

BALANCE SHEET



Two Premiers' Firm Handclasp of Friendship

It is difficult—no, impossible—to assess the value of friendship to write it down in red and black figures, and then send it to the auditors. There cannot be that kind of a balance sheet on the historic visit of Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri to the Soviet Union this month—for the visit was, above all, a visit of friendship and friendship is not just a precious stone, which a jeweller can price, by looking into it through his eye-glass.

AND yet an assessment of the visit must be made. India's future may well be influenced by this assessment, and the work which would follow such an assessment.

There are no two opinions about the broad fundamental assessment: the visit was a resounding success, far beyond all expectations. On the streets and in the buses and trains, the capital's citizens, irrespective of their political affiliations, are unanimous that the Soviet Union has proved in deeds that it is a good and true friend of our people.

The statistics regarding the expansion—the doubling—of Indo-Soviet trade and the huge Soviet economic assistance for the Fourth Plan tell their own story.

Indo-Soviet friendship is not just a matter of enthusiastic meetings, speeches and applause that never seem to end.

This friendship is also practical and effective, and means concrete help in building India's independent economy and independent defence potential, concrete help in ensuring that India is able to continue and strengthen its basic policies in the manner it considers best.

The right reactionary forces, the gentlemen whose profession is anti-Sovietism, are flabbergasted at the success of the Prime Minister's visit. These prophets of disaster had "forecast" a comparatively cold reception for the Indian Prime Minister.

They worked out their own "interpretation" of the TASS communique on the Indo-Pakistan relations—with a view to make our people feel that the Soviet Union had

By
THE EDITOR

shifted away from the path of the closest friendship with India.

But the real warmth of the reception given by the Soviet government and people to Shastri tore to shreds all the anti-Soviet propaganda, that the gangsters attempted to organise.

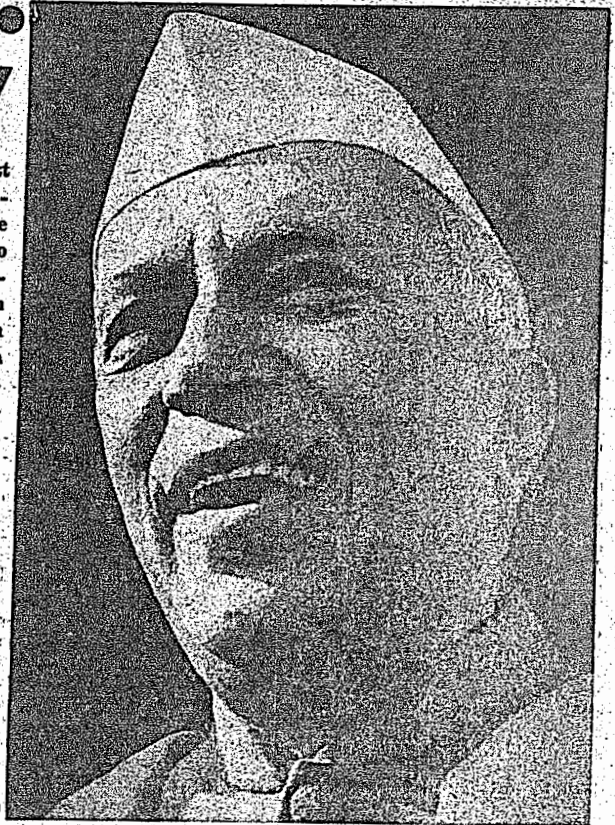
Having failed at the first shot, the imperialists and their agents have attempted to raise more slogans and suggestions of the usual anti-Soviet character.

Look, they say wickedly, the Soviet is not prepared to

MAY 27

ON May 27, the first anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru's death, the nation will pay homage to the helmsman of Independent India for seventeen long years. His has been the main contribution in shaping the national policies of peace, nonalignment, independent economic growth and prosperity which still remain the guidelines for the people. On the occasion of the first death anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, NEW AGE joins the millions of people in this country and abroad in paying homage to this great son of India.

(Articles on Centre Pages)



Successful Soviet Visit Of Shastri

support India against Pakistan aggression, it is not prepared to say a word against the new Chinese test. Therefore, we should not "exaggerate" the significance of the Shastri visit.

Fortunately the Indian people are mature enough to understand the real purpose of these "sober" gentlemen, who are opposed to "exaggeration".

Reaction seeks to carry India into the American system of military pacts by suggesting that there is no other way to build up Indian defence and economy than to

line up with the imperialist powers!

But the Indian people fully understand the position of the Soviet Union. They do not expect the Soviet government to sign on the dotted line any statement prepared by the Government of India in connection with the Pakistani aggression.

The Indian people also do not expect that the reaction to the second Chinese test of all countries will be the same as those in this country.

The statements and assurances made during the Shastri visit by the Soviet

leaders on such issues as Kashmir and on the necessity to restore the status quo ante in Kutch have been rightly interpreted in India as proof positive that the Soviet Union's position on matters of crucial significance for this country remain as friendly to us as always.

Thus, taken from every angle, economic and political, the Shastri visit has proved conclusively that the Soviet Union's friendship for India is not seasonal, varying with

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Enthusiastic Muscovites Greet Shastri



PROTEST AGAINST IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACY IN ASIA

Action Week Observed All Over India On CPI's Call

May 10 to 17 was observed all over the country as a Week of Action, as called by the National Council of the Communist Party of India at its last meeting. Party units and members took the initiative in many places to observe the week while democratic and progressive organisations and individuals joined in.

THE week was observed mainly through meetings and demonstrations. The slogans were: "Against Pak Aggression", "For Defence of the Country", "Against American Arms Aid to Pakistan", "Against Anglo-American Conspiracies", "For the Defence of Nonalignment and Secular Democracy" and "Against American Aggression on Vietnam".

Economic and democratic issues like holding the price line, regular supply of food-grains, release of political prisoners were also raised during the week.

Reports of the Week of Action have only started to come as we go to press.

DELHI

In Delhi a mass rally was held in the Gandhi Grounds on May 16. B. D. Joshi presided.

A resolution passed by the meeting condemned the use of American arms against India and demanded that the US government stop supplying arms to Pakistan.

It warned that the imperialists' aim was to pressurise India into acquiescing to their wishes and abandon the policy of non-alignment and demanded of the Government of India to resist all such pressures and consistently follow the policy of non-alignment which was in the

best interests of the country.

The resolution said that to strengthen India's defences the government must stop relying on the promises of the imperialists and seek aid from the Soviet Union and other friendly countries.

Another resolution condemned the American attacks on North Vietnam and demanded that the Yankees should get out of Vietnam and Asia.

The May 16 meeting was preceded by a series of street corner meetings all over Delhi which were organised by the Party branches.

Two public meetings were also held, one in Shahdara and the other in Sewanagar. The meeting in Shahdara was preceded by a demonstration.

Thousands of handbills have been distributed by the Delhi Communists during the week explaining the Party policy both in regard to defence of the country's borders and economic problems.

On May 11 the Delhi state unit of the AITUC organised a public meeting in Subzi Mandi with the same slogans.

Speakers at the meeting included Y. D. Sharma, B. D. Joshi, R. C. Sharma and Radha Kishen.

CALCUTTA

From Calcutta AJOY DASGUPTA reports: The campaign week, May 10

to 17, was observed throughout West Bengal in a planned manner. The emphasis was to reach the masses and have a dialogue with them on Party policies and Party's views on the burning events of the day.

In Calcutta the week opened with a rally of Party members and sympathisers in the Calcutta University Institute Hall where state council secretary Bhowani Sen explained the significance of the resolution of the National Council on the current political situation.

The meeting was also addressed by Bhupesh Gupta, Biswanath Mukherjee and Ajoy Dasgupta.

According to the plans drawn up earlier, several street corner meetings have been held. Some bathak meetings were also held. Mass meetings were held in B. K.

Kaul Park and in Behala. In the mofussils also general body meetings of Party members are being held at different levels. Two big mass rallies were held in Habra and Barrackpore in the 24 Parganas district.

Along with the general political situation, local problems were also discussed at these meetings, especially the scarcity of rice which has grown to menacing proportions.

Defence of democracy and release of political prisoners are also featured in a big way.

More than 50,000 copies of the National Council's appeal have been distributed, in Bengali, Hindi and Urdu. People have been evincing considerable interest in what the Party has to say on the issues facing the country.

TRIVANDRUM

From Trivandrum S. Sharma reports:

A stirring call to condemn the Pakistani aggression in the Rann of Kutch and also the armed intervention by the United States in Vietnam in a manner shocking to the conscience of mankind has been made in an appeal issued by public leaders.

The appeal has been signed jointly by leaders of political parties, journalists, lawyers, doctors and other prominent public men in the state.

Among the 22 signatories are Panampillil Govinda Menon, Congress MP and a former Chief Minister; V. R. Krishna Iyer, former minister and prominent lawyer; C. Achutha Menon, secretary of the Kerala state council of the CPI; K. Sukumaran, editor of Kerala Kaumudi daily; K. Balakrishnan, editor of Kaumudi weekly; P. Subramaniam Potti, prominent advocate; leading doctors Vasudevan and Shenoy; P. T. Bhaskara Panikkar, former member of the Public Service Commission; municipal chairmen M. K. Raghavan and N. S. Mani; C. R. Das, former Congress mayor of Trivandrum.

The appeal was followed by a public meeting at Ernakulam on May 12. Similar meetings have been held all over the state, in all important towns and villages.

Apart from Pakistani aggression and the war on Vietnam unleashed by the US imperialists, the spiralling rise in prices of rice, kerosene and other essential articles is bringing together all sections of the people in a united movement.

PLASTIC CONSCIENCE

WHISPERING Gallery

THERE was an invasion of India in 1962. There is one this year which is continuing. There is ample similarity between the two.

But what *Insider* proposes to reflect this week is on the dissimilarity in India's response as seen from the Parliament and Secretariat corridors and also at diplomatic parties.

We suffered on both occasions in territory and prestige. But then what hullabaloo we witnessed then and what an exercise in self-pity we are indulging in now.

Nehru was besieged and forced to part with the head of Menon. Chavan was inducted and hailed as the miracle man. I remember the FREE PRESS JOURNAL's sprawling headline then: SAHYADRI GOES TO THE RESCUE OF THE HIMALAYAS.

And the man from Sahyadri spared no efforts in creating the popular impression that India had discovered the modern Shivaji.

He took a vow at the historic Maratha fortress at Poona not to return to Bombay till the last Chinese was cleared out.

A couple of days after he was sworn in as the Defence Minister he dashed off to Panipat, India's famed battle field, and took some earth and put it on his forehead. His great grand father had fallen on that haloed spot fighting against the Moghuls!

As if this was not enough, Arya Samajists wanted to invoke on him the powers of Arjuna, the legendary hero of the Mahabharat. The invocation was done by presenting Chavan a ton of copper plates on which were inscribed passages from Gita, particularly those in

which Krishna injected some guts into Arjuna.

Three years later there is again a run on our prestige; the Pakistanis have gobbled up a part of our Rann.

But this time there is no shouting, nobody is called traitor and none called from the Aravalli hills to rescue both Sahyadri and the Himalayas.

Insider hastens to add that this is no reflection on Chavan. All that we mean to say is that the American lobby in this country has a plastic conscience.

DECREPIT OLD WOMAN

HAS the lobby any self-respect, personal or national? None. Let me illustrate this point.

Some weeks ago there was a gala party in New Delhi to bid farewell to Maj. Gen. Kelley, Chief of the US Military (so-called) Aid Mission. All the top military brass and their wives were present. There was plenty to drink and eat.

And then came the moment of sweet sorrow. Kelley got up to propose the toast and before actually doing so he narrated a neat little story.

There was a decrepit old woman of 70, he said. She suffered her ailment in silence for years. And then came a doctor who cured her completely just by touching her.

And then he said: "Let me propose a toast to that doctor" and lifted his glass towards General Choudhury, Chief of Staff of the Indian Army.

There was a burst up. Resentment ran high. But Choudhury, the man who ought to have

leaped to protect the honour of the Indian Army (the decrepit old woman!), was quiet. Not a wrinkle of resentment on his face.

Soon after came the trouble in Kutch. We do not know exactly how the doctor is finding the old woman now.

HAIL, CHOTA PANT

IN the recent Congress Parliamentary Party elections K. C. Pant topped the poll for the secretaryship.

We are told he represents the new blood. But how many people know that this young and vigorous gentleman was the subject of a musky controversy between the former Finance Minister, C. D. Deshmukh, and the government.

Deshmukh as the then Finance Minister collected a lot of material about K. C. Pant. He was then staying with his late father, Govind Ballabh Pant.

And he was the employee of both the Birlas and the United Provinces Commercial Corporation. A genius he is to hold two cushy jobs one and the same time.

C. D. demanded a commission of inquiry. Nehru asked him to furnish him with the material to find out if there was any *prima facie* case for an inquiry.

Deshmukh refused to part with the precious material to any one except to a judicial commission. And afterwards everything was forgotten.

Hail Chota Pant.

—Insider

SHASTRI'S SOVIET VISIT

*FROM FRONT PAGE

the weather, so to say, but of a lasting nature.

The visit is thus a powerful blow against those forces in this country, which seek to reverse our policy of nonalignment and drag India into anti-Soviet military pacts. It is a slap in the face of those who would seek to tie our economy to the imperialists' coat tails.

But the crucial question is: will the flame of friendship lighted in Moscow continue to burn as brightly, after the visit is over?

It is here that the democratic movement can play a decisive role.

The consolidation of the gains of the Prime Minister's Soviet visit is not a task which can be left to spontaneity. The imperialists and their henchmen will do all in their power to wipe out the results of the

visit and put out the friendship flame. They must not be allowed to succeed.

At this moment following the visit, there is a vast upsurge of friendly feelings for the Soviet Union among our people.

This gives our people confidence that they can resist and fight back the imperialist pressures and blackmail, which are consistently being applied against our country.

This upsurge of friendship for the Soviet Union must be turned into a solid wall which can hold back the onslaught of imperialism and reaction, and effectively protect India's national integrity and national policies.

If the democratic movement carry out this task successfully—and it MUST—the Prime Minister's visit to the Soviet Union will go down in history as a turning point of immense significance in the life of our people.

(May 18)