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Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China, Zhou Enlai’s Remarks at the Signing Ceremony

Citation:

Summary:
Zhou Enlai reemphasized the cordial relation between China and Indonesia and expressed his delight with the signing of the treaty.

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- English Translation
Your Excellency Foreign Minister Sunario [Sastrowardoyo],

Gentlemen,

Today on behalf of the People’s Republic of China I am very honored to sign “The Treaty Regarding Dual Nationality Between the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Indonesia”. On behalf of the government of the People’s Republic of China I give my sincere congratulations to the Republic of Indonesia and his Excellency the Foreign Minister Sunario [Sastrowardoyo].

The Republic of Indonesia and our country have always maintained a harmonious relationship. Between our countries, [relations] have always been filled with mutual respect and friendliness, the issue of dual nationality is an issue we inherited from a bygone era. Now, the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Indonesia under the principle of equal yet mutual benefits and mutual respect have reached a reasonable resolution through friendly negotiations.

We know there are still some countries that are similarly concerned about this issue. [The fact that] this issue can be resolved during the Afro-Asian conference has major significance. This is yet another excellent example of how Asian and African countries may resolve difficult issues through the spirit of friendly negotiations.

I guarantee the government of the People’s Republic of China will resolutely abide by the treaty signed today. It is my hope that those with Chinese heritage who due to the tides of history now possess dual nationality may strictly abide by the content and spirit of this treaty after voluntarily choosing their nationality. [This will hopefully] add onto their sense of responsibility towards the chosen country. I hope regardless of choosing either the nationality of the People’s Republic of China or the nationality of the Republic of Indonesia, [these citizens] will work hard to further friendly relations between the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Indonesia.

I hereby congratulate the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Indonesia on increasingly friendly relations!

22 April 1955