

Appendix 13 -- PRC Foreign Minister Chou En-lai's Statement on the U.S. Proposal of the Japanese Peace Treaty (1951)

Source: Hsinhua News Agency, *Daily News Release*, No. 777 (Peking: China Information Bureau, Press Administration, August 16, 1951), pp. 75-78.

August 15, 1951

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China considers that the Draft Peace Treaty with Japan as proposed by the United States and British Governments is a draft which violates international agreements and is therefore basically unacceptable and that the conference which has been scheduled to meet on September 4 at San Francisco, under the compulsion of the United States Government, and which audaciously excludes the People's Republic of China is a conference which repudiates international commitments and therefore basically cannot be recognized.

Whether considered from the procedure through which it was prepared or from its contents, the United States- British Draft Peace Treaty with Japan flagrantly violates these important international agreements to which the United States and British Governments were signatories, viz, the United Nations Declaration of January 1, 1942, the Cairo Declaration, the Yalta Agreement, the Potsdam Declaration and Agreement, and the Basic Post-Surrender Policy for Japan which was adopted by the Far Eastern Commission on June 19, 1947. The United Nations Declaration provides that no separate peace should be made. The Potsdam Agreement states that the "preparatory work of the peace settlements" should be undertaken by those states which were signatories to the terms of surrender imposed upon the enemy state concerned....

The United States has monopolized the task of preparing the Draft Peace Treaty with Japan as now proposed, excluding most of the states that had fought against Japan and particularly the two principal Powers in the war, China and the Soviet Union, from the preparatory work for the peace treaty....

In violation of the agreement under the Cairo Declaration, the Yalta Agreement and the Potsdam Declaration, the Draft Treaty only provides that Japan should renounce all right to Taiwan and the Pescadores as well as to the Kurile Islands, the southern part of Sakhalin and all islands adjacent to it, without mentioning even one word about the agreement that Taiwan and the Pescadores be returned to the People's Republic of China and that the Kurile Islands be handed over to, and the southern part of Sakhalin and all islands adjacent to it be returned to, the Soviet Union.

With a view to expediting the concluding of a separate peace treaty with Japan, the United States Government, in its notification for the convocation of the San Francisco Conference, openly excludes the People's Republic of China, the principal Power which had fought against Japan-and thus completely violates a stipulation in the United Nations Declaration of January 1, 1942, to the effect that each of the signatory Powers pledged itself not to make a separate peace....

Now, the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China once again declares:
If there is no participation of the People's Republic of China in the preparation, drafting and signing of a peace treaty with Japan, whatever the contents and results of such a treaty, the Central People's Government considers it all illegal, and therefore null and void.