

March 12, 1955

**Letter, Anup Singh, Indian Preparatory Committee
for the Conference of Asian Countries, to President
Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Anup Singh invites South Korea to attend the Conference of Asian Countries in New Delhi, even though a delegate of North Korea will also be in attendance.

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INDIAN PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE
CONFERENCE OF ASIAN COUNTRIES

President:

SMT. RAMESHWARI NEHRU

15, HOTEL IMPERIAL,
NEW DELHI.
(INDIA)*General Secretary:*

SYED NAUSHER ALI, M.P.

Secretaries:

DR. ANUP SINGH, M.P.

DR. CHOITHRAM GIDWANI, M.P.

SMT. VIOLET ALVA, M.P.

SHRI ROMESH CHANDRA

March 12, 1955.

Treasurer:

SHRI H. C. MATHUR, M.P.

Dear Mr. President,

Greetings.

Eversince my return from Korea I have been invited to a number of groups and organisations to explain the Korean problem. I have tried to the best of my ability to present the case in as fair and objective manner as I could. I have been following the tragic events in your country with the deepest concern and anxiety. I do sincerely hope that some speedy and just solution of the problem will be reached as the millions of innocent Koreans have been made victims of death and destruction through no fault of their own. I am approaching you with a request, which I do hope you would consider sympathetically as I am making it with utmost sincerity.

A large number of representative Indians from the Parliament and representatives in various walks of life are sponsoring a Conference of Asian Countries. They will be holding it in New Delhi from April 6th to April 10th. Most of the Asian countries have already responded and expressed their enthusiasm willing to participate in the Conference. It will be a non-official Conference designed primarily to rouse and consolidate public opinion in Asia for the solution of problems that concern the Asians as such. It has no connection whatsoever with the forthcoming Afro-Asian Conference to be held in New Delhi except the accidental timings. As a matter of fact the proposed Asian Conference in New Delhi was planned long before there was any talk of the Afro-Asian Conference and they may both arrive at more or less the same decisions but that would be purely accidental. Actually the Asian Conference is much larger in scope than the Asian African Conference as the former would deal with scientific, social and cultural problems. In spite of our pending problems and ideological differences and mode of thought an attempt may be made to revive and revitalise our ancient bonds and promote new ones. This is our chief purpose.

According to the present plans we expect roundabout 300 delegates from different Asian countries. Around 30 from the larger countries and 20, 15, 10 and 5 from the others according to their size. The Preparatory Committee has tentatively fixed your quota at 10 Members. I shall be personally happy and grateful if you would send a couple of Economists, Educationists, Writers or Poets or outstanding personalities, in every sphere of life.

I am enclosing herewith the first Bulletin that I have brought out which gives the background material and the Agenda of the proposed Asian Conference.

I would be less than candid if I did not inform you that the Asian Secretariat for the Asian Conference which is now functioning in Delhi has decided to extend invitation to the representative of the regime in the North Korea also. I know it is a ticklish problem and your representatives may not like to share the platform with the representatives from the Korean regime in the North. I can assure you, however, that we will not allow this Conference to be utilised or exploited for mutual recriminations between any groups from participating countries. In my brief explanatory note I have made it very clear that our main concern will be not to dilate upon the bitter past but to put our heads together and find out a solution of the current problem. We would expect and request the representatives from the South and North Korea to emphasize only the desire for unity. I have also mentioned in my note that the international world owes Korea a great debt that must be redeemed.

I am fully conscious of the fact that it has not been possible for you to see eye to eye with the foreign policy pursued by the Government of India. I recognise that there can be room for honest difference of opinion. May I request you, therefore, once again to favourably respond to this invitation from the Asian countries and also from me personally. Since the time at our disposal is very short, early response from you would be deeply appreciated.

With sincere best wishes and personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



(ANUP SINGH)