

Delegation from the Republic Of China, represented by T.V Soong
Position Paper for the Historical Committee
I. Envisioning the post-war world order

The task before this Conference is nothing less than the reconstruction of an international order that failed when it was most needed. For the Republic of China, this responsibility is not abstract. It is the work of a nation that has endured eight years of devastation and now seeks to ensure that no people again face aggression without timely support or effective international action. The institutions we create must be worthy of the sacrifices borne by the nations that resisted from the beginning. Peace must rest not upon declarations but upon durable machinery capable of restraining those who would again endanger the security of nations. China enters these deliberations with the conviction that the postwar world can be secured only through cooperation among states, clarity of responsibility, and enforceable commitments grounded in experience rather than hope.

The suffering China endured is well documented in the official reports of the Chinese Ministry of Information, whose China Handbook of 1945 records that more than ten million civilians were killed over the course of the conflict. Reports submitted by the Military Affairs Commission to the United States Joint Military Mission in 1945 confirm that more than three million Chinese soldiers fell in the defense of the country. According to assessments of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, more than fifty million civilians were forced from their homes, many for years. A national reconstruction survey conducted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs in 1945 further determined that approximately two thirds of Chinese industry was destroyed or rendered inoperative during the war. These figures are not recited for effect. They demonstrate the consequences of treaties violated, of aggression left unanswered, and of institutions that neither restrained the aggressor nor assisted the victim. China appealed repeatedly to the League of Nations after the earliest assaults and relied upon the treaty system that had been established to preserve peace. The inability of these mechanisms to act decisively allowed the conflict to expand until it engulfed the world. This experience must guide the construction of the Security Council.

As one of the principal Allied powers and the first nation to resist Axis expansion in Asia, China holds that the Security Council must embody the equality of nations as a genuine principle. China's diplomatic experience has long pointed to the need for enforceable guarantees. At the Washington Conference of 1921 and 1922, and in repeated efforts to preserve the Nine Power Treaty, China warned that unchecked aggression in Asia would become a threat to all nations. These warnings were not heeded in time, and the consequences need no elaboration. The cooperation achieved during the war, including China's coordination with Washington and London in strategy, intelligence, and logistics, demonstrates that unity among major powers is both possible and indispensable.

The proposals developed at Dumbarton Oaks represent an improvement over the League's inability to uphold its own Covenant in Manchuria and Ethiopia. China supports unanimity among the major powers on substantive matters but maintains that procedural questions should not be subject to the veto. A permanent member that is party to a dispute should not obstruct the Council's consideration of that dispute. To strengthen responsibility among the great powers, China proposes that any use of the veto be accompanied by a written explanation, a practice consistent with the habits of accountability expected in the modern diplomatic system. This measure requires no significant financial resources, yet it discourages the use of the veto in matters where no vital interest is at stake and helps to prevent the paralysis that once permitted aggression to advance without challenge.

A Security Council designed to act decisively must be accompanied by a postwar settlement in Asia that restores stability. The collapse of Japanese authority has left large regions in transition, and the long legacy of colonial rule contributed directly to the instability that preceded the conflict. The Cairo Declaration of 1943 affirmed that Manchuria, Taiwan, and the Pescadores shall be restored to the Republic of China. This commitment must be fulfilled without delay or reinterpretation. The Trusteeship System now under discussion should support orderly transitions and prepare territories for self government where needed. It must not become a means of reintroducing prewar imperial arrangements under new designations. China acknowledges that some Pacific

territories will require temporary administration, but trusteeship must support the long term stability of the region, not invite renewed competition for influence.

China's reconstruction efforts speak to both the cost of war and its determination for recovery. Provincial administrations have been reestablished in liberated areas. Essential railways and transport links are being repaired. Relief programs for displaced civilians, many of them supported by UNRRA in cooperation with Chinese agencies, continue on a national scale. Local authorities and civil organizations have reopened schools, restored public health institutions, and resumed relief services despite immense losses. To consolidate this progress, China urges the Conference to complete the establishment of the Trusteeship Council before the Charter enters into force, to define clear timelines for the administration of territories placed under trusteeship, and to coordinate reconstruction assistance through Allied contributions and loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. These measures will help ensure that Asia does not again become the site of competing claims that undermine regional stability.

Yet even the most carefully constructed political arrangements cannot secure peace if human dignity is neglected. The war revealed the consequences of abandoning basic protections. Official records submitted to the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, including the documented evidence of the massacre of more than two hundred thousand civilians at Nanjing, demonstrate the scale of atrocities committed when international restraints collapse. The commitments expressed in the Atlantic Charter and the Declaration by United Nations reflect a growing recognition that security and human dignity cannot be separated. China has long advanced this view. Its representatives at the League of Nations and at disarmament conferences argued that peace must rest on principles accepted by all nations, not merely on shifting balances of force. At home, recent constitutional deliberations place civil liberties, legal safeguards, and the rule of law at the center of national renewal.

For these reasons, China supports explicit references to fundamental human rights in the Preamble and Article 1 of the Charter. To give these principles practical effect, China proposes the creation of a commission on human rights composed of experts from Member States and operating within the regular budget of the Organization. Such a body would examine national practices, support governments emerging from occupation, and recommend future standards. It imposes no excessive financial obligations yet ensures that sovereignty, peace, and human dignity reinforce one another.

China submits that only a comprehensive approach that integrates effective security machinery, a just settlement of territorial issues, and a principled commitment to human rights can create an international order capable of enduring the challenges ahead. The Republic of China stands ready to work with all nations at this Conference to build an organization worthy of the sacrifices made in the defense of freedom and strong enough to prevent the return of the forces that destroyed the last peace.