

Foreign Minister Chen Yi's speech at the NPC Standing Committee meeting; 13 September 1959 (Extracts)

The Chinese Government holds that, in addition to maintaining the long-existing status quo of the border between the two countries, in connection with some of the border disputes China and India could also reach provisional agreements concerning individual places through negotiations. It must be pointed out that this proposition of the Chinese Government is designed to facilitate an overall settlement of the boundary question in the future and to ensure the tranquility of the border areas and uphold Sino-Indian friendship...

We have always regarded India as a friendly country. Of course, even between friendly countries differences and disputes are not always avoidable. But, as we see it, the Sino-Indian disputes of the past six months are, from a long-range point of view, merely an episode in the course of the thousands of years of friendship between our two countries. But considering the issue by itself, the disputes involved are all matters of principle. They must be settled in a fair and reasonable way. Only this would be in the interests of the friendly coexistence of the two countries. We are convinced that as long as the two sides prize their friendship and adhere to the five principles of peaceful coexistence, all differences between China and India can be resolved through negotiations. In the Rajya Sabha on September 10, Prime Minister Nehru also said that he would always try to find a way for the peaceful settlement of the Sino-Indian boundary question. The Chinese Government welcomes this attitude of Prime Minister Nehru.

The contributions Prime Minister Nehru has made to peace in Asia and the world are acknowledged by all. At a press conference held on September 11, Prime Minister Nehru dealt with the question of Laos. He berated the Security Council's appointment of a commission on Laos as a measure

completely bypassing the Geneva agreements. He said that it would be a dangerous thing to abolish the procedures laid down by the Geneva agreements. He stressed that any real success in the solution of the Laotian question was likely to result only by agreement of the parties concerned. This attitude of Prime Minister Nehru and the Indian Government on the Laotian question deserves the warm support of the Chinese Government and all those who uphold the Geneva agreements and peace in Asia.