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A PAPER TIGER

NEHRU intended to hang the hoarders on lamp posts. Mujib intends to shoot them, after encircling them with the help of curfews. The slight difference in the imagery apart, there is no reason to think that the fulminations will yield different results. After the famous Nehru pronouncement, the hoarders in this country have amassed, as the conservative Wanchoo Committee tells us, Rs 700 crores or more black money, creating a parallel economy which has thrown all the plans awry. It is a safe bet that Mujib's threat to liquidate hoarders will be clean forgotten, just as it was a safe bet that the Bangladesh Government would accept American aid as soon as it was offered.

It seems that a big crowd has a delirious influence on Mujib's mind. It extracted from him the declaration of independence on one March 7, for which he was ill-prepared; on June 7 this year he has promised to liquidate the hoarders within fifteen days. The latter however would not hurt him a bit but such empty threats do affect credibility. It is of course irrelevant to talk of Mujib's credibility; the adroitness with which he manifested his willingness to accept American aid, provided "it has no visible strings," must have amused Washington a great deal. It was clear that it was not a question of whether Mujib would accept Nixon's offer of aid, but of how soon Nixon would make it. Money is of course money, but Mujib's promptness in accepting China's offer to purchase jute at a handsome price must have caused the China-haters in this part of the Indian sub-continent some consternation; which windmills would these gentlemen tilt at now?

Mujib has built his political philosophy on four pillars, which seem to have been imported from India, where contractors care little for masonry. Otherwise why should his pillars look so tottering within a few months? His secularism does not seem to have inspired the non-Bengali Muslims with any confidence. Their property is still being usurped, as Mujib admitted at the 7th June rally; the periodic trek back of the minority to India is another stark indication of the failure of secularism, which Mujib defined on Indian lines and defying the meaning of the word, as equal protection to all religions. His socialism has produced a moratorium, for six months for the time being, on strikes and gheraos. His democracy has curtailed the liberty of the press, which must echo from now on only

the official sentiments. It can be said that the only pillar of Mujib which is stout enough is his brand of nationalism. All the 'Biharis' must stay put within the neo-concentration camps—open to the whims, anger and synthetic hatred of the Awami Leaguers.

There will be an election in Bangladesh when the Awami League is in a position to win it hands down. The election will be conducted there on the same democratic lines as in West Bengal this year—for that the hunt-down of the real opposition is already on. The right NAP or CPB is of course a different entity, much as the CPI here. It was not for nothing that Mujib was felicitated at the victory receptions when the right NAP students defeated the Awami Leaguers in practically all the student union elections. The parallels are so very obvious that the feeling can be hardly suppressed that Bangladesh was made indeed by India in her own image.

Change In Orissa

The defections in Orissa would have caused some excitement and indignation in leftist circles some time ago, before the dismal failure of the united front experiment in many States. But now mass defections are accepted as a matter of course. The event in Orissa, however, was marked by the merger of the Utkal Congress, the breakaway group, with the Congress. Beware of dissident Congressmen—they are always undependable. People who have hobnobbed with them for the sake of a stint in office look rather miserable today. It would, however, be a sure bet that they, given another chance, would follow the same course and muck up everything.

About Orissa, one might say, why bother if the Swatantra goes to the dogs? But would the Satpathys be any better? The trouble with them is that people think they are more forward looking and would do a lot

for the masses. That way they are more dangerous for the masses.

The masses are having a very bad time in large parts of India because of the prolonged drought. Women have to walk miles—not in the Robert Frost or Nehru way—for a bucket of water and then return empty-handed to their children with parched throats. When a hut burns, one can do nothing about it. Agricultural activity has come to a standstill. Landless labourers are moving into inner circles of the hell they are always in. There is little to eat or drink—except soothing words, of which there is no dearth on the radio or in the papers. But empty words do not even make people fart.

In Orissa, besides death from starvation, there have been reports of trafficking in women. Since the tribal women are not as prosperous as some of the heroines of our epics, they prefer to live somehow and become playthings of the body-profiteers. It is to be hoped that the new dispensation in Orissa would make them prefer death to body-selling. Give them something to eat, for in the short as well as the long run, food is what counts.

A curious fact: though there is little food for many, the Indira wave is spreading. (She may now take up the DMK). That is because of the hope that the Congress under her will be able to assure some food, at least. But this year the harvest may be dismal. It may mark the beginning of a period of trouble for Mrs Gandhi. It is reported that even radical politicians are waiting for the weather to help them out of the morass.

Scorched Earth

The murderous drought that has parched many parts of the country during the past few weeks has predictably aroused 'great sympathies' in official circles for the poor victims. Promises have been made that funds will not stand in the way of the relief operations; ministers have scurried hither and thither; and midnight oils

have been burned to organise crash programmes to bring succour to the suffering masses. All this is of course part of a known scenario; if anything is different, it is the scale of the performance which is somewhat bigger this time in view of the immensity of the problem which has, according to a modest estimate, affected nearly one-tenth of the country's population. But has the relief machinery really got going? Are the victims getting fresh water to drink and food to eat? According to many reliable reports, the answer in both cases is no. The States are engaged in a wrangle with the Centre over the extent of crop losses and the financial assistance needed to meet the situation while every day more people are dying. Till the middle of last week, the official casualty figure alone stood at 616. In a country of 547 million, that may not be much, if one knows how to look at it. Perhaps when you have droughts and floods one too many, you cannot expect one to be too fussy about these things which, thank god, are confined to a world which is so distant from ours. After all everyone has so many problems of his own that there is little time to look after those of others.

So if any taxpayer asks where all the money that is believed to have been spent over so many years on hydrological planning has gone, he is questioning too much. If there are still districts which do not have a single tubewell, seemingly because the rocky structures make tapping of subsoil water extremely difficult, that should be accepted with grace. But leaving aside the human aspect of it, which apparently does not deserve anything better than passing interest, the economics of such an approach is also rather difficult to explain. West Bengal has estimated that crop losses will amount to something like Rs 80 crores; the output of raw jute alone is likely to be 1.5 million bales less than expected and the State has already sent an SOS to the Centre to make up the shortfall through imports from Thailand (which is believed to have not much surplus) and Bangla-

desh. Similarly, Maharashtra, which is having droughts for two successive years, faces crop losses to the extent of Rs 200 crores in all. For many other States like Orissa, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, the position is more or less the same. Indeed, if the unusual hot spell continues for much longer—which according to some not-so-foolish circles might have something to do with changes in climate due to indiscriminate bombing in Vietnam and due to endless nuclear tests—the remaining sources of water like tanks and irrigation canals might also go dry. Soon the scene will change and floods will take over. To say that these problems are beyond the range of engineering is to question the capabilities of science that has made even deserts bloom and has tamed mighty rivers. Before we go in for such grandiose schemes like the Ganga-Canvey link, let us look at our neglected backward where the millions live year in and year out with either too little or too much water.

Aligarh : A Rigged Crisis

A correspondent writes

It is not for the first time that the Central Government has chosen to make a fetish of secularism and imported a crisis, deliberately, that is fraught with the risk of a communal upsurge. The Aligarh University (Amendment) Bill was one such patently mis-advised step, an over-demonstrative craze for reform—where none was urgently needed—which has landed the Government in an unfortunate tension of immobility, and the public in the vortex of uncertainty, anxiety, bitter controversy and suffering.

All these were surely avoidable—the continuous and inordinately long spells of curfew (for days at a stretch in the Bama Devi area, and similarly arduous experience in the Kotwali

and other areas of Aligarh town), the stranded condition of young hopefuls, 256 boys and girls belonging to the minority community who had come to the city from all over India to appear for an examination (now abandoned), the sudden closure of factories and commercial establishments in the locality and the plugging off of earning-opportunities for daily wage-earners, non-availability of vegetables, eatables and other essential commodities of daily need, the ban on movement that is a must for every citizen. After all, every man was really not that interested in projecting “secularism” with a vengeance into the University’s institutional character, and touching off a crisis in these panting hot days.

It is well known that Aligarh University is a symbol of the Muslim community’s quest for a cultural status and cultural-emotional satisfaction. Despite the twists, interpretative or otherwise, that might be given to the letter and intention of Article 30(1) of the Constitution, the broad fact remains that the university has acquired, through the decades since its inception, a peculiarly community-oriented character and environment which ordinarily pass unnoticed, but assume a distorted complexion when interfered with. The Union Government says that the university is plied with State funds. Is that any argument why the minority community should be made fearful of losing its cultural rights and prerogatives?

The country does still remember the flutter over efforts to reform (or revolutionise?) the character of Banaras Hindu University, the insidious waves of ultra-revivalism that surfaced then, and the impromptu retreat. For all the ‘benefit’ to education from top-imposed and amateurish reforms, what the student community has learnt is a loss of educational initiative and discipline. More, their cherished liberties, as well as educational autonomy, are put in jeopardy. If that university has been allowed to sizzle in an authoritarianism of administration and the status-quoed inhibitions of the

majority community elite, it is difficult to understand why Aligarh could not wait.

After 25 years of sufferance, at the hands of both Hindu and Muslim religious fanaticism, the common people of either community have learnt to live in peace and good-neighbourly sociableness; and unless raked up into activity over false slogans by fussy leaders, they can comprehend and even appreciate with mutual regard the other community’s point of view apropos the structuring and preserving of traditional communal culture and education. If the Muslims are a bit chary to give up their traditional loyalties, why hustle them?

Deoband in Uttar Pradesh has a fine centre for Islamic theology and other educational disciplines. So far no voice has been heard calling for prefabricated reforms there. Should the guardians of Muslim education, striving for an expression of freedom, autonomy and initiative through Aligarh University, desire to take more time to amend their educational dimensions, why must the Government choose to force their pace?

Bogged Down ?

As if to show Nixon and Thieu the relative ineffectiveness of their bombing the Vietcong are now attacking towards Hue and Saigon. Latest reports reveal that the NLF have occupied a number of key outposts near Hue and come menacingly near the capital. After the mining of the North Vietnamese ports and harbours and the savage air attacks some signs of bogging down of communist activities were evident in the South. The Americans could airlift their men to Quang Tri province for a nibbling attack from behind; the Vietcong have reportedly been dislodged from Kontum. But the latest attacks by liberation forces will certainly deflate the Americans who had been gloating over their bombing successes.

Nixon’s calculations about the pre-

sent war are based on the logic of a military victory. He believes that it is Moscow's arms that enabled the communists to mount the Easter offensive and that by cutting them off from their outside sources of supplies and destroying their economy, the communists could be done in. Nixon, it appears, has transmitted his thinking to the Russians also. At the beginning of this offensive the Americans cried themselves hoarse about the Russian arms aid to North Vietnam. Now, however, the wailing has stopped. Maybe, on his last Moscow visit Nixon was able to bear upon his host about the risk of such aid. Russian arms are still coming, in, but not enough to make up the losses. Peking can at the moment be ignored. Her arsenal cannot be an adequate substitute for Russian supplies. As regards the existing hardware still with the communists, Nixon thinks these can be taken care of by the B-52s and Phantoms. All this is within his grasp. But what he cannot measure is the staying power of the NLF and the North Vietnamese against his airforce and their control over the local situation. Hanoi has reiterated that it has built up enough stock to fight for ten years, if necessary, and has learnt to live a tunnel life. The same thing is also heard from the NLF. The battle situation has not changed enough to doubt their claim.

The NLF and the North Vietnamese have dug in firmly in the northern part of the country and virtually cut it into two by taking strategic positions in the Central Highlands. Militarily this will enable them to take on the enemy during the monsoon when a lowering sky will prevent effective air operations. But the primary aim of this offensive is political—to blow up the Vietnamisation myth and to deflate Thieu and his American backers. Moreover, the offensive has shaken South Vietnam's fragile economy. With the Americans becoming ungenerous due to pressure at home, informed sources forecast disaster in the near future.

In the situation the communists might propose peace. A call for reopening the stalled talks in Paris has already come from Hanoi. It has also reportedly asked some other countries to make the Americans come

to the conference table. As the situation stands today the communists have nothing to lose by such peace talks though they would not surely oblige Washington by doling out in peace what they have earned by blood.

View from Delhi

Talking Turkey

FROM A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE toppling operation in Orissa provides the cynical climax to the Congress concern for checking defections. Did not the Prime Minister say, replying to the Home Ministry demands debate, that the Government had decided to go ahead with a Bill that would require defectors to resign their seats and seek re-election? Nothing prevented the Government from pushing it through the budget session but it was common knowledge that the Bill would have to await completion of the Congress drive for one-party rule in the country.

In Orissa, the party's demolition squads went about the task systematically and in Tamil Nadu, the Congress claims to have bought over 80 DMK legislators and it is only a matter of time to get the DMK legislature party to disown Mr Karunanidhi and elect a new leader who would merge his party with the Congress or short of that split the DMK. November is mentioned as the deadline. One of the Union Ministers has gone on record with the prediction that a serious political crisis will grip the DMK and Tamil Nadu but hastened to say that he was misreported.

As the Prime Minister went on the usual summer jaunt, the hangers-on were disappointed because the long-forecast Cabinet reshuffle did not come off. But meantime came the Young Turk controversy, Mr S. Chandra Shekhar blasting the CPI lobby inside the Congress which has been acting as a political mafia. Un-

derstandably, the spirited reply to the attack in the *Young Indian* came in Mr Bhupesh Gupta's hatchet sheet, *New Age*. The Young Turk split has a long history. Until 1969, the Young Turks were a cohesive group, comprising both former CPI elements and former PSP and other non-communist elements. Mrs Gandhi used them to fight Mr Morarji Desai and later Mr Chavan used them to retreat from the Syndicate parlour and save his job after the August 1969 Presidential election.

After the 1971 Lok Sabha elections, the CPI lobby in the Congress has been riding high, with the arrival of Mr Mohan Kumaramangalam from Madras. Mrs Gandhi ditched the non-CPI Young Turks in general but took Mr Mohan Dharia, a Chavan man, into the Ministry for tactical reasons.

The CPI lobby, comprising mostly political hippies who failed to make good in their parent party, have been acting as the bridge between Mrs Gandhi and the CPI at one level. though Mr Bhupesh Gupta provides the missing link between Congress precepts of socialism and its failure

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in practice. These storm-troopers tried to gain control of the Congress Forum of Socialist Action and developed links with the rupee trading countries and were busy fixing licences and permits as part of the Forum's activity. It would be well to remember that when the 1971 Lok Sabha was constituted, over 140 MPs attended a meeting of Young Turks. Here was the bandwagon. The CPI part of the bandwagon promised better rewards and everyone was converging on it, leaving the original Young Turks high and dry.

The CPI Young Turks got all the plums and overnight emerged the conscience-keepers of the Prime Minister's socialist commitment. In the process they overdid things in Parliament. For instance in the debate on the posters scandal, these committed boys spoke in many voices, indeed, contradictory voices, and the ruling party looked a little sheepish at the end, thanks to the overzealousness of its Young Turks.

The CPI's discomfiture at the exposé of this section of Young Turks is understandable. The CPI does not consider this an intra-mural problem of the Congress. It took upon itself the role of rebuking Mr Chandra Shekhar and his *Young Indian*, while one of its columnists did his bit, recounting all the instances of "unity in action" between the CPI and non-CPI Young Turks. We owe him the knowledge that Mr Mdhan Kumaramangalam (just a Supreme Court lawyer then) co-authored with Mr Chandra Shekar a memorandum against Mr Morarji Desai.

There is a hilarious pattern to the current controversy. Mrs Gandhi chose to put Mr Kumaramangalam (whose "sickening sycophancy" a *New Age* columnist was feigning to attack) to denounce the other radicals in the party. The Cambridge-educated Steel Minister spoke in his clipped accent challenging the workers' right to go on strike and his command performance at the AICC included a few shafts against the "left" adventurists, that is those to the left of Mrs Gandhi's self-interest.

The CPI has proffered gratuitous advice to the warring Young Turks to sort their problems out and unite in the cause of the Prime Minister while directing a few barbs at the sycophants among its elements in the Congress, obviously for public consumption.

Mrs G.'s Attack

Mrs Gandhi's attack on the outcome of the Moscow summit has caused great discomfiture to the CPI and its theoreticians are spinning out elaborate explanations of the detente. Dr K. S. Shelvankar certainly was not among the first batch of envoys briefed by the Soviet Government about the summit outcome. Just as Mr L. K. Jha was among the last to be called in for a briefing in Washington about Mr Nixon's Peking visit, Dr Shelvankar was rather low on the list, suggesting that in the context of the higher-level detente the Indo-Soviet treaty is of little significance.

* * *

The Bangladesh Finance Minister, Mr Tajuddin Ahmed, was virtually cold-shouldered by Mr Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed in New Delhi. A meeting between the two was part of Mr Ahmed's programme, the exact time fixed. But Mr Ahmed chose to beat it to Simla for 10 days and the External Affairs Ministry was frantically trying to locate one of the two Ministers of State from Mr Ahmed's ministry. Neither of them were available and on the Indian side, a couple of officials met Mr Ahmed. Mr D. P. Dhar's whereabouts are not known but a few Bengali officials drafted from outside the Government to man important desks in the Indian mission in Dacca have turned out to be spokesmen for Bangladesh rather than for India, in their extra-territorial loyalty. All this seems to have damped the enthusiasm for Bangladesh in the Secretariat here. The anti-Indian feeling in Bangladesh is being used to blackmail India into giving one kind of concession after another when it

comes to a question of signing agreements. Officials with extra-territorial loyalty are useful to Bangladesh in this game. The report that India will sell arms to Bangladesh at throw-away prices has escaped public attention. The laboured explanation is that India has a surplus production in certain lines. A big defence budget is justified on the ground that the threat is not over yet and that Pakistan might act as proxy for someone. Another argument is that the Pakistani war machine has not been fully destroyed. From self-sufficiency in certain types of arms to an exportable surplus is some progress and the capacity in the Joydevpur ordnance factory can be dovetailed with India's own ordnance output. And this is how any country begins becoming an armament merchant, invoking the noblest ideals.

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JUNE 17, 1972

More About The Summit

PANCHAJANYA

WE are told that President Nixon recalled his "long cherished and solid reputation as a hard-line anti-communist" during one of the Moscow summit sessions to assure his Russian hosts of the solidity of the SALT. Nixon watchers everywhere will be comforted by the familiar, almost routine, spectacle of one Nixon introducing another, even though this time it was the new Nixon introducing the old one, just in case anybody forgot him!

Mr Nixon, as the election approaches and given his flair for bombast, will certainly rank the summit somewhere along with "the greatest week since creation" (the week of the first moonlanding) and "the week that changed the world" (his visit to China last winter). Just as surely, one might expect to find less than what meets the eye now, once all the verbiage settles down, even without the benefit of historical hindsight.

The number of accords signed during Mr Nixon's visit to Moscow might be some kind of a record in the diplomatic annals. All this was grand spectacle for the American public via the television. They are long used to being spectators to record-breaking performances on the tube, especially since records are maintained in the minutest detail, so that, achievements which might otherwise be dismissed as inconsequential, can receive due recognition. One presumes their Russian counterparts would hardly be less conscious of this performance, given their newly encouraged quest for Western ways. This simile of the record-shattering athlete and the spectacle-hungry fans is, however, too complete to be flattering. After the hero is duly feted with champagne, his entire retinue, from the coach on down, modestly confess their contributions in the attainment of the feat. As a result, the champion is reduced to little more than a programmed being, shorn of

all spontaneity, who would have performed exactly as he was told, anyway. Even before the Nixon party left Moscow, high ranking sources on both sides were busy spreading the word that apart from the strategic arms limitation treaty, all other 'momentous' agreements, such as those about environmental pollution, space exploration and medical research, were long in preparation and would have materialized anyhow. Mr Nixon's own accomplishment then is little more than putting his name to the documents.

Even the SALT, we are told, is more a result of the seven years of bargaining that brought about a common understanding, rather than the seven hours of talk that preceded the actual signing of it. To be sure, there were points of disagreement which were hammered out in this final phase, and this could not possibly have been accomplished at any lower level. So, even if all the spade-work was done by the subordinates, the very signing of this document might be considered an achievement.

Overkill

We have to consider, however, the rationale for the SALT before we can consider it an achievement. Numerous published studies by unimpeachable authors, such as *Race to Oblivion* by the renowned physicist Herbert York, offer documentary proof for the contention that the two giants had built up, by the mid-sixties, nuclear arsenals large enough to destroy all life on the planet, if not the planet itself. Today, of course, this arsenal has grown considerably. The SALT simply freezes the numbers of the missile launchers at their present levels for either side. There is no ceiling on the megatonnage, nor on the number of actual warheads (bombs) deployed along with the missiles, since, with the advent of the MIRVs, one missile can carry

many warheads. At best, the SALT can reassure us that the numbers of missiles that may be launched to destroy us all will be limited. They might even do the job more efficiently, since the SALT allows the replacement of the obsolete weapons! The SALT can no more reduce the threat of a nuclear showdown than the test-ban treaty can halt the test explosions of new weapons. The high sounding names of these treaties and all the glory and the brouhaha surrounding their signing have led us to believe that the world is a little safer place, when, in fact, there can be no cheap substitutes for total nuclear disarmament.

Why, then, the treaty? From the American point of view, mostly for domestic reasons. For years now, enlightened public opinion in that country has been revulsed by the arms race. This need not have any influence on governmental policies, as the U.S. handling of last year's Indo-Pak crisis very clearly showed. But the middle American was beginning to realize that bloated defence budgets served up more and more numbers of already obsolete weapons, but did not help reduce the smog that bothered him, educate his children better and, most importantly, improve the law and order situation, while continually increasing his tax burden. Warnings of imminent taxpayers' revolt have been sounded and Democrats and Republicans alike have feared them. With the generals sated with their nuclear toys, politicians shrewdly calculated that instead of spending on improvements in both quantity and quality, since they had enough to kill us all, they could save by concentrating on quality alone. This, of course, necessitates an agreement with the other side. In the bargain, the politicians corner all the glory. Hence the SALT.

More or less the same reasoning can be advanced for the Russians, who were faced by the rising bourgeoisie's demands for more consumer goods, and a mounting, almost obsessive, fear of the Chinese.

If all these well-publicised feats turn out to be less than the momentous achievements they are made out to be, what about the "secret"—since Prof Kissinger was there—confabulations? It is too early to speculate whether the big two have "solved" the Vietnam problem, and, most likely, useless, too. It is unlikely that the Vietnamese people will give up their quest for freedom and reunification of their country. Their Russian "allies" may resort to quiet or even noisy diplomacy. Having made a heavy sacrifice at the altar of diplomacy in 1954, the Vietnamese are hardly likely to commit the same error again. Mr Nixon acknowledged, rather magnanimously, the Russians' right to help their allies, in his speech ordering the mining of Vietnamese ports. Even the unlikely event of the Russians abandoning the Vietnamese completely should not alarm the Vietnamese; their American allies of the Second World War period turned their backs on them completely once the Viet Minh struggle against the French imperialists began. Thus, the emerging big power *detente*, even the very remote possibility of a kind of *menage a trois* among the U.S., the USSR and China for world domination, is hardly likely to curb the just aspirations of a freedom-loving, revolutionary people.

Ominous

As far as the Third World is concerned, the Moscow summit must be considered rather ominous. That it took place at all in spite of Mr Nixon's lunatic and menacing brinkmanship is itself a warning. The mining and the naval blockade of North Vietnamese ports and the incessant rain of death and destruction on Indochina should convince everybody of Mr Nixon's belligerence. Even his allies in Western Europe and puppets in South-East Asia felt constrained to dissociate themselves from this decision. Many Americans and Europeans demonstrated against his decision. Not the Russians, though. They may have issued formal protest notes and given the American Presi-

dent a coolly formal reception. But they did receive him. They went out of their way to explain that the woman who shouted anti-Nixon slogans when he attended the Bolshoi Theatre was not a Russian. And all these agreements, together with the Big One. Mr Nixon spoke to the Russians on their own T.V. The Russian leaders are said to have recognized him as a master diplomatist. All these things together with no strong word about Vietnam, have made Mr Nixon a hero in the eyes of his countrymen, as grudgingly acknowledged by Senator Kennedy. This is something he could never have achieved on his own and for it, he must thank the Russians. In the process, his re-election seems far more assured.

Why all these favours to a man who has demonstrated amply his unfriendliness to the peoples of the Third World, by a power that would like to portray itself as a patron of the very same people? It could hardly be because the Russians were jealous of the Chinese getting the American President's attention. All these actions are parts of a much bigger canvas, where the dominant colour must remain white.

Even before Mr Nixon visited Peking, the Western press had declared his Moscow visit to be the more important one. In the light of the "achievements"—the ubiquitous treaties again—we can certainly expect the pundits to dismiss the Peking trip as an exotic excursion while hailing the Moscow summit as an historic occasion. Given the present power calculus, certainly an understanding between Washington and Moscow merits a lot of attention. It is then that we can see the aim of this trip as being one of maintaining the dominance of the U.S. and the USSR *together*, against a threat from the non-white world.

A couple of years ago, Herman Kahn wrote about the emerging Japanese super-State. This was not out of his interest as a futurologist, but rather out of his strategic concerns. Unlike the other bridemaids

of the nuclear club, Egypt, Israel and India, the Japanese have the economic and the technological wherewithal to develop sophisticated nuclear weapons and delivery systems to match them. Japan's aggressive economic performance has shown that she is no longer willing to play the second fiddle to the U.S. To the American strategists, this is ominous, for economic belligerence can turn into political belligerence.

Among the rich nations of the world, Japan alone is not Caucasian, dominantly Christian or tracing her roots back to the Graeco-Roman civilization. If we assume that the coming conflicts are going to be based upon ethnic, rather than economic, considerations, a Japan possessing economic, political and military muscle is going to be a greater threat to the white world than anything else it has known. On the same basis, a Tokyo-Peking ethnic-based axis would certainly seem possible. This axis would be even more dangerous, given the Chinese prestige and influence in the Third World and the sheer numbers.

With this kind of a rationale Mr Nixon's trip to Peking can be seen as a protective measure to keep the Chinese away from the Japanese. Not that the Chinese were not shrewd enough to get something from the Americans in return for merely playing upon their fears. The Russian warmth towards the West German *ostpolitik* can also be seen as active canvassing for Caucasian solidarity even amongst their erstwhile arch-enemies. How else can we explain the silence of the Western world over such actions as the French and the British resumption of arms trade with the apartheid regime of South Africa, the American resumption of chrome imports from Rhodesia, the British agreement with Rhodesia, curbs on immigration by the coloured population into almost every white country and so on? The racist trends, when openly advocated by a Wallace or a Powell, are deplored by the Western bourgeoisie. Yet their international policies, let alone do-

mestic ones, are exercises in not-so-subtle racism. The Nixon administration fought measures to impose quotas on European imports, but encouraged similar moves for Asian imports! The Russians are newcomers to the game, but their attacks on the Chinese have taken on such a "yellow peril" tone, that it proves how adept they are at it!

Third World

What do we learn from it? That once and for all, we must realize that our destiny is tied inextricably with the Third World. That our vital interests are better pursued in Dar-es-Salaam, Hanoi, Santiago and even Islamabad and Peking, rather than in Washington, London or Moscow, even though momentarily our white arm-giving knights might appear to have a shining armour. Last December we heard that a Russian fleet had followed the American Seventh Fleet into the Bay of Bengal. We were pleased by the steadfastness of our treaty partners. We heard of similar reports of a Russian fleet being dispatched to the Gulf of Tonkin, complete with minesweepers. Lately, there are no more reports of it, perhaps out of a deference of the theatricals in Moscow. The lesson should be obvious. Some treaties are more powerful than ideological, moral, bonds!

For too long, the valiant people of Indochina have fought alone. They have held up noble human values, while the Third World has been content to pay lip sympathy, at best. In the end it will be the Indochinese who will expose this shiny, new Nixon to show what he always has been: an international racist demagogue. But must they alone pay such a high price on behalf of us all for this revelation?

NOTICE

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Business Manager
Frontier

Clouds Over Gangtok

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A news item from Gangtok dated June 1 announced that the Chogyal of Sikkim has assumed all executive powers, so far exercised by the Sidlon, Mr I. S. Chopra; that Mr Chopra may be appointed Adviser to the Sikkim Government; and a Sikkimese will assume the functions of the Sidlon. The official announcement said the King would, until further orders, hold the executive powers carried on by Indian officials since 1949 at the request of the King.

Before the announcement the King relieved Kazi Ihendup Dorji-Khangsarpa, President of the Sikkim National Congress, of the post of Executive Councillor. The news item did not mention this fact. The dismissal order was served on the Kazi by a special courier just before he was due to leave Gangtok for a trip abroad.

The action followed a prolonged furore over the Party Bulletin No. 2 of the Sikkim National Congress, published under the name of the Party Publicity Secretary, Mr D. B. Gurung, on January 26, 1972.

On February 1, Mr Gurung was summoned to the Gangtok Sadar Police Station by police officials, and there he found Mr Karma Topden, one of the Chogyal's secretaries, and several other officials. Under threats and duress Mr Gurung was forced to sign a document to the effect that the Bulletin No. 2 did not contain true facts and that he disclaimed any responsibility for it. After signing the document Mr Gurung informed the leaders of the Sikkim National Congress of what he had just been through. Mr Gurung then sent written statements to the various Government authorities, including the Chogyal, the Political Officer and the Chief Magistrate, telling them of how he was forced to sign the statement.

A member of the Sikkim National Party (Chogyal's party) brought a vote of no-confidence in the last Sik-

kim Council session against the Executive Councillor and President of the Sikkim National Congress, on the contents of Bulletin No. 2, and not because of which he was doing in connection with any of his portfolios. They however realised that their action could not yield any fruitful result. The Kazi was then asked by the Chogyal to sign an "apology", already drafted, in connection with the publication of Bulletin No. 2. The Kazi, in consultation with his Party colleagues, refused to sign any apology. So did Mr Gurung. The National Congress declared that the Bulletin was their Party organ, their voice, that it had always been objectively critical of defects in the administration, and that it was the collective responsibility of every single member of the Party and its branches throughout Sikkim.

Since all this began, legal advice from all over poured in at the headquarters of the Sikkim National Congress, and the Kazi received legal advice from interested and sympathetic legal brains who are astounded at the lack of legal knowledge displayed by the King's coterie.

When all efforts to persuade (?) the Kazi failed, he was dismissed.

To the dismissal order, dated May 28, the Kazi replied:

"Coming, as it does, on the most auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, the day of Birth, Enlightenment and Nirvana of our great Lord (Sakyamuni), I do hope and pray that this will be a day of the emancipation of our Sikkimese people". What did the "infamous" Bulletin

It said that if the errors of omission and commission on the part of rulers past and present that cause the people such deep and abiding suffering are not redressed, and if the era of absolutism does not end very soon, the future of the Sikkimese people will not be any more reassuring than it is today. It is natural for the Sikkimese people to expect the Chogyal to emulate the democratic reforms and enviable progress of the countries he so frequently visits at so much expense. But the

costly foreign tours are, apparently meaningless as far as the Sikkimese people are concerned, for there are no signs of any reform.

The Sikkim National Congress demands a permanent Constitution that promises full personal freedom in a socialist society for the Sikkimese people. Let the people have what are their rights.

As long as the present election rules and policy are not drastically changed, no honest and sincere leader and representative of the people will be able to contribute anything practical towards the welfare of the masses.

Sikkim has an election system based on casteism and communalism. The Sikkimese people are classified as Sikkimese Nepali, Bhutia-Lepcha, Tsong, Sangh and Scheduled Caste, instead of being classified as merely "Sikkimese." If we are to abide by the Sikkim Subject Regulation of 1961, says the Bulletin, "we have perforce to discard the present policy of "caste discrimination and communal division among ourselves. Herein lies the sense and strength of true nationalism engendered by unity. There can be no progress in our country unless general elections are held on the strong basis of equal rights and the rights of the minorities and backward classes are properly safeguarded."

For the last twenty years the Sikkimese people have elected their Councillors, and Executive Councils have been formed, yet none of the demands of the people have so far been implemented. This has quite naturally led to bitter discontentment among them.

The politico-legal subtleties of the Darbar are now being comprehended by a long-suffering, but rapidly awakening, people. The fault, however, is not with the political leaders alone, but is mainly due to the electoral system the effete and out-moded administrative machinery, and the anti-democratic policy of a small group of opportunists whose concentration is on self and lucrative jobs and business. The rights of the

people have been denied to them for mainly these reasons.

The Executive Councillors, though elected by the people but nominated by the Ruler, have no real executive powers, nor have they been vested with the powers to which they are entitled. This, it would appear, has been motivated with the specific idea of bringing disrepute to the people's representatives in the eyes of the people, and, thereby, disrupting any progress towards the introduction of democracy in Sikkim.

Education

For instance, with much fanfare the opening of a college in Gangtok was decided upon, and the news was conveyed through the medium of the *Sikkim Herald*. It now transpires that there will be no college! It is a matter of disgrace abounding that the Education Department has not been able to establish a degree college all these years, and that funds allotted for this purpose in the Third Five Year Plan have been allowed to lapse year by year. Five years have lapsed in the search for a site for the proposed college! By the time the building stage is reached "our students will have become aged, all the while indulging in a sort of Rip Van Winkle sleep and dreaming of studying in a college in their own country, for there appears to be not the remotest likelihood of a college in Sikkim becoming a reality."

The students are facing difficulties in outside colleges due to strikes, unrest, etc., and as such, it is all the more imperative to have a college of their own as speedily as possible. The children of the rich and privileged classes in Sikkim can afford to proceed to foreign countries for expensive education, and they do so. But where can the poor and needy students go?

Is the opening of such a college denied to Sikkimese students to deliberately deprive the poorer section of them of higher education so that they cannot ultimately claim their fundamental rights, they having been rendered politically astute in the meantime by virtue of a higher

education?

There are many young men now working on pathetically low salaries in the Government of Sikkim at Gangtok who had earnestly hoped that they would be able to better their prospects by attending a night college that never became a reality. Other students, who passed their Higher Secondary examination in 1971, are stranded, for the promised degree college has not materialised and it is now too late for admission to other colleges.

Free and compulsory education up to the Higher Secondary standard must be immediately introduced into Sikkim, Sikkim being a poor and backward country.

Orange Tax

Due to hailstorms in some places, diseases, and other extraneous reasons, the orange crop this year has been very lean. The question of markets and railway-wagon difficulties was also created by the recent Indo-Pak war. But as soon as oranges started coming into the market, the local orange tax was increased by double the usual amount. This brought about a state of near-panic among the orange growers and merchants. The sudden enhancement of the local orange tax by double the usual amount, and that, too, without any prior notice, in the very middle of the selling season, has resulted in a representation to the Government of Sikkim by the orange-growers and merchants. So far, they have received no reply.

The situation is that more than half of the dealers paid the tax at Rs 2/50, while the others paid the tax at Rs 5/- as the order had come too late. Taking into account the lean crop this year, and the market and transport difficulties encountered, it is surely surprising, if not irresponsible, to say the least, that the Government should have chosen such times of hardship to increase the tax.

The Budget

Every year there is a considerable deficit in the Budget. This deficit is mounting year by year but, unfortu-

No Copybook Solution

By A Group of Students

nately, there is no prospect of a proportionate increase on the income side to meet the deficit. In such a lean fiscal situation, it is surely unwise to harbour ultra-ambitious ventures so long as there is no other source or means to make up the deficit in the budget. Besides, the food position also is not dependable. In view of the food commodities that Sikkim has to import there does not appear to be any appreciable progress in its food production, not to speak of self-sufficiency, and it would be unwise, to say the least, to disturb the existing source.

Despite the fact that monetary aid in crores comes from India, no appreciable progress, or improvement, in any field of development has been evident, and this, too, even after the completion of three Plan periods in Sikkim.

If the Chogyal so wishes, Sikkim could advance and develop in every respect with all this aid, but regardless of the people's democratic aspirations, adopting an attitude of indifference towards them, all this and the blatant misuse of development funds at all levels, will ultimately prove to be a fatal policy, and the lip-service to the Darbar of the favoured, fawning, self-seeking few will not help in the long run.

The Sikkimese people are now in a state of acute and morbid frustration; they are disappointed and disgusted and they now freely talk of the stormy coup of 1949 before the Palace in Gangtok.

If the ruling clique fails to read the writing on the wall, the inevitable moment to face the righteous anger of the indignant masses may not be far distant. The Sikkim National Congress has faith in the people's solidarity and their united strength. If necessary, the people must be prepared to fight for the achievement of their Human Rights. There will be no dearth of leadership when the opportune moment arrives.

The Bulletin says action is now imperative and that 1972 may be a year of fulfilment.

UTKAL may be unknown, but not Utkal University, not the historical background of Ravenshaw College and its high standard of education. This is the university which had not faced any type of student unrest and uprising on educational grounds till 1970. Indeed such a long period of calm is unique in the educational history of modern India. But after the para-political, widespread student strike of 1964, Ravenshaw students started 'malpractices' with the guidance of the teachers. The University knew it but stood as a lifeless statue. It could not protest for fear of losing the protected Senate electorate area of Ravenshaw graduates. As the weakness of the University bosses became apparent other colleges followed suit. The University could not even chant; like the three mythical monkeys it remained neutral between the groups of colleges, the copying and the non-copying, because BJB (one of the well-known colleges in the capital), the parthenon of would-be bureaucrats and happy hunting ground for the sons of the white elephants of Orissa, was one of them.

Here can be mentioned the humiliating situations of the SCS College Puri, a college which had not had any type of student unrest since it was formed 27 years ago due perhaps to the feudalistic culture of age-old Puri. On the other hand it has produced a number of brilliant students. The annual results were always excellent. But as the mass copying crisis endangered the outer world like an epidemic the results started worsening rapidly.

In 1970, with an iron determination, the Syndicate cancelled all the examination papers of the final year because (in their words) of "the open malpractice in some colleges." It was a fact that some political hands were behind the Syndicate decision to create a widespread student strike

to create a widespread student strike and finally direct the strike against the government. The government put pressure on the Syndicate. In a dramatic manner the Syndicate changed its decision just three days after making it, without any action from student circles. The results were declared: Ravenshaw 95%, BJB 99%, Banki 100% (In these colleges the malpractice was extensive and open, according to official circles). But Puri got only 17% and other non-copying colleges like Puri, between 10% and 25%.

These were the objective conditions of 1970-71 for the Puri College. We will see what sort of subjective change was going on. Be careful, dear readers, avoid cynicism and proceed from the chain of objective data to subjective conclusions. Be judicious.

"Where there is suppression, there is resistance." The long harassment, frustration, maltreatment and partiality resulted in a sudden rising. Six bombs were seen on the college grounds for the first time in Orissa. The people took it as gravely as they did the Indo-Soviet pact, announced on the same day. The students un-animously declared a 'reign of terror' on the college campus and promised to fight for justice and all the administrative organs of the college were paralysed. At last the Senate formed a committee to re-examine the papers.

"Five hundred papers were intentionally mismarked" (if a newspaper report is true.). In spite of repeated demands the Syndicate had not the guts to publish the report of the committee. One Syndicate member told us: "A sleeping lion catches no deer. We cannot help you. Can't you throw some of your bombs at your lecturers?" Our delegation gave a prompt reply. "That has been done, sir. We came to you to have a peace talk after making full preparations. Remember, if Puri College starts mass copying then the consequences

will be worst." The gentleman said nothing.

The déléation returned empty-handed. In the second annual examination copying started without any hesitation and obstacle not only in our college but also in all colleges under Utkal University as a direct impact of our proclamation: "Mass copying is justified vis-a-vis this despotic university." In the period of the first reign of terror our achievements were notable, as we had cancelled the so-called democratic college election destroyed all types of reactionary institutions and formed a standing committee of energetic boys approved by the general body as the supreme non-official student organisation. From that day on we became one of the hostile camps in society. All political parties, police, university, even our authorities shouted "anti-social," "lawlessness," "reckless anarchy" and strove to wipe out the powerful standing committee in some way or other. We did not care for anybody, or support political propaganda or tolerate any party politics on the college campus. All types of cultural functions were ordered to be stopped, even at the time of the emergency. We raised the question whether the war of Bangladesh was a liberation movement or not. But to our utter astonishment we found the Students Federation to be our diehard enemy. It opposed us all through under the pretext of democratic movement. We tolerated them to avoid factionalism in such a critical period. The students were loyal to the standing committee and action committee, because both served them well by fighting the educational bureaucracy, abolishing hostel ragging, eliminating the upper-class status quo and especially protecting students from the age-old "lecturer terror" in the practical examination and checking the false feeling of "Town and hostel." We had no monetary strength—our standing committee had no legal existence so far as the university constitution was concerned but we were fully backed by mass participation.

During the last cyclone our mass

movement went to the rescue of helpless people. Puri College volunteers saved the poor people of the devastated land like Mahakalu and Jambu under the leadership of the standing committee. In a nutshell we had tremendous mass power. Mass-made decisions were carried out; the leaders were only the connection between the present and the future.

Meanwhile the University cancelled one Pre-University Examination paper of our college, two papers of Khurda college and all the papers of Banapur college. Ravenshaw and BJB remained untouched. Our first university campaign started. After a long journey an angry student mob attacked the university office; bomb-throwing, setting fire and destroying official documents went on. The students went out of control. The VC said that copying had taken place according to university observers. The students asked, "Could you proclaim in the name of God and law that there was no copying in other colleges? What happened at Ravenshaw and BJB?" The VC had nothing to say. The only way left for him was to drive away the students with the help of the armed police. Do not fight a battle that you are not sure to win. Hence we retreated.

Our appeal to other colleges proved fruitless. Obviously the 'divide and rule' diplomacy won.

The unjustified treatment meted out to Puri College and other small colleges roused public opinion. Even our professors were against the dictatorial rule of the Syndicate. The forgotten Guardians Committee (consisting of old feudal lords and political leaders who were the props and pillars of the British Raj) was called. They sat and after a stormy debate gave us a six-page resolution, condemning the Syndicate decision and also promising to meet His Excellency, our Chancellor, for a talk. Time rolled on, weeks passed but no step was taken by these so-called guardians. After this we became aware of the danger of isolation and disunity. We called an all-Orissa College Co-ordination

Conference to discuss the present educational crisis and to form a united body to face it. The leaders of the various student organisations supported this proposal. The SFI called it a "living approach towards democratic movement." But the matter was disclosed to the university. The university knew better than us about the strategic importance of the conference called by a non-party, militant college. With double shrewdness it instigated the leaders of another big college to call the conference individually before us. They openly provided the money. The conference was held and we remained silent. The conference began with high-sounding announcements and ended with bitterness and party rivalry. The last remnant of student unity was spoiled and the conference's negative result justified our apprehensions.

Rightly or wrongly, we did not call a counter-conference. One of the Syndicate members screamed in defiance: "We have left no stone unturned except Puri College. The future of the university hinges on that extremist college. That college is preparing bombs. We will see how they play the game with explosives."

One after another annual state conferences of various student organisations were held either in Cuttack or in some other distinguished town. Everybody talked about their party, their policies, some burst into anger over the West Bengal atrocities. But no one came forward to discuss student interests.

Police on Campus

In the second half of March, just 20 days before the examination, the Government declared that it would keep a police force on the college campus. This was a direct challenge. We announced in the general body meeting that the presence of the police on the college campus was a symbol of violence and the masses would certainly adopt counter-violence. But we knew that confined to Puri alone our attempts would end in smoke. Hence we were anxious to know what was going on in

the outer world. Some treacherous leaders pleaded for a compromise either with the police or with the Principal. We rejected their proposal. Once again the SFI leaders advocated solid resistance against police violence.

After home preparations we appealed to all college leaders to form an action committee on an all-Orissa basis. We sent a high-powered delegation. But they refused to have any truck with colleges other than their own. The four-party alliance dissolved at last. But some small colleges begged us to help them. We told them our policy was to rely on our own efforts. We only taught them our plans but everything was left for them to do.

Examinations came at last. More than 1000 students were present on the college campus. The bell rung and the police entered. The students became excited and boycotted the examination and assembled on the field. But there was no action. All they did was to hold a meeting and give sky-piercing slogans. They went to talk with the Principal in spite of his repeated refusals. They requested students not to take to violence.

We went outside. Then, one after another, bombs burst. Three lecturers and one ASP were injured. A lathi-charge was made. Section 144 was declared. The SF and other leaders branded us as "spoilers", "adventurists" and so on. Repression started. Twenty-two boys were arrested. The police beat them and kept them in custody. More students were arrested on the second day. The Government came down with all its might and combing operations went on in certain specific areas. The police entered other colleges, thanks to the inactiveness and cowardice of the leaders. But our college was still unbending. The public relations jeeps moved around. The sons and daughters of officers were pressurized to appear in the examination. The students of the hostel attached to the college were told by the Superintendent that unless they appeared they would be driven out of the hostel. Leaders and active students were arrested. Strikes proved to be a failure. The police continued their arrest-and-search operations. The total 4th Battalion Orissa Military Police was kept on the college campus. The police seized one bomb and said the

students were Naxalites with illegal relationship with West Bengal.

After this the Anugul students charged dynamites in their college, Banpur students threw bombs at the police and clashes took place in many colleges.

The leaders who had betrayed us were arrested later on. They could not escape; their day dreams ended in an unexpected nightmare. After all this the students appeared in the examination.

The failure was due to over-estimation of our strength and harmful alliance with opportunist sections.

But we have to tell the people that we are not "copyists", certainly not. We demand justice. Unlike the political swindlers, if justice does not come through the pen, we will achieve it by other means. We have no faith in street processions and big, howling speeches. This is our lesson and also for all. Let there be unity of action. Let all sections of society have their men to protect their interests. We have to accomplish it within a very short period. We have already spent much time in paper battles shouting, quivering and shallowing "democratic drugs".

The Indian Bourgeoisie In Its True Colours—III

MONI GUHA

THIS proves sufficiently the hollowness of the argument of economic independence of India in 1947.

Of the 336 plantations of India 220 were under British control in 1947-48. Four British companies were controlling almost the entire production, the initial working and export of shellac. Buying and exporting tea, coffee and rubber were the monopoly of British firms. The Indian economy was at that time under the joint yoke of 34 British and 6 Indian monopoly concerns. (All these figures are from the Reserve Bank of India Report—1950.)

Protection

The Indian compradors thrived

under imperial protection: 'The Group of Students' being apologists of the Indian compradors have invented a quite interesting theory to prove the 'nationalist role' of the compradors. The 'students' say that though at the outset some protection was given to Indian industries like Tatas, iron and steel, cotton, matchboxes, sugar etc. it was all withdrawn subsequently at the instance of the British monopolists of the home country. As an explanation of giving protection at the outset and withdrawing it later, the 'students' say that the granting of protection to Indian industrialists was due to a mistaken policy of

the colonial authority in India as it could not 'properly understand the contradictions between the imperialists and the Indian bourgeoisie,' meaning that the colonial authority mistook the Indian bourgeoisie as its friend and ally and granted it protection, but the British monopolists at home quite correctly understood the Indian bourgeoisie as an enemy and consequently asked the colonial authority to scuttle the protection forthwith, as a result of which Birlas resigned from the second Legislative Assembly. Agatha Indeed, Christie, Edgar Allan Poe and Sherlock Holmes rate into insignificance before this detective acumen.

The apologists of the comprador

bourgeoisie could not suppress facts. So they had to admit that the imperialist rulers gave protection to those industries which were considered exclusively Indian and thrived under imperial protection. If it is established that the Indian bourgeoisie thrived through the nursing and nurturing of imperialism then the whole argument of the authors of the paper regarding the nationalist role of the present Indian bourgeoisie, regarding its emergence mainly as finance-capitalist and from the very beginning having a monopolistic position falls flat. As such, this point of imperial protection deserves special attention and demands somewhat elaborate discussion.

The Industrial Commission in its recommendation suggested protection to Indian industries, meaning Indian industries run by both Indians and Britishers. I have shown by quoting the Simon Commission Report how the Indian and British capital merged and formed joint stock companies and how impossible it was to draw a demarcation line between Indian and British capital. The industries, those which were considered exclusively Indian, were mainly Tata Iron & Steel, cotton textile industries, sugar industries etc., though here too, especially in sugar and cotton textile, control by the foreign monopolists had already begun. Undoubtedly, imperial protection policy was discriminating, undoubtedly the colonialists behaved somewhat stepmotherly towards the Indian bourgeoisie, undoubtedly the Indian bourgeoisie, as a result, remained always dissatisfied and disgruntled, and 'fought' against its senior and master partner for more share in exploitation and policy making bodies, but that did not mean that

the Indian bourgeoisie was denied the reluctant bosom of imperialism. Like a stepson neither could it be thrown away, nor could it be cordially received. Take the case of Tata. The import duties on steel bars were increased and bounties were given on production of rails and fishplates in India in 1924. The duties were considerably raised in 1925 in order to counteract the effect of heavy decline in steel import prices. Further investigations were made in 1927, 1932 and 1934 and as per requirement import duties were lowered or raised, but bounties were dropped. It was not a fact that protection was withdrawn. On the contrary, the protection was continued up to 1941, and because of the conditions created by the Second World War imports became unavailable and protection was considered unnecessary.

The second major industry, known to be 'exclusively Indian', to receive the benefit of protection of British imperialism was the cotton textile industry. In 1894, when the Government of India was faced with a heavy deficit, they imposed a duty of 5% on the value of cotton piecegoods and yarn on the nascent cotton textile industries of India. This duty would have been considered a deliberate attempt on the part of the colonialists to nip the industry in bud had this duty been not accompanied by an excise duty of equivalent amount on yarn produced in Indian cotton mills. This policy of protection received powerful support from Indian industrialists who were slowly coming up and who were naturally interested in getting their industries firmly established behind the imperial protective barrier. A few years after the First World War a state of depression set in and the millowners of Bombay, instead of fighting the imperialists, decided to replenish the compensation announcing a cut of 12½% in the wages of all categories of workers. The 'nationalists' came out in their true colours. This announcement led to a general strike. The workers of Bombay won

the first round of battle. The proposal for wage cut was dropped after the Government of India came to the help of millowners by abolishing the excise duty on cotton manufactures. Since 1918, the import of cotton goods from Japan and selling the same in the Indian market at an artificially low price had worried the millowners of Bombay. They formed a Millowners' Association and made representation to the Government. The Tariff Board recommended increased import duties on cotton goods. But it was at a time when the USA was wooing Japan against Britain in the Pacific. So it would not give effect to the recommendation, although, by this time British capital had begun to dominate the cotton textile industries of India. However, in 1927, a much lower duty than was recommended by the Tariff Board was imposed. Not satisfied, the millowners continued abegging. In 1930, the cotton textile industry received 'full protection'. But the millowners still remained dissatisfied. The Congress, under the leadership of Gandhi, in order to scuttle the rising mass discontent launched a movement in 1930-31. In the meantime Japan went decidedly against Anglo-American imperialism and attacked China. The import duties were raised in 1932 and again in 1934. *The protection continued right up to 1947.*

The authors of the paper tried to make us believe that the colonial authority either did not give protection or if it gave it at the outset, withdrew it at the instance of the monopolists of the home country because these industries were exclusively Indian. Let us see how far the cotton textile industries were exclusively Indian even in 1927.

For FRONTIER contact

S. P. CHATTERJEE

Statesman Office

Steel Market

Durgapur-4

JUNE 17, 1972

For Frontier contact

People's Book House

Meher House,

Cowasji Patel Street,

Fort, Bombay

The Cotton Textile Mills of Bombay

	No. of Mills	No. of spindles	No. of looms	Capital (in million)
Companies under British Managing Agency (9)	27	1,112,114	22,121	Rs. 980.90
Companies under Indian Managing Agency (32)	56	2,360,528	51,580	Rs. 970.70

It will be seen from the above that the British Managing Agency has 22% of the companies under it, but it actually controlled 33% of the mills, 32 p.c. of spindles, 30 p.c. of looms and 50.3% of the capital. The major share of capital was in British hand in 1927, in an industry which was considered 'exclusively Indian.' This also shows the partnership of Indian and British capital in 1927 and demolish the theory of independent parallel development of Indian capital and industries 'from the very beginning.

However, several other industries which received protection in the period before the Second World War: The paper industry in 1927 matches in 1928, the heavy chemical industries in 1931 and the sugar industry in 1932. In all only eleven industries were given protection between 1924 and 1939.

National And Comprador

In China, the compradors were the bureaucrats and state officials of the emperor's court from the very beginning. These bureaucrat compradors kept private merchant capital out of industry to keep the monopoly control over everything by themselves. As a result, the Chinese national bourgeoisie, which grew out of private merchant capital, developed as a quite distinct force, independent of the Chinese compradors. Their survival, growth and establishment demanded almost an irreconcilable struggle against the ruling bureaucrat

compradors as well as against imperialism. But the Indian national bourgeoisie did never develop as a distinct force, opposed to Indian compradors. On the contrary both the sections developed together in a single stream. Indian compradors were not the rulers of the country like the Chinese compradors, as India was a colony while China was a semi-colony. The Indian national bourgeoisie did not organise itself *politically* as a separate and distinct *political sect*. On the contrary it followed in the wake of the comprador bourgeoisie, who also fought against imperialism for share in power and exploitation. The Chinese compradors, being the ruling class themselves in a semi-colony, need not and did not fight imperialism and feudalism even half-heartedly. The voice of the Indian national bourgeoisie could not be heard as a distinct one so long India was a colony, as the need of a distinct voice was not acutely felt by it when its big brothers were representing the whole case of 'national economy.' The pourings-in of large amounts of foreign finance capital and lining up of the compradors in respective imperialist camps, the extreme bureaucratisation of capital and national economy in the name of 'nationalisation' and tightening of control and guidance over the state and economic machineries by a particular group of compradors in utter disregard of the interests of the national economy have undoubtedly accentuated the crisis of

the national bourgeoisie and there is no doubt, today or tomorrow that its voice would be heard as a distinct voice, as was demonstrated, the other day, on newspaper advertisement pages, the intense fight between Golden Tobacco Co. and Imperial Tobacco Co. (British) renamed India Tobacco Co. Their voices can be heard through the *Engineering News of India*, an organ of the smaller guys, and other such papers. Until and unless proletarian class politics begins to dominate, these feeble voices of the Indian national bourgeoisie cannot be expected beyond protests and 'representations.'

The 'Group of Students' in their overzeal to prove Birlas' role as nationalist quote two contradictory passages from the *Eastern Economist* and ask us to judge whether this 'dilemma is peculiar to a nationalist or a comprador? And then they advise us to 'call a horse a horse not elephant'. The 'Group of Students' all through played a deceitful role in quoting others. It was not a dilemma at all, as the two quotations came from two distinct quarters, but our 'Group of Students' put it in such a manner as if the two extracts came from the same section of the bourgeoisie. The first quotation represented the voice of the national bourgeoisie, while the second quotation represented the voice of the comprador bourgeoisie. The first quotation is a part of the statement of the Indian Merchants' Chamber released to the press on May 2, 1945, which the *Eastern Economist* published in its issue of May 18, 1945 with a view to making the comprador section quite abreast with the actual state of affairs. Why was this statement made by the Merchants' Association? A government sponsored industrial delegation was about to visit America at that time for a big deal. Birla himself was one of the members of the delegation. The prominent and powerful industrialists were out to utilise their increased wealth and to link themselves with Britain and America through joint companies. The small industrialists and merchants who lack sufficient resources to enter into in-

ternational dealings, being alarmed, opposed this move of the compradors.

This is the history and background of the above statement. We expect, at least, honesty from the 'Group of Students.' We may differ with them

in our approach which may be clinched today or tomorrow provided there is honesty on both sides. But if there is no honesty, even our apparent unity can lead us nowhere.

(Concluded)

English ! English !!

INDUKANTA SHUKLA

THERE is need for readjusting our sights to the changed perspective after Independence with respect to the retention of English in the education system of the nation. Honesty demands that we admit that we experimented frequently and fruitlessly, that we had slogans and shibboleths serve for schemes and systems.

It is time we asked ourselves some questions. Not that these lines are going to provide the answers. That would be foreclosing the issue. This is at best a tentative probing, and at most, a plea to the academicians and others to ponder dispassionately. We are not out to win in a debate by scoring with arguments a point here and a point there.

What are our objectives and targets? Have we made realistic and productive thrusts in achieving these? What are our failures and frustrations? Why? What quantum of English is needed, by whom? By how many? After the exit of the British why at all has English to remain a compulsory subject in our curriculum? Are we like Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, an English-speaking nation?

Under the British, English had been our only window on the world. Shouldn't we have many more linguistic windows on Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America after we became a sovereign nation on August 15 1947? Has our acquaintance with the world at large through the English language endeared us or made us look contemptible? Why have standards of teaching and learning English plummeted abominably during the period of our freedom? Is it

fair that someone otherwise brilliant be dammed and denied access to good employment merely because he fails to parade a smattering of English? Is not the snobbery of the English-speaking elitist alienating the masses? With this privilege-hunting, power-grabbing species on the prowl, what content and quality are we imparting to our rickety democracy?

These questions, I am afraid, have either not nagged the conscience of those at the helm of educational affairs or have been dismissed by them with a cynical complacency. Drift and temporizing have been dressed up to look like direction and destination. Lack of vision and will have served for liberal accommodation. Consequently we have had no purposive English policy. And, as a corollary, something of our morality and a good deal of our English have skidded abysmally. As for the staggering size of the national waste, the less said the better.

At one end of the scale are the mushrooming shops called English-medium schools, a peculiar growth of the post-freedom era. They are a flourishing proposition for a number of reasons. The guardians, eager to have their wards soundly grounded and equipped, have confused learning English with learning through English. They have assumed that these schools, because of their expensiveness, are sound too, the nationwide complaint about lack of properly qualified English teachers notwithstanding. Nobody has bothered to ask how and when was this army of English teachers spawned. But these schools, have proved their effectiveness in so

far as their kids learnt 'ta-ta', 'daddy', 'mom', 'auntie' and 'uncle'. Where this meretricious gloss does not help in promoting acceptance by, or assimilation into, the higher stratum, it at least deposits the second-hand leavings of an imitational nature to comfort the clumsy climber with a certain sop. Otherwise the gains from this costly confidence trick are either dubious or nil.

On the other hand, with magazines and books from abroad 'having become sparse thanks to import control, it is amazing to see a spurt in Ph.Ds (in English) who are sliding in quick succession down the university assembly lines quite sleekly, turning the manufacturing efficiency of factories pale with envy. Now, this sure is the shortcut to status and security. But the conferment of this easy pseudo-scholarship has put a premium on spuriousness and superficiality. Consequently, a good teacher and a good scholar are no more in demand. They have been driven out of the academe by this fast proliferating product of less than little value.

In a way, allied, to this fringeship and vulgar acquisition, is the jejune and jaded syllabus of M.A. in English at our universities. The course requires a drastic re-orientation if only to accord with our status as a free country and to maximise our advantage from English. It would be pertinent and prudent to have our window open on more than the British Isles now. If Leeds University can concede the right of Indo-Anglian literature to be studied seriously, there is much more propriety in, and justification for, our universities inducting Australian, Canadian and New Zealandian literatures along American and British literatures. Classics of Greek and Latin literatures in translation as also those of Russian, Spanish and French masters, particularly in fiction, also can properly relate the conspectus of English literature to its roots in European civilization and make our response to it more intelligent and productive. Besides, this literary acculturation and assimilation is calculated to enrich our creati-

vity in modern Indian languages profoundly. Hence it is imperative we cast our courses in M.A. English genre-wise instead of just century-wise.

Talking of superfluities and diversions which have harmed us no end by confusing the issues an aperçu of the Central institutes of English is in order. In their own way these have been useful. But our problem was not merely, and in no way mostly, the faulty pronunciation which is what these institutes end by correcting, to an extent. Our problem was the growing anaemia in our acquisition of English. In the translation (indirect) method of until a generation ago the quantum and quality of English taught were any day more impressive than their counterparts in English 'taught' through the structural and the direct methods. The direct method could yield results, but it was never undertaken honestly. The structural method was more talked of than practised, like The Gita. And, to make matters worse, we did away with the indirect method (which, with all its limitations, did give us a sort of sufficiency) without adopting another to replace it effectively. So that we were left no method and no English. Funnily enough, we juggled with introducing English in some States from fifth class and in some others from eighth. To no purpose. Indirectly it amounted to a refusal on our part to have anything to do with English. But we hadn't the clean courage to abolish it altogether. The reasons were far from academic. And perhaps the claim of English for compulsory retention in our schools is no more tenable now. It must be one among many other European and Asian languages necessary for our students to learn which would be compatible with our interests and sovereign status.

Having accepted that it would be a useful tool in our national and international needs and that its effectiveness would be limited to a certain range, is it not advisable that we learn English honestly and with minimum wastage of time and toil? The experiments in some of the Scandi-

navian countries as also the method adopted in some English county schools with a preponderant strength of Asian children may be borrowed profitably. It is remarkable to see how soon and how satisfactorily the students there acquired skills in reading, writing and speaking English to advantage. An intensive method involving drills will deliver the goods, and obviate waste and woe.

The vulgarization of our social life and academic discipline by the Khan-sama imitation, parrot-smattering and obscene show of accumulation is touching the lowest point now. We better call a halt to it. Having our kids say 'auntie' for 'masi' 'bua' 'mami' 'kaki' or 'tai' is as amorphous as it is amoral. The various shades of meaning in the five different words expressing five distinct relationships in our society are all stupidly lumped and lost in the blanket term 'auntie'. Why blur and atrophy our emotions and our linguistic distinction?

Similarly, in administration, as we have to conceal a lot of our incapacity or unwillingness to act, we write in the margin, or as a reply: 'under active consideration'. And this farce and fatuity continues long after there is hardly anything left to receive attention. Perhaps, in the meanwhile, the object or person is dead, the scheme scrapped, or the proposal replaced by something different. This semantic paralysis affects not only our linguistic concepts but also enervates and emasculates our morals.

In tandem, it is highly questionable whether the encouragement to, or insistence upon, Ph.D. in English in our universities is serving some good purpose. Let us check how it is a passport to permanent holiday from study and teaching. Let us ponder why it is mostly the academically mediocre who are in the beeline for the doctoral degree? Are they not being rewarded for remissness in the sense that they had the best of both the worlds? When students they took things easy. To make up for that deficiency and to stall and supersede the meritorious and the brilliant first divisioners this cosmetic treatment is getting so wide-

ly popular. But what of the falling standards, upstart climbing and massive corruption stemming from the pathetic and profane stress on Ph.D.? Ph.D. can be had after a few years of plodding. Can a first division too be so automatically and easily had? Then, are we not placing a premium on truancy and trinket? And are we doing justice to the nation and to healthy academic growth by letting merit go abegging?

If...

By A Film Critic

LINDSAY Anderson is not a prolific film-maker. His *This Sporting Life* was made in 1962 and then after a lapse of six years he finished *If...* which predictably received less than polite treatment from the Censors all over the world. The Indian release print is also partly mutilated but its late release in Calcutta is due to the distributor's uncharacteristic callousness, for the print was lying here for nearly a year and in fact a press show was held last year. One has the uncanny feeling that as foreign films are in short supply *If...* fills the bill for the exhibitor.

If... inevitably brings to mind *Zero de Conduite*, Jean Vigo's surrealist fantasy of small school children's revolt against their establishment made in 1933. In nearly four decades the situation has not undergone substantial metamorphosis. Anderson's is an anarchist view against the hierarchical order of English society and he chooses three "crusader" teenagers, more grown up than Vigo's protagonists, who set their face against Tradition, Authority, Discipline, and wreak vengeance by blowing up the bastion of the Establishment.

The whole portrayal by Anderson is a savage satire. Naturalism and fantasy blend unobtrusively to make it a metaphor of life in Britain. Why Britain only, in fact wherever

rigidity and conformism are the props of society. Even though Anderson disclaims any deliberate coincidence with the student revolt in the relatively affluent areas of the world the similarity in surface is not entirely unwarranted.

The film is broken up into fragments of life in the institution and their daily chores are shown in all their facets. The unimaginative and oppressive classes, the prefects and the other bullies ever ready to release their sadistic impulse, the ritual of religious observance, the imposition of discipline by meeting out punishment by cold shower or savage whipping, lay bare the cold cruelty of the system in the name of upholding tradition.

To drive home his basic point Anderson enlarges the horizon of his immediate canvas and brings in other pillars of the Establishment on Speech Day just before the three crusaders strike. The rattle of their fire starts when the General commends the perennial nature of British tradition which could be maintained by rigorous Discipline. This comes as the ironical high point after we have seen the subservient existence of the boys. Anderson's observant eye does not miss a thing in the chummeries where pin-ups and revolutionaries rub shoulders on the walls. In such a dehumanising world, as the boys feel, violence is the only pure act and they decide to be free or die.

Interestingly the urge for freedom and "resistance" is confined to three boys whom the director describes as "crusaders". And their act of revolt is directed as much against the elders who dominate the world around and seek to retain their presence, as against their own mates, for in the last sequence their volley of fire is indiscriminate and unerring.

Anderson is ably aided by the script writers David Sherwin and John Howlett and the director of photography Miroslav Ondricek (cameraman of *A Blonde in Love* and *Intimate Lighting*). Malcolm McDowell as Mick, the principal

protagonist, demonstrates a natural flair of leadership and excels in portraying his varied moods. His two compatriots Johnny and Wallace (David Wood and Richard Warwick) give him full support. Halfway through a girl is introduced and a motorcycle too, probably to make the rebel youth's image conform to the popular idea of a rebel.

One Long Wail

BY A DRAMA CRITIC

ONUBHAB's *Sawal* concerns a rickshaw-puller family. It is made the focal point to pose questions directed at the political parties which, in the view of the writer and the director, utilise individuals for ends not in the interest of the family or the individual. This is plainly a jaundiced view of the situation which warrants an explanation the writer and the director are plainly not capable of. Giving the obvious reference is to the food movement of 1966 which at first started spontaneously but was joined later by the left parties and to which the 1967 debacle of the Congress in the elections was directly related.

The play takes a dim view of the individual's participation in the mainstream of political movement and seeks to point at the destruction of the individual in the process. The young man, a married, with a vivacious wife (by standard of their semi-starvation) gets killed in police firing and the widowed wife and the demented inconsolable father release their shock in one long wail. The wrath is not so much directed against the oppressive arm of the law as to organised political movements.

The apparent friction is between those who think that a localised issue bound to cause ripples causing sometimes a prairie fire and their opponents who try to limit it. The reference to meddling by babus in matters supposed to be the preserve of the worker, is inane. One can

suspect that what is up the sleeves of the writer and the director is an apparently innocent pleading to leave the toiling people alone in the name of self-preservation and a deliberate attempt to create confusion by inviting audience attention to a situation in which the able-bodied young son loses his life for participation in political movement.

Now this is a queer view because one finds that the young man is gradually waking up to the circumstances around and he and his wife even talk politics in the flashbacks which are used to give the background of it all. Technically the first half has much to commend itself. It is well produced; the quick flashbacks reveal a past full of conjugal affection, coy quarrels and yearning for a baby. Starvation stares the family in the face and a sense of gloom gradually envelops it.

But in the second half the questions that are thrown up reveal the working of the mind of the writer and the director. The father becomes hysterical; he is even tempted by agents of different strands to do this and refrain from doing that at their bidding. In a welter of confusion everything is frozen to evade a clear answer. But by now the intention is clear—that insulation is the proper safeguard of the individual and involvement in the cause which does not concern him is fraught with mischief and worse.

Letters

Expulsion

I have been much shocked to read the news item published in the leading newspapers on 23rd May, 1972 including the *Peoples Democracy*, dated 28th May, 1972, in regard to the dissolution of the Patna District and Town Committees of the CPI(M) and the actions taken against four leading comrades of the party in Bihar, as briefed by the Politbureau of the party.

I had been a party member since

1951 and I made many sacrifices for the party. But I have never seen the type of inner-party situation as is prevailing now.

The whole inner-party controversies arose out of the decision of the State Secretaria, which itself is working as a faction in the party, to set up for the Patna West Constituency Mr Hare Krishna, a politically and ideologically weak and immature and, at the same time, a quite new party member, who joined the party only in 1968. The Patna Town Committee opposed his candidature.

In course of the election campaign, facts came to light that he (Hare Krishna) was in alliance with the Jana Sangh.

During the Election Review, at the meeting of the Patna Town Committee, I, along with other comrades, levelled serious charges against him for his alliance with the Sangh. We were even ready to substantiate charges of monetary transaction and that he appointed Sangh workers as his polling and counting agents.

The Patna Town Committee also opposed the action of the State Committee against Comrade Taqui Rahim for his participation in the 'Bihari Bachao Convention', organised by Mr Gulam Sarvar.

The State Secretary, Mr S. S. Shrivastava, who was conducting the meeting of the Town Committee, instead of going through the serious charges levelled against Mr Hare Krishna, became furious and walked out of the meeting. He then summarily dissolved the Patna T.C. and expelled me from the party membership on the following day. He also briefed the bourgeois press calling some comrades extremists, violating all the norms of the party.

The charge against the Patna Town Committee that it was opposed to the party line is nothing but a fabrication. The dissolved Patna T.C. was to discuss the draft Political Resolution, which has been circulated for discussion and suggestions. Moreover, to differ with certain formulations of the Party is a democratic right of the members.

These episodes along with other matters went to the Politbureau. The Politbureau believed the version of the State Secretary without any thorough enquiry into the affairs, and also briefed the bourgeois press.

My firm opinion is that the State leadership in Bihar is in the hands of party enemies, who are breaking the party from within.

Under the circumstances I appeal to all loyal party members and sympathisers to fight against factionalism of the State Committee, against party enemies and also for the restoration of inner-party democracy, observance of norms and forms of the party and the principle of democratic centralism.

RAGHUBIR PD. YADAVA
Member of the dissolved
Patna Town Committee of the
CPI(M),
Patna

Malpractices

Regarding the book review (May 27, 1972) by A.P.M., I would like to point out that the writer perhaps had neither the time nor patience to go through the whole book. He says, "then the McLeod-Davenport group of Companies, finally cost his job." But during my service career, I had no confrontation with the McLeod-Davenport group or with Bajoria-Jalans.

Except two or three pages devoted to the Birla House and the part played by me in unravelling certain facts the whole book revealed how the bulk of Rs 52 crores received from various financial institutions has been misappropriated.

For example: 1. The money received from Government as compensation money to pay off shareholders of the Burdwan-Katwa Railway was utilised in purchasing house properties in the names of Bajoria families.

2. Money from jute mills was mysteriously remitted to one J. F. Low & Co., Ltd, of U.K., which is a benami company of the Bajorias.

3. Loans to the tune of crores of

rupees were issued in favour of Sakaria Cotton Mills of Bombay run by C. L. Bajoria's son-in-law, and wiping off the sum by liquidating the cotton mill.

4. Purchasing debentures of Kanoria Industries from the funds of the tea gardens of the Davenport group which was denied by the Kanorias and escaping criminal offence by liquidating the Kanoria Industries.

5. Purchases of shares of BIC from the funds of various tea gardens and jute mills particularly from the machinery purchase account of India-Megna Jute Mills. Though it is obligatory to supply stock exchanges the names of the first 10 shareholders, the names of companies under the Davenport-McLeod group, who are the first 10 shareholders, have been suppressed.

6. Closure of Britannia Engineering Co., and several jute mills due to malpractices, throwing thousands of labourers out of employment and usurping crores of rupees of State and other Banks and of the public. Investigations showed that the assets were much overvalued.

7. Fictitious loans and advances shown in published accounts.

More information has been supplied to the appropriate authorities. I have stated that the book has been compiled from published accounts and from records with Company law and Stock Exchange authorities. There may be more information with banks and known to A.P.M., and he will do a service to the nation if he publishes it.

N. C. Roy

Calcutta

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