

FU YING

Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs

You must have seen that I have a speech in hand and you must be trying to distract me from my speech. However, I still want to come back to my speech, because I prepared for it and there are a few points I really want to share with the crowd. They are about emerging countries. We need to first go back a bit to the history, the context of the emerging countries. Before the Second World War, when countries industrialised, it was always accompanied by colonisation, in order to acquire markets. However, the Second World War put an end to that and then competition became the order of the day.

After the Cold War, which brought a wall between two markets, a real globalisation process started, which enabled every country, big or small, to have an opportunity to grow. China was really lucky to be at the doorstep to this remarkable growth. China was reforming its political and economic structure to be ready for take-off. At the same time, countries like India, Brazil and others joined in this growth.

How come so many countries have achieved rapid economic growth? Even in the recent financial crisis, these countries contributed to help prevent the world from slumping further. However, we have to admit that there is this anxiety on both sides. For the developed countries, there is concern that the newly-emerging countries may not observe the original rules or may not be ready to accept existing structures. At the same time, the emerging countries are concerned that those developed countries may not accept them, or may impose on them.

I call this double anxiety. I do not think we can solve or remove that anxiety in the short run. It will probably accompany us for a long period of time. As I mentioned last night during my speech, many problems could be very much attributed to these kinds of anxieties, but at the same time, we have to move forward. I think we need to reform the existing global structure, which was built for a smaller group of people, for 1 billion, for example. Now, maybe 3 billion people, or even more, are coming into this growth and the structure needs to be reformed. However, this will not be done through revolution, but through incremental changes. Nevertheless there has to be a recognition of the needs for reform.

Secondly, I think there needs to be an accurate observation or judgement of what new changes are taking place. In China, as I mentioned last night, we disagree that there is a power shift. We do not think the world is changing along the old path of power shifting. We think there is a diffusion; in every field, there is a diffusion. We need to see these new changes and to cope with them with a more relaxed, or cooler attitude, instead of trying to blame each other. We need to find a better way to cooperate, to build a partnership.

That was really the message I was trying to get across last night, which is the same message I want to highlight today. Regarding the emerging countries, the influence of these countries does not mean replacing or challenging anybody. All we want is to provide better conditions for our own people, to improve their lives. We will have to learn from the developed countries, from their experiences. However, at the same time, we want to have the space to grow in our own way and to base our political systems and our structures on our cultures, our own experiences.

Although I answered this question yesterday, you missed it and I know you are very interested in recording my opinion on this, so I will answer your question about the Nobel Peace Prize. Personally, I was not surprised about the choice, because the Norwegian Nobel Committee has always nominated strange people from China. If you are Chinese, all you need to do is do something strange against China and then you are very likely to be nominated. Look at the people they have named, people who want to divide China, who say China should be divided into seven parts. He was



nominated. Some people said certain parts of China should be separated and he was nominated. Personally, I was not very surprised.

What made me and many Chinese reflect is the response, the response of the media to this choice and the response of the political leaders in the Western countries. There was a lack of realisation that this choice is challenging the judicial system in China. It is not showing respect to the judicial system in China. I do not think a lot of people realise that. Regarding China, a lot of people are reflecting on the motives behind this. Also, people do not understand; what about the heroes in China. Could they ever be within sight of the Nobel Peace Prize? They are the people who helped to lift poverty in China, the people who helped bring stability to China and the people who helped to solve the rice problem, for example.

What is peace in China? The Chinese character for peace is composed of two parts. One is rice and on the other side is a mouth. Throughout history, we believe that if every mouth is fed, there is peace on earth. The person who helped to solve the rice problem is Yuan Longping. At one stage, I even thought that maybe he could be nominated, but now I know how naive I was to think that way. However, I am not entirely losing hope.

Mehmet Ali Birand, Journalist and Writer, CNN Turk

One day, they will learn.

Fu Ying

Yes. They did make some good choices, like Mr. Nelson Mandela. I will salute that; it was a great choice. However sometimes, they make terrible choices.