

November 1, 1957
**Statement Made by Minister Hoon Kim to the 6th
International Red Cross Conference**

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Minister Kim speaks on the humanitarian law at the humanitarian commission at New Delhi.

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November 1, 1957

STATEMENT MADE BY MINISTER HOON KIM, CHIEF OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA DELEGATION TO THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE, ON THE OCCASION OF HUMANITARIAN LAW DISCUSSION AT THE HUMANITARIAN COMMISSION AT NEW DELHI ON NOV. 1, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

1. We have been discussing the problem of humanity for the last several days but it seems to me that, instead of progressing, we are only getting back to the point where we really started. In this connection, I wish to refer to my little experience in the good country, Australia, some time ago. In Canberra, the capital city there, one evening I started my walk from one end of the city to the other in the hope of finding a friend's home. After walking about three quarters of an hour, I discovered that I had got back to the same point where I had originally started. Because the streets in that city are in the shape of a circle, if we do not pay much attention to the direction which we are aiming at, we are always likely to return to the same point where we started instead of getting somewhere.
2. In this world today, we have so many agreements, so many resolutions and regulations, but those agreements and resolutions in the real sense, do not lead us to any further place, and so often we have to start all over again and again. The reason is that the people who have agreed to fulfill certain duties simply do not carry out what they have agreed to.

They do not even carry out the armistice agreement today.

3. It seems to us, for the last several days of our discussion of this humanitarian matter, our heads are getting too hot instead of our hearts getting warmer. Ladies and gentlemen, unless we try to put our hearts and humanitarian love into this discussion, we shall get nowhere. We, the Republic of Korea delegation, came to this conference purely to contribute ourselves to "humanity" and we trust the very symbol of the "Red Cross" is just what it stands for: the human love and sacrifice of our service to save and to help our fellow men and women who really need such merciful service as the services rendered by the Red Cross.

4. Ladies and Gentlemen, in connection with this important matter, humanitarian love, we cannot ignore the great principles of humanity which already was expressed to the world by the great Sage "CONFUCIUS" : "Thou shalt love other men's children as well as thy own child." I am very sure the delegates from the People's Republic of China must know this great principle. Even the symbol of our Red Cross flag signifies the very symbol of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ who sacrificed Himself for all the sins which human society has committed. Without love for our fellow human beings in our hearts, the Red Cross aim can never be achieved successfully.

5. Some delegates have already referred to the results of the atomic bomb during the second World War, and the delegates

further stated that had the bomb been dropped in the heart of Europe or America, the nuclear bomb tests perhaps would already be stopped. Let us not blame anything or anyone for what has happened in the past. All the results that we see today are not without serious reasons and causes, and the blame for all the sad war victims should be referred to those human minds that originally created the war. In this connection, I quote once again the UNESCO'S constitution - "War is created by the human mind."

6. Ladies and gentlemen, having the above view in mind, let us try and endeavour to contribute our hearts with love for our fellow human beings to this conference, rather than make too many resolutions and agreements which are really useless when one does not have any real intention to follow up what he has agreed to, and so often, the good will principle has been misused and misinterpreted by those who utilize such resolutions or agreements to satisfy their own selfish aims.

7. The resolution by the Indian Red Cross to this conference, seems to include verywell the resolution adopted by the Toronto Conference in 1952 and the resolution passed by the Oslo Conference Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies in 1954 -- all of which were deeply concerned with nuclear weapons. Therefore, the delegation of the Republic of Korea is in the opinion that any other additional resolution, such as the one submitted by the Japanese delegation at the moment, will hardly serve any different purpose than those already noted in the draft rules

for the Limitation of the Dangers Incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War, submitted to this Conference by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We therefore urge this conference that we should need no further resolutions to be discussed because we have already allowed our two full days' time to this question of nuclear weapons, but now, we should be ready to vote on the resolution which we have already discussed for some hours.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.