

what cairo meet means for india

NEW AGE

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Don't be taken in only by the headlines and the over-"briefed" messages of special correspondents from Cairo. The nonaligned countries' conference, which opened on October 5, is NOT all easygoing for the Indian delegation led by Prime Minister Shastri and Foreign Minister Swaran Singh.

It is clear enough—and one does not have to read between the lines—that the Indian delegation has had to fight every inch of the way.

that the attitude taken by the Indian delegation in regard to the question of the admission to the conference of that agent of neo-colonial-

ism, Moise Tshombe, was a totally unpardonable mistake. The argument advanced in defence of India's silence and virtual "neutrality" on this issue—namely,

that the issue was one for the Africans to decide—convicted no one. What was expected was a forthright denunciation of Tshombe for his crimes in the Congo, above all the murder of Patrice Lumumba. The Indian delegation failed to do this.

It tried to "explain" its final support to the move to exclude Tshombe by saying that it did so because of Tshombe's real alliance with Verwoerd and Salazar! Not one word about Tshombe's

real masters in Washington...

Here was an opportunity to assert India's anti-imperialism, which the Indian delegation lost. After this unfortunate performance there will naturally be a tendency among the more openly anti-imperialist governments represented at Cairo, to wonder if the Indian delegation can be counted upon for concrete support on the key issues facing the world—particularly where US imperialism is directly involved.

The Prime Minister, in his speech, is reported to have referred to the events in South East Asia, to the situation in Cyprus, the Congo and

in the Caribbean. It is not enough for an anti-imperialist government merely to note the dangers of the situation. It is necessary for it to condemn the role of the imperialist powers responsible—and in all these cases, above all, the role of US imperialism.

As long as the Government of India fights shy of naming US imperialism wherever it is responsible for creating tension, for aggression, for threatening and violating the independence of nations, so long will it not be able to win back the place which it rightfully held in the past among

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By THE EDITOR

in its efforts to secure for India the high place which it had always occupied at international conferences earlier.

On the whole, the delegation can at this stage certainly be congratulated on its success in blowing up the false image, painted by Chinese propaganda, of an India which is tied directly or indirectly to the coat-tails of imperialism and hesitates to champion the cause of liberation.

India's old image in the nonaligned world as a leader of the anti-imperialist fight was seen once again at Cairo in the sharp and strong draft resolutions on colonialism and neo-colonialism put forward by the Indian delegation.

Prime Minister Shastri's speech and his five-point proposals for action for peace (the full details are not to hand as we go to press) appear also to have created new respect for India.

The talks which the Prime Minister had earlier with President Nasser and the signing of the India-UAR joint communique paved the way for India's active role during the nonaligned conference.

But general resolutions and enunciation of principles by themselves are not enough. It is in regard to the actual, real issues and problems that the non-aligned countries will test and judge the post-Nehru foreign policy of our country. And here it must be said

'SHASTRI TOUCH' FOR FOURTH PLAN

The Planning Commission and the Union Cabinet are in the throes of formulating the Fourth Plan. The Union Cabinet is expected to finalise the first draft of the Plan at a meeting on October 13 and present it to the National Development Council, meeting in New Delhi on October 27 and 28, for its approval.

AVAILABLE indications show that the "Shastri touch" and the "consensus" are being brought into the formulation of the Fourth Plan too. It is not going to be what the Planning Commission would like it to be, but a compromise between the "necessity-men" and the "resources-men".

The "necessity-men" are the Planning Commission members who are demanding that the Fourth Plan should be of the size as would guarantee a 6.7 per cent growth rate—12 per cent in industry and 5 per cent in agriculture—during the Fourth Plan period.

The "resources-men" are the Union Finance Minister and his supporters in the

Union Cabinet and the Planning Commission. Their stand is that it would be impossible to raise resources for a Plan with an outlay of more than Rs. 19,000 crores against the Planning Commission proposal of an outlay of Rs. 24,000 crores.

Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri has been having prolonged discussions with the Planning Commission members in the last few weeks. He seems to be stressing that the emphasis should be on execution rather than on "paper planning".

The natural corollary of this is that some of the projects which would not yield quick returns should be shelved. The projects which do not yield quick returns are

the heavy industrial projects. The Prime Minister had been demanding such an approach even to the Third Plan projects.

Another point in favour of a smaller Plan is the reluctance of the Shastri government to undertake any major effort to raise additional taxation in the coming two or three years. This is understandable in view of the fact that the general elections are very near, in 1967.

pruning unnecessary expenditures and insignificant projects. This happened in the case of the Second Plan and is to happen in the case of the Third Plan if events are allowed to take their normal course.

But here we see the planners decided in advance of even the formulation of the Plan what projects are to be dropped if resources position was "not satisfactory". And the irony of it is that the projects thus earmarked are all in the heavy industries sector—a thing which one could not even have imagined of

By PAULY V. PARAKAL

Hence the "Shastri touch" coming into action with regard to the formulation of the Fourth Plan. He seems to have persuaded both his Cabinet colleagues and the Planning Commission members that a Plan of the size of Rs. 21,000 crores would be able to achieve the desired 6.7 per cent growth in the economy in the Fourth Plan.

However, in the true "Shastri touch" a "built-in" provision to increase the outlay by another Rs 1,000 crores has also been made. But this would be possible only if enough additional resources are generated during the first two or three years of the Fourth Plan.

Efforts at the formulation of the Fourth Plan do certainly speak volumes for the absence of Jawaharlal Nehru at the helm of affairs.

Resources problem had cropped up at the time of the Second Plan and the Third Plan too. But the approach to it had been entirely different. It was sought to be faced by determining a core of the Plan when the resources position became critical and

happening in Nehru's lifetime.

Apart from this, will a Rs. 21,000 crores Fourth Plan achieve the aims which have been set forth? Will it provide the common man in this country with his bare minimum needs? It is doubtful, if we are to believe the projections made into future development by the planners themselves.

As far back as August 1962 the Perspective Planning Division of the Planning Commission had drawn attention to the comparatively low growth of development achieved in India and the "abject poverty" of the millions of our countrymen.

The first decade of planning had unquestionably been a period of noteworthy progress in the Indian economy. The national income rose from Rs. 10,200 crores in 1950-51 to Rs. 14,200 crores in 1960-61. The output in agriculture rose by 40 per cent while in organised industry, production doubled.

The advance in the sphere of social services was also

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The washed away bridge at Nagarjunasagar. See back page for more pictures and report on Andhra floods.



FLOOD-STRICKEN ANDHRA APPEALS

FOR HELP

Andhra Pradesh is the latest victim of the ravages of nature and the agony of the people has further been accentuated due to criminal negligence of persons in power. A terrible flood havoc has overtaken a very large area of the state; hundreds have perished; bridges and embankments have been swept away and damages to property and livestock is yet to be assessed.

The people of Andhra look to their fellow countrymen for aid in this period of crisis. The tragedy of Andhra is a tragedy for the entire country. The Communist Party has urged people of other states to render assistance to the stricken masses of Andhra. NEW AGE not only endorses this appeal but also joins its voice in urging immediate relief for these people.

Below we reproduce an editorial of VISALAANDHRA (October 6) which gives factual details of this natural calamity:

It was a real bolt from the blue for the people of Andhra Pradesh who are already facing scarcity of food and high prices.

On September 29 and 30, a cloudburst, due to the heavy depression in the Bay of Bengal, accompanied by heavy rains throughout Andhra Pradesh resulted in unprecedented floods sweeping from River Krishna and drainages at Budameru, Tammileru and Yerrakaluva etc. It was a real deluge. In West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Khammam, Kurnool and Mahabubnagar districts heavy damages were done to lakhs of acres of cultivated land, just before the harvest. According to K. L. Rao, Minister for Power and Irrigation, the loss would be nearly 20 crores of rupees worth of foodgrains to the state. This is in delta areas only. The loss in the inland areas is yet to be estimated.

Loss Of Life

The low-lying areas of Vijayawada, namely Krishna, Lanka and Aitt Nagar, were inundated by floods. Hundreds of villages were completely cut off by the heavy floods from

the drainages of Budameru, Kolleru, Romperu and Yerrakaluva. Thousands of cattle heads were lost. Due to house collapses and swift currents, loss of life is also reported.

But above all, the deluge at Macherla (Guntur District) was of greatest dimension. The rivulet Chandravanka had virtually washed away the whole township of Macherla with about 20,000 population. The floods which are the result of breaches to many irrigation tanks with great velocity came swirling at a level of 10 to 15 feet. Entire families were drowned and swept away. Many of those who got up on the top of the houses and sheds, were also washed away in the fearful ravages of floods. The official estimate is about 100 casualties; but according to those who actually were there on that day, the loss of life would be between 400 and 500. Tragic stories are still nourishing in.

There is not a single undamaged house left in Macherla today. It is stinking all-round due to carcasses of animals which are lying everywhere. Cholera is spreading. There is no fresh water to drink and no food to eat.

Nearby, Naguleru, another stream, destroyed Dachepalli, a

small town. Here hundreds of houses collapsed. About 500 people have lost their lives according to unofficial accounts.

In Mahabubnagar District, the Saralasar Dam has breached and waters have submerged towns like Anaparty.

The breach to Nagarjuna-sagar bridge which connects South and North Vijayapuri was swept away by the floods of River Krishna. Out of 38 spans 16 were lost. Officials say there is no damage to the project, but the "bucket" under the spillway is believed to have been damaged to a certain extent. K. L. Rao in his statement said that project work will be continued as per schedule. But thousands of workers are going away from the project area since they have been told that there would be no work for the coming three months.

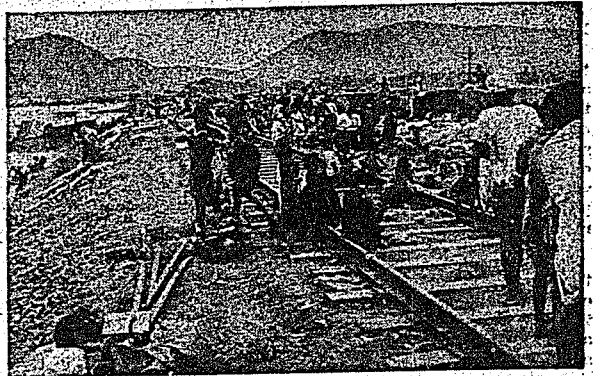
According to information received so far, it seems that officials are underestimating the damage done to the project. Immediate measures should be taken to continue the work of the project according to the schedule.

Grant Relief

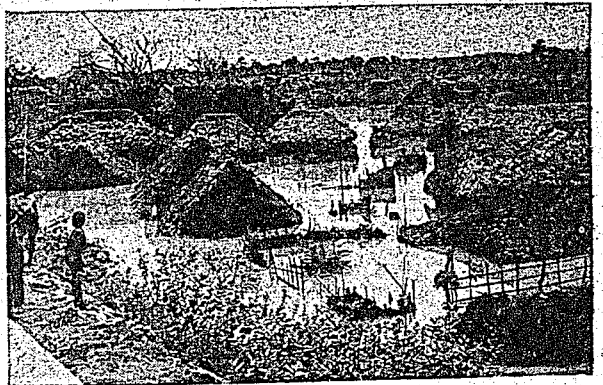
Flood relief work is now under way, but in view of the great damage and devastation the present relief measures are not at all sufficient. State government as well as the Central Government must immediately sanction sufficient amounts for the flood-stricken people and areas.

Those who have lost their houses must be rehabilitated. They must be given sufficient help to reconstruct their houses. Medical aid and foodstuffs should be rushed. Immediate measures to prevent epidemics have got to be taken.

In this hour of distress we appeal to the people of Andhra as well as the people of the whole country to generously contribute their mite to the relief fund and come to the aid of the Andhra people who have had to face one of the greatest tragedies of recent times.



Above: People Who Lost Everything Below: Villages Submerged



WHAT CAIRO MEET MEANS FOR INDIA

* FROM FRONT PAGE

the leaders of the anti-imperialist world.

Whatever happens in the coming few days of the conference deliberations, one can be sure that the Cairo conference will teach the leaders of our government a great deal.

They will feel the pulse of anti-imperialist Asia, Africa and Latin America. They will hear the heartbeats of the nonaligned world. And if they can understand what this means, and as a consequence of this understanding, strengthen our foreign policy, then the Cairo conference will have done a signal service to this country.

It may also be pointed out that on the stand which the Indian delegation takes on the crucial and burning issues of the day will also depend the attitude towards India of the Colombo Powers, who are expected to launch a new initiative for the creation of conditions for the opening of negotiations to break the India-China deadlock.

If the Tshombe episode becomes the pattern, and the

Indian delegation remains delightfully "silent" and vague when it comes to condemning imperialism in regard to the events in Vietnam, Cuba, Cyprus and Congo, then India will have only given ground for the belief that there may be some truth in the Chinese leaders' anti-Indian slanders.

There is every reason to expect that this will NOT happen. The good work begun through the presentation of strong, anti-imperialist draft statements and resolutions, must be carried forward.

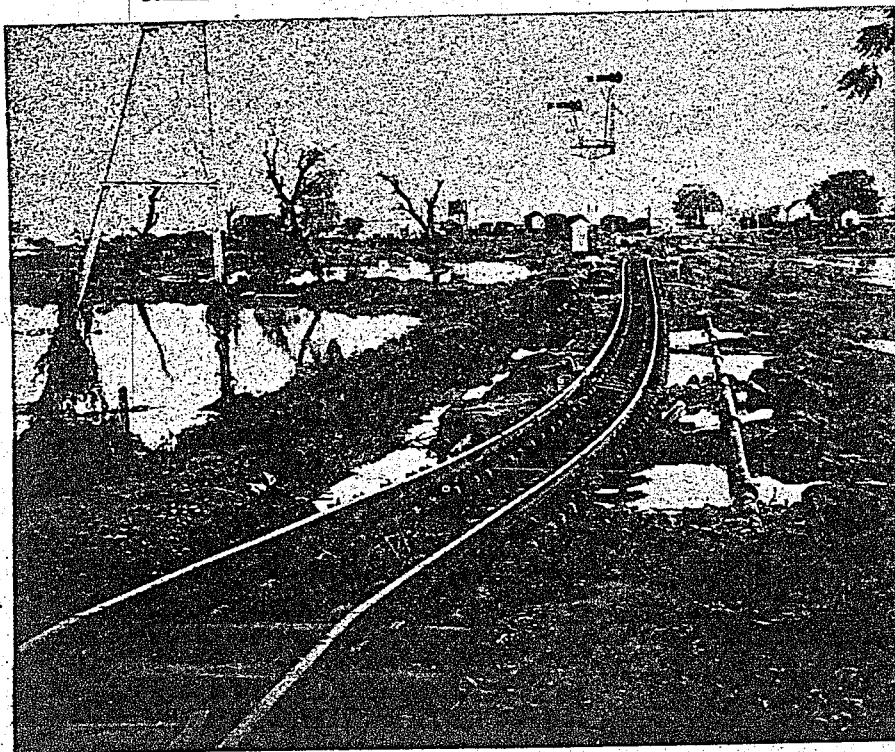
The Prime Minister's speech must be concretised into positive support for the resolutions which are bound to be tabled for the defence of the sovereignty and integrity of countries threatened by imperialist aggression and interference.

Cairo can and must lead to the sharpening of Indian foreign policy: Cairo must help to give this policy that consistent, anti-imperialist edge which alone can make the pursuit of nonalignment a real contribution to world peace and the independence of nations.

(October 7)

We regret that S. A. Dange's article, "COMPUTERS AND MENEATERS", could not be published in this issue of NEW AGE for unavoidable reasons

—EDITOR



Communications Broke Down—Rails Are Swinging in Flood Waters