

AGREEMENT 123

After some ostentatious display of a seemingly hard bargain India has finally signed the US-dictated nuclear Pact, i.e. the notorious 123 Agreement. The Pact is a wholesale surrender of India's nuclear policy and scientific experiments to the US control and domination. India has already been roped in the US strategic orbit as a client state basically serving American hegemonism in its barbarous campaign for global domination and loot. In the US-India joint statement in July 2005 it was clearly announced that both countries had agreed solidifying strategic relations in military, economic and political fields. And this 123 Pact is the continuation of that US-India military pact, a colossal peril to the Indian and South Asian peoples. The operationalisation of US diktats to pursue the policy of Globalisation, Liberalisation and Privatisation to ravage the economy and India's common people has been on course. Now with this nuclear pact and the continuing military alliance India has been reduced to toeing American strategic game plan in Asia as junior partner. The formidable China factor, Iranian defiance, Iraqi people's glorious resistance, burgeoning Maoist movements, etc., are the 'irritants' in Asia in the US perception. India has been directly or indirectly playing into the US hands to check or ward off its Master's problems. As a 'prize' the USA has bestowed 'Most Preferred Nation' status on India in the region and now the US is coming to the top of the list of arms suppliers. And the American corporate arms sellers will now mainly reap enormous profits.

It is a shame that this nuclear Pact unequivocally denies India any sort of access to fuel enrichment, reprocessing and heavy water production technologies. This 123 Agreement makes it crystal clear that in case of termination of the Pact the further fuel supply will solely depend on the US Congress. It permanently imposes on India the stringent condition to identify most of its Breeder reactors as non-military, while there is no guarantee of the supply of uranium or thorium. It also imposes the compulsory conformity to IAEA safeguards in perpetuity in case of uncertain fuel supplies. The Hyde Act, a US national Act, makes it imperative for the US President to submit a report before the US Congress every year as to how much US interest is served by the Indian foreign policy. This is an affront to the Indian people. The US government is trying to convince that the Hyde Act will help strengthen US-India strategic relations. This Act also dictates India to come under the ambit of 'Proliferation Security Initiative'. Thus it compels India to concede the unrestrained right of the US to conduct searches and intercept vessels on the Indian shores. The 123 Act, crafted calculatedly to be in line with the Hyde Act of America, makes it obligatory for India to sign a slew of bilateral and multilateral agreements in tune with the American imperial interest viz. 'US Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)', 'Australian Group', etc.

Azad, CPI (Maoist)

Central Committee

'No' to Emergency

The International Committee for Democracy in Bangladesh (ICDB) which advocates the cause of democracy in Bangladesh towards the European Parliament, towards the European Commission and towards other political institutions in Europe, expresses its deepest concerns over the repressive measures including curfew which currently are being used by the interim-government of Bangladesh led by Chief Advisor Fakh-ruddin Ahmed and by army chief Moeen Ahmed, in order to suppress the country's spontaneous and massive students' protests.

The students' protests have erupted several days ago at Dhaka University against army personnel stationed at the university. Bangladesh has a long history of resistance against the army's interference in the country's civil life, and it is therefore entirely natural that the army's presence at the university, and arrogant behaviour towards students, would draw the students' angry reactions. Moreover, the students, in expressing political opposition, do not stand alone, for Dhaka university teachers with black badges already initiated protests against emergency rule in July last. Again, our newspaper reports have recorded well - the mass protests have immediately spread to other educational institutions, both in Dhaka and elsewhere.

The speed with which the protests have spread indicates that the students' actions are in tune with a growing mood of discontent amongst the population at large over the policies of the present caretaker government. The present caretaker government led jointly by Fakhruddin Ahmed and Moeen Ahmed, for well over 7 months has justified emergency rule by insisting on the need to eradicate corruption existing among the country's main political parties, Awami League and BNP. Yet whereas the government's campaign against corruption has shown quite meagre results so far, Bangladesh's working population is increasingly paying the price of the government's ineffective economic policies and continuous human rights' violations.

European civil society organisations in July issued a joint statement which listed the major negative effects of continued emergency rule. The statement amongst others referred to the fact that the government's eviction policy implemented since February has hit hard at the interests of landless peasants and slum inhabitants, and to the fact that the selective targeting of repressive measures against activists belonging to different social movements, inevitably results in the weakening of Bangladesh's civil society, in particular of civil society organisations representing the oppressed. Like the students and teachers of Dhaka university and of other educational institutions, European civil society organisations have demanded the immediate lifting of emergency rule.

Bangladesh's student community has taken on its social responsibility in line with a long history of student activism, - such as the students' courageous and farsighted resistance against Ershad's military dictatorship (1982/83). The only way in which the government can solve the ongoing political crisis is by re-instating people's democratic rights. Any further delay in calling off the emergency will only further isolate the interim government.