

A Blatant Blackmail

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THE INDO-AMERICAN Nuclear Treaty signed in 2008 is a shameful deception of disproportionate dimension. It has sacrificed the strategic sovereignty of India at the altar of American hegemony. It was thought that US will supply enriched Uranium and its reprocessing technology. The Indian Government was totally befooled. The US administration got what it wanted ; that is to derail India's nuclear research to generate nuclear power for civilian use. India doesn't have uranium deposit but as an alternative it is possible to use thorium. But this treaty has stalled India's thorium research. This way or that India is in a blind alley. During the last 3 years since the treaty was signed the international inspection team has intruded into India's military nuclear establishment. Secrecy has been violated time and again. India has signed a few other treaties in this regard but US never gave any definite promise, written or otherwise. The 123 treaty is completely secret.

According to US law, India cannot import nuclear technology unless India signs the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. India, for valid reasons has not signed it so far. The meeting of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) of 46 nations held at Noordwijk, Netherlands on June 24, 2011 reaffirmed that nuclear material (enriched Uranium and its reprocessing technology) cannot be supplied to any country unless it signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). USA is a dominating member of NSG. It seems NSG took the decision with direct or indirect support of US. India's strategic sovereignty and independent foreign policy have been sold off to American strategic interests in South Asia. Where does India stand today? Nowhere. Empty handed in the Indo-US Nuclear deal.

The recent 46-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group meeting unanimously decided to "strengthen its guidelines on the transfer of sensitive enrichment and reprocessing technologies". It effectively nullifies the clean waiver India verbally received (no positive or definite or written commitment) in 2008 prior to signing the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement. It was a typical *Yankee hoax*. India's day dream is dashed. The unpatriotic Government of India miserably misunderstood that India was the only country in the World which has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and yet was able to engage in Civil Nuclear Trade with other willing nations. USA was never prepared to export nuclear enrichment and reprocessing technology to India unless it signed the NPT. Adding further salt to injury, US-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Non-Proliferation Enhancement Act passed by the US Congress and the Senate had a new provision—the US President should write to the Senate saying he would influence NSG countries to apply the same restrictions as the US would in the transfer of enrichment and reprocessing technology to India. Further to this, if India tested a nuclear device, the US President would ensure that no country came to the rescue of India. This ghost or spirit was reflected in the attitude of US in the NSG meeting.

"The Communist Party of India (Marxist) CPI(M) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had objected to the terms of the agreement as it compromised India's strategic autonomy. Their stand now had been vindicated by the weekend decision taken by the NSG at Noordwijk." (*The Statesman*, Editorial, Kolkata, Wednesday, 29 June, 2011, p. 6) The Government did not bother about the dissenting voice. Let people see now who was right and who was wrong on this issue of Indo-US Nuclear Treaty (2008). □□□