

NOTE

Gaddafi–Yesterday and Today

Gurdarshan Singh writes :

India's National dailies of 25th September 2009 reported that Col Gaddafi while speaking at a UNO session forcefully criticised western powers and among other things he said that Kashmir should be made "an independent state", separate and free from India and Pakistan.

Though it is an undeniable fact that as a matter of principle every citizen of the "present day democratic world" has the right to express his views on any national and international issues. Yet one is not expected to forget or ignore that this right is neither absolute nor unqualified. It is ridden with certain definite conditions to maintain and protect the democratic structure of the world. Among these conditions one is, the right of free expression should not malign or disharmonise relations between men and nations. Second, one's freely expressed views must not contradict and even mismatch one's own day to day ideas and practices. Judging Mr Gaddafi's views from this stand point one can easily conclude that he does not enjoy this right which he did enjoy about 10/15 years ago when he was an ardent supporter of anti-imperialist nationalism in general and of Lybian nationalism in particular. Today he is not what he was. Today he only feigns to be an anti-imperialist, as he did at the September UNO Session. Within the last 10/15 years or so he has completely transformed himself from an anti-imperialist nationalist to a servile surrenderer to and compromiser with the imperialist powers, notably America.

When in March-April 2003 America with its allied forces invaded Iraq, overthrew President Saddam Hussain's regime and then after about eight months captured Saddam alive on 13th December 2003, brave anti-imperialist Gaddafi who had been a supporter and admirer of Saddam stated on 24th Dec, i.e., just after 10 days of Saddam's capture, that "one should learn lesson from events taking place in Iraq." Now opposition to western powers has become fruitless. Therefore "countries like Iran and North Korea" should make compromise with America. While stating this he, as if to put this suggestion into practices, opened Lybia's doors to MNCs, chiefly American corporations. Secondly, he most brazenly agreed to pay 2.7b\$ ransom that has been demanded by America for "Lybia's criminal involvement" in bombing down an American passenger plane in 1988, which Gaddafi has consistently been denying ever since then. In return for this slavish surrender he, within six months got Lybia's diplomatic relations established with America in June 2004 after a break of about 24 years.

When Israeli forces, encouraged by America, attacked Lebanon in July 2006 and overran Gaza-strip in March 2009, the once upon a time brave anti-imperialist and anti Zionist Gaddafi this time kept on muttering rather murmuring only formal protests. This changed character of Mr Gaddafi can be presumed to have been reflected in his views on Kashmir also. For instance, as is well known, the yesterday's and today's great imperialist-powers, Britain and America have since long been supporting and even encouraging separatists' demands to make Kashmir "an independent state" "free and separate from India and Pakistan." Mr Gaddafi's recently expressed views on Kashmir are mere echoes of British and America's long-standing views, which in reality are not merely their views but are parts and parcels of their international aims and policies to spread and strengthen their imperialistic hegemony over the world, particularly over the regions of strategic importance like Kashmir and Afghanistan. Hence from all this if one by way of conclusion says that Col Gaddafi is becoming a spokesman of America's worldwide imperialist designs, would it be wrong to say? Also, would it be wrong to ask Mr Gaddafi that before making suggestions to make Kashmir "independent and free from India and Pakistan", he should try to make himself and his Lybia free and

independent from America's imperialist domination? For this, he would have to re-transform himself and become a militant nationalist again as he once was. □□