

Nie Rongzhen's Speech at the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee Meeting (28 January 1956)

Comrade Chairman, comrade representatives,

On behalf of the government of the People's Republic of China, please allow me to warmly congratulate the success of this Meeting!

The Chinese government believes that, on the basis of the provisions of the Warsaw Treaty signed on 14 May 1955, holding this meeting, exchanging opinions concerning the current international situation and future tasks, and making corresponding decisions are completely necessary and timely. There is no doubt that these decisions are of considerable importance in order to uphold peace and relieve international tensions.

Peace-loving states and peoples cannot just stand by and watch the imperialist aggressive bloc's so called "power status" policy, with its attempts to strengthen armaments, prepare for war, and impose the imperialists' will over all others. In the interests of world peace and the security of the socialist camp, it is absolutely necessary to enhance the Warsaw Pact, and also friendship, co-operation, and mutual assistance among treaty members. In this regard, the German Democratic Republic's decision to build its own People's Army and join the Warsaw Pact Joint Command of allied forces is a very significant event indeed.

It is widely known that the GDR is a peace-loving state and a stronghold of peaceful, democratic, and progressive German strength. She adheres to solving the German question in accordance with maintaining peace in Europe and the interests of the German people, and to make Germany a united, peaceful, democratic, and independent nation. However, the American aggression bloc and its followers insist on remilitarizing Western Germany and dragging it into the NATO. They explicitly attempt to make use of Western Germany to annex the GDR so that they can drag the whole of Germany into their aggressive bloc. Under these circumstances, the GDR is making the best possible endeavors to protect national security, and the achievements of the working people are more than merely necessary; they are imperative. The Chinese government and people fully support the GDR in the establishment of its own People's Army and joining the Joint Command of allied forces. We consider this accords not only with the interest of the German people, but also matches the interests of European collective security. This is an important contribution to the resistance of aggression and the defense of peace.

In December 1955, a delegation of the GDR government, led by Prime Minister Grotewohl, visited China. After genuine and friendly talks, the two sides signed a friendship and co-operation treaty. The Chinese people sincerely sympathize with, and warmly support the GDR and the German people's struggle for a peaceful reunification. To settle the issue of German reunification is the German people's own affair, which requires the rapprochement of the existing two Germanys.

During the past year, international tensions have been relieved to some extent, owing to the great

efforts made by the peaceful, democratic, socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and other peace-loving states and peoples. More and more states and peoples are supporting the principle of peaceful coexistence. The spirit of Bandung and the spirit of Geneva are gradually penetrating deep into people's hearts. The so-called "power status" and "cold war" policies are now facing a cluster of defeats. This tells us that, as long as peace-loving countries and peoples persist in the struggle for peace, the aggressive policy and war plan of the aggressive bloc can be stopped and conquered. Nonetheless, the American aggression bloc and its followers are unwilling to admit defeat. Still holding to their already bankrupted "power status" policy, they have accelerated their steps toward military expansion, preparation for war, and the implementation of colonial aggressive plans. Leading American figures have once again brought forward the notorious "liberation" policy and released so-called "Christmas Greetings," rampantly intervening in the internal affairs of all European People's Republic countries. John Foster Dulles attempted to take the advantage of the atomic bomb to intimidate the people of China and the world. He even baldly claimed that the policy of the present American administration is to bring the world to the "brink of war." This indicates that the ruling American bloc is trying its best to impede the relief of international tensions, since in order to secure maximum profit for the monopoly capital through the expansion of military might, it needs to create tensions and seek excuses for American foreign expansion.

In reality, the American aggression bloc is using the defense of the so-called "communist menace" as a guise for its preparation for war and aggression. We have no doubt that the targets of war of the American aggression bloc are the Soviet Union, China, and all People's Republic states, but we have never been, and never will be intimidated by its threat of war. On the contrary, the Chinese people are used to wiping the American aggression force and its Jiang Jieshi traitor bloc out of Mainland China completely. Korean and Chinese people have also taught the aggressors a severe lesson. Obviously, the American aggression bloc will never gain any benefit from the peaceful, democratic, socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union. In fact, the American imperialist bloc, under the guise of opposing the "communist menace," is exploiting all other countries in the world. American relations with many Asian and African countries prominently reflect such a situation.

The United States continuously overrides Asian and African countries with its colonial policy, and attempts to maintain and enforce its rule over Asian and African peoples, so that America can keep them in a politically, economically, and culturally backward state under imperialist control, and use them as a tool to instigate aggressive wars. The American aggression bloc prolonged its occupation in Japan, attempting to revitalize Japanese jingoism and turn Japan into its war base. It put barriers in the way of a peaceful solution of the Korean question. It colluded with the South Vietnamese government, undermining the Geneva Agreement and impeding the restoration of peace in Indochina. It forcibly occupied the Chinese territory of Taiwan. It organized the Southeast Asia aggressive bloc. It has colluded with other colonial powers to breach the sovereignty of Arab countries. It has suppressed national independence movements everywhere. It has supported Britain to make up a Baghdad Pact, which the Asian and African people unanimously opposed, and so on and so forth. The American aggression bloc even explicitly supports the villainous institution of colonialism. For instance, Dulles used to call India's Goa and China's Macao Portuguese "provinces." As for the so-called economic and technological "aid" given by the United States to many Asian and African countries, this is actually designed to gain political, economic, and military privileges, and to strengthen political control over, and economic exploitation of the recipient

countries. Therefore, it is not surprising that Asian and African peoples are more and more strongly opposing this kind of American aggression policy.

In order to address Asian and African discontent and resistance, and to prevent the Asian and African people from establishing friendly relationships with the Soviet Union, China, and other People's Republic states, the American aggression bloc and its accomplices have recently been spreading lies to intimidate and deceive the Asian and African people, saying that communism is "threatening and penetrating" their countries. However, the Asian and African people, drawing on their own history and lives, have already seen through these lies. They will never be deceived by those imperialists, and they will never give up their struggle for national independence. Awakening Asian and African peoples have realized that, as long as they preserve unity and maintain their resolve, colonial chains finally will be broken. There is no power in this world that can stop them from achieving their triumph of independence and liberation. The Asian and African peoples' struggle for political, economic, and cultural independence is a righteous enterprise and a great contribution to the enterprise of world peace and progress. They have been, and will continuously be sympathized with, and also supported by the socialist camp and people of the world. The time for colonialists has passed.

Comrades! The Chinese government is committed to pursuing a peace-oriented policy. We believe that Europe and Asia are indivisible. Six hundred million Chinese people will forever unite with the Soviet Union, all People's Republic states, and all peace-loving states and peoples. Together, we will strive for world peace and security.

Here, at the beginning of 1956, in the light of new changes in the international situation, the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee Meeting is of momentous significance, since it has helped in the exchange of opinions and in making decisions about the international situation, future tasks, further enhancement of friendly cooperation, and defense capacity. The Chinese government is cognizant that this Meeting will have a great influence on the enterprise of peace in Europe and the world, as well as the relief of the strained international situation.