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This Week In Congress Radio Address: 29 Nation Asian/African Conference in Indonesia, 1955 April 27
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]


Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, United States Senator J. Allen Frear reports again to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: Thank you, Mr. Kelly. Out of the continuing tensions which surround the thin diplomatic relations between the Communist Empire and the Free Nations of the World, there arises from time to time indications on the part of the Red dictators to seek a basis for mutual accord between Communism and Democracy. Such manifestations developed last week during the course of the twenty-nine nation Asian-African Conference in Indonesia. In this meeting, Red China’s Premier, Chou En-Lai, posing in the newfound role of the peacemaker, indicated willingness to meet with representatives of the United States to discuss the Far East crisis, with particular emphasis on the Formosa situation. The immediate and logical reaction to this proposal by most persons here in the United States was that the Chinese Communists were endeavoring to appear before the other participating nations as seeking to dispel the war clouds which hang heavily over the Formosa Strait. Promptly upon receipt of the Red Premier’s message, our government set forth conditions under which it would be willing to discuss the Formosa question with the Chinese Reds. These conditions, which would include Nationalist China as a representative in such a conference, also call for an immediate cease-fire in the Formosa Strait, the release of American airmen and others unjustly held in China, and the acceptance of the invitation by the Security Council of the United Nations to participate in discussions to end hostilities in the Formosa region. The prompt action by this country in demanding advanced proof of Red China’s sincerity by agreeing to these conditions resulted in drawing out what appears to be a more accurate picture of Chou En-Lai’s real intention, for in a subsequent reply, the Communist Premier demands the right of his government to liberate Formosa, even though seeking direct negotiations with the United States on the Far East question. It is, of course, difficult, if not impossible, to predict whether any concrete results will stem from this latest exchange of views, but it does appear that the Chinese Communists may wish to further explore the
chances for peacefully settling the Chinese issue without resorting to an attack on Formosa. There are many Americans, I suppose, who would encourage a showdown in the Formosa Strait with the Chinese Communists now in order to punish their efforts to obliterate the government of Chiang Kai-Shek. Many believe that further negotiations will, in fact, constitute appeasement of Russia’s Asian satellite. But on the other hand, I believe here’s wisdom to the suggestion that this country be willing to take any steps without dishonor that would lessen the chances for an open conflict. It seems to me that in offering to negotiate with the United States, the Chinese Reds may be admitting the fact that they are not overly anxious to risk an attack on Formosa that would bring down on them the armed might of America. In this connection, the question of what will eventually happen to the islands of Quemoy and Ma-Tsu is somewhat unclear. But it is evident that the real prize, which the Communists seek, the island of Formosa, is not to be allowed to fall into their hands. Although our Far-East policy in recent months may have appeared somewhat uncertain at times, there is little doubt that the American people are determined to prevent the Chinese Reds from making a successful assault against Formosa: the last stronghold of the Chinese Nationalists. Out of last week’s developments, therefore, can be drawn this principle conclusion: The United States is still hopeful of avoiding war in Asia, and to that end, will be willing to meet with the Chinese Communists under proper conditions. [05:01] On their part, the Chinese Reds, guided, no doubt, by the advice of the Kremlin, are hesitant about flaunting their armed might in the face of the United States, even for the sake of acquiring the prize of Formosa. In this narrow atmosphere may yet be found a basis for settlement. In the days immediately ahead, we will undoubtedly witness careful and restrained efforts by our diplomats to resolve the issue in peace.

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation’s capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in his regular report to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

[End 06:00]