

June 16, 1954

**Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist Conference, Speech
by Mrs. Lee Chien, Macao Delegate**

Citation:

"Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist Conference, Speech by Mrs. Lee Chien, Macao Delegate", June 16, 1954, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-387-024, Documents Related to the Asian Anti-Communist League Conference, Papers Related to Treaty-Making and International Conferences, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/118324>

Summary:

Mrs. Lee Chien announces that "the mind of the Chinese in Macao is a good reflection of the mind of the people inside of the Iron Curtain."

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

SPEECH BY MRS. LEE CHIEN, MACAO DELEGATE
Morning Session, 16 June, 1954

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Delegates

Macao, the so-called "Monte Carlo of the Orient" is a Portuguese Colony. The population is mostly Chinese. Macao has little industry to speak of---some match factories, fishery and fish products, etc. The important thing is that the Macao Government sets no regulations to restrict the entry of Chinese from the Mainland. Therefore, we say Macao is a small window through which we free peoples can peep into the Iron Curtain and the people inside the Iron Curtain can peep out at what is going on in the Free World. We think you will realize the significance of this "small window".

I. General Picture--Chinese in Macao: Macao being so close to the Iron Curtain, the Chinese people can come in freely from the Mainland as far as the Portuguese authority is concerned. Every year in March or April, when the Chinese Ching-Ming Festival comes in the Lunar Calendar, native Chinese always follow the traditional custom of visiting their ancestral tombs in Chun-shan City or the nearby districts. At this time of the year, the Communists always relax their entry restrictions to allow swarms of people to enter the Mainland from Macao. Every day, the nearby Chinese country people carry their vegetables, eggs, chickens, and such products to Macao for sale. Shek-Ki, a small town in Chinese territory, is only a few minutes' drive from the center of Macao. In short, because of the frequent flow of Chinese in and out of Macao, people in Macao know very well and almost instantly what is going on in the Iron Curtain. The mind of the Chinese in Macao is a good reflection of the mind of the people inside the Iron Curtain.

In 1949, the Communists had won the support of almost all the labour unions, students, businessmen, and the society in general, except, perhaps, I may say, the Catholic community. However, what has been going on in the homeland these five years has opened the eyes and ears of the Chinese people, and many have awakened to the truth that Communist propaganda was a trick and the true state of things under the Communist rule is murder, hatred, slavery, and starvation. Now we can say 95% of the Chinese population is anti-communist. I shall give you an illustration to show how hearts have changed---

In 1949, nearly everybody celebrated the Communist National Day, 1st Oct. The excitement was really a sight--noisy firecrackers, red flags flying, communist songs sung, the "Yanko" danced, and much ado. In 1950 there was still a big show. In 1951, things began to be different. Then, until last year, the Communists and pro-Communists had to hand out free fire-crackers in order to make a show. However, few people remembered to do as they were requested, and it seemed that they deliberately ignored it as they kept the supply of firecrackers to fire on the Double Tenth--that is the National Day of Free China. Last year the Free China flags were everywhere, from tall buildings to huts, from factories to cigarette stands. It was a complete reverse of the situation.

61

II
Commerce in Macao (abnormal): As we have said that Macao has little industry to speak of, and under normal times commerce was carried on in quite a small scale and business consists of only goods for consumption. However, since the U.M. embargo on strategic supplies, Hongkong, which had been the usual port for the transit of such goods, has been restricted by law from doing much business with the Communists. In 1951, Macao enjoyed a business boom never known before. But the golden time was short-lived, and trade with Communist China dropped as suddenly as it started. This was due to the Communist purge that started in late 1951 and lasted until almost the middle of 1952. After that, the Communists tried to get whatever they could from the Soviet bloc. For a time they were short of foreign exchange. Also, the decline of trade was a result of the Communists' utter lack of faith and business integrity in their dealings. In spite of the fact that all businessmen are now very cautious in dealing with the Communists and would rather trade with other free peoples instead, they have no other choice. Macao is suffering a serious depression. Owing to hard times everywhere and travelling restrictions, the number of tourists has decreased considerably, and the scanty local producers find it difficult to cope up with the keen competitions abroad. Therefore, many businessmen are still dreaming of a comeback of the golden time of 1951; they cannot refuse to do business with Communists for the simple reason they must live, though it is against their will. We feel that we should try to develop the Macao trade with free peoples in a normal way and to stop the loop-hole through which strategic supplies are still getting into Communist China, though on a much smaller scale.

III. Labour Those who can afford to be free and anti-Communist have done so at their own will. But, those who must be pro-Communist in order to get their daily bread naturally find it difficult to do as they wish. For instance, Macao's biggest hotel, the International Hotel, which closed for a long time and recently reopened, is a good example. The former hotel owner, who had given way to Communist agents, sold his interests to another party, who refused to obey the Communist order to allow the employees to hold daily long discussion and indoctrination meetings, have red flags, and such things. The workers, backed by the Communists and promised full protection, put up a strike which lasted for months. The new owners were determined either to run their business their own way or let the hotel remain idle. Finally, the Communist agents stopped feeding the strikers and a settlement was reached. No 'isms' were involved. The question is simple. The mass of the working class is only concerned about its daily bread. Therefore, we believe that the growth of Communism would be impossible if the well-being of the mass of the people was assured.

IV. Communist in Macao They are not as enthusiastic as they used to be. Firstly, they have just seen a terrible purge during which thousands of comrades died and thousands were sent to labour camps for reeducation; now another purge is being started. It may be their own turn next. This purge business goes on and on and no one is safe. Secondly, except the top key-men in Peking, most of the rank-and-file resent the presence of the Soviet "big brothers", who have come as their advisers and masters. Many doubted that they should have ever fought in Korea, and still puzzle they must fight again in Indo-China. These people think that they should concentrate their efforts in industrialization plans to improve the

62

-3-

economic condition of the country, instead of being led by the nose by the Soviets to shed blood in Foreign lands.

For the above said reasons, everyday there are desertions of Communist party members who try to escape to Macao, sometimes swimming across the little stream that separates the China territory and Macao at night, and some try to come with a mission, sneak into Hongkong and never go back. There are also Communists party members in Macao, who still carry on their work superficially as ordered, but at heart they are thinking of how to break loose. I can tell you many true stories, but it will be too long for this brief report.

We are absolutely certain that there is a large percentage of the Communist rank-and-file who have awakened to the truth that Communist China is no longer China's China but Soviet's China. They are groping to find a way to freedom. We feel we must do something to help these poor fellows. Country-men of ours will come to see the light and become our fellowmen to fight against Soviet aggression and to get back our homeland.

V. What can we do? We must realize that so far, the world situation is not too encouraging, the Communists are gaining their way in their military expansion, and the free nations are not yet united. Once the free peoples and nations show signs of unison, and the Communists are checked in the battle fields, a new encouraging picture will be reflected to the people in the Iron Curtain through Macao. We are most certain that there will be great exultations among the enslaved people within the Iron Curtain. They will be ready to become our ally from within the enemy and to act in step with the free peoples outside. Then we may expect to gain victory with little blood-shed. It is our sincere hope that when we go back from this conference, a new hope will be crystalized and a united front formed.

May this Conference pave the way to a FREE, UNIFIED,
STRONG, AND PROSPEROUS ASIA!

63