

**June 16, 1954**

**Statement by President Syngman Rhee at the  
Fourth Session of the Asian Peoples'  
Anti-Communist Conference**

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**Summary:**

President Syngman Rhee announces that the "Communist problem is not just a problem of one or two countries, but a world problem."

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STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT SYNGMAN RHEE AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE  
ASIAN PEOPLES' ANTI-COMMUNIST CONFERENCE ~~16~~ JUNE 1954.

In the first place I thank you for asking me to come to attend this Session. While I am away from here my heart is with you and I am very glad to be here.

I want to point out that this agenda is mere suggestion because we must have something to talk about. I do not think the Korean delegation which presented this agenda had a cut and dried plan that all the Delegations present would support and follow. There are some differences involved in each item. Our country is socially and sentimentally different from other countries and different circumstances exist in different countries. We cannot make a general rule to be applied to all, because in some places certain rules cannot be applied. So I want to say this.

This is a rare opportunity. I feel you are here to solve a great world problem. The Communist problem is not just a problem of one or two countries, but a world problem. It has reached a critical stage of affairs because for forty years the United States and all the so-called democratic nations paid no attention to it at all, even though the Bolsheviks declared publicly that their aim was to have International Revolution (which means Revolution for every country). Their aim is to conquer the whole world and make it one world - no nations, no Korea, no Indo-China. This is dangerous. It was and it still is. No nation had nouse enough to get up and fight this ideology.

Ideologically the Communists are wrong. I know they are wrong. They cannot conquer the whole world and control it. Ideologically we must say we will not let Russia have one world and make it one. Let us get up and tell the people we are against Communism. Again, militarily,



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Communists say that if they fail to win the world by ideological means they will conquer militarily any nation or people who refuse to join the cause for one world. So Russia has prepared a great military might and if ignored long enough will very soon conquer all nations and all peoples. What may happen after that is a different question; but they will conquer. How do I know? You can see how many people are won over by the Communists already. All the satellite States and Communist peoples are supporting Russia. It was not so before. But they are now. Where is China today - 400 million people and all Communist? We know they are not. Pretty soon England, France and European countries and America will fall into the orbit and will not be able to move a finger without the OK of the Kremlin. Is not that dangerous?

We say that this is not going to be and we are going to stop it. We blame ourselves for not having taken steps to do so long before this. If we get together we have strength, power and might. Ideologically and militarily we have to fight Communism. There is no other way out. There is nothing else to do. Let us prepare both ideologically and militarily, you and I and others to combine together in one mighty movement - a movement which may become stronger than the mightiest army in due time. Let us take up the fundamental problems at this gathering. We cannot meet here every other day; we cannot stay here for an indefinite length of time. Time is limited. We cannot spend months and years talking as they have done at Panmunjom and Geneva, and we cannot do anything if everyone expects to get something for himself out of it. We are all here for one purpose.

The Communist is the fellow with the big stick who will knock you down if he does not get what he wants. His opposition says I am

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not going to hurt that fellow or he will hurt me. So he yields. It so happened in China, North Korea and now Indo-China. I was telling the Americans that they would pretty soon give up Southern California, and then North California, and then the White House, and then they would bow and there would be peace. If they want that kind of peace they can have it today without wasting manpower, money or time but if they cannot let this happen, now is the time to stand up and say they will employ everything in their power against it.

Let us see what we can do against Communism. We are not talking about Communism thousands of miles away. It is in our own house, our own church our own community. Go around and find out who is Communist. A Communist is no longer your brother. He is a demon, a beast. You will find out. The first thing I want you to do is to find that Communist, girl or man, and tell him Communism is his enemy because it is the usurper of human rights, the enemy of all the free nations of the world. He is your enemy, my enemy. You should start an anti-Communist movement in your country.

When I came back to Korea the whole nation was Communist. They declared me President of the Peoples' Republic. I told them they were mistaken, that I was their President, not the President of anybody, and that all those who were trying to make my country serve Soviet Russia were my enemies. All who want to follow Russian officialdom are our enemies and can go out to Soviet Russia and live there in a happy Utopia, but they should not stay in your country or mine.

You have long stood against Communism, otherwise you would not be here today. Now let us start over again in unison. The Communists are powerful because they are organized. They have very few principles. Their principles have no leg to stand on. Falsehood, robbery, plundering

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are their principles. We stand on the principle of the freedom of man. Man today and man tomorrow will be willing to give up his life for the sake of his freedom, his children's freedom and his children's children's freedom. We have goods to sell; Communists have not. They have only evil and as we stand on the principles of right, justice and freedom, and will work earnestly and energetically, I am sure we can win over all those who the Communists claim as their followers. So in this connection, gentlemen, I do not wish you to take up too much of your available time on details. Look over your papers and then make any comment and suggestions as to permanent organization. After that you can talk over the things which have to be done in the fight against Communism.

At the conclusion of the President's remarks, Acting Chairman Hernandez of the Philippines expressed the view that the Delegates would have to decide whether the Committee or Organization was to recommend objectives or a constitution and by laws. Mr. Mariniano G. Abad of the Philippines suggested that the Committees screen and process the recommendations of all Delegations and then report.

Further remarks by President Rhee: Let the details sort themselves out. If we want to get together on every detail it will be very difficult; in fact not only difficult but it may tend to spoil the harmony and spirit of the Conference. Therefore I would like to have the general principles agreed on and the Constitution worked out later. We cannot work out everything in the preliminary session. There will be differences of opinion. Therefore we had better not tackle the detailed matters but leave them on a broad basis. My suggestion is to organize this permanent organization which will have some future outlines and

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fundamental general principles. Everyone should follow the general framework and leave the details to be worked out later.

Do not expect to follow the Communist Organization system, one big Headquarters here or there with all the other anti-Communist nations following willynilly. My suggestion is to have a permanent society in Korea, a permanent society in China, in Thailand and the Philippines and so on - each country to have its own HQ and own Society. The details may be different, one from the other, according to the situation which prevails in each country. Then all should agree to communicate in order to have a frequent exchange of ideas and reports. The Koreans will have one organization somewhere here in Korea. We may then ask China, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam etc. to send representative here or it may be decided to send representatives work together in some other place.

All this I suggest for the organization of our permanent association to work out how we will fight the common enemy.