

Soviet Warning To Foreign Interventionists

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MOSCOW, October 10

Imperialist intrigues in the Arabian Peninsula seriously jeopardise peace and the security of the peoples in that area and the world over, PRAVDA's Political Correspondent Viktor Mayevsky, writes concerning foreign armed intervention in the internal affairs of the young Yemen Arab Republic.

Speaking about the serious concern felt by international opinion in connection with the reports about the invasion of Northern Yemen by Saudi Arabian and Jordanian troops, the author declares that this invasion is one more attempt of imperialist forces to suppress the popular revolution by fire and sword, to instal a most reactionary regime such as those which always have been and are the accomplices of the colonialists in the seizure and plunder of the wealth of the Arabian Peninsula.

This attempt, Mayevsky stresses, is "fraught with serious consequence and cannot but be most resolutely protested by all peace-loving forces".

It is quite obvious, Mayevsky goes on, that the revolution in Yemen is the internal affair of the Yemeni people. "However, the imperialist circles of the Western powers refuse to recognise that Britain, the United States and other Western powers ostentatiously do not recognise the Yemen Arab Republic.

Moreover, facts show that it is the ruling circles of these countries that stand behind the interventionists and counter-revolutionaries, and prod them on to a crime against the people of Yemen." The imperialists took as the rallying point of the counter-revolution Emir Seif Ul Islam Hassan whose old ties with Britain are too well known.

It is from the British Protectorate of Aden that arms are smuggled into Yemen, the agents of the colonialists are trying to bribe the tribes into fighting against the revolution.

American military base Dahrán "protects the rights" of American monopolies on the Arabian Peninsula, and at the same time serves as the stronghold of the colonialists in the struggle against the national liberation movement. It was here, Mayevsky points out, that American arms were received to be airlifted to the northern border of Yemen.

Alarming Situation

The situation on the Arabian Peninsula is becoming more and more alarming. In an effort to stem the revolutionary movement, the imperialist powers are resorting to methods too well-known to world opinion from the events in Iran, Guatemala, the Congo. By deceit they want to win over certain Yemeni tribes, to fragment the country, to end her territorial integrity.

Most resolute measures are needed to nip in the bud the aggression against the Yemen Arab Republic, Mayevsky writes in conclusion. No foreign interference in internal affairs of Yemen is permissible.

—TASS

adult franchise at last

FROM JVAN BIKASH MOITRA

THE people of West Bengal have won a significant victory. After over a decade of agitation by the CPI and other left parties and mass organisations the State Government has ultimately decided to introduce adult franchise in elections to Calcutta Corporation and all the municipalities in the State.

It should be remembered in this connection that West Bengal is the only State in the country, where elections to the civic bodies are still held on the basis of a very restricted franchise, such as property and educational qualifications. To cite an instance, about 30-lakh people live within the Municipal limits of Calcutta city. But only about 220,000 persons are eligible to vote in the elections to Calcutta Corporation!

Explaining the Cabinet's decision, F. C. Sen, Chief Minister, told reporters on October 3, that continuance of restricted franchise in Calcutta Corporation and municipal elections was not in accordance with the conduct of Assembly and Gram Panchayat elections on the basis of adult franchise.

One would like to ask the Chief Minister: Has this obvious truth dawned on the Government after 15 long years?

As far back as 1953, the Communist Bloc in the State Assembly had moved a non-official resolution, demanding adult franchise in all civic elections. But the Government rejected it on the plea that a Committee would be set up for the purpose. The Communist Bloc again moved a

non-official resolution in 1955. It was thrown out.

In 1958, the Bloc submitted drafts of two bills for introducing adult franchise, one for Calcutta Corporation and another for all other municipal bodies. They were not accepted by the Government. Another resolution in 1961 and two draft bills during the last session of the Assembly, which were sought to be moved by the Bloc, also met with the same fate.

Continued denial of the right of adult franchise was one of the most important items included in the lengthy chargesheet submitted by the West Bengal State Council of the CPI to the President of India against the Congress Government in this State.

It was only a few days ago that the State Council of the Party decided to build up a broad-based, statewide movement in case the Government refused to introduce adult franchise within October 1962.

Commenting on the State Government's decision, Jyoti Basu, Leader of the Opposition, said that the Opposition had been fighting for this since Independence, and "we are very happy that at last the decision has

come. It is a greatest victory for the people."

Women's Demands

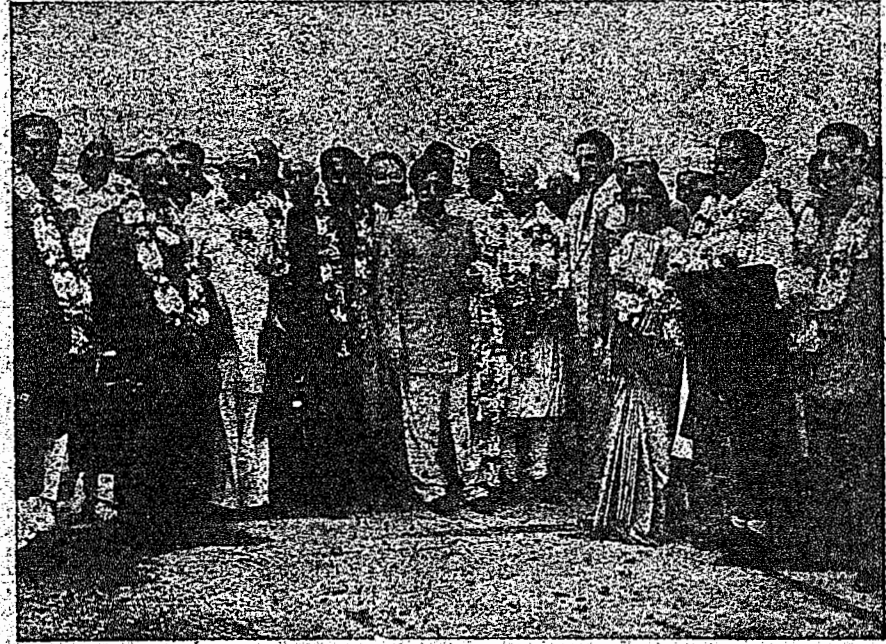
A deputation on behalf of the Federation of Indian Women, West Bengal branch, met the State Education Minister on October 3 to submit a charter of demands, which had been signed by 50,300 people.

The following demands were made in the charter:

- 1. Compulsory free primary education should be introduced throughout the State.
- 2. The system of free education for girls upto Class VIII, which is now in vogue in rural areas, should be extended to urban areas.
- 3. Elderly women should be given the facility to sit for the School Final Examination on the basis of a shortened syllabus.

While admitting the importance of these demands the Education Minister pleaded the Government's inability to implement the second demand owing to shortage of funds.

As regards the first demand, he said that the Government was taking steps in the matter, but it had to face a number of difficulties, such as absence of an adequate number of primary schools, etc. In this connection he said that he could not understand why Calcutta Corporation could not spend more than what it was doing now on primary education in Calcutta.



An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, headed by Speaker Hukum Singh visited the Soviet Union between September 14 and October 8. On extreme left is seen Communist MP, Sarjoo Pandey.

CONGRESS TAKE-OVER IN KERALA

From S. Sharma

TRIVANDRUM, October 10:

THE curtain on the first act of Congress taking over Kerala administration was rung down last evening with M.P. Govindan Nair of Kottayam being sworn in as the eighth Minister and Sankar categorically stating that there would be no more additions to the Cabinet.

Governor Giri cancelled his tour, rushed to the capital for accepting resignations from two PSP ministers, went back to Coimbatore to fulfil an engagement and returned again to Trivandrum to sign the order regarding the allocation of portfolios.

There was hush-hush and indecent haste in the deliberations regarding the new addition and swearing in to avoid pressures from interested quarters. It will

be recalled that Mannam had insisted on N. S. Krishna Pillai to be included in the Cabinet while Chacko and Sankar were unwilling to have him.

They chose young, pliable Govindan Nair who was as much a Nair Service man and against whom Mannam could not raise his voice further. They allotted to him such subjects as forest and temples and assignment of temple lands as were vital to Nair Service interests. Mannam therefore had to bless the choice, unwillingly though.

That there will be no further expansion of Cabinet for some time to come is clear from the hasty reallocation of portfolios among ministers and this is intended to set at rest all speculations and pressure tactics from interested groups within Congress itself.

GUJARAT IN FERMENT

ANTI-TAX DEMONSTRATIONS

★ From Our Correspondent

At the huge demonstration held on July 30 against rising prices and growing taxation, it was announced that big demonstrations would again be held on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti day and a programme of statewide struggle would be launched. True to this, on October 2 big processions were taken out and huge mass meetings were held at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Nadiad, Surat, Ankleshwar, Peldad and several other places in Gujarat.

At Ahmedabad a big effigy of foreign capital was burnt after the meeting and at Baroda a huge Ravana with ten heads symbolising rising prices, corruption, blackmarket, etc., was set fire to. The procession and meeting at Baroda, particularly, were unprecedentedly large and there was great popular enthusiasm.

It was announced at Ahmedabad, Nadiad, and Baroda that batches of Satyagrahis would offer satyagraha at Government offices on October 9, 16 and 22 respectively. At Ahmedabad the batch will be led by Indulal Yagnik, MP, and at Baroda by Bhalchandra Trivedi, Secretary of the Gujarat TUC.

At Surat in the procession and meeting, hundreds of halls, landless labourers, flocked from the villages. Amrit Desai, Secretary of the Surat D. C. of Communist Party and Jashwant Chauhan, opposition leader in the Municipality, led the demonstrations, attended by thousands.

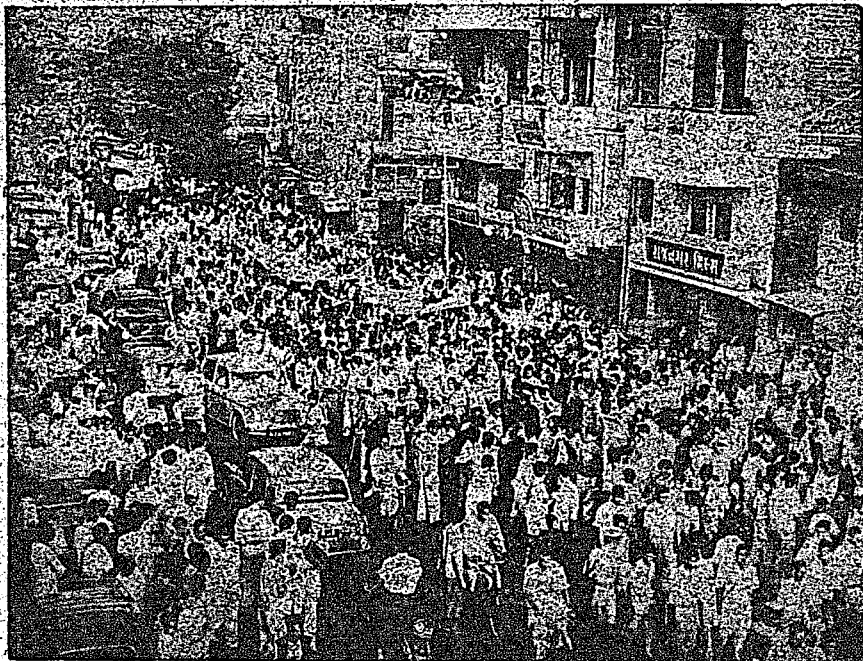
At Baroda they were led by Chandubhai Patel and others. At Ankleshwar, Mahiman Desai led a K'san demonstration. At Nadiad, the Swatantra Party MLA Manmohandas Desai joined, along with

others, the big procession and attended the mass meeting. He was once a leading worker of the old Janata Parishad and the leaders of the Swatantra Party have started frowning upon him for his association with the activity of the Janata Parishad.

The leader of the Swatantra Party Bhaillal Patel had even issued a statement that he was against such demonstrations as were being staged by Janata Parishad, which he dubbed a Communist organisation to scare away the people. But his statement had the opposite effect. In the rural areas it enraged many of his supporters who sympathise with the programme of the Janata Parishad.

In The Countryside

The Janata Parishad leaders in their speeches criticised the attitude of the Swatantra Party leaders and exposed them as upholders of the old order. One of the Swatantra Party leaders went to the extent of stating openly that they regarded Morarji Desai as the man who should



Ahmedabad procession organised by Janata Parishad against high prices, increased taxes

take charge of the country after Pandit Nehru.

This time, the Janata Parishad has decided to carry the struggle into the countryside, for the Gujarat Government's policies are hitting the peasants and the rural poor hard. A twenty per cent surcharge has been levied on land revenue in the new budget. This has stirred the rural masses into action, for their condition was already unbearable.

This time it was also noted that meetings, preparatory to October 2, in working class areas at Ahmedabad were very largely attended, showing the increasing interest the workers have in this struggle.

In the speeches at Ahmedabad and other places, the Janata Parishad leaders, Indulal Yagnik, Dinkar Mehta and others, particularly stressed the contrast between Gandhiji's precepts of Swadeshi, simplicity, uplift of the masses, reducing the gulf between the poor and the rich, ending of bureaucracy and corruption and ministerial pomp, etc., and the actual conditions under Congress regime.

They pointed out the contrast between the way the people were celebrating Gandhi Jayanti as a day of protest against worsening conditions of life, and the hypocritical way the Congress leaders and ministers were celebrating it. Indulal Yagnik particularly emphasised Swadeshi as a fight against growing penetration of foreign capital in our country, which the Congress ministers and the big capitalists of India were encouraging. He pointed out that big foreign monopoly capitalist concerns were carrying on under Swadeshi signboards.

"Scoundrels All"

At Ahmedabad, the big meeting after the procession was held on the sands of the Sabarmati River, where Gandhiji used to hold meetings in the early days, in 1919-1921 and 1930. Here the people were reminded that the Congress leaders were only ex-

plotting Gandhiji's name while betraying his precepts in practice.

Only a few days back, the ex-president of the Gujarat Congress, Thakorebhai Desai had told his small audience that scoundrels flourished in the name of Gandhiji and he asked "Who is not a scoundrel?", admitting "Everyone is a scoundrel". It was pointed out by the Janata Parishad leaders that a situation should be created by the people wherein scoundrels would no longer flourish in the name of Gandhiji, as many in the Congress were at present flourishing.

Morarji's Game

The National Integration Week was also inaugurated at Ahmedabad in a strange way. Congress chief minister and leaders of the Swatantra Party and PSP, a leader of the millowners and an INTUC leader, etc., were invited to speak at the function, on October 2, but the Janata Parishad leader, Yagnik and the Communist leader Dinkar Mehta received no such invitation.

And strangely enough the next day, some pro-Congress dailies wrote that the absence of Communist and Janata Parishad leaders had become a subject of discussion. One staunch Congress daily even wrote an editorial, making all sorts of vile charges against Communists. This in spite of the fact that Dinkar Mehta had attended the function. That was how they celebrated Gandhi Jayanti!

When the people of Gujarat are turning a new page in their history, preparing for big struggles, the Congress leaders are busy fighting one another in the worst possible way. Morarji Desai before he went abroad had convened a meeting of the Gujarat Congress Committee at Baroda but he could not bring about any peaceful settlement between the organisational wing and the ministerial wing.

Charges and counter-charges and filthy abuse were

hurled at each other and Morarji promised to solve the crisis after he returned from abroad and commented that affairs in Gujarat Congress were not as bad as in other states. This worked as a signal and immediately a campaign for getting Balwantrao Mehta, the defeated gentleman who would have been chief minister, re-elected from a safe constituency, was launched.

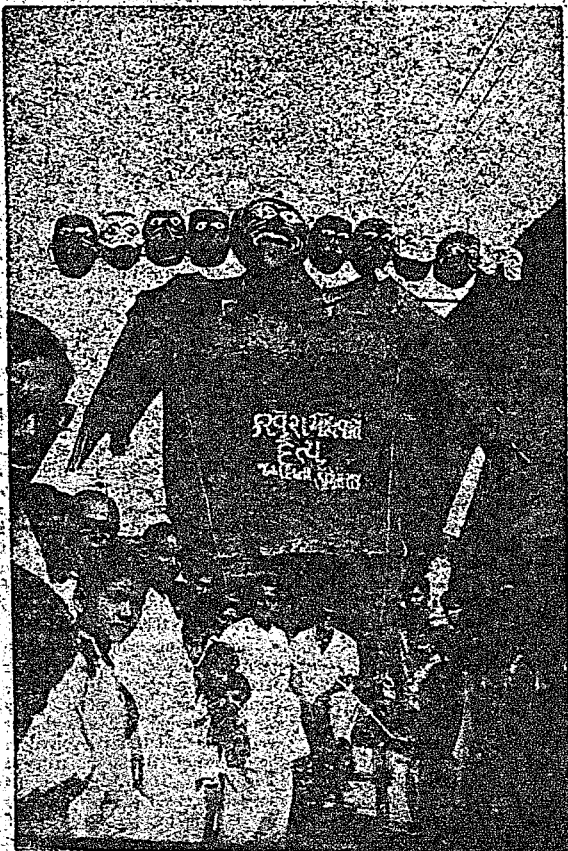
Balwantrao himself said that he wanted to wipe out the blot of defeat, though after being elected he would sit as a back-bencher in the assembly.

A Congress MLA from Shikhor Taluka in Bhavnagar district has already sent in his resignation to the Congress High Command to make room for Balwantrao, who was defeated. It was alleged, due to the machinations of some of the present ministers. It may be recalled that Sa'diq Ali was appointed to investigate into this allegation, but his report is still suppressed.

Thakorebhai Desai and Babubhai Patel, two other Morarji-men, defeated would-have-been-ministers, are also reported to be in search of safe constituencies to enter the legislature. The press in Gujarat is full of these stories every day.

The ministerial group led by Dr. Jivraj Mehta has also been riding up its reins and threatening to raise hell if the present set-up were to be disturbed. Even though there are no differences of principle among these sets of Congress leaders, Morarji wants absolute control over Gujarat Congress and state affairs by placing his own henchmen in positions of state power as well.

Under the heavy blow of popular criticism and rising struggles, the Congress leadership is fast losing its old control and prestige. Thakorebhai Desai had made the prophecy on July 28, "A house divided against itself is sure to be destroyed." Of course, he had said this as a complaint against the ministers of his own Congress party.



Ten-headed Ravana symbolising Congress misrule Effigy burnt in Baroda