

U.S. BLACKMAIL BEATS

New Age

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ALL RECORDS

Washington Is Demanding Cabinet Reshuffle

The American lobby in the Capital has begun to gloat over its latest "victories". Food Minister Subramaniam's nauseating campaign in defence of PL 480 food imports has been seen by Washington as a "proof" of the Government of India's slide-back on its previous declarations of resistance to American blackmail.

WITH the return of Sadoba Patil from his American yatra, the Lobby has seized on the obvious weakening in New Delhi's stand on this crucial issue, to step up its pressures. The Yanks now feel that they have only to turn on the screw for the Shastri government to yield.

Since they feel they have won on PL 480, they believe they can take further advantage of India's present difficulties, to make sharper inroads into this country's sovereignty and independence.

The demand the Americans are making today is the most outrageous in the history of imperialist pressures. In return for their "aid", for PL 480 and the rest, the Yanks now are pressuring for a shuffle in the Union Cabinet itself.

This shuffle, they demand, should result in a shift in the balance inside the Cabinet in favour of right, pro-imperialist politicians. Promotion and key jobs are demanded for ministers and would-be ministers close to Washington's heart.

The effrontery with which Sadoba Patil has been proclaiming the "success" of his American mission arises from his cocksureness that he is ON THE WAY UP—backed by his patrons.

Patil landed in India to declare that he had kept the Prime Minister fully posted with all his doings in Washington. This was meant to give the lie to the statement made by the Prime Minister just before Patil's return, that he (Shastri) was virtually ignorant about any proposal that he should visit Washington. ("Everybody seems to know about it, except me!")

Again this week, Food Minister Subramaniam has been given a public slap in the face by Patil. Subramaniam had stated that Patil held no brief to discuss PL 480 in Washington.

The Lobby's darling was quick to reply in public, rudely asserting that since he was a Minister, he had every right

to discuss PL 480, and for that matter everything else, and required no brief.

What gives Patil the self-confidence to put both the Prime Minister and another Cabinet colleague in the dock before the entire country, in this churlish fashion?

It is quite clear that he rests secure in the knowledge that the mighty Land of the Dollar is there to back him to the hilt.

No longer content with the Railways portfolio, Patil is in the field for a climb to a key portfolio.

And the US blackmail has been switched on full steam ahead to back this demand, as well as other similar demands. Apart from certain other notorious ministers, there are candidates from outside the ranks of the present government too. Among the most important of them is at least one other "special envoy" to the West.

The nationwide campaign against PL 480 and against US blackmail round Shastri's visit to Washington, initiated by NEW AGE, has succeeded in creating widespread awareness of the sinister character of imperialist pressures on India.

The Prime Minister himself sensing the public disquiet at signs of weakening before this blackmail, has solemnly declared before Parliament that he will not yield to any pressures.

This is indeed a welcome declaration. But the Indian people would do well not to be lulled into a false sense of complacency merely by this assurance. They must see the assurance in the background of the kowtowing before the US imperialists at least on the PL 480.

They must also view the Prime Minister's assurance in the light of the intensification of the American blackmail.

The fact that the mass campaign against the American blackmail has begun to make itself felt, as witnessed in Shastri's declaration that he will not be pressurised, is proof of how effective popular action can be.

In the coming days, the campaign against American blackmail must be intensified as never before to ensure that there is no further bending before this blackmail at the cost of India's self-respect and dignity, and indeed our independence itself.



A section of the huge mass rally in Bangalore at the close of the National Conference for Defence of Motherland and World Peace which gave the call for a National Protest Day Against American Blackmail on November 27

TASHKENT OR WASHINGTON?

THE Prime Minister has declared once again his willingness to accept the good offices of the Soviet Union for a meeting between him and President Ayub Khan.

He has also rightly insisted that any such meeting must cover the whole ground of Indo-Pakistan relations, and not be used by the Pakistan rulers merely to reiterate their absolutely unacceptable demand for a so-called plebiscite in Kashmir.

The nation is fully behind the Prime Minister's declaration that Kashmir is not negotiable, it is an integral part of this country, and there can be no question of any discussions, which imply directly or indirectly the handing over of Kashmir.

A meeting in Tashkent could be of vital significance not only for the future of Indo-Pakistan relations, but for peace in this region as a whole.

It is clear to the democratic forces in both India and Pakistan that the imperialist powers strive to keep alive the conflict between the two countries for their own nefarious ends.

Unless the whole question of Indo-Pak relations is lifted out of the orbit of imperialism, there can be no question of a settlement.

President Johnson is desperately striving to grab back the initiative, lost as a result of the strong anti-imperialist feelings roused in this country following the anti-Indian stand of the US and British

governments during the Pakistani aggression.

The US government has summoned both the Pakistan President and Prime Minister Shastri to Washington. He dangles before India the bait of PL 480 and other "aid". The blackmail has recently been stepped up.

In these circumstances, the democratic movement in this country must strive, all the more to ensure mass support for the government's decision to accept the offer of Soviet good offices for the Tashkent meeting and reject the summons of Washington.

INDO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP

Indo-Soviet friendship has been demonstrated in numerous ways once again during the Nehru birthday week. The opening of a Russian Institute in the capital is itself a testimony to friendship. So also the Soviet Land Nehru Awards to writers and journalists.

In Parliament, the foreign

policy debate in the Lok Sabha was marked by numerous tributes from all sides of the house to the invaluable support given to India by the Soviet Union. The Prime Minister himself declared:

"The way the Soviet Union has helped us in a difficult period, will be impossible for us to forget. The bond of unity with the USSR will get stronger day by day".

So strong has popular sentiment in support of the Soviet Union become, that even hard-boiled anti-Sovieters like Minoo Masani are forced to admit the fact that the Soviet Union's friendship is necessary for India—to mask their advocacy of an alliance with the imperialist powers.

There is a deep realisation among the vast masses of our land that Indo-Soviet friendship is a vital national necessity for the defence of this country's integrity and sovereignty and for its economic advance.

That is why there is a straight answer to the query... Tashkent or Washington? That answer is: Tashkent, YES: Washington, NO!

NOVEMBER 27
NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST
AGAINST
AMERICAN BLACKMAIL

Confusion in Western Lobby

But Tycoons Still Up

THERE is a strange dichotomy developing on the national scene. The Western lobby appears to be in complete confusion. But that has not come in the way of the Indian tycoons getting their war bonuses.

The foreign affairs debate in the Lok Sabha pinpointed the utter disarray of the anti-Nehru brigade. Even Minoo Masani was forced to state that the Soviet Union was somewhat helpful to India; so strong is the pro-Soviet feeling in the country.

And when he halted at that, Frank Anthony took him to task for his "dangerously loose talk" on Kashmir and went on to shower praise on the Soviet Union and East European countries.

Another sign of the changing times—or rather the mood of the masses—is the belated finding of Ravindra Varma that "nonalignment has served the interests of India."

This shift forced by public opinion among the crusaders of right reaction is virtually all-pervasive. The only incorrigible exceptions are Kripalani and Hanumanthayya.

But when the Gandhian complained that it was foolish on the part of the government to have attempted to solve "international problems with the principles of non-violence", he gave notice to his audience that he was not to be treated seriously.

Like the former Congress President, the former Mysore Chief Minister also does not command much influence. Hanumanthayya's command performance on the British role has further isolated him even though he may soon be out of the doghouse, thanks to his reported inclusion in the administrative reforms commission to be headed by Morarji Desai.

This disarray in the Western lobby is not confined to foreign policy. Even on PL-430, a person like Tarakeshwari Sinha expressed her unhappiness over the arm-twisting which the United States has been doing.

People like Satyanarayan Sinha have started talking of cent per cent friendship with USSR. Editors like Frank Moraes have been demonstrably angry with his erstwhile British friends.

DISCOVERY OF NEHRU: The same crowd is slowly discovering

even Jawaharlal Nehru. Here again, only Acharya Kripalani stood out. To him Nehru's non-alignment was "unmitigated nonsense."

On the other hand, even Guru Golwalkar in a speech otherwise full of reactionary outpourings had to pay

THE WEEK

lip service to Nehru for forging national unity.

Obviously the Jan-Sangh-RSS crowd, after their ignoble performance in the Delhi municipal corporation, have been forced to shift their position—at least in public.

This swing was most evident in Lal Bahadur Shastri himself. Apart from the complaint, privately heard, that he has hardly done anything for the collection of the Nehru memorial fund, the message he issued on the birthday eve was cold stuff.

What was one to make out of such gems strewn in that message as "that is the road (marked out by Nehru) to greater prosperity, expanding freedom and increasing dignity for every Indian."

Or read this piece: "It is the road leading from squalor and slavery through freedom to dignity and fulfilment." Fulfilment of what?

But this shilly-shallying gave way when the birthday came to be celebrated. Shastri, in two speeches, completely reaffirmed the Nehru legacy in all matters setting at rest fears here and abroad.

He said we owed everything to Nehru and the world "socialism" was specifically mentioned.

THE SULKING RICH: Thus in the field of foreign policy and in the matter of remembering Jawaharlal Nehru there has been a positive, forward-looking trend—a reflection of public opinion.

In the midst of that some of the Congress leaders have been denouncing the affluent for sulking and not

doing what it can for the defence effort.

In Madras, Congress President Kamaraj spoke of a gold mobilisation scheme from among the common people. He is annoyed. The rich have let them down. The subscription to gold bonds till November 15 is only of the value of Rs. 1.59 crores at Indian price. Precious little!

UP Congress Chief Kamalapati Tripathi was more specific in giving vent to his injured feelings. Addressing a press conference at Lucknow on November 12, he said "gold bonds have provided an opportunity to the rich to convert their black money into legal wealth. They however preferred to behave like traitors even in this hour of crisis."

TYCOONS GET WAR BONUS: Traitors! But it is these traitors, none else, who are getting the war bonus. Even before the guns are silent these "traitors" all over the country have gone to court to challenge the Bonus Act.

HARE RAM-II

WHISPERING Gallery

MORE slips are showing as Bharat Ram Charat Ram & Co. rush out with apologies about their handsome donation to Pakistan's war fund.

They gave one lakh to Shastri and 20 lakhs to Ayub. When the Pakistan Radio disclosed the discrepancy they came out with an explanation that their mill at Lyalpur (West Punjab) which made the donation had been taken over by the enemy.

That explanation served the purpose of giving the benefit of doubt to them. But now I have before me the balance sheets of the Delhi Cloth & General Mills managed by the two Lalas.

These contain a long list of donations to political parties and other organisations. The list is revealing. The pro-Pakistani bias is writ large on it.

Upto January 31, 1965 donations aggregating to Rs. 1,78,922 were made by the managing agents of which Rs. 1,57,881 went to Pakistan. Samples:

INDIA:

- * District Congress Committee, Kotah—Rs. 3,500;
- * Prime Minister's National Relief Fund—Rs. 10,000;
- * YMCA Building Fund—Rs. 5,000;
- * Deputy Commissioner, Hissar—Rs. 490, etc.

PAKISTAN:

- * Pakistan Muslim League, Karachi—Rs. 50,000;
- * Pakistan Muslim League, Lahore—Rs. 50,000;
- * Officer Commanding, 103 M.V.P.A.F. (Pakistan Air Force)—Rs. 15,375;
- * President, Pakistan Muslim League, Lahore—Rs. 39,379;
- * SHO, Police Station, Factory area—Rs. 400, etc.

In the next lot of donations from February to March-end the Indian National Congress has fared slightly better.

- * All-India Congress Committee, New Delhi—Rs. 10,000;
- * Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee—Rs. 1,500;
- * District Congress Committee, Kotah—Rs. 1,000.

A small portion went to deserving people and institutions also. For instance, Gangaram Hospital, New Delhi, got Rs. 10,000, some Hissar wrestlers, Rs. 1,000 and Lady Shri Ram College was supplied with vanaspati worth Rs. 97.

Here again, the Lalas did not forget Pakistan. The Pakistan High Commission staff children's school in New Delhi received Rs. 299 whereas the Principal, Government College, Hissar, got Rs. 180.

The pro-Pak bias is not confined to distribution of donations. It spills over into investments also. Investment figures of provident fund assets in the 1964-65 balance-sheet are indeed telling.

- * Investment in Indian government securities—Rs. 1,31,079;
- * Investment in Pakistan government securities—Rs. 35,67,299.

In this background the Lalas' explanation about Rs. 20 lakhs for Ayub's war against India will not carry much conviction.

Of course, the Indian government is not disturbed. Indeed, it is honouring Bharat Ram not with a Bharat Ratna for his one lakh but by giving him a place in the forthcoming Administrative Reforms Commission.

—INSIDER



Nehru Jayanti was observed on a wide scale all over the country on November 14. On left is a view of the children's mass PT display in Delhi marking the occasion.