

Dissolved the 3 Rotary Districts in China in 1951

• The Proximate Cause

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The Decision

Though there had been vision and mission on 1 July 1937 to develop 2,000 Rotary clubs in The Republic of China (中華民國), the 3 Rotary districts spread on most of the provinces were ultimately dissolved in July 1951. Let us first review on what were the Rotary International Board of Directors' decisions laid down in January 1951:

“With regard to Rotary in China, the Executive Committee, acting in behalf of the Board of Directors, recently took this action: It

- (1) accepted the resignation of Keats Chu, Governor of District 59;
- (2) agreed that the territories and Clubs of District 58 and 59 be considered as one District (58-59) under the supervision of the present Governor of District 58;
- (3) called upon Rotary's Secretary to terminate the membership of Clubs in China where there is sufficient evidence that they are not functioning; and
- (4) agreed that effective July 1, 1951, District 57 and District 58-59 shall be dissolved and that any remaining Clubs in those territories be considered as non-districted Clubs under the supervision of an Administrative Advisor.”

The Possible Proximate Cause

By reading the above Board decisions, one may observe that Keats S. Chu (*Tientsin*) (*Woolen piece goods manufacturing*) (朱繼聖-天津扶輪社), District Governor of all Rotary clubs in Northern China, who tendered his resignation in the early months of his second term as district governor, drew the serious realization of Rotary International that China Mainland was no longer socially and politically favourable and feasible for Rotary Movement. There were strong evidence and clear signal that led to the decisions of 2 to 4.



Keats S. Chu (*Tientsin*) (朱繼聖-天津扶輪社)

District 98 Governor 1948-1949 ; District 59 Governor 1950-1951

Rotary International did not disclose any supporting reasons toward the January 1951 decisions. However, the China Communist Party's archives have given concrete evidence that Chu had given up his ideal of Rotary service as what he had told the congregation at the 20th Annual Convention of Rotary International held at Dallas, Texas, U.S.A., on 31 May 1929, when he was a member of Peking Rotary Club (北京扶輪社). (see full text on Page 4)

Instead, Chu changed his thoughts as what he had written a long article in the 《People's Daily》 《人民日報》 on 27 September 1951 (quoted after English translation, see full text on Pages 5-7):

“On the eve of the launch of "The War to Resist America and Aid Korea" Movement, I still had the idea of fear on the United States. But the surging patriotic climax drowned out all my concerns. I enthusiastically participated in the patriotic demonstrations of the Tianjin industrial and commercial circles and other circles. How glorious I feel when we get the approval of Chairman Mao! How excited! I also participated in the Chinese People's Condolence Mission to the DPRK. I have seen and witnessed the bloody crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists such as burning, killing, kinking, and plundering in North Korea. This has made me even more hateful, and contemptuous of the American imperialism. On the one hand, I saw the brutality and corruption of the U.S. robbers; on the other hand, I saw the heroic and indomitable will of the Korean People's Army and the North Korean people, and the spirit of heroic struggle and bloodshed and sacrifice of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army. The confidence that this war of resistance to the American and the righteous victory has been greatly strengthened.”

Responding to the call by China Communist Party Chairman Mao Zedong (毛澤東), Chu was invited by the Party, as a senior leading industrialist and entrepreneur in Tianjin and even in Beijing, to donate the first unit of MiG-15 air fighter in supporting the Chinese People's Volunteer Air Force (中國人民志願空軍) (see photo below):



Obviously, the contradicting change of Chu's thoughts, after the outbreak of the Korean War which made the People's Republic of China (中華人民共和國) and the United States of America in the hostility status, gave Rotary International no more fantasy on the further development of Rotary on the Mainland. The January 1951 Board decisions were then made.

The Korean War

The Korean War (25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953) was a war between North Korea (with the support of Communist China and the Soviet Union of Russia) and South Korea (with the principal support of the United States). The War began on 25 June 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea following a series of clashes along the border. The United Nations, with the United States as the principal force, came to the aid of South Korea. The People's Republic of China (PRC) came to the aid of North Korea, and the Soviet Union also gave some assistance to the North.

Although the United Nations forces were under United States command, this army was officially a UN "police" force. In order to avoid an open war with the US and other UN members, the PRC deployed the People's Liberation Army (PLA) under the name "volunteer army".

The Chinese People's Volunteer Army (CPVA) (中國人民志願軍) was the armed forces deployed by the PRC during the Korean War. Although all units in the CPVA were actually transferred from the PLA under orders of the Chinese Communist Party, the CPVA was separately constituted in order to prevent an official war with the United States.

Why did the PRC intervene in Korea? The PRC wanted to preserve a North Korean Communist State, but not to dominate it. Instead, the PRC wanted North Korea to serve as a buffer between Manchuria and the U.S.A. dominated South Korea. The PRC viewpoint made a certain amount of sense. After all, since the U.S.A. broke its promise not to cross the 38th Parallel, what reassurance could the Chinese have that the US would keep its promise and not cross the Yalu River (鴨綠江)? Resolving to use force, PRC leaders decided that if they were going to fight the US, the initial attack would have to be as efficient as possible. For this reason, they planned a surprise attack, secretly moving troops across the Yalu -- border between China and North Korea -- using the element of surprise, did not declare war. Furthermore, so that it could officially disavow responsibility, the PRC troops claimed to be "volunteers."

China previously insisted that the War was waged out of American aggression. The official title of the conflict on the mainland is "The War to Resist America and Aid Korea" (抗美援朝). Chinese history textbooks state that the Korean War began when "the United States assembled a United Nations army of 15 countries and defiantly marched across the border and invaded North Korea, spreading the flames of war to our Yalu River."

Speech by Keats S. Chu (Peking Rotary Club) (朱繼聖-北京扶輪社) on 31 May 1929 at the 20th Annual Convention of Rotary International, Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.:-

“Ladies and Fellow Rotarians:

Two thousand five hundred years ago, Confucius taught the Chinese people the Golden Rule and the doctrine of universal brotherhood and peace: “Do not do unto others what you would not want others to do unto you.” “Within the four seas are all brethren and under all the heavens is one family.”

Rotary, therefore, is not alien to China, but Rotary in its concrete manifestation, in its effective organization, and in its practical application as enunciated by a man of ideals twenty years ago and carried on by many men of earnestness and zeal all over the world in their respective trades and professions and general conduct of life, is a new revelation to China. *(Applause)*

Rotary in China is only in its infancy. What little the Chinese Rotarians have been able to do in the way of contributing to Rotary International as an organization has been insignificant. But what Rotary as a movement has done for the Chinese people is by far worth while. It promises a tremendous and indeed unparalleled opportunity for further and greater service.

Of every four human beings in the world, one is a Chinese. This one-quarter of the human race has made its contributions of art, science, literature and philosophy to the store of human civilization. The backwardness of material and industrial developments and the pressure of population have forced down the standard of living of the mass of the people to and below the level of bare existence. The voices of the suffering boys and girls can be heard here and there, and the calls of the needy and worthy youth are constantly challenging the moral obligation of the more fortunate. To the Rotarians in China the problem is not what services they should take up, but rather how much more they can yet assume. *(Applause)*

Rotary in China must extend. The first duty, the responsibility that naturally first falls upon the Rotarians in China, is to see that it does extend, but may I plead for the sympathetic co-operation of the officers of Rotary International and of the Rotarians of other parts of the world.

The Chinese people as a race are a peace-loving people in spite of the fact that in their struggle for liberalism they have witnessed many an awkward crisis. But not until these hundreds of millions of Chinese youth will have become the citizens of the world, are brought into the right track of thinking, not only taught the doctrines of Confucius but also brought to learn the practical methods of carrying these ideals into effect, as enunciated by Paul Harris, in their daily pursuits of life, not until then can we ever hope for everlasting world peace.

Allow me in conclusion to convey the heartiest greetings from the Rotary Club of Peking in particular, and Rotarians from China in general, and my hearty thanks for the courtesies and warm friendship accorded to me and the courtesy of the Dallas Rotarians and the people of Dallas as shown to a delegate from a far, far distant land. Thank you.”

我兩年餘來的思想轉變

朱繼聖

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解放以前，我自鳴清高，自以為是一個沒有政治色彩的工商業者。在仁立實業公司慘澹經營的二十八年中，雖一再和外商競爭，但我的觀點僅僅是「為工業而工業，為商業而商業」的。我深信「工業可以救國」，所以努力製銷地毯等工藝貨品，以爭取外匯。繼又織造呢絨嗶嘰，以抵制外貨，杜塞漏卮。但是我不能深刻瞭解中國貧弱的根本原因，我在與外商鬥爭的同時，還主張借用美英資金來建立國內的工礦事業，這證明了我對帝國主義本質的認識是不夠清楚的。

我曾在美國留學五年，我不知不覺地中了美帝國主義的毒。但是我是一個愛國分子，留學回國時，很想為祖國做一番事業。我還記得：我在回國途中，熱望再見久別的祖國風光，但一到吳淞口及黃浦江時，所見的幾乎都是外國旗子和外國輪艦，我很痛心；及到碼頭，檢查行李的，卻又是傲慢的外國關員，我更傷心憤怒。但是，那時我所仇恨的，僅僅是日本、英國和法國侵略者。對美國還存在著幻想，還不知道它是最陰險最毒辣的帝國主義者。這個崇美親美的思想，一直存在到解放的時候。至今思之，自覺慚愧。

在軍閥時代和國民黨反動派統治時期，政府的腐朽和社會的污濁，使我非常失望。但我有著超政治、超階級的觀點，毫無革命鬥爭的勇氣。即在天津淪陷期間，也留在天津，不自奮鬥，而坐待勝利的到來。日寇投降以後，在國民黨反動政府統治之下，政治惡劣，經濟紊亂，但我對國事還抱著改良主義的態度，這又是一個很大的錯誤。

我謝謝我的朋友劉仁術（現任天津市企業公司經理）。他在天津解放前的幾個月，從石家莊轉給我一封十幾頁的長信，詳述了新民主主義的經濟政策。勸告我們工商業者千萬不要遷移亂動，並指明瞭解放後私營企業的光明前途。信內所說的種種，雖多合乎我的願望，但我還存在著好些顧慮和疑惑。

天津解放了，勝利的歌聲喚起了我。我親眼看見了人民解放軍嚴明的紀律與和藹的態度。他們與孩子們彼此相愛，共同玩唱。十幾個年青活潑的戰士曾住在我的家中，我們相處甚好，日久更像一家人一樣了。我到我的工廠，看見工人們也活潑起來。但在解放初期，由於運輸困難，營業銳減。別的工廠，也有同樣的情況，有的更發生了嚴重的勞資糾紛。我還記得，那時天津大工廠的經理們天天下午到工業會聚首閒談，幾乎個個都有一肚子的牢騷。我們應該感謝李之楠（現任中共天津市委會統戰部副部長），那時，他每星期都來工業會一兩次，瞭解我們的情況，說明我們解決各種的困難。我們從他那裡懂得了中國共產黨的正確政策，向他學習了好些新的知識，我們的情緒就慢慢地好轉過來，我們的思想也逐漸進步了。

天津解放三個月後，劉少奇副主席不辭辛苦地親來天津，與幾個大企業的負責人舉行了兩次時間甚長的座談，我很幸運地也參加了。他誠懇的態度，感動了我；他深刻的講解，啟發了我。我的情緒更加穩定而轉向積極了。我曾對我廠職工們說過：「我年已五十

六了。頭二十八年是我教養的時期；後二十八年我幾乎全在仁立實業公司工作；現在解放了，我們前途光明，我至少還要活二十八年。努力學習，和同志們在一起來擴大我們的工廠，建設我們偉大的祖國。」當時，為了擁護政府的政策和幫助國家外匯的供應，我商請了仁立實業公司的董事，自動把存在國外的一大筆美金向人民政府報告登記，並把其中的極大部分調回到中國銀行。隨後，我與同事們共同計畫建立一個新式的幹蛋工廠。在籌設該廠當中，我們得到了政府的種種鼓勵和協助。我們在瀋陽採購了好些鋼鐵器材，但因運輸擁擠，一時無法運到天津，眼看著就要嚴重地延誤蛋廠的建設。我向天津市財政經濟委員會請求幫助，當晚李耕濤主任應允電瀋陽有關部門，設法把我們的器材儘先運到天津，我就把噸數告訴了他。翌晨我發現我所報的噸數錯了，馬上打電話向天津市財政經濟委員會更正，天津市財政經濟委員會回答說他們的電報已經在夜裡拍出了。過了幾天，貨也到了。這可見人民自己的政府多麼負責！他們辦事多麼迅速！我對我們政府的信心，從此更加堅定了。

一九四九年的秋天，我和工商界同仁們到大連去，參觀了規模巨集大的工業展覽會和好些工廠。在大連，我曾參加了中華人民共和國成立的慶祝大會。大連人民的廣場，好像一片紅色的海，美麗的五星紅旗飄揚在和暖的日光和清爽的海風當中。歡聲雷震，萬眾一心，我也從未有地由心裡發出了歡呼：「中國共產黨萬歲！中華人民共和國萬歲！毛主席萬歲！」路過瀋陽時，我們考察了幾個大的工廠。大連、瀋陽兩市解放較先，工業比較發達。工廠裡民主管理制度的輝煌成就，以及工人的積極性和創造性的實際表現，都教育了我。我深深地認識了無產階級的智慧 and 力量；我也體會了從事工商業者，必須依靠群眾，才能好好地發展生產，改善經營。

一九五零年的春天，我廠也建立了勞資協商會議的制度。從此，人事福利、安全衛生、生產計畫以及節約等問題，都可以通過協商會議來求得解決。在會議上，工會代表們的言行，常常給我以很好的教育。兩年來，我廠生產所以能夠勝利地由服裝用呢轉向工業用呢，是由於政府貿易政策的保護，和各用戶工廠的支持和指導，以及我廠職工們的積極合作、努力改進技術、提高品質的結果。最近，我廠展開了愛國主義勞動競賽，更進一步地提高了職工的生產情緒，創造了一些新的紀錄，出現了勞動模範。只有在中國共產黨正確領導之下，才能把工人潛在的能力發揮出來！

抗美援朝運動發動的前夕，我還存著恐美思想。但洶湧澎湃的愛國高潮淹沒了我一切的顧慮，我踴躍地參加了天津工商界和其他各界的愛國示威大遊行。當我們得到毛主席讚許的時候，我感到何等光榮！何等興奮！我又參加了中國人民赴朝慰問團，耳聞目睹了美帝國主義在朝鮮所犯的燒、殺、淫、掠等血腥罪行，使我對美帝國主義更加仇視、鄙視和蔑視。我一方面看見了美國強盜的殘暴無恥和腐朽墮落；另一方面看見了朝鮮人民軍和朝鮮老百姓的英勇堅強、不屈不撓的意志，以及中國人民志願軍的堅苦卓絕、英勇奮鬥和流血犧牲的精神，我對這個抗美援朝正義戰爭必勝的信心大大地加強了。這次集體的生活，行軍的生活，農村的生活和戰地的生活，不論在思想上和精神上，都給了我以極大的鍛煉和考驗。在中國人民赴朝慰問團內，大家團結與互助的精神和協商與批評的作風，深深地感動了我，同時我也體驗到領導與紀律的重要。朝鮮是一個大課堂，我在那裡學習了不少東西，收穫很大。從朝鮮歸來以後，捐獻飛機大炮的運動展開了，我為了積極回應抗美援朝總會的號召，我和一起參加慰問團的仁立實業公司同事凌其峻在北京時即代表仁立實業公

司自覺自願地捐獻了頭一架飛機。我在北京、保定、石家莊、邢臺、邯鄲等處作赴朝慰問報告的時候，聽眾們生動的反應和愛國的熱忱感動了我，鼓舞了我；我也體會到今日的祖國人民真是已經站起來了。

新的社會造成新的家庭。解放後，我的愛人孫班錄也參加了家庭婦女聯誼會和民主建國會。對家庭婦女聯誼會的托兒所，她曾幫助設立，也幫助經營。我去朝鮮前，她也鼓勵了我。在捐獻飛機大炮運動開始時，她就帶頭認捐。現在她正幫助進行華北區城鄉物資交流展覽會的準備工作。剛在燕京大學畢業的女兒也自願服從政府的統一分配；最幼的男孩在初中畢業時，雖年紀太小，不合規定，也想去報名參加軍事幹部學校。兒女回家時，常常愉快地在一起談論，交流學習的經驗和工作的體會，有時我與我的愛人班錄也參加了。毛主席對於青年一代的教養，使父母們完全可以放心。不僅如此，我還可以向兒女們學習，他們也常不客氣地批評我的錯誤。

我自覺學習不夠，雖在民主建國會裡和實際工作當中努力來求進步，但總感覺非常空虛。我還有不少缺點，尚待克服。我還要虛心學習，努力工作，來爭取進步，盡我餘生的精力，為建設新中國而奮鬥！



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