

‘Let India Set a Lesson to the World’

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This conference being held in a very critical world situation. Humanity is in danger, democratic system is in danger, national sovereignty is in danger, world peace is in danger, and over and above all, the life of the common people is in danger.

After the Second World War, attempt was made to get the world together, to function like a family, with the concept which arose 3,000 years ago from the land of India. From the Gautama Buddha, from the days of Khalid, from the Vedic era, came a message: “The whole world is like a family, therefore live with love, with affection, live with brotherhood, live with a sense of service, live to create, and not to destroy.”

So the entire world also decided that that great Indian philosophical concept and idea should be accepted, on the basis of peace, equality, and human dignity. So United Nations came into existence. Now, we see all of a sudden, at the time of Iraq war, the United Nations raised its voice against the war. They said, ‘No war’: Try to find out a peaceful solution. Inspectors are trying to find whether they have devastating weapons. If they have weapons of mass destruction, find and destroy them, but do not destroy the people of Iraq.

But Mr. Bush, the present President of the United States, . . . said, we will do what we want to do, and he went and he started that war. . . .

After that, more warnings to certain countries: Syria, Iran, North Korea: “Please change your regimes, otherwise, we are coming.” Who is it to say, “Change your regime”?

We are in an era of democracy; this is the peoples’ era. Every people have got the right to choose their leaders. In this land of India, where we are meeting, I want to remind you that Mrs. Indira Gandhi, one of the most powerful Prime Ministers not only in Indian history, but in world history: Even once, the people decided to change *her* regime. They did not elect her to the Indian Parliament. But from their own experience, they found, that it was a major mistake committed, and within two years, Indira Gandhi was not brought back by the Army of India, Indira Gandhi was brought back by the *people* of India, and she became Prime Minister of India—this is *democracy*, and how democracy works.

So who is Mr. Bush to say this to other nations? Is there national sovereignty or not; is there democracy or not? Are we living in an era of American dictatorship?

It is not the American people, let me tell you very frankly: The American people were against this war. They raised their voice, in Washington, in New York, in San Francisco. . . . In London, the co-attacker of Iraq, 2 million people came on the streets of London and raised their voice. . . .

Now, it is for the world to see and think, how can we save the future of humanity; how can we save the future of the world? We are meeting here, for that purpose.

We decided to hold this conference here, and many people asked, why? The Schiller Institute held an earlier conference in the last week of March; about 600 delegates from 45 countries participated. It was nice to see that majority of them were youth. They were kind to invite me to that conference in Germany. There, we decided: Let the governments do what they want to do—we are not government, we are people, so people should play their role.

So we decided to hold this conference in India. Why? Because India is the land of Gautama Buddha, India is the land of Saint Khalid, India is the land of Mahatma Gandhi. India is the land, which even after becoming independent, raised its voice for international peace, for a new economic and social-economic order. Therefore, from Mahatma Gandhi to Rajiv Gandhi—Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister who had a very important idea, and Natwar Singh can throw light on that: nuclear-weapon-free world. He did not say “this or that country”; he said, “let the whole world be without nuclear weapons, let the people live in peace, with harmony.” So from Mahatma Gandhi to Rajiv Gandhi, in this country, the voice was raised. In Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), in Afro-Asian Peoples’ Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), people of India have always played a great role.

A Movement: Eurasian Land-Bridge

So we decided, let us have this conference in India. Lyndon and Helga LaRouche: May I thank you profusely from the bottom of my heart, that you immediately said yes, India is the land from where we should start this people’s movement. . . .

I conclude by saying one quotation from Mahatma Gandhi: Gandhi said long before, and Gandhi remains relevant today, much more relevant today: Whole world is remembering Gandhi’s philosophy of truth and non-violence . . . for building a new world. “The world is weary of hate. We see that the song of hate has not benefitted humanity. Let it be the privilege of India, to turn a new leaf, and set a lesson to the world: that world will remain with peace, love, and harmony, no hatred and no war!” This is the message of Gandhi; with this message, I end my welcome speech, and welcome all of you.

Let us again follow the path of *Panchsheel*. Our Chinese friends are here. India, China, and some other important countries decided the world should follow the path of Five Principles of peaceful coexistence, non-interference, and building a new world. Mr. LaRouche has launched a movement: Eurasian Land-Bridge.