

# Self-reliance National Sovereignty and World Peace

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It gives me immense pleasure to address this historic conference on a subject which has relevance in contemporary world. Self-reliance guarantees National sovereignty which in turn assures world peace.

From the time immemorial, the civilization started in the mode of barter system, even during that time one who produced a product, was the master of his own produce and was free to exchange in terms of his needs and requirements. As mankind progressed, un-equal, exploitative, monopolistic elements took over and concept of Self-reliance took a back seat.

What is Self-reliance? Self-reliance is an ability to do things and make decisions when put it collective in the realm of a Nation, if a Nation does not develop by Self-reliant means then National sovereignty itself is jeopardized. Nobody in this world gives to another nation any aid, money without any strings and when such aid or money is received, then, there is likelihood of jeopardizing its National sovereignty. Therefore, there is a direct link between Self-reliance and National sovereignty. If we proceed further from these premises the National aspiration has to be harmonized with international peace and tranquillity. It is only a Self-reliant Nation which can defend its National sovereignty which will ultimately guarantee world peace.

The biggest challenge to self-reliant economic development comes from transnational and multi-national corporations. Today's world is witnessing a new form of economic domination and subjugation of economic independence. In the pretext of bringing economic sanctions the imperialist powers want to subject the nations to economic hardship and ultimate surrender to tow their line of political, economic and social development. In essence, it is to starve and strangulate economically by bringing un-told misery and hardship to the people of these nations.

Although we do not go into the meaning of self-reliance as conceptualized by philosophers that self-reliance means the need of each individual to avoid conformity and false consistency.

International law on sanctions has to be harmonized with international humanitarian law. Under the sanctions imposed by the United States on countries, one should not overlook the sufferings faced by innocent children, pregnant women, disabled people and elderly citizens of any country.

In such a scenario, when National sovereignty is affected, it leads to dis-contentment and dis-contentment is one of the reasons for destabilizing peace in the region or in the world.

Another casualty of the economic domination is National flora and fauna, cultural heritage, language and traditional knowledge becomes its victim substituted by the alien culture,

thoughts and cultural. In the process, a Nation loses its identity. Its people acquire a slavish mentality, perpetuated by colonialism and materialism which endangers National sovereignty, it will have no voice in the international arena and will be difficult for it to contribute for maintaining world peace as it will be difficult for that Nation to call a spade a spade.

Dear friends, I would not like to take much of your time on self-reliance, National sovereignty and world peace are anti-thesis but are interwoven and guarantee the common good of the people of the universe. May I at this stage would like to emphasize that some believe that concept of National sovereignty is a chauvinistic approach. I do not agree with this approach. Because until and unless determined by a geographical area governed by its own laws having adopted a model of development if a State and its people have earmarked a particular part for development, nobody in the world has a right to dump that nation solely on the ground that they feel it is not the right course for development. This concept is an anti-thesis of self-reliance. What we see today in the contemporary world that there is one international policeman. It defines the logic, the laws, they are the accuser, they are the jury and they are the executioners. I this scenario can we have world peace? It is not possible. Over 7 billion people on this planet are divergent in their culture, languages, political philosophy and mode and method of development until and unless mutual respect for each other system permitting others who have chosen a different course of development or governance, is not guaranteed by the international community, world peace always be endangered. Time has come that we must resolve from the podium of this Conference thus no matters how arduous is the task for us who are assembled from different Nations having diverse culture, different form of governance that we must choose the path of self-reliant economic development to protect our National sovereignty so that we can contribute our might for world peace.

Thanks