparable from peace and security in Europe. The national interest of China is inseparable from the interests of European peace-loving countries.

It has been five months since the Warsaw Conference of European Countries on Safeguarding Peace and Security in Europe was held in Moscow, in December 1954. The development of the situation during these five months has proved that its analysis and estimation at that Conference were completely correct. The Moscow Conference pointed out the dangerous implications of the ratification of the Paris Agreements, and further pointed out the right way to solve the German question and establish a collective European security system. Following the Moscow Conference, the Soviet Union and other Moscow Conference participants made a series of endeavors to safeguard the peace and security of all Europe, and to solve the German question on the basis of the interests of the German people and those of other European countries. However, ignoring the national interests of the German people and of world peace, the American aggression bloc and its followers did not wish to join the Moscow Conference countries and European peace-loving people in opposing the Paris Agreements. They insist on a "power" policy of expansionist aggression and preparation for war, and ratified the Paris Agreements through affiliated countries' congresses, despite all the serious consequences that these agreements may have. Now, the German Revenge Army has been formed, the troops at the forefront of the American aggression bloc geared to launching a new war in Europe. Europeans and people around the world are once again facing a new menace of German militarism, which instigated the two World Wars. Therefore, the situation in Europe has become tenser, and the danger of war has become more critical since the Moscow Conference last winter.

Under such circumstances, and given the decision made by the Moscow Conference in December 1954, the fact that all participating countries are meeting again to sign the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance and organize Joint Command is absolutely necessary and timely. They can also study the current grave situation, adopt effective measures and other means to reinforce their defense capacity, and protect their own security and safeguard peace in Europe. This not only accords with the interests of peoples in the member states, but also matches the interests of peace-loving people in Europe and around the world.

During the Moscow Conference, the Chinese governmental representative pointed out that American imperialist aggressive policy, and war policy, threatened not only Europe, but also Asia and other parts of the world. Its aim is world hegemony. Its war plan is global in scope. While the United States was urgently promoting the ratification of the Paris Agreements in Europe, accelerating

rearmament in Western Germany, and in Asia and elsewhere, it also quickened its own war preparations and aggressive activities. In the Middle East, the American aggression bloc and its followers made great efforts to revive the already bankrupted "Middle East Command" aggressive plan under a new guise, and proceeded with a plan to violate the national independence of Arab countries, and also violate their sovereignties. In the Far East, in September 1954, the American aggression bloc colluded with Britain and France, signing the Manila Treaty and organizing a Southeast Asian aggressive bloc, targeting the People's Republic of China and attempting to enslave the Asian people. The American aggression bloc trampled the interests of the Japanese people, obstructing them from realizing independence and peaceful development, and imposing political and economic pressures to force the Japanese government to accept a plan of rapid rearmament. It is attempting to turn Japan into a vehicle for instigating aggressive war in the Far East. In Korea, America is continuously blocking a peaceful solution of the Korean question. In Indochina, America is trying to undermine the Geneva Agreement and destroy peace there. In December 1954, the American aggression bloc signed a so-called "Mutual Defense Treaty" with the Jiang Jieshi traitor bloc, which has long been abandoned by the Chinese people, and it also strengthened its aggression and threat toward the People's Republic of China. It continues to occupy the Chinese territory of Taiwan, openly intervenes in Chinese internal affairs, and is constantly making military provocations along the Chinese coast. It has tried to stop the Chinese people from liberating their own soil, Taiwan, even threatening to use nuclear weapons against China. Without any reserve, leading American figures have claimed that America has planned to attack China on three battlefronts, namely Korea, Taiwan, and Indochina. All the above are forcing Asian and European peoples alike to face the same grave danger of renewed war.

The American aggression bloc is insisting on current policy is because it wishes to lead the world into a new World War. American monopoly capitalists desire not only to gain the maximum profit from preparations for war, but also to make use of war to usurp world hegemony. They are becoming more licentious in their control of the American economy and politics. They may launch an unexpected attack whenever they please, and cause the world to drift into war. Thus, all peace-loving countries must be vigilant and prepared. Like all Warsaw Pact member states, the People's Republic of China firmly upholds peace. We have great confidence in the international peace enterprise. We have made, and will continue to make every effort to contribute to an easing of the international situation. We wish to resolve all kinds of international conflicts through negotiation, including the tense situation regarding Taiwan. However, this does not mean that we will be unprepared for sudden incidents imposed by the enemy of peace. There is no doubt that this Meeting will adopt all necessary and effective measures to protect peace and security in Europe. I have been authorized by the government of the People's Republic of China to declare that the Chinese government will give full support and cooperation to all decisions made by the Conference of European Countries on Safeguarding Peace and Security in Europe. Peace is indivisible. If European peace were to be violated, if imperialist aggressors were to declare war against peaceful European countries, the Chinese government and six hundred million Chinese people will certainly stand together with our fraternal countries and peoples, and fight the anti-aggressive war until the final victory.

Here, in order to awaken those warmongers, I would like to talk about the power balance between the aggressive camp and the peace camp. The power balance has changed fundamentally during the

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postwar period. Besides the world imperialist camp, a strong, peaceful, and democratic socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union has arisen, incorporating twelve states and nine hundred million people. Within this camp, countries are connected to a whole on the Eurasian continent, and they have shaped a predominant posture so that they can mutually assist each other in any event. Since the end of World War II, up until the present day, the power of the peaceful and democratic socialist camp has grown tremendously. The Soviet Union and all the People's Republic states, including the People's Republic of China, have made great and constructive achievements in all respects. In this camp, every state's interest and security are the concerns of all the others, because they are closely united in the sublime purpose of world peace and human advancement. The prestige of this camp in the world is growing. Its achievements have attracted attention from all other countries, and in particular, the majority of the world's peoples support its peaceful foreign policy. Owing to the strength and solidity of this peaceful and democratic socialist camp, it has become a mighty stronghold and an essential force for world peace.

No matter whether imperialists agree or not, the founding of the People's Republic of China and its burgeoning strength have greatly influenced this power balance in favor of the peace camp; that is an undeniable reality. Our country has achieved great progress in terms of its politics, economy, and national defense capacity. The imperialists have underestimated our progress, just as they underestimated the great power of the Soviet Union and other People's Republic states. Hence, in the Korean War for example, they got the lesson that they deserved. The question is not mainly about what we have accomplished, but rather about what kind of great potential we have. Even before the Chinese people gained their national victory, Japanese imperialists already had to admit that our people were invincible. Hence, without any doubt, if the imperialists eventually instigate war, the Chinese people will stand together with the Soviet Union and other People's Republic states absolutely, and we will inflict on those warmongers such a serious strike that they will wish they had never instigated the war in the first place.

When we talk about war and peace, we should remember that peace-loving peoples around the world also firmly oppose the imperialist war plan. Now, the whole world is fighting against the arms race, nuclear weapons, and imperialist war activities. In Asia and Africa, the struggle for national freedom and national independence is becoming increasingly important. More and more Asian and African countries have already broken, or are breaking away from their colonial fetters. The time when imperialists could manipulate and bully these countries is gone. Not long ago, the important Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, and its success reflected profound changes in Asia and Africa. It reflected the Asian and African peoples' aspirations and efforts to oppose colonialism, uphold peace, and enhance mutual friendly cooperation, and also reflected the fact that imperialist colonial policy and war policy were becoming increasingly unpopular. The American aggression bloc's fanatical military, political, and economic expansionist policy and war policy, aimed at world hegemony, are being firmly resisted by the whole world.

In a word, in terms of power balance, the superiority in no way lies on the imperialist aggressive bloc's side, but rather on the side of the peaceful and democratic socialist camp. The people of the socialist camp are becoming more and more convinced that their power is invincible. The imperialists cannot intimidate them, nor can they "blitz" them. If maniac imperialist rulers dare to violate the people's will and instigate a new World War, the peaceful and democratic socialist camp

headed by the Soviet Union and all peace-loving states and peoples around the world will together inflict a lethal strike on the invaders. The ultimate result will be the complete demise of the imperialist camp and the collapse of the entire capitalist system.

Let me repeat: just like the Soviet Union and other People's Republic countries, the People's Republic of China insists on peace. Our people are working with peace, and our unanimous aspiration and all our efforts are directed towards making our country prosperous and our lives happier. We wish to communicate in a friendly way with all other countries. We love peace and hate war. We propose that countries with different social and state systems should coexist in peace, attempt to develop economic, cultural, and other relations with each other, and actively adopt all measures in favor of relieving international tensions. The measures that we have adopted, and are preparing to adopt to prevent the swift attack of aggressive powers, are consistent with our peace policy.

Comrades! The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Polish People's Republic, the Czechoslovakian Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Romanian People's Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and the People's Republic of Albania! The Warsaw Conference of European Countries on Safeguarding Peace and Security in Europe is being held at a time when the danger of war is seriously jeopardizing the world. An important historical task has been laid before this Conference. The peoples of the world are closely following this Conference. Asian and European people alike are hoping for the success of this Conference. We strongly believe that, given the unshakeable unity of the formidable, invincible, peaceful, democratic socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, this Conference will doubtless make an invaluable contribution to the enterprise of European and world peace.