

Calmly Facing Socialist Transformation

Kweiyang Rotary Club (貴陽扶輪社) Celebrated

United Nations Week in October 1949

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1 October 2014

Rotary International and the United Nations

The invitation to Rotary International to participate in the United Nations conference as consultant to the United States delegation was not merely a gesture of goodwill toward a great organization. It was a simple recognition of the practical part Rotary's members have played and will continue to play in the development of understanding among nations. The representatives of Rotary were needed at San Francisco and they made a considerable contribution to the Charter itself, particularly in the framing of provisions for the Economic and Social Council.

■ Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Secretary of State, U.S.A, 1944.

Thus was Rotary complimented at the San Francisco Conference, in 1945, which brought the United Nations into being. Previously Rotary International had circulated information arising from the Dumbarton Oaks Conference (1944) -- the Washington Conversations on International Peace and Security Organization between the 4 nations: Republic of China (中華民國), the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States -- so that Rotary clubs might have basic material on the proposals available for discussion and comment.



At San Francisco, California, United States, Rotarians who were acting as consultants did much to stimulate the inclusion of Article 71 in the United Nations Charter, which provided for arrangements by the Economic and Social Council for consultation with non-governmental organizations. More than 50 Rotarians with multi-nationalities had participated in the drafting process of the Charter. These Rotarians included at least 2 from the Republic of China, i.e. Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo (顧維鈞博士)** (*Shanghai Rotary Club 上海扶輪社*) and Dr. Hsu Mo (徐謨博士) (*Nanking Rotary Club President 1935-1936 南京扶輪社社長*). The Charter of the United Nations was signed on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization. Almost immediately in 1946 Rotary International was granted consultative status in the category of non-governmental organizations primarily concerned with the development of public opinion and the dissemination of information.

(** The first man who signed his name on the United Nations Charter with a Chinese brush pen.)

As a consultant, Rotary International was privileged to send observers to meetings of the Council, to have Rotary communications listed and distributed at the request of the Council member, and to consult with a standing committee member of the Council. To fulfill its function of disseminating information, Rotary International receives the complete public documentation of the United Nations business.

The Call of “United Nations Week” by Rotary International

Observers for Rotary International had attended all sessions of the Council, with the result that Rotary International had concentrated on the role of disseminating information about the United Nations so that Rotary clubs in all parts of the world might be familiar with objective statements concerning the accomplishments of the United Nations.

Many Rotary Clubs had persuaded local school authorities to introduce special studies of the United Nations through the furnishing of Rotary publications as texts, through essay contests, sometimes rewarded with trips to the United Nations headquarters, and through sponsoring model demonstrations of the General Assembly with students participating as “delegates.” Many Rotary clubs made particularly qualified members available as speakers. Forums were organized and institutes on the United Nations were conducted.

Annually, of course, the high point of Rotary activity in relation to the United Nations came during the week before the United Nations Day, October 24. It was Thomas A. Warren, of Bournemouth, England, President 1945-1946 of Rotary International, who first proclaimed “United Nations Week” in Rotary.



Thomas A. Warren, Bournemouth Rotary Club, England.

With United Nations Day (October 24th) established by resolution of the General Assembly, the President of Rotary International proclaimed the week of October 18-24, 1948, as United Nations Week. This proclamation, published in the News Broadcast, invited every Rotary Club in the world to arrange a demonstration of support for the United Nations in its communities. A special paper (No. 705) suggested forms these demonstrations might take. A wealth of evidence from correspondence, Club bulletins and Governors’ reports indicated that United Nations Week was celebrated more widely and more vigorously by Rotary clubs than ever before.

- Proceedings: 40th Annual Convention of Rotary International, June 1949

Rotary “United Nations Week” in the “to be Communist” China

After a near complete victory by the Communist Party of China (中國共產黨) in the Chinese Civil War, on 1 October 1949, a grand ceremony was witnessed by 300,000 people in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square, and Mao Zedong (毛澤東), chairman of the Central People’s Government, solemnly proclaimed the founding of the People’s Republic of China (中華人民共和國).

Practically, the Civil War was not yet entirely ceased while some cities in the south and the southwest were still yet to be “liberated” by the Communist. In the provincial capital of Kweichow (*Guizhou*) Province, Kweiyang (*Guiyang*) (貴州省省會貴陽市), Rotary activities were still active. Though the Communist Army was knocking at their door, Rotarians of the Kweiyang Rotary Club (貴陽扶輪社) insisted to focus the public eyes on the United Nations Week in October. They were not alone from the other parts of the Rotary World.

Excerpted below is the full text of the 《*United Nations Week 1949 Celebration Report*》 submitted by Kweiyang Rotary Club International Service Chair Frederick Lei on 31 October 1949:

As early as a month and a half ago, deliberations were held on the program to be put forth in celebrating the United Nations Week. Main features were agreed upon and committees set up to make preparations for each item of the program. The program consisted of the following features:

1. Publication of special articles in the local newspapers to publicize the cause of the United Nations Organization (UNO).
2. Broadcasting in Chinese and in English.
3. Holding of a soiree with a variety of entertainments for guests and Rotarians’ families.
4. Delivery of speeches in schools.

Unfortunately the domestic situation was growing tenser each day. Canton, the temporary seat of the Central Government, was threatened and actually fell in the middle of the month. The Sino-Soviet severance of relations had added to the anxiety of the people. War was knocking at the door of the Kweichow Province.

At one regular meeting, at the beginning of the UN Week, some members moved that, in view of the general atmosphere of uneasiness reconsiderations be taken as to whether the celebration might not be cancelled altogether or whether the proposed evening party might not be done away with or modified in its features in order to forestall any caustic comments from the public. A heated argument ensued. Both pros and cons were dramatically presented in a democratic and parliamentary fashion. President “Locomotive” C. H. Liu in the chair had a hectic time in steering the meeting. The issue was put to a vote. It was decided, *mirabile dictum*, to proceed with the program in toto.

Newspapers Publicity

Publicity in the local press was entrusted to Rotarian “Times” L. T. Li, editor of the Kweiyang Branch of the Central News Agency. It was felt that at the present juncture it was impolitic, to say the least, to write long trenchant editorials or special articles. To fill the gap, we had the

report of UNO Secretary General Trygve Lie on the four years' record of the UNO (original) printed in the August issue of 《The Rotarian》 translated into Chinese. It was through Rotarian Li's good offices that the translated article was published in two consecutive installments in all the leading papers. On the 25th October, next morning after the United Nations Day, the local press also carried a detailed report under the notation of the Central News Agency, warmly commenting on the grand affair of the soiree of the evening before as well as other features of the United Nations Week program, for which publication credit must also be given to Rotarian Li. This was no mean feat on his part, for space in the one-sheet format of the papers is always heavily taxed. We must also thank the editorial board of 《The Rotarian》 and solicit its indulgence for not having obtained its previous permission to translate the copyrighted article.

Talks at Schools

Several members were selected to give addresses to schools. Broad principles were laid down by the Club for speakers and broadcasters to follow in their talks. It was ruled that they should be confined to the machinery, functions, achievements, and future prospects and endeavours of the UNO, and the occasion be used to point out the significance of the Rotary and its relation to the UNO. Prejudice for or against any nation or the taking of sides in domestic politics should be entirely excluded. Colleges as well as middle schools were sounded for their idea about the proposed addresses. Only two middle schools, namely, Chi Chun Middle School and Southwestern Middle School, sent in their invitations. Rotarian "Safety" L. P. Hoh and "Attention" P. S. Pan delivered these addresses respectively, which received a warm response from their audiences.

Radio Broadcast

Rotarians "Stamp" H. J. Liu (Secretary) and "Relief" John D. Hayes, M.A., D.D., were delegated to broadcast through the Kweiyang Radio Broadcasting Station on the eve of United Nations Day. They consulted together several times about the general outline of the talk and rehearsed to each other their several drafts. They took much pain in gathering materials. They are grateful to Dr. H. W. Hubbard, UNESCO Consultant at Pehpei, Szechuen, and Mrs. Hayes at Hong Kong for answering their wires promptly and sending relevant pamphlets and publications. They also included the striking news of the afternoon's U.N. Lake Success broadcast of its remarkable achievement in Indonesia. Their broadcasts went off smoothly and they were warmly praised for their efforts. Their painstaking labor received compensation in the thought that at least some of the seeds were sown in fertile soil.

The Soiree

Thanks are due to Rotarian "Light" Chang-nee Yee who permitted the evening soiree to be held in the magnificent, brilliantly-lighted and gorgeously-decorated hall of the Kweiyang Power Company, of which he is the manager. His staff helped in the decoration, arrangement of the seats, distribution of the invitation cards, etc. About 500 cards were sent to the Governor, military officers, civilian officials, legislative councillors, chiefs of the public organs, celebrities, gentry, newspapermen, cultural workers, Rotarians and their wives. It was particularly auspicious, perhaps, shall we say, a good omen of the bright future of the UNO, that the weather was fine and the roads dry. This is worth mentioning, for Kweiyang is proverbially famous for inclement elements as a city which cannot claim 3 fine days in succession. The packed house is to be attributed chiefly to this softening of our gloomy climate.

As both the President “Locomotive” C. H. Liu and Vice President “Money” C. K. Chien happened to have left for Chungking on important business, Rotarian “Violin” M. K. Chu, Chancellor of the Kweiyang Medical College, was elected to preside over the soiree. At 7 p.m. the meeting opened with the singing of the United Nations Song and the Chinese National Anthem, led by the smart YMCA choir, which agreed to attend through the intermediary of Rotarian “Y” S. T. Shih. Then followed by a short address by the Chairman, who traced the history of the UNO from its predecessor the League of Nations. Then, Rotarian “Kangaroo” Eric W. Norgate, Kweiyang Secretary for the China Inland Mission, Australian by stock, spoke as the representative of a Member State. He spoke in colloquial Kweichow dialect so fluently and quoted the Chinese Sage Mencius’ sayings so profusely that the audience was quite surprised and highly satisfied. He began his speech by saying that, as the youngest brother is most talkative and jolly, so he spoke for Australia, a country with only 150 years’ history, the kid brother in a family of nations. He supported his main idea that all international institutions and peace talks would be futile in the absence of a change in heart by all peoples of the world, by quoting the Sage’s sayings that it is prerequisite for one to set his heart right and to make his thoughts sincere before he can proceed to polish his own personality, then to put his own family in order, then to rule his country, and finally, to restore the world to peace.

Following the speech, a well-thought out program of variety performances was enacted. Mrs. Violet C. Phinney, a talented and vivacious young lady engaged in social work for the American Church Mission, acted three pantomimes: 1. A kindergarten girl reciting a poem; 2. The soliloquy of Macbeth before deciding to take dastardly action of murdering the king; 3. A pantomime illustrating a love song to the accompaniment of its phonographic record. Except the second wherein the audience would not appreciate the golden coin of the Bard, the places delighted the spectators and moved them to much laughter. Then the playing of a stringed instrument, a comedy by the sparkling actress Hsin Ping Chiu, acrobatic stunts by the famous circus clown “Smallpoxed Star”, whose ride on a monocycle was particularly thrilling, were performed. The closing play merits special notice. It is a drama of the classical opera well known as Peking Drama. It is styled “Yang the 4th Brother paying a flying visit to his mother”, or “Sze Lang Tan Mu”. The story refers to the chronic war between the Sung Dynasty and the Tartar Kingdom. (Story of the Drama)... ..

The curtain dropped punctually at 11 p.m. one hour before the curfew. Both the hosts and guests greatly enjoyed the proceedings of the evening.

Acknowledgement

Before concluding, it must be mentioned that Rotarian “Shower” P. L. Tan, one of the directors of the Club, presided over the Planning Board for the celebration. Rotarian “Safety” L. P. Hoh (Program Committee), “Water” C. C. Chang (Social Service) and “Beauty” Charles C. Tsou, (Director), looked after all the details, made arrangements with professional artists and invited amateur players to take part in the performances. Rotarian “Relief” J. D. Hayes (Youth Committee) was busy taking snapshots. It was due to their seal and the hearty support of all that the soiree proved a complete success.

Report by Governor George Ernest Marden (Hong Kong), 57th District, to Rotary International on 11 November 1949:

This Club is still active and even flourishing on the occasion of United Nations Week. One of the members came to Hong Kong a few days ago and was present, by invitation, at the Club Assembly of the Hong Kong Club, taking active part in the discussion and promising to take back to his Club many of the points raised. Communication with this Club became difficult or impossible only yesterday as otherwise I had proposed making an early visit.

Remarks:

- (1) Kweiyang Rotary Club was admitted to Rotary International on 23 April 1945, and was terminated on 21 December 1950, soon after the outbreak of the Korean War in June.
- (2) Guiyang City was taken over by the People’s Liberation Army on 15 November, and Guiyang People’s Government was established on 23 November 1949.
- (3) The Republic of China (中華民國) in 1945 was one of the charter members of the United Nations and was one of the five permanent members of its Security Council. However, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758, passed on 25 October 1971, recognized the People’s Republic of China (中华人民共和国) – the Communist Party State -- as “the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations”.



Celebration of Collectivization made Kweiyang (Guiyang) entering the Socialist Era – 1950

貴陽解放的那一天

《中國共產黨貴陽歷史 第一卷》中國共產黨貴陽市委員會黨史研究室著（貴州人民出版社）

1949年10月21日至27日，中國人民解放軍二野五兵團黨委和中共貴州省委在進軍貴州的途中，在湖南邵陽召開聯席會議，對解放和接管貴州的工作進行了全面部署。明確進軍貴州的主要任務，確定各地、州、市、縣負責人，決定在貴陽和遵義建立軍管會。成立由秦天真、汪乃貴、杜恩訓、朱煜如（不久由蕭崗接替）、夏頁文五位同志組成中共貴陽市委員會，秦天真任書記兼任市長，杜恩訓為副市長。

11月初，二野五兵團兵分三路，從黔西南、銅仁地區進軍貴陽城，要求在11月15日解放貴陽、25日解放畢節。

11月14日夜，貴陽城燈火通明，二野五兵團先頭部隊從貴陽油榨街入城，國民黨軍隊倉皇逃跑後，貴陽街面上人很少，見到穿著不同軍服的軍人在城中，有貴陽市民開口詢問，之後忍不住高喊起來，「解放軍來了，解放軍來了」。聲音慢慢傳開，貴陽市突然就熱鬧了起來，臨街的木門逐一打開，市民開始出門迎接解放軍入城。

當晚，解放軍與貴陽地下黨組織聯繫上，初步瞭解貴陽的情況後，他們連夜進軍，在拂曉前攻佔了清鎮，鞏固了貴陽城週邊。

1949年11月15日，貴陽街頭貼滿了「歡迎中國人民解放軍」、「擁護中國共產黨」的標語，市民站在街道兩頭，夾道歡迎二野主力部隊進入貴陽城。市民的歡呼聲高過了四周齊放的爆竹聲，解放軍戰士扛著槍、背著背包，佇列整齊。他們面帶微笑向市民揮手，有的市民激動落淚。

11月15日解放軍入城，宣告貴陽解放。至此，中共貴州省工委完成了長達16年的歷史使命，貴陽的歷史也翻開了嶄新的一頁。

貴陽的解放，粉碎了蔣介石苦心經營的西南防線，為解放軍進軍川滇，解放全陸全境奏響了勝利的序曲。

