

'The Asian-African Conference is over' from Pravda (25 April 1955)

Caption: On 25 April 1955, the Soviet daily newspaper Pravda publishes a report on the outcome of the first conference of non-aligned nations, held in Bandung, Indonesia.

Source: Pravda. 25.04.1955. Moskva. "Konferentsiia stran Azii i Afriki zakonchila svoiu rabotu".

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The Asian-African Conference is over

BANDUNG, 24 April. (Special TASS correspondent). The final plenary session of the Asian-African Conference convened this evening. The Conference secretariat announced that telegrams had been received from a number of well-wishers, including the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The chairman of the Conference, Ali Sastraoamidjojo, then asked the General Secretary, Ruslan Abdulgani to read out the Joint Communiqué. The delegates to the conference unanimously approved the Joint Communiqué to rapturous applause and cheers.

Following the adoption of the Communiqué, speeches were given by U Nu, Prime Minister of Burma, Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, Gamal AbdelNasser, Prime Minister of Egypt, Mohammed Ali, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Pham Van Dong, Deputy Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and representatives of Iran, Iraq, the Philippines and other nations.

Prime Minister U Nu noted that the positive significance of the conference lay not only in the fact that important decisions were taken, but also that it was the first time that representatives of Asian and African countries were able to meet face-to-face and exchange views. This could only lead to better mutual understanding. U Nu also stated that the Conference was a concrete example of the peaceful co-existence of countries with different political systems.

Chou En-lai's speech

The Premier of the State Council of China, Chou En-lai spoke as follows:

'Distinguished Chairman, distinguished delegates:

Our Conference has been a great success. First of all, on behalf of the delegation from the People's Republic of China I would like to thank the five Colombo group countries for their initiative in convening this Conference. I would also like to thank our gracious hosts, the President, people and Government of the Indonesian Republic, for their warm welcome, the chairman of our Conference, the Prime Minister of Indonesia, for his efforts, the delegates for their cooperation, the Joint Secretariat of the Conference and all those involved in the conference for their invaluable contribution.

The success of the Conference has fostered greater mutual understanding between the countries of Asia and Africa and has allowed us to reach consensus on a whole series of important issues. Its success will go a long way to furthering our common goal, that of ending colonialism, defending peace and further consolidating friendly cooperation between our countries. This Conference has, to a large extent, justified the hopes of the peoples of Asia and Africa, and of the entire world.

The Conference has also shown that our countries have different approaches to, and opinions about many issues. We have partly discussed these differences. However our different approaches and views have not prevented us from reaching a general consensus. It is thanks to the fact that the peoples of Asian and African countries share the same destiny and the same aspirations that we have been able to enjoy such a large degree of success with regard to ending colonialism, defending universal peace and promoting political, economic and cultural cooperation.

I would like to repeat that it is for this very reason that the Chinese people offer their full solidarity and support to the struggle for self-determination and independence by the people of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, the Arabs' struggle for human rights in Palestine, the Indonesian people's struggle for the restoration of sovereign rights in Indonesia and West Irian, and the just struggles for independence and freedom which will bring the people of Asia and Africa to the goal of shedding the yoke of colonialism.

I would also like to point out that the declaration for fostering universal peace and cooperation adopted at this

Conference will go a long way to reducing international tension, especially in the Far East. In our opinion, the comprehensive implementation of the agreement on the issue of restoring peace in Indochina should be guaranteed by all concerned. On the issue of a peaceful unification of Korea, the parties involved should strive to resolve this issue as soon as possible through negotiations.

China and the USA should meet to discuss the issue of easing and eventually eliminating tension in the region of Taiwan. However this should in no way affect the just demands of the Chinese people to exercise their sovereign rights for the liberation of Taiwan. And finally, I hope that from now on the contact between the countries of Asia and Africa, and the relationship between our countries will become even closer. I wish all delegates the very best of health and a safe return to their respective countries.'

Universal disarmament and a complete ban on atomic weapons!

NEW YORK, 24 April. (TASS). A correspondent from the United Press Agency writes from Bandung that the political subcommittee of the Asian-African Conference has adopted a resolution calling for universal disarmament and a complete ban on the production, testing and use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons.

The Resolution states:

'The Asian-African Conference, considering the current dangerous and tense international situation, and the threat to the entire human race in the event of another world war due to the destructive capacity of the types of weapons that would be used, including nuclear and thermonuclear, draws the attention of all countries to the terrible consequences such a war would have.

The Conference considers disarmament and a ban on the production, testing and use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons to be absolutely essential to free mankind and civilisation from the fear and prospect of total annihilation.

The Conference considers that the Asian and African nations taking part have a duty to mankind and civilisation to declare their support for a ban on such weapons and appeals to the countries most concerned with this issue and to world-wide public opinion in general for such a ban. To this end, a quick and decisive effort should be made while awaiting a complete ban on the production of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons. The Conference calls upon all powers concerned to agree to ending the testing of such weapons.

The Conference proclaims that universal disarmament is absolutely necessary for the preservation of peace and calls upon the United Nations to continue efforts to achieve comprehensive controls, limits and reductions in armed forces and weapons, and to exercise control over them, including a ban on the production, testing and use of weapons of mass destruction, and to put effective international controls into place for that purpose.'