

Cuba Turns 50

This year Cuba marked the 50th anniversary of the triumph of the Revolution. Despite American encirclement and blockade Fidel Castro succeeded in protecting the Revolution in all these years by telling the truth to his people. He never deceived his people by projecting the socialist utopia that in the future everything would be rosy and easy. On the contrary he said on January 8, 1959, in no ambiguous terms that everything would be more difficult in the future. Things are no less difficult today when globalisation has radically changed the geo-political equation. Cuban Revolution created a high spirit of internationalism and solidarity and above all revolutionary forces throughout the world got Che who was the symbol of burning revolutionary passion and true torch bearer of the fighting legacy left by Boliver and Marti in the Latin American sphere.

The way Cuba under Fidel has throttled American threat and coped with the post-Soviet crisis in the Cuban economy has no parallel in recent history. True, Cuban Revolution has Cuban characteristics but forces on the left, both here and abroad, have not yet evaluated the full significance of Cuban Revolution and successful application of people's power, sometimes ignoring Marxian orthodoxy. While addressing the people of Cuba, on the occasion of commemorating January 1, 1959 revolution, Raul Castro, General of the Army and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, aptly summed up the American policy of destroying Cuban Revolution during the last five decades : 'the promotion and the support of sabotage and banditry; the Playa Giron [Bay of Pigs] invasion; the blockade and other economic, political and diplomatic acts of aggression; the constant campaign of slander aimed at denigrating the Cuban Revolution and its leaders, the October [Missile] crisis; the hijackings of and attacks on civilian planes and sea vessels, state terrorism with its terrible result of 3,478 dead and 2,099 maimed; attempts on the life of Fidel and other leaders, the murder of Cuban workers, farmers, fishermen, students, diplomats and combatants—these and many other crimes bear witness to the obstinate insistence on extinguishing, at any cost the beacon of justice and honour symbolised by Cuban Revolution'. Despite a change in the White House American policy towards Cuba remains unchanged.

A small country with limited natural resources can withstand the onslaught of the sole superpower and yet can progress on its own without foreign 'doles' and 'aids'. And this is Cuba. No matter whether orthodox marxists like it or not, Cuban experiment has its own momentum to influence others particularly in Americas. That Cuba will be able to defend itself politically, economically and militarily, even after the departure of Fidel is now clear, much to the dismay of America-sponsored anti-Fidel and anti-Cuba conspirators.

Strange it may seem, Cuba faces most isolation from communist parties. Even communists in India who are not ideologically opposed to Cuban path of radicalising society, hardly do their international job by continually raising their voices against America's policy of destabilising Cuban economy and revolutionary gains.

Life is an eternal battling. So is Cuba. Castro and his men are still there because they have been able to resist. □□□