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Anti-Communist Youth and Students Conference,
Introductory Remarks by Mr. Sung Soo Whang

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Sung Soo Whang opens the Anti-Communist Youth and Students Conference.

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mr. Bong Soo Yuhm
Vice-Chairman
House of Representatives
Republic of Korea

Delegates to the Anti-Communist Youth and Students Conference,
Distinguished Guests, and Friends:

We of Korea bid you a most cordial welcome to our country. What we can
not give you in the way of luxurious accommodations, we shall try to make up
in the warmth of our hospitality. From the bottom of our heart we say: Our
time and all that we have are at your disposal.

You will see much of the vicissitudes of Communism in Seoul and elsewhere
in your Korean travels. Reconstruction and rehabilitation are going on every-
where. But many buildings are new shells, and great damages mark locations
where once-busy factories produced the goods that our people need so much.
When a building was not destroyed by bombs or shelled, the Communists burned
it out. So that today you are visiting today has been largely rebuilt; only
three years ago it was a devastated and largely dead city. But, my friends
of Asia, is Communism in action.

It is highly appropriate that this first youth conference should be
held in what we used to call the Land of the Morning Calm—and which, God
knows, may be called that again one day. In terms of its nationhood, Korea
is a very old country. But in terms of entrance into the modern world, and
in terms of democratic institutions, Korea is very young. We emerged from
feudalism only to be cruelly occupied by the Japanese for almost half a
century. Not until 1945 was the Japanese yokoh thrown off, and not until
1948 did we realize full independence with the establishment of the Republic
of Korea and its democratic government.

You know, without my telling you, that under the Japanese, say aims of
outstanding Korean leadership were severely repressed. Our greatest leaders—
such as President Syngman Rhee—had to fight the battle for independence from
exile. We thus began our independent existence with for top leaders and with
very little executive and administrative experience. It was natural, under
such circumstances, that youth was called upon to provide more than its full
share of the new leadership.

This was a sharp departure from the Oriental custom, as you well know.
But it has been a tremendous success, and it has implications for the youth
of all Asia. Many of our Government Leaders re. their Thirties and early
Forties. Our Army, the Fourth Largest in the world, is officered by a vast
experienced leaders in their middle-Thirties. It is the youngest and one of
the more competent military forces in the world. No men are more of our
Air Force, our Navy, and our Marine Corps. Contrariwise, it is youth that
is defending the nation—and it was youth, from the United States and 15 other
United Nations members, that saved Korea from being overrun by the Communists.

Youth has proved itself in Korea, and I know that many of the other
countries of Free Asia have similar stories to tell. We have every reason
to be very proud of the part that young men and young women have played in
the development of the new Orient. But ahead of us lies a much bigger task
then say that we have thus far attempted. That job is world-wide: the creation
of a strong, positive, irresistible Democratic ideology, and the total defeat
of Communism. I do not mean to imply that one must come before the other.
To the two parts of the undertaking must be approached at one and the same time.
Without something positive to offer, we shall never defeat Communism.
By the same token, unless we eliminate the Reds, our own ideology will never
have the opportunity to come to full realization.

This double objective should provide the greatest challenge to this
meeting. It is no secret that your elders have failed to create the inspiring
ideology of which I speak. They have talked of democracy, of freedom, of social
opportunity, of justice, and so on—but never yet have they brought all these
basic human values into one fundamental creed that would provide new hope and
new courage for all mankind. If you can make a start on this Democratic
Manifesto, you will have performed the most notable service within your
power.
This is not, I fully realize, an easy assignment. The Communists have succeeded for better than we, but the Communists are not bound by truth. Their philosophy is compounded of a propagandist mixture of lies and lures. For the Marxist, promises cost nothing. He will make any number of them to convert and then to unlure. By the time the victim awakens, it is too late.

We cannot descend to the same level. Falseness is the antithesis of Democracy. Where the truth is supreme, and men can live by it, of the communists are right, and we might as well turn the word over to them. For us, we can never justify the means, nor the ends. Both must be consistent with the principles that we have established for ourselves and for the conduct of our lives.

How then, it may be asked, can we hope to win out over the Communists? If there is a key question in our time, this is it. The answer is divided into three parts.

First, we must put together and implant the democratic ideal of which I have spoken. We must define liberty and freedom. More important, we must exercise both in our dealing with our fellow men and with friendly Powers. We must create systems that give justice to all, seeing that we must see to it that the systems work fairly and not on a basis of special privilege. We must devise means of giving all our people equal opportunity — but this can never mean, as is the Communist way, the reduction of all men to the lowest possible denominator. These of greater ability will obviously go further, and contribute more, than those of lesser ability. But we must also see to it that the most able do not dominate and even persecute the less able. That is the Communist, not the Democratic way.

To put it another way, we must provide the means for the satisfaction of the basic wants and aspirations of mankind. We must do it with action as well as words, and we must create institutions — where they are now lacking — that equalize and protect the interests of all. A good deal of what the Communists promise, we must do.

Secondly, we need to expose the Communist record of non-achievement in all these matters of which I have been speaking. Communism has just one achievement, and that is conquest by mental and physical aggression. The followers of the Soviets have not enriched life; they have desecrated it. The Russian people have had forty years of Communism. For most of them the standard of living is still below the paltry level of earliest days. Of freedom, of justice, and of equality they have none. Russia remains a slave state bent upon using its two hundred million serfs as military pawns in an attempt to take over the earth. We must do far more in telling Franco-Frederic, neutralist-neutralized peoples what the Communists do as contrasted with what they say they will do.

Communism is a neo-slavery. There is nothing new about it. It is a rejection of Democracy in favor of the rule of th. many by the few. This is the same rule by which men have lived most of his sorry history. It is a rule that can never lead to the peace that men want so much. It is a terrible retrogression that, if successful, will result in a new dark age and the destruction of civilization as we know it. All of this is true. It is the record of Communism. It is a record that cannot be hidden, a record that is written in the suppression of knowledge, the incarceration of scores of millions of persons in concentration camps, the cold-blooded murder of tens of millions, and the creation of a new type of man who speaks as an automaton or not at all. Yet this is also a record that is not known to many people.

We of the Democratic World have our failings. We have not succeeded in many of our great objectives. But our failures have been decreasing. We have made progress toward our goal of a better life for all people. That we must contrast what we have done — our progress toward the Golden Age — with what the Communists have not done, constructively. We may have done destructively. I say to you in the name of truth is our weapon. Let us use it both fearlessly and unnecessarily.

Finally, it is up to youth — the youth that will have to fight and perhaps die in the event of global war — to demand that the free World comes striding in to the Communists. War is horrible, and to be avoided.
If that can be done with honor and without sacrifice of that for which we live, but surrender to Communism would be a thousand times worse than war and a thousand times worse than extinction itself. We do not want war, but unless we face its possible necessity, we shall be doomed to something far worse.

Our best chance to avoid a global holocaust is for youth to arm itself and to prepare for that very event. The Communist regimes respect strength above all else. Every time they have been confronted with the world's determination, they have pulled back. That was true in Czechoslovakia and Korea. It could have been true in Czechoslovakia and Vietnam. Only through strength is it possible that we may not have to fight — at least not on the scale of nuclear destruction. I hope sincerely that you — the youth and students of Asia — will express this essential principle of strength in your resolutions and declarations.

Once again, I welcome you to Korea. But for more important than that, I humbly beseech God's blessings upon you for the crucially important work that lies ahead. You — the youth and students of Asia — are also the greatest hope of Asia and of all the world.