

INSTITUTE OF CURRENT WORLD AFFAIRS

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CHGO-42

The Peking Science Symposium - part II

January 11, 1965.

Mr. R.H. Nolte,
Institute of Current World Affairs,
366, Madison Avenue,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Nolte,

Since writing my letter on the Peking Science Symposium (CHGO-33) I have met one of the delegates, and spoken to Western diplomats and correspondents in Peking who closely followed the symposium.

The delegate and diplomats confirmed that at the technical sessions there was a great deal of genuine science discussed. In fact most delegates apparently did not realize the amount of political hay that the Chinese politicians were making out of the conference. Each delegate that I heard about had assigned to him a Chinese counterpart who was a specialist in the delegates own field. The counterpart arranged visits to scientific institutions and gave the visitor an opportunity to meet other colleagues in his speciality. None of the delegates that I spoke to, or the ones interviewed by the diplomats, were communists.

I was, however, wrong on one point, and the main reason for this letter is to set the record straight. I stated that the Indians had not been invited. In fact they were invited and refused to attend. This refusal led to a sharp exchange of diplomatic notes between India and China. My source of information was the Secretary of the Indian branch of the World Federation of Scientific Workers who told me, when I saw him in Delhi in the latter part of April, that India had not been invited. I now gather that the invitation was received on April 29, 1964.

The Office of the Commission of India in Hong Kong provided me with copies of the diplomatic notes, and since these are interesting and I have not seen them published elsewhere I enclose them as addenda.

Yours sincerely,

C.H.G. Oldham

Enc:

C.H.G. Oldham.

Received in New York January 15, 1965.

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Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy
of India in China, 8 June, 1964.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and has the honour to state the following:

Entrusted by the Scientific and Technical Association of China and the Peking Centre of the World Federation of Scientific Workers, the Chinese Embassy in India on April 29, 1964 requested the Indian Ministry of External Affairs to forward letters inviting Indian scientists to attend the scientific symposium to be held in Peking in August this year. It was purely out of the desire of strengthening the friendship between the peoples of China and India and promoting international scientific and cultural exchange that the Chinese side sent out the invitation. The Indian Government should have taken measures of active assistance to this friendly act on the part of the Chinese side, or at least shown normal courtesy. However, in his reply of May 4, 1964 to the counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in India, the official of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs not only unreasonably refused to consider the cordial invitation from the Chinese side, but viciously attacked the Chinese Government. The rudeness of the Indian Government is indeed surprising, and the Chinese Government cannot but express its deep regret at it.

That no satisfactory settlement of the Sino-Indian boundary question has so far been reached is entirely caused by the Indian side. This is a fact for everybody to see. The Chinese Government, therefore, deems it unnecessary to make detailed explanations here. As for the shop-worn slander of "violation of India's territorial integrity by China" repeated by the official of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs in his letter, it is not at all worthy of refuting.

The Chinese Government holds that although there is a dispute between the Governments of China and India on the Sino-Indian boundary question, it should not prejudice friendly contacts between the two peoples. On the contrary, such contacts are exactly needed for promoting understanding and creating a favourable atmosphere for a peaceful settlement of the boundary question. But the Indian Government is using the boundary issue as a pretext resolutely to obstruct any friendly contacts between the peoples of China and India. The one thousand million people of China and India should thus be able to see clearly which party really desires to ease the relations between the two countries.

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Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking to the Embassy of India in China, 8 June, 1964 (contd.)

In line with its consistent stand of upholding Sino-Indian friendship, the Chinese Government has once again seriously set forth the reason with the hope that the Indian Government like the Chinese Government, will adopt a positive attitude towards the promotion of friendly contacts between the Chinese and Indian peoples.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of India the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note Given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 7 October, 1964.

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India and has the honour to refer to the Chinese Foreign Office Note (64) PU Yi Ya Tzu No. 326, dated the 8th June, 1964.

2. On April 29, 1964, the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi handed over to the Ministry of External Affairs two letters of invitation for the Association of Scientific Workers of India, to attend the 1964 Peking Symposium. On May 4, the Ministry of External Affairs wrote to the Chinese Embassy, saying that "in the context of the occupation of Indian territory by Chinese forces and the consequent violation of India's territorial integrity by China, it would not be possible for any delegate from India to participate in the 1964 Peking Symposium".
3. The Chinese note in question has characterized this reply as an act of 'rudeness of the India Government', and has argued that China had sent out the invitation to the Indian scientists 'purely out of the desire of strengthening the friendship between the people of China and India, and promoting international scientific and cultural exchange'.
4. In the context of the Chinese aggression in October/November, 1962, this is, to say the least, sanctimonious hypocrisy. The Government of the People's Republic of China has advanced vast and fantastic territorial claims against India, launched a massive invasion across the Indian borders in the autumn of 1962, and is still unlawfully occupying 14,500 square miles of Indian territory in Ladakh. To talk of promoting friendship with India, without any intention of undoing these wrongs and without showing any concrete signs of wanting to enter into negotiations on an honourable basis, is nothing but a thinly veiled attempt to mislead and deceive world public opinion.

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Note Given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the

Embassy of China in India, 7 October, 1964. (contd.)

5. As regards the 'promotion of international scientific and cultural exchange' mentioned in the Chinese note, the world is painfully aware of the Chinese Government's policy of opposition to the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which has been signed by an overwhelming majority of the nations of the world, and the open declaration by Chinese leaders that it is bent upon manufacturing that mighty weapon of destruction - the atom bomb. It is clear that the Government of China are trying feverishly to harness the forces of science, not for the peaceful purpose of improving the living standards of the six hundred and fifty million people of China, but for serving the chauvinistic, expansionist, big-power dreams of the Chinese Government. The Government and the people of India, committed as they are to the peaceful uses of atomic energy, cannot enter into any 'international scientific and cultural exchange' with China, as long as China openly advocates the use of nuclear science for war-like purposes.

6. The Chinese note has referred to the creation of a 'favourable atmosphere for a peaceful settlement of the boundary question'. It was precisely for this that the six Asian-African countries who met at the Colombo Conference formulated certain proposals for the acceptance of India and China. India has accepted the Colombo Proposals, but China has not. If the People's Republic of China are sincere in their desire to create a favourable atmosphere, they should accept the Colombo Proposals, completely and without any reservations, just as India has done, so that negotiations may commence between the two countries as envisaged in the Colombo Proposals.

7. The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India, the assurances of its highest consideration.
