

June 16, 1954

**Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist Conference, Speech
by Chief Thailand Delegate Mr. Phra Rajadharm
Nides**

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Summary:

Thai National Assemblyman Phra R. Nides discusses communism in Southeast Asia and the outcomes of the Geneva Conference.

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SPEECH BY CHIEF THAILAND DELEGATE MR. PHRA RAJADHARM NIDES
June 16, 1954

Since I did not arrive in time for the opening ceremony yesterday I must join all my colleagues in expressing grateful thanks to South Korea, to the Korean people for the very kind invitation to be here. Personally I accepted the invitation without hesitation, because in my own land I was known as the first enemy of Communism. In coming here it is my intention to show the world that I am so.

Now I am in the land of Korea whose people have made brave and gallant efforts to fight the Communists. If there are any people on earth who can show that they have successfully fought the Communists it is the Korean people. The whole world knows Korea and its struggle against the Communists and I must say that the name of your President, Mr. Syngman Rhee is as famous as anyone of the greatest men on earth today. His name is identified with the land of Korea. Whenever people talk of Korea now, they think of President Syngman Rhee. And whenever they speak of your President Syngman Rhee they think of the unfortunate people of Korea who have gallantly fought against the Communists and have all prospects of having to fight again. Korea was for years under foreign domination, but even as she became free from such foreign domination, and emerged to enjoy the dawn of the United Nations era, she was being submerged by the tide of Communism. It was to her great credit she fought it successfully in conjunction with the United Nations forces, and for that I beg to pay tribute to the land of my hosts and hostesses today.

I am glad to be in a land which is as truly anti-Communist as I. I find it my real home here because if I were to choose a place which has really fought on a major scale it would be Korea—the Korean people under the leadership of Syngman Rhee.

Now I am a deputy speaker of the National Assembly of my land and as deputy speaker I do not speak very often. I am a speaker but I do not speak. It is other people who speak. I speak very rarely. I have been to several national meetings in Europe and America and I adopt the attitude of not speaking. I speak only on one certain subject, and that is the fight against Communism. Whenever this subject was brought up at any meeting I was the first to show my hand. At the Washington Conference last October they spoke on many subjects, including one about liberties and freedom of the people. This touches on Communism as a violator of human principles, so I was the first to put up my hand. I went up to the rostrum. I quoted a certain man called Lincoln Steffens, a philosopher of America. He has his statue in the Capital. On the base of the statue are the words, "I am afraid of nothing on the earth. I am afraid of nothing above the earth. I am afraid of nothing under the earth. I am afraid of nothing except to do wrong." I quote this statement to the meeting, adding that Thailand as well as South East Asia has done nothing wrong in the way of waging war or aggression on other countries. In fact, Thailand should be afraid of nothing on the earth, above the earth, or under the earth. Why should they be afraid?

There is one lack among the Eastern countries; that is, lack of unity. And there is another lack in the Western world — the free democratic world; that is the lack to act promptly on the spot. Western democracy is used to table talks and once you

get down to table talks you go on and on endlessly. It is the Communist side which acts and therefore gains.

I have been to the Geneva talks, not as a participant, but as an observer. The meeting began with talks one against the another. It took them more than five days to finish the talks. Then they sat down to work as urged by Mr. Eden of Great Britain. They set two questions apart, the question of Korea and the question of Indo-China, but I could see from the very first hour of the meeting that these two questions could never be solved because the people attending the meeting adopted two different channels of thought. This is not what we are doing here. This is not a political talk. This is a camp talk with people in the same camp with the same ideas and the same determination. At Geneva there were two sides, the Communist side and the Western democracy side. They never tried to join amicably and never tried to meet each other half way. The Communists will not yield even one half an inch to the other side. They are trying to gain time and achieve more victories in Indo-China. I returned and reported to my people that I would waste no more time listening to that conference but would be better at home observing what the Communists had done to my country.

And they are quite near! Since the fall of Dien Bien Phu they are concentrating on the Delta. From the Red River Delta comes nearly all the rice of Indo-China. Hanoi is the second most important city of Indo-China. There is also a most important Port of Indo-China, Haiphong. The Communists are still planning to go into Laos and Cambodia and then..well, of course, we can read their intentions. Any school boy can do that. After running through Laos and Cambodia it will be Thailand. Of course in Thailand, like in South Korea, we have no Communists. We used to have underground Communists but the passage of a law against Communists wiped out all the underground forces.

Hongkong Delegate: What about the active underground?

Thailand Delegate: The police force looked well after them. They are being traced at every step. If they are undesirables and are aliens, they are deported. If they are our nationals they are imprisoned. We have also an Appeals Board to the Secretary Council to provide Thailand and the States of Indo-China with a Supervisory Committee to supervise over the border and ensure there will be no aggression.

Korean Delegate: May I ask what was your passage of the law. Did you outlaw the Communist party?

Thailand Delegate: Under the law there shall be no member of the Communist party in Parliament, no Communist activities in the country, and no attachments whatsoever to the Communists. We have to be definite on that point because if we are not, we are in the soup. We have been definite ever since the Communist aggression in South Korea. We were one of the first nations to respond to the call of the United Nations to send forces here. We were very definite that if the Communist flow could not be stopped it would spread all over Asia, so we sent our force to be of assistance. They have proved they are good fighters and they will fight against the Communists if they infiltrate our land. Whether our manpower is sufficient to resist in another question but with the strength we have we shall put our utmost against them and

with the help of the United Nations or other nations I think we can put up a very successful fight.

Then again at another Conference when the subject of Communism came up I was the first to show my hand. I said I thought the Western democratic countries should liberate or give freedom to South East Asian States, but it had been shown that as soon as they were released from foreign domination they fell under the heels of Communism. It is like a boy who is on the point of being drowned. He raises his hand to beckon the people on shore to save him, but they, instead of giving aid, give him a sermon. The people on shore adopt a wait and see policy and that boy, being definitely drowned, is lost for ever. It is action that we need now. It is not talk. We should apply action first and talk afterwards of who is right and who is wrong. My motto at present is, do it or die, one way or the other. If you do not want to die, do it. If you do it you will not die.

A lady member of Parliament from Finland rose up to sport me. She said Finland was on the threshold of Russia. She could hear them every day say they are going to liberate the whole world, while all the time they are hiding the concentration camps which still exist in Russia, in which are prisoners of war of various countries. These prisoners are forced to work even worse than slaves. And she asked the Parliamentarians of all lands, "When will there be a human hand raised, warm with human blood to knock at the gates of these camps and say into them, 'Go home, go home, your wives and children are calling you daily'." And when she said this tears fell from her cheeks and her voice trembled. I asked her, "Your country is so tiny compared with Russia. Are you not afraid?" She said, "No. On the contrary we develop our industries along the border so that they are superior to the Russian side and the people from the other side come to our border daily, pouring into Finland from Russia."

After that meeting I was the first to go to congratulate her for having supported me. She said when she returned home she would send me documents against Communism which are written in her country. When I returned to Thailand I spoke on the radio and told the people of what she had said. And when I go back I will tell my people of what has been said here to enlighten them further on the subject.

I have been to Turkey and asked the people, "Are you not afraid of being on the nose of Russia?" They said there they do not speak of Russia. Any nation, be it England, Russia or France would have to go over the dead body of Turkey before they get any of the land. That is their attitude. The Russian Communists could never go over the Turkish border and no Communists could go over the Finland border.

The thing is to act now. I have asked myself several times why the people of Asia should themselves become instruments of the Communists. The people of Red China are slaves of Russia. They have been thrown in human waves into this country to be captured or to die. And now there are waves and waves of humans going into Indo-China, but they are not Russians, they are Chinese. And so the Chinese fight against the Koreans and now the Chinese are fighting against Indo-China. The Communists sit happily to enjoy their good breakfasts and allow the Chinese to be their instruments of aggression. Why? Why should the people of Asia be the instruments of the Communist forces for the destruction of Asia?

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That is the question we have to solve. So we must tackle the situation now or we die. We must do it now. We must do it in a team and do it with courage. Why must we wait? There is no reason to wait. We can do it this moment.

Communism is not only a philosophy of action it is a philosophy of the mind - and ideology in the mind. If we could stop the visionary theorizing of the Asians we would have no trouble whatsoever. There should be no home in Thailand or in Korea where Communist pamphlets may be found, where Communist persuasive methods can be applied. There should be no one in our countries who endorses the Communist ideology, and no one who deals with anyone who sides with the Communists.

Chou En Lai made a statement at the Geneva Conference calling for "Asia for the Asians". It is a very fine phrase - a stock phrase, borrowed by him. Any Asian youth would be easily attracted by the phrase "Asia for the Asians". But the inner meaning of the phrase is not exactly to the letter. He should have said "Asia for the Russians", because at the time when he said it, the Russians still controlled Port Arthur, the Manchurian Railway and all the strategic points of China. Russia acquired such control in collaboration with the Free World. The free people of Asia are determined to fight to the last man, and if the Communists knew they would get strong resistance, would they come? They came into North Korea because some North Koreans encouraged them to come. They went into Indo-China because they were invited to go, and they are going to Laos and Cambodia because some of the Vietnam people accepted them. And they will probably come to our country. They will have certain people see to it that our country rises against the Government, and will get material aid from Russia. After the war is won everything will be for the Soviet. (referred to article in World-News-Telegram of New York)

I am very happy to be here with colleagues who follow the same course as I, and I can say that we all wish to live in peace, but if we have to die anyway, let us do it together. We have to die one day but better die with honor and glory than to die a shameless death.