

"This treaty is not wholly acceptable to the Philippine Government. However, having regard for the demonstrated difficulty of securing a generally acceptable treaty by the traditional methods of negotiation, we shall not stand in the way of this agreement nor prejudice the outcome of a major political settlement which bears directly on the peace and security of Asia."

The representative of the Government of Indonesia also indicated the reservations which his Government had with respect to the reparations clauses of the treaty. He pointed out that only after careful study of the underlying principles of the treaty had his Government decided to send a delegation to San Francisco:

"This decision", he said, "was made not because we agree on all the provisions of the treaty but because we see this Conference as an effort to bring peace to the world generally and to the Pacific region particularly... Peace should be built at the level of understanding between individuals and between nations, and my delegation hopes that from this conference will yet emerge an instrument that will serve as a basis for peace which will be to the advantage of both the peoples who suffered most from the tragic mistakes into which the people of Japan were led, as well as the people of Japan themselves with whom we are ready to share the responsibilities of facing the challenge of our troubled times."

Sir Zafrullah Khan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Pakistan spoke not only as an Asian representative but as a representative of the Moslem world. His text was taken from the words of the Prophet: "Repel that which is evil with that which is best and behold; he between whom and thyself there was enmity has become thy warm friend." He argued that the treaty before the Conference was a treaty which was the practical embodiment of this ideal. It was, in his words, not a perfect treaty;

"Abstract perfection would be impossible to achieve - but, as has been said, it is a good treaty. It is the product of over eleven months' free consultation and negotiation between the Allied nations. It represents the largest common measure of agreement among those nations. In accord with the new spirit, the peace it offers is a peace of justice and reconciliation, not of vengeance and oppression."

I have quoted at some length from the statements made to the Conference by the Asian delegates because they augur well for the success of the experiment in the area in which its effect will be of overriding importance. These delegates were not alone however, in supporting the treaty. There was a general recognition among the non-Communist delegates that a gamble was involved in this peace of reconciliation. A number of delegates said that while their countries supported the broad principles of the treaty they would have preferred certain changes in some of the clauses. Yet, it was apparent that each nation had voluntarily subordinated some special interest so that a broad base of unity could be achieved. There was general recognition also that Japan must be allowed the right to protect itself - that prohibition of any Japanese rearmament in an area where armed aggression against the integrity of