

**CHINA SUPPORTS THE PROPOSAL OF THE  
CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLES FOR PEACE  
FOR A FIVE-POWER PEACE PACT**

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**THE CHINESE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT  
SINCE 1949**

**A REPORT TO THE SECOND ALL-CHINA WOMEN'S  
CONGRESS BY TENG YING-CHAO**

Supplement to "People's China"

May 16, 1953

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# CHINA SUPPORTS THE PROPOSAL OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLES FOR PEACE FOR A FIVE-POWER PEACE PACT

*On March 30, a message was addressed to Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, by the International Committee of the Congress of the Peoples for Peace requesting the answer of the Government of the People's Republic of China to the "Address to the Governments of the Five Great Powers," adopted by the Congress in Vienna in December, 1952, calling for negotiations between the Five Great Powers for the purpose of concluding a pact of peace. On April 28, Chou En-lai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, sent a reply expressing agreement with and support for the recommendation of the Congress. Below we print the texts of the message and the reply.*

## Message to Chairman Mao Tse-tung From the International Committee Of the Congress of the Peoples for Peace

Mao Tse-tung,  
Chairman of the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Chairman,

We have been charged with putting into effect the decisions of the Congress of the Peoples for Peace. We met in Vienna on March 16 and 17 and we decided that the Address passed by the Congress aiming at the opening of negotiations and the conclusion of a pact of peace should be sent to the governments of the Five Great Powers. We are sending the Address of the Congress of the Peoples for Peace to you as submitted to the Governments of the United States, the U.S.S.R., Great Britain and France. This Address expresses the universal will for peace. It calls on the Five Great Powers to reject recourse to intimidation and force, to resolve their differences by negotiation and to conclude a pact of peace. Since the Congress of the Peoples for Peace, events have made the search for peaceful solutions more imperative than ever. We would like to receive the answer of your government and to know if it accepts our proposal and intends to carry it out.

Assuring you, Mr. Chairman, of our highest respect.

*Isabelle Blume (Belgium).  
General Buxbaum (Brazil).  
Cheng Shen-yu (China).  
Pierre Col (France).  
Ilya Ehrenburg (the U.S.S.R.).  
Pastor Endicott (Canada).  
Yves Farge (France).  
Monica Felton (England).  
J. B. Figgins (England).  
Pastor Forbeck (Norway).  
Iwaszkiewicz (Poland).  
General Jara (Mexico).  
Frederic Joliot-Curie (France).  
Goro Hani (Japan).  
Kitchlew (India).  
Mao Tun (China).  
Ma Yin-chu (China).  
Ceza Nabarawi (Egypt).  
Pietro Nenni (Italy).  
Giuseppe Nitti (Italy).  
Joseph Wirth (Germany).*

May 16, 1953

## Foreign Minister Chou En-lai's Reply to the International Committee of the Congress of the Peoples for Peace

To:

Frederic Joliot-Curie (France).  
Joseph Wirth (Germany).  
Pietro Nenni (Italy).  
Isabelle Blume (Belgium).  
General E. Buxbaum (Brazil).  
Cheng Shen-yu (China).  
Pierre Cot (France).  
Nikolai Tikhonov (U.S.S.R.).  
Ilya Ehrenburg (U.S.S.R.).  
Dr. J. Endicott (Canada).  
Monica Felton (Britain).

J. B. Figgins (Britain).  
Pastor Forbeck (Norway).  
J. Iwaszkiewicz (Poland).  
General H. Jara (Mexico).  
Goro Hani (Japan).  
S. Kitchlew (India).  
Mao Tun (China).  
Ma Yin-chu (China).  
Ceza Nabarawi (Egypt).  
Giuseppe Nitti (Italy).

International Committee of the Congress of the Peoples for Peace,

76 Avenue Lenotre Antony  
Seine, Paris.  
France

Respected Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China acknowledges the receipt of the communication dated March 30, 1953, sent by Dr. Joseph Wirth, Mr. Pietro Nenni and Mr. Frederic Joliot-Curie under the charge of the International Committee forwarding therewith the Address adopted in Vienna in December, 1952, by the Congress of the Peoples for Peace which recommends that the Governments of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the People's Republic of China, Great Britain and France open negotiations and conclude a pact of peace.

In accordance with the peace policy which it consistently maintains and with the conviction that countries with different systems can coexist in peace, the Government of the People's Republic of China holds that the said recommendation and the views advanced in the Appeal of the Congress of the Peoples for

Peace are in complete accord with the common demands of all the people throughout the world who cherish a desire for peace. Therefore, I am authorised to declare on its behalf that the Government of the People's Republic of China is in full agreement with the said recommendation and gives it firm support.

The Government of the People's Republic of China is convinced that, provided there is genuine good faith to seek peace, it should be possible and is possible to settle every dispute between the nations by the method of peaceful negotiations. In this respect, the Government of the People's Republic of China has already demonstrated its sincere desire, and it maintains the noble principle that international disputes should be settled through mutual discussions and negotiations. Together with all the peace-loving people of the whole world, the people of China will continue to strive to the very end for the preservation of peace and against war, and for the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

*Chou En-lai,*

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

Peking,  
April 28, 1953.

# The Chinese Women's Movement Since 1949

*Abstract of a report made by Teng Ying-chao, Vice-President of the All-China Democratic Women's Federation, at the second All-China Women's Congress*

SINCE the first All-China Women's Congress in March, 1949, organisations at all levels of the All-China Democratic Women's Federation, under the correct leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Communist Party of China and the Central People's Government, have carried out the resolutions adopted at the Congress; they have also mobilised and organised the women of all nationalities to carry, together with the people throughout the country, the revolutionary struggle against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism to a successful end; they have actively supported the Chinese people's war of liberation to liberate the mainland and to establish an independent and united People's Republic of China. Moreover, the women's federations have taken an active part in the great campaign to resist U.S. aggression and to aid Korea, in social reforms and in the work of national construction in all fields. In all these movements and tasks, organisations at all levels of the All-China Democratic Women's Federation have paid special attention to implementing the principle of mobilising and organising women for production.

During the past four years, the Chinese women's movement has made great achievements. The broad masses of women have generally raised their political consciousness; their solidarity has grown stronger and organisation among them extended. Democratic women's federations have been established in all provinces and cities and in the majority of counties throughout the country. Women's organisations are being formed in areas inhabited by national minorities. The democratic women's federations in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region and in Sinkiang have trained a number of women minority cadres. In Tibet, a preparatory committee of the Tibetan Patriotic Women's Association was set up in March this year.

Coupled with the great victory of the people's revolution in our country and the progress of our work of construction and owing to the common efforts of the broad masses of women and women cadres, Chinese women have won equal status and rights with men.

In the last four years, women have taken part in agricultural production with great enthusiasm and in yearly increasing numbers. Very considerable numbers of toiling women in rural areas have also joined mutual-aid and co-operative organisations, so that they can take part in production with the status of workers. The division of labour between men and women workers makes it possible for women to do those kinds of work which are comparatively suited to their physique. By learning from men peasants, women are able constantly to improve their skill and to play an increasingly important role in the field of production. Not only is the contradiction between women's participation in production and their bringing up of children being gradually solved, but their health is protected and their social status gradually raised.

During the past four years, the rehabilitation and development of our national economy has blazed a broad path towards women's participation in the tasks of economic construction, and every year more and more women have joined in the work of industrial construction as office employees and workers. They participate fervently in patriotic production emulation, learn advanced Soviet experience, develop a high level of creativeness. It has been proved that women office and factory workers form an important force in the work of industrial construction in New China. Especially in the textile industry where women workers constitute more than 60 per cent of the total number of workers, the innovation of Ho Chien-hsiu, an outstanding woman worker, and the widespread adoption

of her method, stands out as the most important event in that industry. Last year more than 20,000 exemplary workers used the Ho Chien-hsiu method. The result has been that textile products increased in quantity and improved in quality, while production costs were lowered and enormous sums of wealth saved for the country. Quite a number of women workers are now in some branches of production which were formerly closed to women. These women office and factory workers have grasped the technique of heavy industry, and their numbers are increasing year by year.

The people's democratic state power of New China ensures that women have equal political rights with men, and creates all necessary conditions to enable the women masses to exercise these political rights. Women public functionaries and elected people's delegates are to be found in organs of state power of all levels. There are with the Chinese people's volunteers and Chinese People's Liberation Army units, both at the front and in the rear, large numbers of women fighters and cadres who contribute invaluable services to the country by their hard struggle, active work and diligence in study. In still larger numbers, members of the families of revolutionary martyrs and revolutionary army men are encouraging their relatives to join the volunteers. And, in order that their loved ones in the volunteer units will more valiantly resist U.S. aggression, aid Korea and protect the motherland, they work hard at production in the rear, as well as take care of the elders and bring up the children.

Women of China have the same opportunities for education as men. Especially since the completion of land reform and of democratic reforms in factories and mining enterprises which improved the life of workers and peasants, large numbers of girls and boys from worker and peasant families have entered schools thus truly giving women equal opportunities for education. The number of girls at school is now increasing, and many women are engaged in glorious work of education. Particularly in the medical and health services, women form an important force.

Since the founding of New China the feudal ideology and tradition that regarded men as the superior of women have politically and economically lost their basis. During the movement to publicise the Marriage Law this year, cadres of the Party, government and women's organisations—especially those in charge of marriage affairs and those working in district, *hsiang* and village governments—all studied the Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China. As a result of the fact that these cadres have advanced ideologically and have begun to attach importance to

the implementation of the Marriage Law, a favourable condition has been created for the long-term implementation of the Law. Judging from the work of popularising the Marriage Law in villages, cities and factories throughout the country and the widespread propaganda work among the masses, we can say that wherever the work has been relatively well done, the level of political consciousness of the masses has been greatly raised. The masses have come to realise the harm of the arbitrary and compulsory feudal marriage system which is based on the superiority of men over women. They have also recognised the advantage of the New Democratic marriage system which is based on the free choice of partners and equal rights for both sexes. After mediation, relations have been much improved in many families, where husbands had been quarrelling with their wives or mothers-in-law with their daughters-in-law.

In our country, mothers and children have the attention and necessary protection of the state. The Labour Insurance Regulations provide for a total of fifty-six days' leave with pay for women workers before and after childbirth. Women workers as well as the wives of male workers are entitled to maternity benefits. There are now about 30,000 midwifery stations, woman and infant health clinics and lying-in hospitals in the country. Over 269,000 midwives have been trained or re-educated. Efforts have been made to popularise new methods of nursing babies and to encourage extensive vaccination against smallpox. In the last four years, child welfare has made great progress. In factories, mines, government offices, state enterprises and villages, the number of creches has greatly increased.

Chinese women have taken an active part in international women's progressive activities. In the great campaign to resist U.S. aggression and to aid Korea, they have given active support to the Chinese people's volunteers and the Korean People's Army. Moreover, they have warmly responded to all the calls of the World Peace Council and the Women's International Democratic Federation. They have vigorously joined in the campaign for the signing of the Peace Appeal and the Appeal for the Conclusion of a Five-Power Peace Pact as well as in many other activities in defence of world peace and the rights of women and children. Chinese women have come into contact with the women of fifty-three countries. They have become an essential force in the international women's movement for peace and democracy.

The above-mentioned facts show that in the last four years the Chinese women's movement has made great achievements. They indicate that our women masses can make immense contributions to the cause

of world peace and the building of the motherland. So long as they are mobilised and organised in various practical tasks through necessary measures suited to the conditions peculiar to them and by using various forms of organisation, they can, just as men do, gradually overcome difficulties, fulfil all jobs the motherland assigns to them and improve their own status.

**O**UR great motherland has entered upon a new era, and construction has begun in our country. The central task of the women's movement in the future is to fully mobilise and organise the broad masses of women to participate not only in industrial and agricultural production, but in every field of national construction as well, thus making full use of their latent potentialities.

To carry out this task we must do the following:

(1) In the city the Democratic Women's Federation must see to it that help is given to the trade unions to deal properly with problems concerning women workers; to mobilise and organise women workers to actively participate in the patriotic movement for increasing production and practising economy; to earnestly study advanced Soviet experience; and to strive for an increase in labour productivity, for the acquiring and mastering of advanced techniques, for economy in the use of raw materials as well as the raising of the quality of products.

The Women's Democratic Federation must see to it that help is given to the trade unions to properly solve problems of women workers, such as safety in production, labour production and other specific problems which can be solved under the present conditions of production, so as to fully develop their labour enthusiasm.

Women intellectuals should be educated and organised. All women scientists, technicians, cultural and educational workers, as well as medical and health workers should actively study advanced Soviet experience; they should go to rural districts, factories and mines, live among the masses and plunge themselves deep into realities so as to improve themselves, do their work well and serve the cause of production.

Work among the families of workers and office employees and among housewives is an important part of the work relating to urban women. The Democratic Women's Federation should make mothers understand that it is their glorious duty to take good care of and give proper education to their chil-

dren, so as to bring them up sound both in mind and body. The Federation should also educate housewives and the families of workers and employees helping them to do their household work well, to redouble their efforts in their studies and to raise their political and cultural level so that they will be able to participate in the construction of their country whenever necessary.

(2) In the countryside, work among women should centre round and serve agricultural production. Women should be extensively mobilised and urged to participate in the patriotic movement for increasing production. They should also be persuaded to participate, on a voluntary basis, in mutual-aid and co-operative organisations in agriculture. They should also study and improve farming technique, so as to achieve greater results in storing up fertiliser, seed selection and in the prevention against the extermination of insect pests, thus raising their yield per hectare and increasing the production of grain and other crops. In the pastoral regions women should be mobilised and organised to co-operate with men through division in labour, and develop animal husbandry.

(3) In order to mobilise women for industrial and agricultural production, we must free them from feudal bondage and enable them to obtain a truly equal status and rights with men. We should, therefore, continue to criticise the survivals of feudal ideology and tradition which regard men as superior to women, strive for freedom of marriage and safeguard the lawful rights of women in order to make concrete the equality between men and women and build up democratic, harmonious and united families engaged in production.

In all enterprises, we should struggle for the gradual realisation of the system of equal pay for equal work done by both sexes and make allowances for women's special difficulties. In line with the health departments of the People's Government, we should do our best to popularise and carry out our work for child-care and maternity and infant health. Large numbers of midwives and child-care nurses should be trained. With the continuous rise in production, welfare work among women and children must be continuously expanded in order to safeguard their health.

(4) There should be launched among women a widespread movement for education and study aimed at gradually eradicating illiteracy, raising their cultural level and helping them gain skills in production and serve society. At the same time,

together with their vocational and cultural study, we must strengthen ideological education in patriotism and internationalism among the broad masses of women in order to raise their political consciousness.

(5) To serve the needs of national construction, our country is preparing for elections based on universal suffrage. Women throughout the country should warmly support and correctly carry out the Electoral Law. They should actively participate in the election movement and work seriously and enthusiastically for the successful completion of the first nation-wide elections by universal franchise. They should elect as deputies to the people's congresses of all levels those who maintain close contact with the masses of the people and are really capable of serving the people and, especially, those women who can really uphold women's interests.

Furthermore, we Chinese women should continue to exert every effort in support of the struggle to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea, and, rallying round the banner of the Women's International Democratic Federation, we should take an active part in the international women's peace and democratic movement in order to further develop and strengthen the ties between the women of all countries in the world and to fulfil the task of uniting with our international friends. We should concern ourselves with and support the struggle of all oppressed women for freedom and equality. We should do our utmost to actively strive for and safeguard world peace and a happy life for women and children.

In areas inhabited by different nationalities, it is necessary to implement the policy of national equality and unity, strengthen the unity among the women of all nationalities, pay great attention to the training of women cadres among the national minorities and promote steadily the work for women's welfare according to the actual conditions and characteristics of the various nationalities and in conjunction with the central task among them. It is wrong to mechanically adopt the experience and methods of areas inhabited by the Hans or of other areas.

In order to fulfil the above-mentioned tasks, all democratic women's organisations and all workers for women's welfare in the country must seriously improve their working methods, style of work and ideology. We must further educate and organise the broad masses of urban and rural women by facing the masses and by going deep into the units at the ground level: in the factories and enterprises, the countryside and the streets and lanes.

During the past four years, the women's movement in China has achieved great results. From now on, we must, under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Communist Party of China, consolidate the achievements attained. We must mobilise and organise the broad masses of women to unite as one with the people throughout the country in the struggle for the accomplishment of the tasks assigned us by our motherland for still greater successes in the women's movement in China!