

ASIAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE: COMMUNIQUÉ, 1955 (Excerpts)
Bandung, 24 April 1955

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FIRST CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Following is the official communiqué on the Asian-African conference :

The Asian-African Conference, convened upon the invitation of the Prime Ministers of Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia and Pakistan met in Bandung from 18th to 24th April, 1955. In addition to the sponsoring countries the following 24 countries participated in the Conference :—

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| 1. Afghanistan | 13. Liberia |
| 2. Cambodia | 14. Libya |
| 3. People's Republic of China | 15. Nepal |
| 4. Egypt | 16. Philippines |
| 5. Ethiopia | 17. Saudi Arabia |
| 6. Gold Coast | 18. Sudan |
| 7. Iran | 19. Syria |
| 8. Iraq | 20. Thailand |
| 9. Japan | 21. Turkey |
| 10. Jordan | 22. Democratic Republic of
Vietnam |
| 11. Laos | 23. State of Vietnam |
| 12. Lebanon | 24. Yemen. |

The Asian-African Conference considered problems of common interest and concern to countries of Asia and Africa and discussed ways and means by which their people could achieve fuller economic, cultural and political cooperation.

A. Economic Cooperation.

1. The Asian-African Conference recognised the urgency of promoting economic development in the Asian-African region. There was a general desire for economic cooperation among the participating countries on the basis of mutual interest and respect for national sovereignty. The proposals with regard to economic cooperation within the participating countries do not preclude either the desirability or the need for cooperation with countries outside the region, including the investment of foreign capital. It was further recognised that the assistance being received by certain

League of Arab States: Secretary-General. The First Asian-African Conference Held at Bandung, Indonesia (April 18-24, 1955); Report Submitted ... to the League Council (Cairo, 1955), p.123-126.

participating countries from outside the region, through international or under bilateral arrangements, had made a valuable contribution to the implementation of their development programmes.

* 2. The participating countries agreed to provide technical assistance to one another, to the maximum extent practicable, in the form of : experts, trainees, pilot projects and equipment for demonstration purposes; in exchange of know-how and establishment of national, and where possible, regional training and research institutes for imparting technical knowledge and skill in cooperation with the existing international agencies.

* 3. The Asian-African Conference recommended : The early establishment of the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development ; the allocation by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of a greater part of its resources to Asian-African countries ; the early establishment of the International Finance Corporation which should include in its activities the undertaking of equity investment ; and encouragement to the promotion of joint ventures among Asian-African countries in so far as this will promote their common interest.

4. The Asian-African Conference recognised the vital need for stabilizing commodity trade in the region. The principle of enlarging the scope of multilateral trade and payments was accepted. However, it was recognised that some countries would have to take recourse to bilateral trade arrangements in view of their prevailing economic conditions.

* 5. The Asian-African Conference recommended that collective action be taken by participating countries for stabilizing the international prices of and demand for primary commodities through bilateral and multilateral arrangements, and that as far as practicable and desirable, they should adopt a unified approach on the subject in the United Nations Permanent Advisory Commission on International Commodity Trade and other international forums.

6. The Asian-African Conference further recommended that : Asian-African countries should diversify their export trade by

processing their raw material, wherever economically feasible, before export; intraregional trade fairs should be promoted and encouragement given to the exchange of trade delegations and groups of businessmen; exchange of information and of samples should be encouraged with a view to promoting intra-regional trade; and normal facilities should be provided for transit trade of land-locked countries.

7. The Asian-African Conference attached considerable importance to shipping and expressed concern that shipping lines reviewed from time to time their freight rates, often to the detriment of participating countries. It recommended a study of the problem, and collective action thereafter, to induce the shipping lines to adopt a more reasonable attitude. It was suggested that a study of railway freight of transit trade may be made.

X 8. The Asian-African Conference agreed that encouragement should be given to the establishment of national and regional banks and insurance companies.

9. The Asian-African Conference felt that exchange of information on matters relating to oil, such as remittance of profits and taxation, might eventually lead to the formulation of common policies.

+ 10. The Asian-African Conference emphasized the particular significance of the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, for the Asian-African countries. The Conference welcomed the initiative of the Powers principally concerned in offering to make available information regarding the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes; urged the speedy establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency which should provide for adequate representation of the Asian-African countries on the executive authority of the Agency; and recommended to the Asian and African Governments to take full advantage of the training and other facilities in the peaceful uses of atomic energy offered by the countries sponsoring such programmes.

11. The Asian-African Conference agreed to the appointment of Liaison Officers in participating countries, to be nominated by their respective national Governments, for the exchange of information and ideas on matters of mutual interest. It recommended that fuller use should be made of the existing international organisations and participating countries who were not members of such international organisations, but were eligible, should secure membership.

12. The Asian-African Conference recommended that there should be prior consultation of participating countries in international forums with a view, as far as possible, to furthering their mutual economic interest. It is, however, not intended to form a regional bloc.

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