

Note from the Government of the People's Republic of China to Ambassador of the USSR to the People's Republic of China N.V. Roshchin on the issue of a peace treaty with Japan

(May 22, 1951)

Ambassador,

I am pleased to inform you that on May 9, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Government of the People's Republic of China through the USSR Embassy in China, has received a copy of the note of the Soviet government to the government of the United States of America, which sets out the point of view of the USSR government on the US draft of a peace treaty with Japan. The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China expresses its gratitude.

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, carefully examining the point of view of the USSR government regarding the US draft of a peace treaty with Japan, and believes that the point of view of the Soviet government and the point of view of the Central People's Government of the Chinese People's Republic are completely the same.

Therefore, the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China completely supports the point of view of the USSR government on the US project regarding a peace treaty with Japan and his specific proposals for the preparation of a peace treaty with Japan.

1. On the question of the procedure for preparing a peace treaty with Japan, the Soviet government quite correctly puts forward the proposal that the preparation of a peace treaty with Japan cannot be the business of the government of any one state, which must not be allowed by the government of any one state, separately preparing a peace treaty with Japan, all governments of other interested states should be involved in the preparation of a peace treaty with Japan. It should be regarded as a common task of the governments of all interested states and that, in accordance with the Potsdam Agreement, the development of a peace treaty with Japan should be carried out by four states — the United States, Britain, China and the USSR — with the participation of other interested states.

However, the US government, through unilateral action, separately prepared a draft peace treaty with Japan and, under the pretext of consulting the governments of interested states, imposes it to other allied powers. This is in violation of the international obligations assumed by the United States in regarding the preparation of a peace treaty with Japan.

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China in its statement of December 4 1950 indicated that since 1947, the US government has repeatedly attempted to violate the Potsdam Agreement in trying to conclude a peace treaty with Japan, and undermined the principles according to which a peace treaty with Japan must be previously discussed and prepared by a meeting of foreign ministers four powers — China, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States.

The People's Republic of China never had and does not at all intend to discuss the draft peace treaty with Japan, separately drawn up by the government of any one state.

On September 18, 1931, Japanese imperialism invaded a vast territory of our country by force and thus caused large human and material losses to our people. As a result of eight years of heroic war resistance, the Chinese people defeated Japanese imperialism and won the anti-Japanese war.

It is therefore quite natural that the People's Republic of China should take part in the preparation, drafting, and conclusion of a peace treaty with Japan.

However, the US government has been recklessly trying to prevent the Chinese People's Republic as the only legitimate representative of the Chinese people in the work of preparing a peaceful treaty with Japan, which is the greatest insult to the Chinese people, which it in no way can endure.

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China has repeatedly stated that the preparation, drafting and signing of a peace treaty with Japan without the participation of the Chinese People's Republics, regardless of their content and results, will be considered illegal and invalid.

The US government is doing its utmost to remove the People's Republic of China, the USSR and other allied powers from the work of preparing a peace treaty with Japan, completely capture in their hands the preparing and drawing up of a peace treaty with Japan under the use dependence of the current government of Japan from the American occupation authorities, by way of dictatorship, and to force Japan to accept the terms of the peace treaty favorable to the US government.

It is quite clear that the current Japanese government, obedient to the American occupation authorities, cannot represent the free will of the Japanese people, and the conditions of a peaceful treaty imposed by the US government on Japan can only bring disaster to the Japanese people.

2. The government of the USSR is absolutely correct in pointing out that the content of the American project of the peace treaty with Japan constitutes a clear violation of major international agreements: 1943 Cairo Declaration, 1945 Potsdam Declaration and 1945 Yalta Agreement.

Since the victory of the Allied powers over Japan, the US government has begun to violate major international agreements concerning the policy of the Allied Powers in relation to Japan.

Based on the aforementioned international agreements, the Allied Powers provided the American army the right to occupy Japan, and the purpose of the occupation was limited, only the eradication of Japanese militarism; and the implementation of the democratization of Japan. However, the politics, which the American occupation authorities are conducting in Japan is in fact to preserve Japanese militarism and impede democratization at the cost of any effort. Japan, as a result, is incompatible with the aforementioned international agreements and illegal. The aforementioned international agreements, equally with complete clarity, stated the return of Taiwan and the Pescadores to China and the granting of freedom and independence of Korea. However, the US government, having illegally used the territory, material resources and manpower of Japan, made an illegal armed invasion of Korea and illegal armed occupation of our Taiwan. The draft peace treaty of the US government precisely represents an attempt to legitimize these systematic illegal actions.

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, in our statement of 4 December 1950 indicated that the return to China of Taiwan and the Pescadores had already been fixed by the Cairo Declaration and that there is absolutely no reason to rediscuss these already resolved territorial issues. However, the project of the US government only says that Japan relinquishes its rights to Taiwan and the Pescadores, but does not say a word about the return to China of Taiwan and the Pescadores.

It is clear that the US government seeks to illegally occupy our Taiwan and, having turned it into a military base, takes a further step in aggression against the Chinese People's Republic.

In addition, in none of the international agreements between the Allied Powers, it is recorded that the islands of Liuqiu (Ryukyu), the islands of Xiaoliyuanqundao (Bonin), the islands of Liuhuangtsundao (Volcano), Nannyodao Island (Markus), Sichzhidao Island (Rosario) and Zhongzhipyaodao Island (Pares Vela) must be part of the American guardianship system.

The US government, under the pretext of establishing United Nations guardianship over the aforementioned islands openly raised the issue of transferring these islands to the management USA, that is, to seize them into our own hands.

The wild designs of rampant aggression and territorial expansion by the US government, for which there are no international laws, nowhere have they manifested themselves with such clarity as here.

The Chinese people were subjected to the most brutal aggression from the militarist Japan for a longer period than anyone else fought against the Japanese aggressors, this is why we act most strongly against the revival of Japanese militarism.

As you know, in the aforementioned international agreements of the allied powers regarding Japan, it is repeatedly pointed out the need to eradicate Japanese militarism, but the American peace treaty with Japan does not provide any guarantees to prevent the revival of Japanese militarism and does not limit the size of the Japanese armed forces in any way.

Obviously, the goal of the US government is not to eradicate, but to revive Japanese militarism in order that, using the territory of Japan as a base, and the Japanese people as cannon fodder, turn this militarism into a weapon for the continuation and expansion of American aggression into Korea, China and other Asian countries.

As long as this is so, the US government does not at all think of withdrawing its occupation troops from Japan after the signing of the peace treaty; on the contrary, it has now achieved unlimited rights to the continuation of the occupation of Japan for an unlimited period after the signing of a peace treaty with Japan.

The U.S. government seeks to legalize the illegal occupation of Japan by U.S. forces and put Japan under the statute of long-term occupation.

From this, we can see that the draft of the US government for a peace treaty with Japan, judging by its content, completely contradicts the goals of the Allied powers in the war against Japan, undermines international agreements of the Allied powers on Japan, is harmful to the interests of the allied powers, and violates the will of the Japanese people. In this draft peace treaty, the US government is pursuing only one main goal is the revival of Japanese militarism in order to continue and expand aggressive actions against Asian countries, which is absolutely intolerable for the Chinese people and hundreds of millions of people in Asia who have experienced the aggression of militaristic Japan.

3. The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China fully approves and supports the specific proposals made by the Soviet government regarding the preparation peace treaty with Japan.

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China has the same ideas as the government of the USSR, and has always insisted that in the shortest possible time a common peace treaty with Japan should be concluded on the basis of the most important international agreements of the allied powers on Japan — the Cairo Declaration, the Yalta Agreement and the Potsdam Declaration, and the development of the draft peace treaty with Japan should be carried out by representatives of the four powers - the USSR, The People's Republic of China, the United States and England, with the participation of all member countries of the Far Eastern Commission. The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China pointed out, more than once, that the U.S. government since 1947 has repeatedly tried to delay the conclusion of a comprehensive peace treaty with Japan, and since 1950, repeatedly disrupting the conclusion of a comprehensive peace treaty on

Japan, is taking separate actions in peace negotiations with Japan.

In the Chinese-Soviet Treaty of Friendship Alliance and Mutual Assistance, concluded on February 14, 1950, in order to ensure the fulfillment of the task of concluding a comprehensive peace treaty with Japan, it is clearly recorded that China and the USSR "undertake, by mutual agreement, to seek a conclusion in the shortest possible period together with other allied powers of the Second World War a peace treaty with Japan".

The Chinese people are in the strongest possible opposition to the revival of Japanese militarism, and at the same time fully sympathizes with the aspirations of the Japanese people for peace, democracy and state independence.

The Chinese people are deeply convinced that an independent, democratic, peaceful Japan, free from foreign influence, would be an important factor in peace in Asia and around the world.

Therefore, the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China fully agrees with the plans from the government of the USSR and with the proceedings of the Cairo, Potsdam Declarations and the Yalta Agreement, that five main goals that should be pursued by a just, reasonable, peaceful agreement with Japan, namely:

- A. Japan must become a peaceful, democratic, independent state;
- B. The people of Japan should be guaranteed democratic rights and the existence of organizations, whether political, military, or paramilitary, whose purpose is the deprivation of the people of their democratic rights, as provided for in the peace treaty with Italy, should not be allowed;
- C. As guarantees against the revival of Japanese militarism, the treaty should include set limits on the size of the Japanese armed forces so that they do not exceed the requirements of self-defense, as established in the peace treaty with Italy;
- D. No restrictions are imposed on Japan in the development of its peaceful economy;
- E. Any restrictions on Japan's trade with other countries will be lifted. "

In order to specifically ensure the implementation of the above main objectives, the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China fully agrees and supports the proposals of the government of the USSR that the peace treaty should fix provisions regarding prohibiting Japan from joining coalitions against any Allied Power, regarding the fact that all occupation troops must be withdrawn from Japan no later than one year after concluding a peace treaty with Japan, stating that no state is allowed to leave their armed forces or military bases in Japan, and regarding the fact that the states, signed a peace treaty with Japan, should jointly support Japan in joining United Nations Organization.

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China has always believed that the peaceful settlement of the question of Japan is the most important link in the resolution of modern Far Eastern problems, and the work to conclude a comprehensive peace treaty with Japan has already acquired an urgent character. On this basis, the entire Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China in accordance with the proposal of the government of the Soviet Union: "To convene in June or July 1951 a session of the Council of Foreign Ministers consisting of representatives of the USA, China, Great Britain and the USSR, to start preparing a peace treaty with Japan, meaning to involve in the preparatory work on drawing up a peace treaty with Japan by representatives of all states that participated in their armed forces in the war with Japan, so that the draft peace treaty can be presented at consideration of the peace conference".

Taking this opportunity, I express to you, Mr. Ambassador, my highest respect.

Chinese Foreign Minister Zhou Enlai.

May 22, 1951, Beijing.