

INDIAN PROGRESSIVE STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN: 7

India with its vast natural resources have been the prime target of foreign Imperialists power. Since British imperialists came to India and established their colonial rule, the history of our country has been a history of ceaseless struggle waged by the Indian peasantry against the British colonial rule. British consolidated feudalism by giving few legal rights to few landlord agents, to extort exorbitant rents from the peasants. There were numerous uprisings against this cruel exploitation and oppression. The famous one, 1857 the first "war" of Independence where masses of Indian people had united in arms against British colonial rule which shook the very foundation of British Empire. Out of this fear which haunted the British colonisers, the Indian National Congress was born with the main intentions to start reformist and communal politics in order to suppress the revolutionary struggle of the Indian people.

At this time Gandhi came on political scene of India and he was used by British colonisers to suppress the revolutionary struggle of Indian people. Gandhi did his best to prevent the revolution in India by using his ideology of Ahimsa, Satyagraha, passive resistance and Charkha. Thus Gandhism was used for sole purpose to disarm the Indian people. Gandhi had utter contempt for revolutionary leaders. During the notorious Gandhi-Irwin pact, he signed the execution of great revolutionary and patriot Shaheed Bhagat Singh. Gandhi was awarded the Boer War medal for his service to British imperialist in South Africa and he himself commented on it: "My loyalty to British rule drove me to participation with the British... I felt that it was my duty to participate in the defence of British Empire"(An Autobiography-M.K.Gandhi) Not only that he himself went as a recruiting sergeant in various village asking people to join British army during imperialist war. What a apostle of "non-violence"!

The result of this treacherous role played by Gandhism was to bargain the Independence of our country for a semi-colonial status in which the imperialist exploitation could continue for the benefit of imperialist and Indian reactionaries. Thus in 1947, India was declared as a "Independent" nation while British kept their economic interest intact. The fruits gained by the Indian people in their anti-British struggle were seized by India's big bourgeoisie and feudal landlords. Nehru coming from upper stratum of bourgeoisie became the prime minister of "Independent" India. Though Nehru showed a certain degree of difference from imperialists but for the economic interests of comprador bourgeoisie and feudal landlords, Nehru government depended and served imperialism more and more. As a result of which India today is in the firm grip of U.S. imperialists and Soviet social-imperialists politically, economically and culturally. Nehru used extremely brutal measures of repression against national minorities such as Naga, Mizo and Kulki people. Nehru did not support the national liberation struggle of other countries (eg. Congolese people struggle against U.S. imperialism). Nehru did not support nor sympathise the Japanese people's struggle against U.S.-Japan military treaty in 1960. Nehru, in 1962, had instigated the Sino-Indian boundary dispute, provoked China and finally launched large-scale armed attacks on China under the instructions of U.S. imperialists and did tremendous amount of anti-China propaganda to arouse the anti-communist feeling among Indian people.

Today, Indira Gandhi is following the footsteps of her father except she is little clever as she is serving the interest of U.S. imperialists and Soviet social imperialist behind the mask of "socialism". She is using terror and violence against the revolutionary people who are rising in big tide every day against the tyranny of feudal landlords and comprador bourgeoisie. Today the spark which was lit in Naxalbari in 1967 has become the prairie fire. The masses of Indian people are winning daily victories in their struggle against U.S. imperialism, Soviet social imperialism, feudal landlords and comprador bourgeoisie, under the leadership of Comrade Charu Majumdar and Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)

Today the masses of Indian people are very clear on the role played by Gandhi and Nehru no matter how much Indira Gandhi try to glorify them. To discuss in more detail Indian Progressive Study Group invites all the interested people to participate in a discussion on the topic GANDHI-NEHRU: HEROES OR TRAITORS OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE.

PLACE: University Centre
University of Windsor

DATE: Wednesday, July 12, 1972

TIME: 7:30 p.m.