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# Shastri's Washington Visit Is The Key Issue Before Nation

**new age**  
CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

Vol. XIII No. 45 New Delhi November 7, 1965 25 paise

The Prime Minister must NOT go to Washington. Three weeks ago, NEW AGE raised this slogan first. Today this demand has become the central demand of the democratic movement in this country. The latest issue of BLITZ carries a powerful editorial on this precise issue. Last week, PATRIOT editorially declared: "The people do not want the Prime Minister to go to Washington now or ever in the future and they will regard it as a sign of lack of self-confidence in the Government if Mr. Shastri yields to the pressure of the American lobby in this country."

THE visit to Washington has become inextricably intertwined with the whole question of the lessons of the period since the latest Pakistani aggression began.

Which way are our policies to advance? To the Right or to the Left? For greater dependence on the imperialist powers or towards self-reliance, with the assistance of the friendly Soviet Union and other socialist countries?

Immediately after the ceasefire, sensing the mood of the people, there was a general condemnation by even leaders of the traditional right and centre, inside and outside government, of the anti-Indian stand of the imperialists.

Equally there was forthright tribute to the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, which had stood by India at the moment of our greatest need. The monopoly press was forced to bend before the popular mood, but it bided its time.

## Back To Old Moorings

Today there is a turn about, which must be noted seriously. The speeches of the Prime Minister during his tour of the country are an indication of this attempt to swing public opinion back to the old pre-August moorings.

The nation is amazed at the tributes paid by the Prime Minister to a so-called rethinking in the US government. The monopoly press yelled in delight. Birla's HINDUSTAN TIMES front-page lead story (November 2) was headlined: "PM welcomes change in US Kashmir stand". "Pakistan has received no fresh supplies of arms". TIMES OF INDIA headlined the story: "PM notes change in US attitude".

What is this change? Goldberg is reported in the Indian press to have chided US journalists for not trying to understand the Indian point of view. Hurray, shouted the wishful American lobby, our masters have saved us. The Prime Minister leapt in with a good chat for Goldberg. Unfortunately, he forgot to add that the US press did not print a word of what Goldberg is supposed to have said.

PL 480 aid will be continued. Hosannas to the annadata. Now it will not be necessary to miss a meal on Mondays, nor to take over wholesale trading in food-grains, nor to cut the loot of the profiteers and hoarders.

But again it all remains wishful thinking. The US blackmail through food continues as always.

When did the Prime Minister discover that the US

has stopped supplying Pakistan with armaments? He takes the word of the Iran and Turkish governments that they are not sending American arms in the name of CENTO to the Ayub dictatorship. What has happened that we must take their denials or protestations of innocence as gospel truth today, when we did not do so all these days?

Has the American attitude changed in the Security Council? Not at all. Despite Shastri's tributes, the performance of Goldberg in the latest series of meetings is as anti-Indian as before.

It is the US which insists on a resolution endorsing the actions of the Secretary-General in regard to the UN observers' appointments and duties. Only the Soviet Union stands firmly against such a resolution, and the meeting is postponed from day to day.

The USA continues to insist on tagging on the so-called political questions to that of a cease-fire.

A planned campaign in the monopoly press accompanies the new discoveries of US friendliness for India. The entire tone has changed. Now it is all studied building up of opinion in favour of "a fresh approach" to the imperialists.

The arguments are summed up in one running theme: India is a larger country than Pakistan, much more stable, so why should the Dollar lords not give India their support in return for similar privileges as those they receive in Pakistan.

The executive of the American Party in India, which

has stopped supplying Pakistan with armaments? He takes the word of the Iran and Turkish governments that they are not sending American arms in the name of CENTO to the Ayub dictatorship. What has happened that we must take their denials or protestations of innocence as gospel truth today, when we did not do so all these days?

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7 - DEC - 65 The Late Jawaharlal Nehru with Leonid Brezhnev

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# Moscow Calling

LISTEN to the voice which calls from the land of the builders of communism. It is a voice to which the Indian people have turned again and again during the last forty-eight years with hope and joy, confidence and friendship.

The October Revolution stirred the Indian national movement as no other event. It inspired radical thought which spread through the ranks of the fighters of freedom through the words of numerous leaders, above all through the writings and speeches of Jawaharlal Nehru.

The October Revolution inspired the birth of socialist thought in this country, which led to the foundation of the Communist Party in 1925.

Through all the years since 1917, the Red Banner flying across the Soviet Union has been an inspiration to the hundreds of millions of this land.

The Soviet Union was a bulwark of strength for the freedom movement. Lenin's words rang out in solidarity with the anti-imperialist fighters of our land.

After freedom, the land of the October Revolution became the one real reliable friend, which could be counted upon to assist India in defending its sovereignty and integrity, in building its own independent economy and defence potential. Again and again this friendship was demonstrated at moments when it was need most.

Today again it is the Soviet Union which is rightly looked upon as our country's best friend by the widest masses of our people. And again it has been proved by deeds of the most concrete kind.

On the question of Kashmir, the Soviet Union has all along helped India to thwart imperialist designs and conspiracies to grab the strategic valley. Today again in the Security Council, the Soviet Union fights our battle, the battle of anti-imperialism and peace, based on principle.

The toilers of this land turn again and again to the example of Moscow in their struggle to end the death grip of monopoly and for the building of socialism.

The Soviet Union stands guard for all mankind for peace, for national independence, for progress, democracy, socialism.

On the glorious anniversary of the October Revolution, the Indian people salute with new vigour the true and tested friendship of the Soviet Union.

**A FOUR-PAGE SUPPLEMENT ON  
THE SOVIET UNION  
IN THIS ISSUE OF NEW AGE  
PAGES 9-10-11-12**

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# KAMARAJ: BOUQUET FOR USSR, BRICKBATS FOR U.S.

A great deal of shilly-shallying is going on in Delhi over many vital matters. Quibbling over the Prime Minister's Washington visit and PL-480 food are sharp pointers.

At such a time it is refreshing to read in PATRIOT an authorised summary of the 50 speeches Congress President Kamaraj delivered recently in Tamilnad. He has driven home plenty of home truths with disarming frankness. Highlights:

The Congress President has charged America with aggression by proxy. "They have stabbed us in the back by proxy, namely, through Pakistan."

He pooh-poohed the idea that the United States gave Pakistan Pattons and Sabres to fight the Soviet Union and China. They were "deliberately given for use against India."

He emphasised this point by asking the obvious questions: could Patton tanks cross the Himalayas? Sub-sonic Sabres of any use against the Soviet rockets?

Kamaraj reminded us that "American weapons killed our jawans." If Pakistan is arrogant and imitating Hitler it was because of the military backing it received from "its western allies."

He wants the nation "to be proud of our friendship with the USSR." In the last 18 years of our trouble with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue (thanks to western backing for Pindi) the USSR has "consistently stood by us. Not in words alone, but in deeds it has proved to be our most loyal friend."

The Congress chief denounced unnamed groups of people in India who "curry favour with America" and are "pathologically prone to suspect" Indo-Soviet friendship.

Nor could he understand the logic of these people who want us "to mortgage our freedom right now to the Anglo-Americans" in order to safeguard our freedom against the potential threat from China.

**PRO-COMMONWEALTH CHIT:** These are heart-warming, morale-raising pronouncements. But it is frustrating to see that Administration is prone to tread a different path.

Unhappily Kamaraj himself has given a handle to the government to go along the way it is going. The other day he gave an interview to the AICC ECONOMIC REVIEW in which he cautioned against quitting the Commonwealth.

The ECONOMIC REVIEW is not the type of journal that goes hunting for interviews. In fact, some months ago, when it blasted the Vietnamese and extolled the Americans, it did not think of seeking Kamaraj's guidance.

People like T. T. Krishnamachari are still on the editorial board of this journal. It is plausible that the government wanted a pro-Commonwealth chit from the chief of the organisation

could be another round, may be within a month or two."

On the other hand, the Prime Minister has by now stated more than once that the Americans are not replacing the military hardware lost by Pakistan in the first round.

It is quite on the cards that hints from high places at a second round of conflict are designed to keep up the national cohesion which is already crumbling under rightwing pressures.

Or could it be that Central Ministers are indulging in their usual pastime of talking out of turn? As for instance, the stance that Chagla took on Tibet. Mehr Chand Khanna is a class by himself.

It was only on receipt of several inquiries from our foreign missions in the wake of Khanna's public campaign for nuclear bomb that Shastri belated-

ly spoke out at Aurangabad that our policy remained unchanged.

But the Minister has spoken up again for the bomb: "We may not use the bomb at all but it will make the enemy think twice before he creates trouble for us."

In a way the Prime Minister himself is setting the pace for this kind of cacophony. In Calcutta he was more positive about his Washington visit.

Back in Delhi, "everyone knows about it except myself." On the same day when the Prime Minister said this, his colleague in charge of Railways and much else was emphatic that that the visit "will come about around the end of this month."

**UNMELTED GALLIC HEART:** Vijayalakshmi Pandit is junketting to Bonn to bring about a change of heart in the Erhard government about Kashmir and allied matters.

Earlier, she met de Gaulle of France, and we were informed that de Gaulle was now in our pocket. But an uncharitable newspaper commentator has gone on record that the lady has failed to melt the Gallic heart.

## THE WEEK

before the storm regathers in the current Parliament session when the debate on Bhagvat Jha Azad's resolution is to be resumed.

Undoubtedly the government's harsh tactical pose towards the Commonwealth is changing radically. In this connection it is interesting to read what the London correspondent of the INDIAN EXPRESS wrote the other day.

He reported that the idea of another visit by Shastri to London "has also been set afloat. In origin, this proposal is more Indian than British." We will know more about the British visit "when S. K. Patil returns to London in the first week of November."

**SECOND ROUND:** There is a good deal of talk, loose or otherwise, by people in authority about a second round of Indo-Pak war. Defence Minister Chavan was the first to pronounce on such an eventuality.

The thread was picked up by Home Minister Nanda. Speaking in New Delhi on November 1, he said that "only the first round has ended between India and Pakistan and there

## GOLD RUSH



Courtesy Times of India

## Whispering Gallery

# Birlas Come Back

I HAVE no precise idea how many Birlas we have. That is because the Birlas, unlike some other tycoon families, figured only once in Parliament.

Only once there was a breeze about the Birla brood. That was when an enterprising member dug up the auditor's reports on New Asiatic and Ruby insurance companies. Many skeletons were exposed in the reports, but the government dutifully suppressed them.

To come back to the point, the Birlas are not too many. Lord be praised for that. But one thing I know for sure: at least four of them had scooted from India during the Indo-Pak war.

Scrambled for safety! Oh No! We are told all of them had engagements abroad, previously fixed. It is fortuitous that their stay abroad coincided with the Armageddon.

The first to come home after the cease-fire was G. D., the Maharaj to some of the Congress Ministers. His first pronouncement in Bombay after landing was that the Indian Prime Minister should go to Washington and sing for his supper.

All that is known. What is not known is that the Maharaj had more than one meeting with the US State Secretary, Dean Rusk. Informants say he also had a tete-a-tete with Defence Secretary McNamara. And, of course, scores of Congressmen and tycoons besides.

It is presumed that G. D. had conveyed his impressions to Shastri while he was in Bombay. One of the very first public functions that Shastri attended during his visit to Bombay was significantly a Birla function.

Be that as it may, the Maharaj must be supremely satisfied with one other development. Within a fortnight of his return home a miracle has taken place.

I wonder how many people have pondered over a cryptic official an-

nouncement last week that Jaisukhlal Hathi has been put in charge of defence supplies.

Hathi is a Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. What has Home to do with Defence and vice versa? We may go on asking this puzzling question but meantime Hathi continues both in Home and Defence.

Hathi was looking after defence supplies after the Chinese aggression till he was taken over in the Home Ministry. During that period the Birlas had their fill.

They had secured a Rs. 3 crore contract for collapsible bodies for troop carriers. They are the biggest suppliers in that field.

During the same period something else had happened—something very unseemly. There was a high official in defence production. He was removed from government service for corruption. The charge was proved after a departmental inquiry.

And what do you think has happened to that buddy? Rightaway he was absorbed in one of the Birla enterprises.

Birlas are reaping what the brave jawans have sown—not only in the industrial field but also in agriculture.

We all know that the Punjab government on instructions from the Centre had already installed them as the biggest zamindars with a thousand-acre seed farm.

Now they are about to pull off a 30,000 acre farm in Madhya Pradesh. Here they will grow crops from the seeds they rear in the Punjab on a subsidy from the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

We may be sure that Shastri will continue to miss a meal a week till after the Birlas transform Indian agriculture from scarcity to plenty.

—INSIDER