

Enough is Enough

The party is not yet over. Given the opportunistic tradition of communist culture they are unlikely to go that far—to call it a day. Indian diplomat in America seems to have come to the rescue of the beleaguered communist left on the contentious Indo-US nuclear deal issue that has been rocking both houses of Indian parliament for quite some time. All, left and right alike, are demanding, and not quite unjustifiably, his recall because of his derogatory remarks about Indian parliamentarians—MPs. Because of the diplomatic shideshow, the much publicised and yet less understood, shadow boxing between Congress and Left, particularly CPM, is slowly but steadily fading away. It is not in the best interest of the left parties to withdraw support from the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government and force the country towards a midterm poll. The communists have already softened their stance by not opposing India attending the mid-September IAEA General Council Meeting. What they oppose is any discussion on India-specific safeguards. IAEA, being a UN nuclear watchdog, is in reality under the control of USA. And Washington knows well how to manipulate proceedings at the international meet. Even if 'safeguards' are discussed in general, India being a member country of IAEA, could hardly expect special treatment. After all India is not yet a recognised nuclear weapons power despite its successful nuclear tests. No nuclear major is willing to accept anybody in the exclusive nuclear club of five.

But the controversial deal, rather the 123 agreement, provided a good occasion for the left parties, particularly the two communist-parties otherwise politically and ideologically bankrupt, to refurbish their anti-imperialist image. Imperialism, or for that matter national liberation struggle, never got prominence in communist discourse even in the yester years when the British ruled India directly. They did not cross the border of populism in those days. And these days their anti-imperialist outburst or anti-Americanism, ends in issuing harmless statements and organising a peace march every year in September. They will never go from protest to resistance the way the Vietnamese communists did in their anti-imperialist struggle. Nor will they make it a point of no return, particularly against America, the way the Iraqis are doing now.

They symbolise 'middle-class progressiveness' that involves virtually no risk, nationally and internationally. Uncle Sam has nothing to worry about the noises made by the Indian left. They no longer need 'how to be a good communist' like pamphlets because they exhibit through their pragmatism 'how to be a good apologist of multi-national capital' without jeo- pardising communist label.

During Soviet days all their anti-imperialist efforts were aimed at championing Soviet foreign policy orientation and Soviet economic interests, sometimes slavishly even at the expense of national priority. The Soviet model of bureaucrat capitalism (or state capitalism) was hailed as socialism and now in the absence of Soviet brand of state capitalism they found virtues, in American brand of private capitalism. The Marxist-ruled Bengal is seriously considering foreign direct investment even in retail trade as Wal Mart is knocking at their doors and they do

not think the very presence of Wal Mart will be disastrous for thousands of small traders and their employees.

Indo-US nuclear pact is all about capping India's nuclear weapons capabilities and enhancing at the same time global nuclear industry's energy business. In principle they are not opposed to nuclear weapons (i.e. weapons of mass destruction). Nor do they think nuclear power is equally dangerous like nuclear weapons. Americans are coming in a big way and, they are coming to Americanise India's defence establishments, the way they earlier did it in Pakistan.

Politically justifying their alliance with the Congress party, against the principal enemy Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the representative of majoritarian communalism-it is difficult to locate a villain in Sonia Gandhi's Congress at a time when their state governments in Bengal and Kerala are reaping enormous benevolence percolating from a friendly government at the centre. Their over emphasis on communal threat posed by BJP, is a calculated move to avoid mass movement against multi-national capital-or American capital. To talk too much about sovereignty without bothering about whatever economic sovereignty India used to enjoy before the advent of neo-liberalism, may be a ploy to keep heat on the Congress and assure their privilege in the Sun—Parliament. 27-08-2007