
Chen Yun's Speech at the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee Meeting (27 May 1958, Moscow)

Comrade chairmen, Comrade representatives,

The Chinese government and Chinese people warmly welcome and support the opening of this Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee Meeting. Under the current circumstances, the Chinese government believes that this Meeting, held by Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee to further discuss important measures for relieving European and world tensions, is absolutely timely and necessary. The Chinese government completely supports all peaceful measures put forward at this Meeting.

It has been two years since the first Political Consultative Committee Meeting in January 1956. During this time, the international situation has changed tremendously and profoundly. The socialist camp, headed by the Soviet Union, has overcome the imperialist camp, headed by the United States, in terms of human aspirations, population, internal unity, and the speed of production development. In the past year, owing to the opening of the Communist Parties and Worker's Parties Moscow Conference and the successful launching of two Soviet satellites, the real superiority of peaceful socialist power over imperialist war power has reached a new high, and the world situation has arrived at a new turning point. Now, it is no longer the west wind that overwhelms the east wind, but rather the east wind that overwhelms the west.

Last November, the Communist Parties and Workers' Parties Moscow Conference and its two declarations led the socialist camp and the international communist movement to enter upon a new stage. Following the Moscow Conference, people can now recognize that the internal friendship and unity of the socialist camp have been consolidated, and that internal mutual assistance and co-operation have greatly developed. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has enjoyed splendid accomplishments in industrial and agricultural production, and in scientific and technological research. Ten days ago, the third satellite launched by the Soviet Union, a scientifically more advanced satellite than before, again proved that the Soviet Union has affirmatively surpassed the United States in many important scientific and technological areas. Moreover, the Soviet Union will continue to ensure that the United States remains far behind. Other socialist states have also achieved prodigious progress in their national economic development. Currently, China is realizing a great leap forward in industrial and agricultural terms. All of these examples have vividly verified the strength of the socialist camp and the incomparable superiority of the socialist system, which have also refuted the modern revisionist slanders that have smeared the socialist institution and ostensible socialist unity.

The socialist camp always upholds peaceful foreign policy and makes unremitting efforts to maintain peace. Recently, in order to relieve international tensions, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries continuously put forward many important peaceful proposals, and initiated a series of effective peaceful measures. All of them were genuinely supported by people around the globe, and greatly enforced the prestige of the socialist camp among peace-loving states.

Contrary to the united, vigorous socialist camp, with its increasing international prestige, the imperialist camp is approaching the end of its days, becoming isolated in the world and taking up a passive position. It is becoming increasingly subject to internal difficulties and disputes. Now, the United States, the head of the imperialist camp, has slumped into a new, serious economic crisis. This crisis has also struck other capitalist states, hastening the advent of a capitalist world economic crisis. This economic crisis, on the basis of a greater capitalist total crisis, will inevitably aggravate the internal conflicts within the capitalist world, accelerating the process of the eclipse and downfall of imperialism. In fact, the class struggle in imperialist countries has intensified. At the present time, social unrest is emerging from some of these countries. Among the imperialist countries, particularly the United States, Great Britain, and France, the inconsistency has become even more acute. Decentralization away from the United States and egalitarian emotions continue to spread among many capitalist countries. When the trends of imperialist expansionist and aggressive policy turn around, the anti-colonialism of the Asian and African people and movements for national independence will approach an unprecedented climax. "Eisenhowerism" has quickly collapsed in the hearts of the Asian and African people. Today, American imperialists are explicitly supporting Indonesian rebellions, executing subversive activities, and intervening in Lebanon's internal affairs, but these policies will ultimately be defeated, for the world is firmly united against them. Even in Latin America, strictly controlled by the United States and traditionally entitled America's "backyard," there has also been a huge wave against American aggression, with demands for independence and democracy. The best evidence for this was the hostile reception that the Latin American people gave to American Vice-president Nixon, whose real aim was to carry out aggressive activities.

The flourishing development of socialist power and the decay of imperialist power characterize the contemporary international situation. Recent developments have indisputably illuminated the international situation of the east wind overwhelming the west. Empirical practice has once again proved that the seemingly powerful American imperialism is nothing but a "paper tiger" with internal weaknesses, and that all "Americaphobia" is groundless. To overestimate imperialist war power and to underestimate peaceful and socialist power is extremely wrong and baleful. If in the past, for instance, following the October Revolution, Lenin, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and the Soviet people were fearless, despite facing capitalist world encirclement and the military intervention of 14 countries, how can we be afraid of imperialism while the socialist camp has completely won the upper hand? Hence, the power of peace in the world today is stronger than at any time in the past and is capable of blocking the imperialist war scheme. If the imperialists dare to initiate war, then the people of the world will wipe imperialism from the face of the earth once and for all.

Of course, we shall not belittle our enemy when we deal with specific matters. In order to prevent war and strive for peace, all peace-loving states and peoples on the one hand, and the socialist camp on the other must enhance unity and make arduous efforts. In this respect, the Warsaw Pact has great influence. Over the past three years, the Warsaw Pact has contributed greatly to the security of its member states and the peace of the world. We all know that the Warsaw Pact was formed for self-defense, because the exclusive North Atlantic aggressive bloc had been in existence for a considerable time, and that bloc repeatedly refused all kinds of peaceful proposals for establishing European collective security that the Soviet Union and other socialist states put forward. Following

the ratification of the Warsaw Treaty, the Soviet Union and other member states have continued to actively call for an end to European military groups, and for their replacement by a collective security system. Later, they also proposed a mutual non-aggression treaty between the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

However, western countries refused all of these, and they stick to their aggressive and warlike policy. Under these circumstances, for the sake of the member states' security and the peace of Europe and the world, the Warsaw Pact must be further strengthened so that none of the imperialist aggressive powers' war schemes can prevail. This is absolutely reasonable and necessary. Modern revisionists wish to place the Warsaw Pact together with the North Atlantic aggressive bloc, and argue that a world divided by two antagonistic military-political groups is the fundamental cause of present international tensions. This is leading to a complete confusion between right and wrong. This is exculpating responsibilities for the imperialists.

Comrades! The Chinese people have always believed that world peace is indivisible. As long as the Warsaw Pact strives for peace in Europe and around the world, six hundred million Chinese people will give their full support. As in the past, the Chinese people will continually and closely ally with the Soviet Union, other socialist states, and all peace-loving states and peoples in the struggle for lasting world peace. The Chinese government surely believes that this Meeting will generate enormous influence over the future reinforcement of unification and cooperation within the socialist camp, as well as the maintenance of European and world peace. Wish the Meeting success!