

November 6, 1957
**Views Expressed by Minister Hoon Kim at the Red
Cross Conference at New Delhi**

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Summary:

Minister Kim speaks at the plenary session during the discussion on the draft resolution of the USA concerning the Red Cross traditional principle.

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Manila

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MINISTER HOON KIM, CHIEF OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA DELEGATION TO THE XIXTH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE AT NEW DELHI, INDIA ON NOVEMBER 6, 1957 AT THE PLENARY SESSION DURING THE DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE U.S.A. CONCERNING THE RED CROSS TRADITIONAL PRINCIPLE BY WHICH THE INVITATIONS TO ALL PARTIES BE ADDRESSED ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN OFFICIAL TITLES.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

The delegation of the Republic of Korea to this conference wishes to make sure once again the principle of the Red Cross that it is non-political and purely for a humanitarian service for all peoples. This is also very clearly mentioned by the chairman of the conference in the very beginning of this conference. I wish to quote once again the statement made by the Irish delegate yesterday on the same resolution - it was asked whether any change had taken place in the Red Cross principle since the previous conference held in Toronto, 1952. I do, too, wish to ask the authorities concerned what change has taken place regarding the principle of the Red Cross between 1952 until now. We are all understood that no change was made in the Red Cross principle. The question comes to our minds - who changed the official title of the Republic of China to the Government of Formosa? The one individual or the group of individuals or the organization who purposely or unpurposely used the improper name on the invitation, has already violated the principle of the Red Cross by not using the proper title or name. It involves as well a political problem, in this case, the change of title of a sovereign state, namely, the Republic of China to the Government of Formosa.

Ladies and gentlemen, we all understood from the beginning that we should not touch any political question or problem for that our Red Cross is a non-political organization. But I am sure all you delegates experienced that the previous speakers, the Polish delegate for one, delivered a political speech which belongs to the United Nations and not to this Red Cross Conference. The People's Republic of China delegate also spent so much of this conference time to explain their position and the position of the Republic of China which they say is a part of their territory. All these are purely political questions, and therefore, those delegates already violated the rules of this conference in which political problems are not allowed to be discussed.

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, we have here with us some people who really are not clear about using words as "Principle" and "Humanity." Shakespeare defines the word "Humanity" as something which has to do with the love among fellow human beings. Certainly, no humanity can be realized without the realization of the value of human rights and human freedom. Hundreds and thousands of our ancestors sacrificed themselves for the great principle of human rights and human freedom. But it is with a great regret that we still have to see and have to meet those people who misuse and misinterpret the words "principle" and "humanity" for their own selfish purposes.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, the term "principle" is actually what all of us are interested in, and that is all in this reso-

lution submitted by the United States delegation at this moment. It is clear to everyone of us that the principle of the Red Cross has not changed in any sense or any time since the Toronto Conference of 1952. But the traditional principle and practice of using the proper official title for all the invited members of the Red Cross Conference now appears to have been changed, without having made any change in the Red Cross principle which has been used for so long a period of time. We are also informed that at the Toronto Conference in 1952, the Republic of China was fully represented. We, the delegation of the Republic of Korea cannot discover any real reason why the usual official title of the Republic of China had to be changed to the Government of Formosa which title was, purposely or unpurposely, used by the authorities who are responsible for sending out the invitations for this conference. We, the delegation of the Republic of Korea, therefore, fully support this resolution by which the traditional principle of the Red Cross should be at once effectively carried out in order to re-affirm the true spirit of the Red Cross as well as carry on this present conference much more successfully.

Thank you.