

Resolution of the NPC Standing Committee on the Sino-Indian boundary question, 13 September 1959

On September 13, 1959, the Eighth Session of the Standing Committee of the Second National People's Congress unanimously endorsed Premier Chou En-lai's report on the Sino-Indian boundary question and fully approved the stand, attitude and policy adopted by the government in dealing with the Sino-Indian boundary question.

The Chinese Government has consistently held that an overall settlement of the Sino-Indian boundary question should be sought by both sides, taking into account the historical background and existing actualities and adhering to the five principles, by means of friendly negotiations conducted in a well-prepared way and step by step. Pending this, as a provisional measure, the two sides should maintain the long-existing status quo, and not seek to change it by unilateral action, still less by force; as to some of the disputes, provisional agreements concerning individual places could be reached through negotiations to ensure the tranquility of the border areas and uphold the friendship of the two countries. This stand and policy represent the strong will of the people throughout the country to defend the sacred territory of their motherland and their sincere desire to preserve Sino-Indian friendship.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress expresses regret at the recent series of intrusions by Indian troops into Chinese territory and the anti-Chinese campaign whipped up by some right-wing politicians in India and expresses the hope that the Indian side will swiftly withdraw from the places into which it has intruded, stop the anti-Chinese agitation and start friendly negotiations with China for a peaceful settlement of the boundary question.

The imperialist forces of the West and their agents in India are trying to take advantage of the Sino-Indian border incidents to disrupt the great friendship between China and India and change India's foreign policy of peace and neutrality. The Chinese people fervently hope that the Indian people will frustrate their vicious schemes, so that the common interests of the peoples of India, China and the other countries of Asia may be safeguarded.

China and India have friendly relations of long duration and are the initiators of the five principles of peaceful coexistence; they share common interests and responsibilities in safeguarding peace in the world, especially in Asia. We believe that through the friendly efforts of their governments and peoples, the two countries will certainly be able to attain a reasonable solution of their differences on the boundary question in accordance with the five principles of peaceful coexistence and their desire for mutual friendship, thus defeating the schemes of their common enemies and consolidating their great friendship.