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MOSHI: SOLIDARITY WINS DOGMATISTS ISOLATED

The imperialists and their hangers-on were sorely disappointed: despite all their wishful prophecies, the third Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Conference was an unprecedented success.

ITS programme of action will strengthen still further the struggles of the peoples of the whole world against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, for national independence, social and economic progress, disarmament and peace. Moshi has beaten the drums for the rallying of all progressive forces for the wiping out of colonialism from all parts of the world in 1963.

Moshi has proclaimed the firm belief of the Afro-Asian peoples:

—that the question of war and peace is the main question of our day, that the mass movement of the Afro-Asian peoples makes this the main platform of its struggle, that the struggle for peace, for the liquidation of foreign bases and aggressive military pacts, against the imperialist war plans is a vital and essential task for the Afro-Asians, linked and tied inseparably with the national liberation movement.

—that the policy of peaceful coexistence is in the vital interests of the struggle for national independence, it creates the conditions for the victory of the national liberation movements;

—that general and complete disarmament would be a decisive blow at the armed strength of the imperialist powers, at that very strength with which they enslave millions in the two continents.

The dogmatists sought desperately to impose their narrow, self-destructive, self-isolating policies on the Afro-Asian solidarity movement—policies which only help the imperialists to divide the Afro-Asian peoples. The Moshi conference rejected at every turn in every commission, in every resolution, in the elections to the Permanent Secretariat, the propositions of the dogmatists.

Stand On Main Issues

For the first time for some years, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity movement was enabled to take a clear-cut stand on the main issues of war and peace, to proclaim its adherence to peaceful coexistence, to disarmament,

to the struggle for peace, without the awful, negating qualifications usually forcibly introduced by the dogmatists. The new organisational set-up is strongly weighted against the dogmatist splitters of the movement.

Moshi has opened the way to the real broadening of the Afro-Asian people's solidarity movement through an intensi-

.....By.....
Romesh Chandra
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fication of the liberation struggle as well as constructive, positive programmes for cooperation in all fields, including the economic, social and cultural fields.

The general declaration of the conference can help to mobilise vast sections of opinion in the two continents, sections which have remained aloof from the movement till now. The various programmes of work adopted in different commissions require careful and painstaking implementation in the spirit of Moshi: the new Permanent Secretariat must firmly reject the sectarian, organisational methods pursued by the dogmatists, and adopt methods which would enable the participation of the broadest masses in every country in all our work.

India's Interest

Public attention in India had been focussed on the Moshi Conference as never before on any other popular international conference for peace and national independence. This was due to the natural concentration of press reports on the struggle waged by the Indian delegation to secure support for the Colombo proposals.

The Indian people are rightly anxious that world public opinion should be exerted on the Chinese Government to accept in toto, as India has done, the proposals and clarification of the six friendly Afro-Asian governments which met at Colombo in December. This anxiety is not born out

of any chauvinistic concern for India's stand, being vindicated, but purely out of a desire for a peaceful solution, for the opening of negotiations, to end the conflict, for the prevention of any recurrence of hostilities, and any consequent foreign imperialist interference in our affairs; for increasing the influence and strength of the Afro-Asian countries in world affairs (it is the first time that an Afro-Asian initiative of such significance for mankind has been taken, through the Colombo proposals.)

It was this understanding which the united Indian delegation led by Diwan Chaman Lal, MP, gave to the entire conference. And because of the principled stand, the prestige of India rose among all the delegations.

The Chinese press has poured forth a great deal of venom against the Indian delegation. It has in particular criticised the Indian "walk out" and India's efforts to have the Colombo proposals endorsed by the conference.

Not Just Coincidence

It is not a coincidence that the Indian monopoly press in unison with the directly U.S.-subsidised journals should have made exactly the same criticisms of the Indian delegation! They too editorially insist that the "walk out" was wrong, that bringing the Colombo proposals into the Moshi conference was incorrect.

From different ends and for, perhaps, opposite reasons, the conclusions to which the Chinese press and our own Right-wing anti-national forces have come are identical! This is not fortuitous: the identity of views between the dogmatists and the pro-imperialists is seen on numerous issues, including opposition to India's policy of non-alignment itself and foul attacks on Prime Minister Nehru personally. And Moshi was no exception.

In the coming weeks, *New Age* will carry a series of special reports on Africa and on the Afro-Asian solidarity movement, based on the inspiring talks and interviews our delegates were able to have with many great personalities of the resurgent movement, which is now sweeping across the continents.

But in this first report back on Moshi, it is necessary to concentrate on giving the facts, which will help to nail the lies of the imperialists and their

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NEW AGE

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"AIR UMBRELLA"

U. S. Pressure Rebuffed

★ From Our Correspondent

New Delhi, February 20

Government of India have firmly rejected U. S. demand for repudiation of Prime Minister's statements regarding the projected Western "air umbrella" over this country.

PRETENDING that public discussion of the subject here amounted to discourtesy towards the Western Defence Mission currently in India, the U.S. has been pressurising Government to issue a "clarification".

If one had believed comments in our "respectable" papers, one would have thought that the plan for the establishment of a Western "air umbrella" over India and consequently of Western bases in our country, was a figment of the imagination of wicked Indian Communists. The mischief, according to these comments, became serious because these wicked people were able to inveigle some responsible sections into believing it.

Truth about this "air umbrella" business has sufficiently come out from reports in the press. The CPI delegation which met the Prime Minister on February 14 elicited categorical denial so far as Government of India was concerned.

Reports as they appeared

in one of our "respectable" papers, the *Times of India*, and finally in the "very respectable" American paper the *New York Times*, go to show—straight from the horse's mouth, as it were—that the scheme was conceived and did exist; that since the arrival of the Western military mission it continued to be discussed without any sanction or request from the Government of India; and that the West is now sore over the public interest shown in this country in the scheme.

Above all, it is sore over the Prime Minister's statements which have put a serious obstacle in the realisation of the plan that was being worked out behind the backs of the Indian people and the Indian Government. The very annoyance shown over the disclosure of the scheme would testify to the West's keenness about realising it, and although abstracted, one should presume they have not abandoned the plan.

Following reports from the press bring out the facts:

Neither Sought, Nor Offered

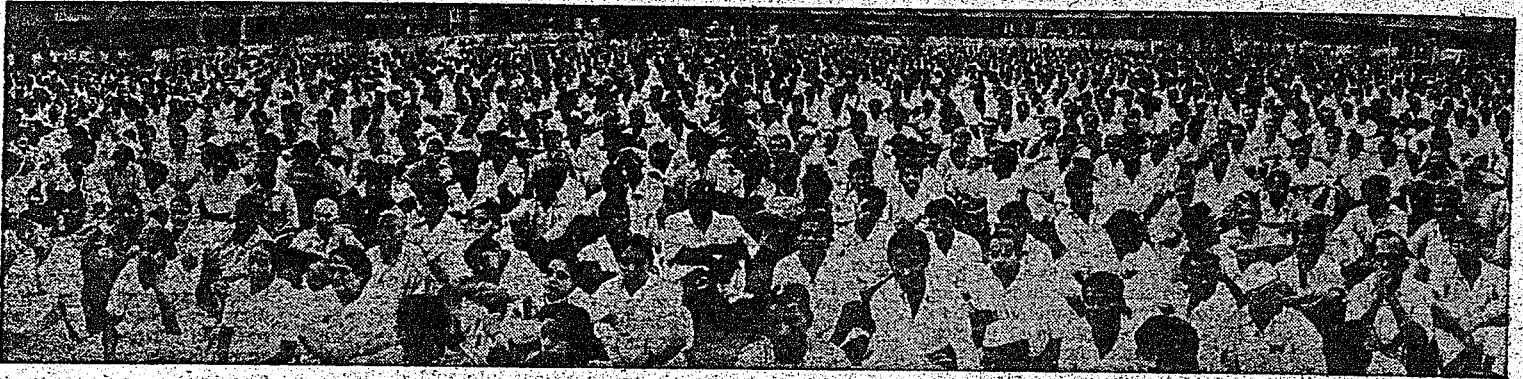
The Prime Minister reportedly told the Executive (of the Congress Parliamentary Party on Feb. 16) that he had discussed the issue with a deputation of Congress MPs and Communist leaders in the context of press reports which suggested that the West would use air bases in India.

Saying that reports in this regard were 'purely imaginary' Mr. Nehru stressed that India had not

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Leaders of the various delegations at Moshi.



A view of the Bombay Rally addressed by CPI Chairman S. A. Dange on February 17.

"Anti-Communism Cannot Crush Our Party"—Dange

★ From Our Correspondent

Addressing a mammoth mass rally of more than 25,000 people in Bombay on February 17, S. A. Dange, Chairman of the CPI warned those elements in the country who had raised a bogey of anti-Communism to crush the Communist Party.

He said: "Those who wanted to utilise the Chinese aggression and the national emergency to suppress the Communist Party should have known that the foundations of our Party rested on the solid support of the people, and however the situation might be unfavourable to the Communists, it was futile to attempt to crush them."

The rally was organised by the Bombay Committee of the Party and presided over by F. B. Valdia, Secretary of the City Committee. It was specially held with a view to reporting to the Bombay working class the decisions of the National Council of the Party adopted in its recent session. "The Communist Party", Dange said, "won support of the people due to its sincere work for the cause of Socialism and it is bound to gain further strength in course of time."

"Forty years ago," Dange continued, "the Communist Party came to power in one country—the USSR. Today, the Communist Parties are ruling in twelve countries and one-third of the peoples of the world are progressing happily under the banner of the red flag towards ever-increasing prosperity. Even the newly-liberated and neutral countries are gradually turning towards Socialism and this rising tide of the people's movement towards Socialism and Communism cannot be arrested by the manoeuvres of a handful of reactionaries."

Referring pointedly to the issue of Chinese aggression, Dange reiterated the stand of the Party that China had committed a serious blunder in attacking our country. "When our country is attacked, we have to defend it whoever may be the aggressor," Dange added.

REACTIONS

Proceeding further, Dange disclosed the reactions of Communist and Workers' Parties in various countries on this question. He said, "I had been to various Socialist countries recently and I had the occasion to discuss with important Communist leaders this matter. These leaders also

expressed the view that China was wrong in pushing a border dispute to the point of war."

Dange added that though the leaders in Europe held China to be in the wrong, that did not mean they considered India's behaviour to the altogether right. It also suffered from drawbacks, according to them.

Describing his discussion with the Soviet Premier, Khrushchov, Dange said that Khrushchov assured him of the continued support of the Soviet Union to India in the cause of her development. "The Soviet Premier stated that the MIG fighter planes would be supplied to India according to the agreement and stressed the need of manufacturing MIGs in India itself because strategically their production was more important than importing a few of them."

Highlighting the attitude of the USA in giving arms to India, Dange said that the USA, "is prepared to give us only arms and not factories to produce the arms because they want our country as a market for selling their arms. They say—take our arms and pay the bill. And what is the bill? It is: Give Kashmir to Pakistan. Wonderful bill, no doubt!"

DIFFERENCE

"This is the difference between the aid from a Socialist and an imperialist country. Therefore the proposal for Air Umbrella was viewed with extreme concern by the National Council of our Party and it decided to resolutely oppose such a plan. The Council decided to send a deputation to the Prime Minister to seek clarifications on this question and be assured us that no bases would be given to any country and no such terms were under discussion."

"This is precisely the reason," Dange explained, "why we support the non-alignment policy of Prime Minister Nehru. We are not extending this support only outwardly or due to opportunism. Whenever we oppose anything, we do it with conviction and when we

support a particular stand, we do it similarly with sincerity and steadfastness."

Dange sharply criticised those supporters of Nehru, who during the last General Elections supported Nehru and during the emergency tried to put pressure in favour of India joining the Western military camp. "This was neither loyalty to Nehru nor to Congress and it was most disquieting that many a Congressman, hand-in-glove with Jan Sangh and Swatantra elements had been behaving in this very particular manner," Dange remarked.

"The reactionaries in the country wanted to suppress the Communists, put them behind the bars and try to overthrow the Nehru Government with a view to bringing about the rule of Dollars to our sacred soil. Fortunately, this game was foiled by the un-

shakable unity of our people," Dange added.

Welcoming the Colombo Proposals, Dange outlined the stand of the Party and said that these Proposals could be the basis of peaceful negotiations. He expressed the hope that the Chinese would realise the need of accepting the Colombo Proposals and settle the issue peacefully.

Dange emphasised that "Our struggle is not with any individual or any culture. We do not desire enmity of the Chinese people and therefore we call for mutual negotiations and speedy solution of the issue."

Strongly condemning the activities of Jan Sangh and Swatantra parties, Dange charged them as "anti-national" and as "trying to parade as genuine nationalists hoodwinking the people". He said that steps should be taken by the people to curb the activities of these parties whose sole aim is to overthrow democratic rule, and non-alignment and drag the country into the American camp.

Criticising the paltry contributions made by the rich

people to National Defence Fund as against the massive and unsolicited contributions made by the toiling people, Dange said that if the rich people did not open their purses wide for strengthening the national defence efforts, how could he ask the workers and poor sections of people to continue to contribute their mite from their meagre incomes? They must soon stop donating from their wages to the Fund, though they may continue to buy the Defence Bonds where possible.

Dange said that Government should now tap the resources of the rich and confiscate all the gold hoarded in the coffers of the moneybags and use it towards meeting the needs of national defence. He criticised the Gold Control Orders of the Government and said that these orders would not stop smuggling, hoarding of gold and speculation.

Concluding, Dange called upon the workers and the people to strengthen the Communist Party which alone can bring Socialism in the country and lead it to all-round happiness and prosperity.

WEEK IN PARLIAMENT

★ From Our Parliamentary Correspondent

All Set For A Critical Review Of Govt.'s Work

New Delhi, Feb. 19:

Just about when President Radhakrishnan was going to tell the jointly-assembled members of the two Houses of Parliament that in the face of the peril to the nation's integrity and freedom posed by the Chinese aggression, "all the petty internal differences were hushed and stopped," a few Socialist members raised a row over the language of the President's address, shouted that he speak in Hindi and walked out in a huff.

WAS this symbolic of the state of the Nation today? Or was it only an aberration on the part of some individuals? One would look forward to this long session of Parliament to get an answer.

The budget session of Parliament is always an occasion for a deep probe into the omissions and commissions of the government. The Opposition is merciless in its analysis of the policies and performances of the Treasury Benches and the Legislature has the right to demand that it be convinced before it votes money to the Executive for further administration. The backbenchers get more opportunity to show their mettle in the long process of the budget debate and even sometimes force issues by their initiative. The Executive with a comfortable majority is still called to give convincing explanations for its past perform-

ance before it can ask for more money.

The fact that Parliament was meeting this time under the impact of internal and international problems posed by the Chinese aggression invested it with more significance than is usually attendant upon its budget sessions. The emergency which has existed for over three months, its experience in the economic and political life of the people, the urgency with which the administration has responded to the new challenges, the debates that have been going on regarding foreign policy and military assistance from Western countries, the new series of talks with Pakistan on Kashmir and above all the perspectives of the Sino-Indian conflict after Peking's failure to accept the Colombo proposals—all these have raised a host of doubts in the minds of

observers and in political circles.

Freed from the compulsions of actual warfare on the borders of the country, the nation has been living through a simmering anxiety and no doubt there have been heart-searchings in many quarters. Members of Parliament who trooped into the Central Hall on Monday morning to hear the President certainly had expected answers to their questions.

How far they were satisfied with what the President said would be clear when the debate on the motion of thanks to the President for his address is over in the two Houses. But the indications were that most of them—or at least the Opposition—were not satisfied. The President's address, judging from reactions in the lobbies, failed to kindle a spark in the hearts of the MPs.

Naturally it would be for the Ministers to supplement what the President had said. However, the general comment on the tone and content of the President's speech in the opposition circles was that "the government is too complacent in its assessment of the economic and political situation in the country and is trying to take too much credit for too little achievements."