

TALL AND STATELY



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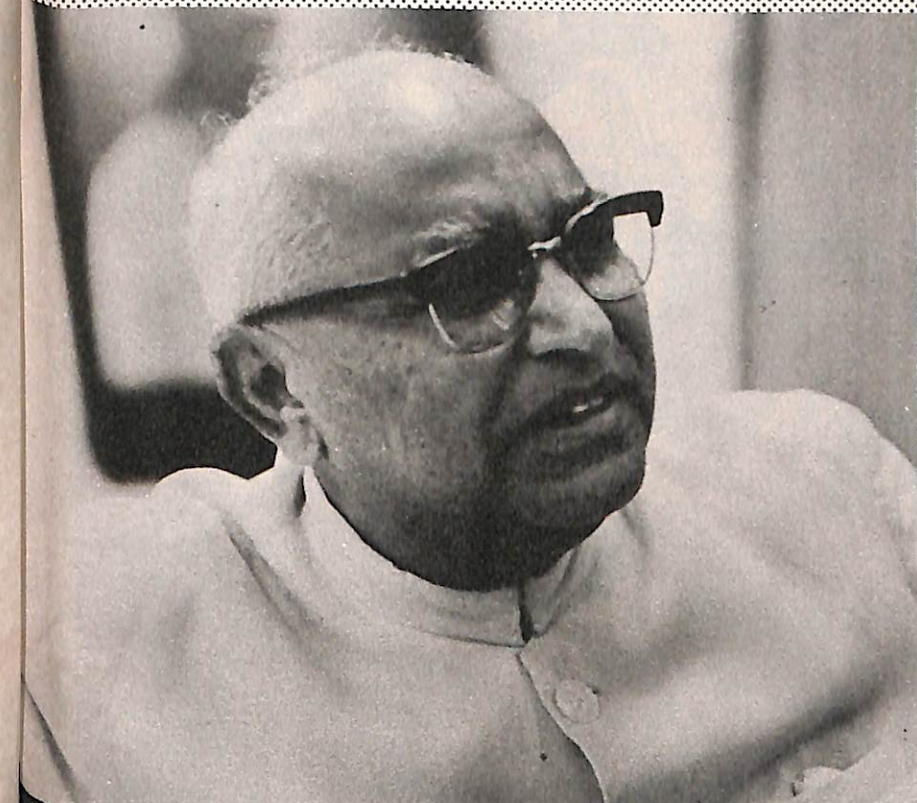
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ASIA'S VOICE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8 1967

MYSORE

MAHARASHTRA



Congress President elect Nijalingappa



PSP Chairman N.G. Goray

Will Sangli Congress be shifted ?

by ANTENNA

Writes against Samati's hate campaign

Exclusive p.8

LEANING ON THE SOVIETS p.22



Indian textiles and world trade—Rome

"There is no year in which India does not drain the Roman Empire of a hundred million sesterces—so dearly do we pay for our luxuries and our women."

PLINY (1st Century A.D.)

As the Roman Empire flourished, luxuries from the East became increasingly popular with the wealthy Romans. The muslins of Bengal, the calicoes of Malabar, the brocades of Gujarat all fetched fabulous prices in Rome. During the reign of Aurelian, Indian silk was sold for its weight in gold!

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Editorials

So right and yet so wrong

WAS THE DEVALUATION of the pound the result of President de Gaulle's deliberate policy to unseat this internationally accepted currency? Some British newspapers have suggested it was, but others less partial blame the pound's innate weakness.

People who know the General say that he is motivated by great conceptions as well as deep-seated resentment against Anglo-Saxon supremacy.

The French President is certainly more than half right in his criticism of the present system of settling international payments. The devaluation of the pound has shown up its weakness. It resulted in an unprecedented run on the gold reserves which ten "rich" nations keep in readiness on the London bullion market to maintain the US dollar at its agreed level of \$35 per ounce.

But underlying the "gold rush" was a crisis of confidence. How long can the American economy sustain the triple weight of war in Vietnam, the building of Johnson's "Great Society" at home, and handing out aid to needy nations? Is it right, de Gaulle seems to ask, that international payments and investments should be made in a currency whose value depends on the virtues and follies of one nation?

"The Americans are buying some of our industries," complained de Gaulle at his press conference. "We know this is not because of their superior organisational ability, but the result of the dollar inflation which they export abroad. . . It is remarkable that the total deficit in the American balance of payments precisely equals the total sum invested by Americans in Western Europe during the last eight years."

This situation could be remedied if an international currency, not linked to any country, were created. At the recent IMF Conference in Rio de Janeiro a first step in that direction was taken. If the arrangement goes through, the International Monetary Fund will be able to "create" money by awarding drawing rights on the Fund. This eventually would liberate Britain from the heavy load of having to sustain a reserve currency, provided people work.

Enough international currency would also benefit developing countries (provided they, too, would work and save). But the essential question would remain: whose voice will prevail in the IMF? De Gaulle prefers technocrats to Anglo-Saxons. Maybe he could learn to recognise the value of both—and others who are neither.

A statesman for India

"A PROPHET is not without honour save in his own land." Union Home Minister Y. B. Chavan has some distance to go as a prophet but he is emerging out of his regional base to become a national figure. The price he pays is attacks on his home ground.

Yeshwantrao B. Chavan struck his roots of power in the soil of Maharashtra. Yet last Sunday, at a rally in Kolhapur, 50,000 cheered Maharashtra Samiti leaders who harangued them against Chavan. They charged Chavan with "betrayal" of Maharashtra's interests on the border issue with Mysore.

Chavan has refused, and rightly, to use his position as Home Minister to swing a decision in favour of

Maharashtra. The action of his that has really annoyed certain Opposition parties, was his firmness with the United Front Ministry in West Bengal. As Union Home Minister, the responsibility for its dismissal is his. The Communists and some others who have lost a base for mischief in India, are furious. They want to make Chavan pay for the "perfidy" and some are using the Maharashtra issue to rock him.

They who want to topple Chavan from his regional base may soon wake up to find Chavan's feet more firmly entrenched on the national scene. Unconsciously, they might even do him a service. It is Maharashtra's privilege to give to India, in Chavan, a national statesman.

Courageous leadership

MR N. G. GORAY has served the people of Poona, Maharashtra and India for well-nigh 40 years. For his distinguished services, all parties in the Poona Municipal Corporation decided recently to sink their differences and honour him with the Mayor's office. He loves Maharashtra as few others do and has written more books in Marathi than some of the tub-thumping rustics of his State have read. It is the latter who are now grasping to snatch leadership of this great State by inciting the feelings of Maharashtra both against Mysore and the Centre.

Speaking at a party conference, Mr Goray, who

also is Chairman of the PSP, warned that Maharashtra would turn out to be "another West Bengal" if the thought was allowed to spread that the Government at Delhi was that of Aurangzeb and hence Maharashtra's relations with the Union Government should be the same as those of Shivaji with the Moghul Darbar.

"Such a thought should not be entertained even if there is injustice on us, for, after all, sustaining nationalism must be our first concern."

Mr Goray's credentials are unquestionable. He is giving a leadership many will respect.

Briefly Speaking...

Rethinking by Nasser

THERE ARE welcome signs from Cairo that President Nasser is easing some controls on those who oppose his Government in thought as well as deed. A recent article in *Al Ahrām*, by Editor Haikal, one of Nasser's most intimate friends, gives evidence of this new liberalisation.

He refers to the release of detained members of the Muslim brotherhood, the return of property to some of the former "reactionary" elements in Egypt, and free debates with questions and answers conducted by the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's only legal party. Mr Haikal felt disappointed at these party meetings, not by the eager and sharp questions put to the officials but by the latter's inadequate and perfunctory answers.

He writes in his article: "Sometimes we confuse slogans with information, whether they are thoughts or fact. That is to say, we talk too much but finally we say nothing."

Delhi papers please copy!

Sterling hat-trick

A COLUMNIST writing in the *London Times* refers to the coincidence that Britain's three devaluations have come in an 18-year cycle (1931, 1949 and 1967). Remarking on Harold Wilson's role in the last two devaluations (Mr Wilson was President of the Board of Trade when the pound was devalued in 1949) the columnist wonders whether "Wilson might still be around to run up a hat-trick in 1985, when he will be only 69".

OVERHEARD in the House of Commons after devaluation of the pound, the following "keep calm" admonition of a Labour MP to his colleagues: "We shall all keep our seats if we all keep our heads!"

Municipal duty

A READER of HIMMAT tells *Birbal* that during the last few months he has received food parcels from relatives abroad. He is puzzled now by a stream of postcards from the Deputy Assessor and Collector of Octroi in the Bombay Municipal Corporation asking him to provide invoices and other evidence of contents and value of each parcel. As the postcards usually arrives two or three months after the parcel, he tells me, it is quite impossible to remember which parcel contained what. One parcel some months ago was assessed for octroi of Re 1.50!

Surely it is a ridiculous waste of time and money by the Corporation trying to collect octroi on items like this sent through the post—even if the practice is not unconstitutional!

The reader also points out that surely where the Customs Department waives duty on food parcels of less than a certain value it is unfair for the Corporation to tax them. It seems like another example of a fool-

If we did not flatter ourselves, the flattery of others would not harm us.

DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULD, 1613-1680

ish tax which, even if it could be collected efficiently, would raise less revenue than the cost of collection.

Double standards

MRS GANDHI certainly proved to be the daughter of her father in her spirited defence of Mr S. S. Dhawan in the Lok Sabha last week. Mr Dhawan's appointment as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom was strongly challenged by many Opposition members, especially in view of his recent statement that "I see no future for Indo-British friendship". She seemed to feel that because the British Government had accepted the appointment, fully aware of his anti-British writing and statements, this closed the matter.

I wonder what the Government's attitude would be to the nomination by the British Government of a High Commissioner to India who had written in similar terms about Indo-British friendship. And what if such an appointee had referred to "Indian treachery"?

Is this another example of the Government's double standards?

Changed his mind

"BANGALORE, Nov. 26—The Chief Minister of Mysore, Mr S. Nijalingappa, told newsmen here today that he had declined the offer of the Presidency of the Congress and had already made that position clear to the concerned quarters in Delhi."—*The Hindu*.

"NEW DELHI, Dec. 1—Mr Nijalingappa was successfully persuaded to accept the post at a meeting of party leaders called by Mrs Gandhi last night. The Congress President (Mr Kamaraj) was not invited to this meeting and he was obviously extremely unhappy at the manner in which a decision about Mr Nijalingappa's candidature was taken without consulting him."—*Times of India*

Such is the unanimity of Congress.

Birbal



from the Capital

Will Sangli Congress be shifted?

by ANTENNA

NEW DELHI Mr Gulzarilal Nanda must surely be one of the unluckiest mortals to embark on politics as a career. Whether you agree with his political and other thinking or not, you cannot help shedding an invisible tear over the raw deal fate or providence or whatever you like has dealt him.

Twice within a period of one and a half years Mr Nanda has acted as Prime Minister of India, only to be abruptly shunted aside to make way for another. But, with the Gandhian humility and patience he has in abundance, he accepted his lot and continued to labour hard for the country's good as a lesser light of the Union Government.

Then, a year ago, he was compelled to step down from the Cabinet itself, the scapegoat, according to his close sympathisers, of the Government's own ineptness in handling the anti-cow-killing agitation in the Capital.

Mr Nanda's tribulations seemed drawing to an end when the word spread that the Prime Minister would have him, and nobody else, as the next President of the Congress Party. With such powerful backing, everybody here who takes a keen interest in national politics, both inside and outside the Congress, thought the presidency was in the bag for him.

This writer ventured to assert a fortnight ago that, barring a miracle, Mr Nanda would step into Mr Kamaraj's chappals when it was time for that gentleman to vacate the throne he had occupied with fluctuating fortunes for four years.

Patil's master-stroke

But, alas, for the best laid plans of mice and men. A miracle was destined to occur. And the miracle-maker was Mr S. K. Patil, who had thrown his own cap into the presidential ring against Mrs Indira Gandhi's candidate.

It was evident that in a contest Mr Nanda would worst the Bombay Congress chieftain. It was therefore a master-stroke for Mr Patil to declare that he would withdraw his candidature if Mrs Gandhi and Mr

Kamaraj would agree on a suitable person who could be elected unanimously to take Mr Kamaraj's place. Mr Patil's battle was half won when the other big guns of the party concurred with him. Mr Nanda was doomed to



Patil: He swung the election

lose because he was clearly unacceptable to a large section of the leadership.

The battle was over without a single shot being fired when Mr Patil went one step further and proposed Mr S. Nijalingappa. It would have been a fatal blunder for Mrs Gandhi's camp to have turned down a nominee from the South as this was bound to be interpreted, after the easing out of Mr Kamaraj, as another instance of "North Indian imperialism".

Mr Patil is nothing if not a bold man, but surely no public act of his was ever bolder than that of nominating Mr Nijalingappa, who is regarded in Maharashtra as the leader

continued on next page

On your toes

HINDI'S GRAVE DIGGERS

ANOTHER nail was driven into Hindi's coffin last week by the rioting students of Lucknow. These linguistic gravediggers were probably too busy shouting in the streets and defacing English signposts to consider how their antics would further alienate non-Hindi areas from their cause.

Ignition for this latest language combustion was switched on by the Language Bill, now before the Lok Sabha, which retains English for official use alongside Hindi. The students' rampage gained top rating on news broadcasts by the BBC, Voice of America and Radio Australia. If only the outside world could have seen them!

A correspondent of *The Pioneer* of Lucknow described thus a group of 50 teenagers who styled themselves as "Hindi Sena" (Army):

"For a short spell, a part of Hazratganj was under the 'Hindi Army' rule. Wearing Western dress, drainpipes, pointed shoes and even neckties — the young boys declared that they would op-

pose tooth and nail 'Angreziat' (English language and remnants of Western culture)"

With cans of white paint or coal tar in their hands and placards identifying themselves they stopped vehicles and while nervous occupants watched helplessly, the Hindi fanatics defaced number plates which had English letters. A procession of students inside Lucknow University removed English name plates from the offices of the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and some faculties. They shouted for closing down the English department "because we don't want English". Attacking English and western culture wearing drainpipe trousers is more ludicrous than convincing. What the promoters and patrons of Hindi do not seem to realise is that though they may be the largest language group in the country they do not have a convincing linguistic majority overall.

Enthusiasts of Hindi may find that they will have to use the English language in their salesmanship of Hindi — especially in the South.

Freebooter

CHALTA HAI...

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BIG SHOT

VERDICT!

This week HIMMAT...

CONGRATULATES the People's Republic of South Yemen on attaining independence, and **HOPES** it will usher in an area of peace and prosperity for all its peoples.

★

TOOTS its horn over **BEST** (Bombay Electric Supply and Transport) balancing its budget for the first time in years, and **CALLS** on it to use its improved finances to improve its public services.

★

CONDEMNS the violence of MLAs at the abortive West Bengal Assembly meeting and **DENOUNCES** goondaism in streets or legislatures as damaging the interests of the people.

★

LIKENS the Lok Sabha Bill empowering Government to liquidate ailing textile mills to calling in the undertaker when doctor is needed.

★

IS HEARTENED by Cement Manufacturers' Association President Somani announcing that his industry would export three lakh tons of cement next year, and **REMARKS** that this advance has followed Government decontrol of the product.

★

QUESTIONS if incoming Bihar Governor Nitayanand Kanungo's assessment of his role—"I will not see, hear or speak, not only evil, but anything"—is correct and **WONDERS** what he expects to do as Governor.

★

IS CHEERED by the all-India tax executives' statement that lower taxes would produce more revenue by lessening tax evasion, and **IS DEPRESSED** by Minister of State for Finance K. C. Pant saying income tax arrears stand at Rs 205 crores out of a total annual collection of Rs 640 crores.

★

AWARDS a wooden spoon to the Posts and Telegraphs for taking 50 days to deliver a telegram sent from Orissa to Junagadh, Gujarat

ANTENNA—from page 5

of the "enemy" in the dispute over border adjustments and the sharing of the Krishna-Godavari waters.

The Mysore Chief Minister may not be as acceptable to Mrs Gandhi as Congress overlord as Mr Nanda, but he is not totally unacceptable either. True, he was at one stage a fervent supporter of the Syndicate, and Mr Patil's move to put him in the top spot in the party may be uncharitably interpreted as the first step towards the political rehabilitation of the discredited and dissolving syndicate. But at the moment Mr Nijalingappa is non-aligned so far as the party balance of forces is concerned, and so long as he stays that way Mrs Gandhi can have no reasonable grounds for complaint. With Mr Kamaraj fading out, Mr Nijalingappa will be the main spokesman of the South in the highest echelons of the party's policymakers.

It is a sad commentary on the low level to which the outgoing President's prestige has sunk in the party that while the nocturnal parleys which ended in the decision to nominate Mr Nijalingappa were taking place here Mr Kamaraj was sleeping off his dinner soundly in his official residence, No 4 Jantar Mantar Road.

One thing left for Mr Kamaraj

The next morning, when the news was broken to him, Mr Kamaraj could not repudiate the choice, for he, like Mrs Gandhi, had to bear in mind that the man proposed as his successor was a Southerner. He could only give vent to his choler at being bypassed by asserting that Mr Nijalingappa should not hold two offices, Chief Minister and party President, simultaneously. Now all there is left for Mr Kamaraj is to retire gracefully to his native Tamilnad and cultivate his garden or write his memoirs, brooding at the same time over the ingratitude of mankind.

There is open wailing and teeth-grashing over Mr Nijalingappa's nomination here only among the Congress members of Parliament from Maharashtra, and if perchance Mr Dharia contests for the Presidentship, they will presumably vote for him, as a protest against the choice of the head of the government of an "unfriendly" state.

The big question asked is: Where does Mr Chavan stand in all this?

He certainly cannot be any too happy at this turn of events. But who can tell what dark thoughts are passing through his head.

One thing is, however, abundantly clear. Mr Patil has staged a comeback in top-level Congress politics with a bang. Those who crossed him off as a political has-been after the reverses he suffered in the general election and subsequently, are now busy removing the crosses.

The whisper is even going around that he was offered the Ministry of Defence not many nights ago, as the present holder of this portfolio, Swaran Singh, is to be shifted to External Affairs.

One of the first results of Mr S. Nijalingappa's elevation as Congress President may be that the all-India Congress Committee will have to find a new venue for the annual Party session in January.

Possible trouble at Sangli

To signal its disapproval of the choice of the Mysore Chief Minister, it is said here that the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee, which was to play host at Sangli, will shortly write to the AICC General Secretary expressing its inability to fulfil its commitment.

The reason the MPCC will give for changing its mind will be, according to knowledgeable persons here, that it cannot give any guarantee that the session will be trouble-free since a Mysorean will preside over it.

The Sampurna Maharashtra Samiti has already given notice that it will conduct agitation against the Mahajan award at Sangli when the session is in progress.

A poser for Congress

If the MPCC withdraws its invitation to play host, it may be necessary to postpone the meet as finding a substitute venue at such short notice may pose a serious problem.

Of the other five states under Congress rule, Rajasthan is ruled out because it hosted last year's session at Jaipur.

Of the rest, none are said to be keen to shoulder the arduous task.

If Mysore offers to do so, there may be anti-Maharashtra demonstrations to cope with, and on the other hand the Maharashtra delegates might decide to stay away from the meeting rather than be the object of such unwelcome attention.

WEST BENGAL

Sore throats in Calcutta

FROM DAVID SASSOON

FROM THE SMALL hours of the morning on November 29, the crowd trickled in from all sides of Calcutta and its neighbourhood and converged to the Assembly. The police were on the scene in full force. Section 144 had been imposed and so no group dared to join in a procession. But they dribbled in, in twos and threes. By about 12.30 pm that day the crowds around Assembly House were quite thick.

The first group that became a mob attempted to charge the police in force in the Curzon Park area. The police resorted to a lathi charge in which a few were injured and some were rounded up. On the High Court end, a bunch of 30 formed, which refused to move and began to bawl out defiant slogans. This led to several lathi charges and many were arrested. Two persons I saw had their heads besmeared with blood.

Meanwhile, in the Assembly itself, most of the MLAs had collected well before 1 pm. When Dr P. C. Ghosh, Chief Minister, came in at 12.30 pm, he was cheered by the Congress and People's Democratic Front MLAs but booed by the United Front. At 12.55 pm the Speaker, Mr Bejoy Banerjee, entered and the House became quiet. In that pregnant

SAY THAT AGAIN...

A government should not be toppled with the help of defectors.

DR P. C. GHOSH, West Bengal Chief Minister

I am, after all, a worker too.

Deputy Prime Minister
MORARJI DESAI

There is no resistance to speaking Hindi in the South.

Mysore Chief Minister,
S. NIJALINGAPPA

silence, the Speaker declared that he was adjourning the Assembly *sine die* as he felt the Government was illegal.

The Congress and PDF MLAs were stunned but by the time they had recovered, the Speaker had finished about three-quarters of his speech. There was pandemonium and the few dissident voices were drowned in a roar of confusion. In the middle of the row, a pillow, an ink bottle and a wooden block were hurled at the Chief Minister by unidentified persons. The wooden block hit him. The Assembly meeting lasted 14 minutes.

Outside on the Assembly lawns, the news trickled out. The mob that had been cowed by the police a little while back was suddenly rejuvenated. Ding-dong and the fighting began.

While I was noting down details, a group suddenly cut me off from my Press friends and asked me whether I was a reporter. When I answered in the affirmative, they wanted to know what had happened in the Assembly. After I related the proceedings, they went into ecstasies, so much so that I had difficulty in extricating myself therefrom. One fellow told me: "Why you hurry? Worry not. We will not injure you though you be a friend of the police."

The Officer in Command, Mr Ronald Moore, looked a thoroughly harassed man. Solidly built (he was an ex-boxer), this tough police officer stood about six feet above the ground. Half his face was covered with a helmet. Occasionally, he doffed his headgear, passed his hands over his short-cropped hair and mopped his brow.

At one stage, a barrister came out of the High Court and challenged Mr Moore to a duel. He told him to throw away his gun and have a hand-to-hand fight. The OC, looking down on the spindly character, retorted. "I am not going to have a duel with you, neither am I going to doff my gun—but I am going to arrest you." And he arrested the barrister.

At 2.16 pm the police lathi-charged again. This time a Bengali film artiste, Mr Sombu Bhattacharyya, who sustained a skull injury, was carried away to the safety of the Town Hall. He was bandaged by his friend and then paraded around. The people wanted a martyr and the artiste was willing to play that role in a real-life drama.

At 2.43 pm Mr Ajoy Mukherjee, the UF leader and ex-Chief Minister, like a benign Caesar showed himself to the people from the Assembly House balcony and waved to them.

At 3.00 pm, the West Bengal Legislative Council met under the Chairmanship of Dr Pratap Chandra Guha Roy (Congress). Altogether 51 MLAs were Congressmen and 21 belonged to the UF. The moment Dr Guha Roy entered, a number of the UF began yelling and shaking clenched fists. They also shouted slogans stating that they did not recognise the Government of Dr P. C. Ghosh.

Dignified Chief Minister

The Chairman by this time got hold of his place and sat tight while he read out a statement declaring Dr Ghosh's Ministry legal. Immediately the Chairman's dais was surrounded by UF members and Dr Guha Roy was pushed out.

More confusion followed, in which several UF men rushed to the Chief Minister, calling him a renegade and traitor, adding that they did not recognise his Government. In the middle of the ruckus, the Chairman managed to adjourn the Council *sine die*. Through all the pandemonium, Dr Ghosh sat silent—a picture of dignity.

Outside the House, the crowds grew wilder and the police used more force. In one incident, a policeman arrested two people, but someone, who posed as a reporter, forcibly released them. The OC approached this person, who now took refuge with the Pressmen and was furiously "taking down notes" for his "paper". The Pressmen were angry and roundly chided the "reporter" for meddling with police affairs.

At 4.00 pm the mounted police moved in and the crowds were pushed back. Five minutes later, Dr P. C.

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Warning against Samiti campaign

"The foundation on which our forefathers built is today crumbling..."

N. G. GORAY WRITES FOR HIMMAT

I AM ONE of those who hold that the Mahajan Report has hit Maharashtra below the belt. But even I was surprised and pained by what was said in Kolhapur the other day by some of the leaders of the Samiti. To the vast emotionally charged gathering an all-India leader admonished that Maharashtra will have to fight against the Congress as we fought the British in days gone by. Another Maratha patriot compared the Delhi government with that of Aurangzeb and then elaborated on the theme by suggesting that we shall have to carry on our struggle like Shivaji. Yet another wanted martyrs like Babu Genu and said that blood will have to be shed. The operative part of the deliberations stipulated that all roads leading to Sangli shall be blocked by forming human walls so as to make it impossible for the Congress session to be held.

All this came as a painful surprise to me. Not because Mysore and Maharashtra had fallen out on a particular issue and there was a great deal of resentment in the latter against the findings of Justice Mahajan. What created a traumatic effect on my mind was the parochial vehemence of the attack, the poisoned atmosphere of hatred it has created and the paroxysm of rage the so-called leaders of the people were exhibiting, blissfully ignorant of its impact on their listeners.

Sub-nationalism

I venture to submit that in every federal constitution it is presumed that from time to time there would arise disputes between its constituent units and also between the Centre and the states on a variety of subjects, but the overall loyalty to the idea that the Centre as well as the

AIRMAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The following increases in airmail subscriptions are announced, due to devaluation:

U.K.	from £ 3.5.0 to £ 3.15.0
Denmark	from £ 5.0.0 to £ 6.0.0
New Zealand	from £ 5.15.0 to £ 6.15.0
Ireland	from £ 4.0.0 to £ 4.15.0

The Nation

national struggle are the victims of such acute sub-nationalism.

India was never a nation in the past. The bonds of religion and culture or even of central authority were more notional than real. They never stopped us from infighting, siding with the enemy or from changing colours overnight. Today's India reminds us of India on the eve of Islamic or British onslaught. Sub-national chauvinism is the God of today. The pity is that no one wants to stop it though even now there are enough wise and patriotic souls in the land who could stop the rot only if they had the will and the courage.

Opposition's ethics questioned

BY R. M. LALA

THE OPPOSITION'S ETHICS are now being called into question. Independent member and doyen of the Lok Sabha, Acharya J. B. Kripalani has accused some of the Opposition: "When it serves our purpose we have one standard of conduct and when it does not, we have another." The democratic opposition will soon have to decide who is the greater enemy — the Congress or those parties who flirt with China and other powers.



Acharya J. B. Kripalani

Mr Ajoy Mukherjee on October 2 was to resign as Bengal's Chief Minister and release a letter. His Congress opponents have now released if to the press as he did not have the courage or the decency to do it. The letter states, in part:

"The Left Communists are pro-China. They want to enact a bloody revolution with the help of China. Brisk preparations are going on for this. If a bloody chaos begins in West Bengal with China's help, perhaps for 10 or 20 years, Assam, Manipur, Tripura and parts of Bihar and Orissa will become the playfield of the latest lethal weapons of foreign powers."

When such a government as Mukherjee's is dismissed, all democratic parties should breathe a sigh of relief rather than agitate against the Union Government for the action it has taken. As Dr K. M. Munshi said in HIMMAT last week, the situation in Bengal was "ripe enough for the intervention of the President by evoking the emergency powers". The President chose not to do so but to give another democratic party the chance to form a Government.

It is the more patriotic in the United Front who broke with it. It is the hungry power-seekers who have stayed behind. PSP Chairman Goray is reported to have honestly stated that some of the Bengal PSP, keen on power, clung to the UF.

If the SSP were equally honest their leadership would admit that they were unhappy over the tactics of the Left Communists in Naxalbari and that they were concerned that their SSP Minister in the Mukherjee Ministry loved his chair more than his socialist principles. Nothing but political expediency is now provoking the volte-face on the part of its leaders.

All non-Communist opposition parties need in all honesty to decide to answer this question, whether their main opponent is Congress or the pedlars of anarchy. They need to bury their differences with the Congress and back it whenever a decision is taken by the Congress in the larger interests of the nation.

FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

Price of devaluation

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia has been rocked and shocked by violence following devaluation. This country has two currencies: the "old" dollar that was tied to the pound and the "new" dollar. The "old" dollar has been devalued by 15 per cent, the "new" dollar has not.

The main sufferers are on one hand the banks and on the other hand the small people who have been saving their dollars in a box at home, trusting more in the word "British" and the picture of the Queen than in the Government's new Bank Negara notes. People had been encouraged to exchange their old notes for new ones, but they had been given no deadline.

Some people here feel the Government may have been legally right but morally wrong in this devaluation decision. The left-leaning Labour Party, playing on popular resentment against devaluation, proclaimed a hartal in Penang, biggest city and port in the northern part of the country.

Before the organisers of this hartal knew it, the demonstrations got out of hand, 27 people were reported killed and hundreds injured. Curfew

was clamped down on Penang and neighbouring districts.

Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman, speaking to the nation, described how the mob first turned on Chinese, then on Indian shopkeepers. "Then they turned their violence on the small Malay stallholders who sell cakes and *goreng pisang*, destroying the food. Hell broke loose. Malays retaliated with violence and what originally was a Communist resistance against the Government and the people, turned into a Sino-Malay conflict." The Tunku added that these troublemakers "don't really care about devaluation. Any excuse will do to cause trouble."

The violence in Penang has served as an eye-opener for many people, who hope that the Government will not only deal firmly with troublemakers but also work persistently to remove the root causes of violence.

Harold Wilson — frankness at last

FROM GORDON WISE

LONDON The body politic of Britain has been breaking out in a rash of candour since devaluation.

"The last two weeks have been hell," said the Prime Minister on Independent Television. He even said that devaluation had been "a setback" and a "defeat"—and that the Government had made a number of mistakes.

In fact his frankness was in such contrast to his making even a reluctant admission of defeat in the House of Commons that it was conjectured that power was passing from Parliament to the mass media. When a politician knows that

continued on next page

Ek - minit!



"Get the hell out of here!"

The week in ASIA

ADEN — With South Arabia and four small islands Aden became free after 129 years of British rule. NLF Chief Quhtan Ashabi took over as President of the People's Republic of Southern Yemen.

LAHORE — Former Foreign Minister Bhutto launched the Pakistan People's Party, a new left-wing opposition party dedicated to bring "Islamic Socialism" to Pakistan. He told a convention: "Islam is our faith, democracy our policy."

JAKARTA — 160 people died when the Sempor Dam burst in Central Java, releasing a 150-foot wall of water onto three villages. The floods cut off rail traffic and caused extensive damage. Latest reports say that the disaster may have been caused by sabotage.

PENANG — Seven days of unbridled Malay-Chinese clashes ended after Government proclaimed a state of danger and rounded up pro-Communist Labour Party leaders.

SINGAPORE — Parliament unanimously re-elected Yusof Bin Ishak as President of the Republic for four years.

KARACHI — A German-Swiss consortium is likely to win the contract to build the 900 million-dollar Tarbela Dam on the Indus. The dam is part of a joint Indo-Pakistani project to irrigate the Indus basin.

SYDNEY — Using Skylark space research rockets, Australian and British scientists located a bright X-ray star near the Southern Cross and the constellation Centaurus. X-ray stars — similar to ordinary stars — emit invisible energy at X-ray wave length as well as (or instead of) visible light.

HONG KONG — Students at Peking's Institute of Physical Culture do arm-stretching and knee-bending exercises to the accompaniment of songs of quotations from Mao. It gets better results in body-building, says the New China News Agency.

DARWIN — Rats swarming across a 50,000 square-mile area and eating everything from doormats to old boots have now started devouring each other. They thrive in the intense heat of Queensland's Barkly tablelands and only the next rains will drown them in the cracked earth.

his reactions are seen by millions of voters on their TV screens—the “one-eyed monsters” in popular parlance—then frankness is somehow encouraged.

Some say that the example of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he made his speech on devaluation in the House, may have helped Mr Wilson. “It was the speech which the PM should have made,” said a Labour back bencher. Mr Callaghan did not minimise the drawbacks of devaluation but, at the same time, gave a hint of a philosophy more satisfying than pragmatism.

“I want to see social democracy work and succeed,” he said, “and I believe it can. If it is to do so we have to look behind the economic motivation, and much deeper. We want a nation not only concerned with economic motivation, but a nation that is both proud and self-reliant and passionate.”

“Inevitable,” says ordinary man

The man in the street of Britain, whether he be bowler-hatted or cloth-capped, reacted to devaluation with characteristic British phlegm, for the most part. “It was inevitable,” was the most common comment. Most seemed to be sobered by warnings that devaluation itself did not make for solvency. All it does is buy time in which to lift productivity, in which to decide to import and consume less, and to export more. The short reason for devaluation is that for years Britain has been living beyond her income.

The giant British Motor Holdings (BMC—makers of Austin, Morris and other best sellers) are optimistic. They say they will be able to export an extra 100,000 cars next year. The Confederation of British Industries circulated its members complaining that Government measures accompanying devaluation do not encourage industry. The Trades Union Congress has given grudging assent to the Government’s appeal that they discourage inflationary wage claims which could fast negate the lower export prices made possible by devaluation.

In the midst of all this, praise for the ordinary British worker came from an unexpected source, the

Union Bank of Switzerland. The first overseas branch of this bank has just been opened for business in the City of London “on schedule”. This was despite the fact that the management, the contractors and the architects thought it well-nigh impossible to finish the job before the end of the year.

Ninety-one embarrassed building workers each received a Swiss watch

“Credibility gap”—the right to lie

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

LOS ANGELES Rarely has a two-word phrase commanded the centre of America’s political stage like “credibility gap”. In the euphemisms of politics, reporters have begun to note the disconcerting manner in which high administration officials would make announcements which later seemed to have been deliberately misleading for various reasons of policy or for purely political considerations.

Publishers complained of “managed news”. It was less harsh to say the President and his key aides suffered from a “credibility gap” than to accuse them of outright lying.

The unrepudiated statement of Mr Arthur Sylvester, chief Pentagon spokesman under both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, that the Government has a right to lie in times of crisis, did not improve citizen confidence in the pronouncements of their leaders. Mr Sylvester, now out of the Government, is currently making vigorous defences of justified mendacity, notably in a recent issue of *Saturday Evening Post*.

The *Wall Street Journal* calls the credibility gap a “spreading infection” and documents the problems that a number of leaders of both parties are having with the problem of truth.

The latest to run afoul of the problem is Ronald Reagan, California’s Governor, who has recently experienced the most meteoric rise in national popularity of all the “non-candidates” for the 1968 Republican nomination for President.

It is widely known that Lyn Nofziger, Mr Reagan’s communications advisor, in October told a number of people that two of the California

and were given a luncheon to show the bank’s gratitude. Dr Alfred Hartmann, Deputy General Manager of the bank, told them, “We all know that the British in difficult times and in difficult situations have always shown perseverance and determination. We enjoy another proof of this. The same qualities will help the British to overcome the difficult times ahead.” That just about says it.

Governor’s staff had been asked to resign on account of homosexual activities. However, when asked about Washington columnist Drew Pearson’s revelation that this was so, Mr Reagan denied it and forced Mr Nofziger publicly to confirm the denial.

The problem is particularly complicating for Mr Reagan because of his other repeated charges of corruption against the National Democratic administration and his opposing stance as a “Mr Clean”. Observers have also noted that the Governor’s usual political sure-footedness forsook him, as he could have scored points by confirming his insistence on clean standards for his staff.

Two explanations may be surmised: 1) an overweening desire to discredit Drew Pearson, who has kept a steady drumfire of hostility toward the former actor from the moment he entered public life, and 2) the contagious virus of the so-called “new morality”.

The second would probably be denied. Indeed, Mr Reagan recently made a speech in Kansas in which he deplored the tendency in the academic community to deny the existence of “absolutes”. Yet, in a later press conference, when queried again about the truth surrounding his handling of the homosexual incident, the Governor said that if there was a “credibility gap”, he himself was responsible because “I have refused to participate in destroying people’s lives”.

This can only be translated to



Mr Reagan

mean that Mr Reagan had abandoned his own reputation for honesty to protect the reputation of the two staffers who resigned.

The motive may seem laudable, but the results have been disastrous. The Governor has unquestionably damaged his chances for the Presidential prize in 1968. The problem of the “new morality” is that once a person says he will bend the truth if, in his judgement, the “ethics of the situa-

tion” require a lie to help others, then people will cease believing anything he says.

The cynicism among the general electorate about the straightness of their leaders may be a greater crisis for democracy in America in 1968 than Vietnam or domestic upheavals. It is an issue that is not being squarely met. It will not be met by those who seek from it political advantage.

Switch in Morocco

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

RABAT A remarkable change of policy has taken place in Morocco in the last two months which could set the pace for other developing countries. King Hassan II, Morocco’s young go-ahead monarch, has decided that agricultural rather than industrial development is the key to the solution of Morocco’s economic problems.

Observing that the efforts of Morocco, aimed at becoming the granary of her European and African neighbours, are within reach of success, the *Financial Times* of London commented: “The efforts needed to attain the objective of bringing one million hectares under cultivation are, according to the specialists, perfectly capable of being realised.”

The young King, in his recent Tangiers speech announcing the new policy, showed considerable statesmanship. He stated that Morocco with its population of 14 million could feed herself on 300,000 hectares properly developed. But, as a thorough study had revealed, the country could perfectly well develop fully one million hectares, leaving 700,000 hectares available for export

of food to Africa and Europe. These exports could produce the revenue needed for all the development projects needed by a modern developing nation. All this, of course, depends on every Moroccan working all out to make the policy work.

Quoting from the Koran, His Majesty said, “The value of any human action can only be measured by the aim which inspires it. If,” he continued, “our aim is right, our arms and sinews will work without fatigue. Why not consider our national enterprise a prototype for the developing nations to imitate...?”

He then elaborated the practical programme of development in detail, aimed at tripling Morocco’s food production and reaching the million hectare target.

Tamils to stay in Ceylon Government

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

COLOMBO A resolution demanding that the Federal Party, representative of over two million Tamils in Ceylon, quit the Government coalition has been defeated—after some riotous scenes. Though the voting was 71-10, the Federal Party’s General Council will meet again on January 31 next year to decide what further action to take if the Prime Minister has not honoured his agreements with them. Should the Federalists leave the coalition, there is little doubt that the National Government would fall.

The nationalisation of Trincomalee Port, a largely Tamil area, without consultation with their Party is one major grievance the Party have against the Government, and the General Council severely condemned it in a resolution.

A crowd of demonstrators outside the meeting yelled slogans with

their demands, including the resignation of Mr M. Tiruchelvam, the Minister of Local Government who represents the Federal Party in the Government. The demonstrators claimed to be members of the Party’s Youth League, although Federal Party President Dr Naganathan main-

continued on next page

The week in INDIA

CALCUTTA — In a dramatic move, Speaker B. K. Banerjee adjourned the Assembly sine die after declaring illegal, Governor Dharma Vira’s appointment of Dr P. C. Ghosh as Chief Minister. The Governor immediately prorogued the Assembly.

NEW DELHI — By 181 votes to 25 the Lok Sabha permitted Home Minister Chavan to introduce the Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 1967. Meanwhile, in Varanasi and other UP towns, police dispersed riotous students agitating against English.

IMPHAL — With the rejoining of one of the defectors from the United Front, Congress regained an absolute majority in Manipur. Five more defectors have applied for readmission to the party.

BOMBAY — Veteran revolutionary Senapati Bapat passed away after a brief illness.

HYDERABAD — Striking students in Telengana damaged 130 road transport buses and attacked shops and local trains. They protested against the rise in tuition fees in Government schools.

LUCKNOW — Two Communist Ministers of the UP Ministry decided to quit for failure of the Chief Minister to yield to several demands of their party.

CHANDIGARH — Punjab’s new Chief Minister, Lachhman Singh Gill, urged that the Prime Minister should arbitrate in the Chandigarh and Bhakar disputes immediately.

WARANGAL — Miss Manuben Gandhi, grand-daughter of Mahatma Gandhi, said that the faith of the people in the country’s leadership was slowly ebbing away. Ministers felt they were rulers only to exercise power and not to serve the people.

TRIVANDRUM — Kerala Chief Minister Namboodiripad hailed Mao Tse-tung as a “great theoretician and a man of action”, but did not consider him infallible. “I want to study and restudy his writings, for they have turned a whole society upside down,” he said.

MADRAS — Chief Minister Annadurai objected to the use of the expression “police dogs” by members in the Assembly. He wanted them to say “detective dogs used by the police” instead.

tained that many were Communists. The Working Committee of the Federal Party Youth League in a meeting the previous evening had put forward three resolutions for the General Council's consideration.

The week elsewhere

PANAMA TREATY THREAT

PANAMA—With the collapse of the Government coalition in Panama last week, hopes of early ratification of treaties concluded last June between the US and President Robles have vanished. After three years of talks it was agreed between the United States and the Robles administration that while Panamanian sovereignty would be extended over

These were: 1) The setting up of District Councils (The Government has already agreed to have these established by January); 2) the creation of a Tamil University; and 3) The withdrawal of military personnel from the precincts of Konneswaran Temple and declaring the area around the temple sacred.

the Canal zone and Panama would gain increased revenue from the Canal, effectual control would remain in US hands. The US would also maintain military bases in the area and gain an option to build a sea-level canal in Panamanian territory in the future. With a turbulent political campaign already launched in preparation for the Presidential election next May, opposition to the Canal treaty has been mounting.

Tackling world rice shortage

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN MANILA

MORE THAN HALF the world's rice is grown mainly in the Asian tropics. But the average national yields in these densely populated regions are deplorably low compared to those in temperate countries.

The most urgent task at this stage of world development is to raise rice yields to cope with the demand for food of the rapidly increasing populations of tropical Asia. Through research, The International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines is trying to raise not only the quantity, but also the quality, of rice.

Most rice varieties can be classified loosely into either *indica* or *japonica* types. The established varieties in tropical Asia are the *indicas*, which are tall and weak-stemmed, with a profusion of long, drooping, pale-green leaves. The yield response of *indica* varieties to improved cultural practices is generally disappointing. Nitrogen application, for example, often leads to taller and leafier plants but little or no additional grain.

Japonica varieties, typical of the

temperate zone, are by contrast, short, sturdy plants with erect, short, dark-green leaves. In temperate areas, they yield highly and respond in terms of grain yield to nitrogen applications and other improved cultural practices. When grown in the tropics, however, their sensitivity to temperature or day length usually results in early maturity and stunted development.

A further group of varieties, grown in sub-tropical areas such as Taiwan and the southern United States, are regarded as *indicas* but in plant type resemble *japonica* varieties.

Since high-yielding rice varieties, whether *indicas* or *japonicas*, are of a particular plant type, the logical objective is to develop such types for tropical conditions. To achieve the desired plant type, Institute plant

THAIS CRACK DOWN

BANGKOK—Strict martial law has been extended to five provinces in central and southern Thailand where Communist infiltration has been reported on the up-grade. In seven provinces of the north east, martial law has been in force for several years but this recent decision underlines the Thai Government's growing concern about the strength of Communist insurgents in areas near the capital, Bangkok.

AUSTRALIAN DROUGHT

MELBOURNE—Church leaders throughout Victoria held special prayers last Sunday for the breaking of one of the worst droughts Victoria has ever suffered. The Roman Catholic and Anglican Archbishops both announced that prayers would continue until Christmas Eve. Meanwhile the toughest water restrictions ever imposed in any Australian city came into effect.

breeders have crossed short-statured *indicas*, particularly from Taiwan, and tall *indicas* from the tropics. *Indica-japonica* crosses have also been made.

So far, the more promising selections have been crosses between the tall *indicas* from the tropics and the short-statured ones from Taiwan. One such selection, now known as the variety IR8, has topped yield trials in almost every Asian country in which it was tested. In India and the Philippines, it topped 10,000 kilograms a hectare during the dry season. Even during the cloudy monsoon season, yields of between 5000 and 9000 kg/ha have been obtained in India, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Improved varieties, however, will not by themselves solve the rice problem. No matter how good a variety is, it will not realise its potential under conditions of inadequate control of weeds, insects and diseases, unsatisfactory cultural methods, and poor soil and water management.

For this reason, research programmes in the other departments of IRRI have been directed toward determining the most promising conditions under which the new, improved rice varieties would yield best.

"The date was January 17, 1956..."

IN 1966, one man in particular covered himself with glory at the Commonwealth Games held in Kensington. He won a gold medal for the 50 metres freestyle, a silver in the pentathlon and three bronzes (two for swimming, one for a relay race).

For an ordinary man this would have been a remarkable feat but then Peter Stanton is more than ordinary. His story is one of grit and conviction. Peter is paralysed from the waist down and the relay race he took part in was in wheel chairs.

I met him at the famous shipbuilding firm of Lithgows in Scotland,



Peter Stanton talks with HIMMAT correspondent Vijitha Yapa in Scotland.

where he was at his usual job as a welder. I did not see any sign of disability as he worked while he talked, answering my questions.

"I remember the date so well—January 17, 1956." He was working high up in one of the yards and suddenly...he was falling. The accident injured his spine and for the next two years his home was a hospital in Glasgow. Doctors would examine him and confer about him but he was kept in the dark about his true position. Being the only spinal case there did not help either. It was at Stoke Mandeville, the world's first spinal unit, that Peter discovered where he stood. He was told which muscles he had and which ones he could use and of the effort needed to help himself.

"Everybody else was in the same boat, except most of them were worse off than me." It was here that Peter found hope that he could live for

something again. Constant exercises bore fruit. He had been a fairly successful swimmer in local competitions and an invitation to compete in the Stoke Mandeville Games brought out his hidden talents. He won a gold medal for the 25 yards very comfortably.

My inquiries about Stoke Mandeville revealed an amazing story. Doctor Ludwig Guttman initiated it soon after the war. He was always experimenting with new methods to cheer up his patients and also to convince them that their disabilities were not as bad as they looked. He believed in them using their undamaged limbs and came up with the idea of the Stoke Mandeville Games. He started with shot put, javelin and wheel chair football.

Foreign doctors were interested in his methods and their visits to the centre resulted in the growth of such games in their countries. The annual Stoke Mandeville Games is now international and hosts competitors from over 26 countries, who send their best teams from their own national games. The 1966 games saw 350 wheel chair athletes. Interest and popularity is continuing to grow all the time.

Paraplegic teams hold their own games under the management of the Commonwealth Games. The Olympic Committee recognised paraplegic athletes in 1960. Rome and Tokyo saw fierce competition and the Games in Mexico promise to be more competitive than before. Peter's own performances at the Olympics is quite remarkable, too. In Rome, he won a silver medal for the backstroke, while in Tokyo he ended up fourth in the freestyle.

"I am looking forward with tremendous excitement to the Mexico Games and am practising hard for the pentathlon. The events are swimming, archery, javelin, shot put and 100 yards wheelchair race. For some events, I will just have to depend on physical fitness." Among many other competitive events now are basket ball, table tennis and bowls.

My inquiry about whether the competitions are run on age limits revealed that there are four classes

ON THE Spot
HIMMAT meets people

and the divisions are decided according to the degree of disability. Peter was selected for the first Empire Games in Australia and trained vigorously for it. In top form he eagerly looked forward to getting down to battle with the other nations. Then disaster—he arrived too ill to compete. Since then, Peter has gone a long way.

"I lead a very normal life. I married in 1958 and am the proud father of 3 children," he said, dispelling all doubts in my mind about his future. He is a living example of faith, and courage. His mates treat him normally and he certainly does not use his permanent injury to draw attention to himself or to do poor work. In fact, I was told he works even more than many others.

He is a contrast to those in some countries, especially in Asia, who use even small disabilities for personal gain. We certainly wish him all the luck in the next Olympics and hope he can visit Asia in the near future.

V. Y.

MAN OF THE YEAR

Who is your Man of the Year? Himmat wants to know.

Write your selection (Indian or foreign) on a post card and mail it to reach by December 22:

Man of the Year,
HIMMAT Weekly,
294 Bazargate St.,
Bombay 1.

Readers' preferences along with HIMMAT's own selection will be published on December 29.

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C I B A

A Lamp that has shone for half a century

A LAMP FOR INDIA, The Story of Mrs Pandit, by Robert Hardy Andrews (Arthur Baker Ltd.) pp. 406.

HAVING just read "A Lamp for India—The story of Madame Pandit" and "Friends Not Masters", the autobiography of President Ayub Khan, one could wish that those in India would read President Ayub's autobiography and those in Pakistan the story of Mrs Pandit.

"A Lamp for India" is nearly as much a biography of the Nehru family as it is of Mrs Pandit herself. In early childhood Madame Pandit, then "The Little Daughter", aped her older brother, Mr Nehru, in everything. "I cannot remember a time", she says, "when I did not try to make him proud of me."

The carefree, happy, privileged days at Anand Bhavan, "the House of Joy", under the benevolent and firm hand of father Motilal Nehru gave place step by step to the heroic breaking with the comforts and customs of the past. The Freedom struggle brought a totally different way of life.

Hurried wedding

The breaking up of the Nehru home, the selling or seizing of family treasures, the heartless arrests and rigorous imprisonments of member after member of the family is described. Anticipating such action from the British the wedding of "The Little Daughter" was hurried forward.

Ranjit Sitaram Prasad arrived uninvited at Anand Bhavan. He proposed the next day and was accepted on the third. He was fluent in Marathi, Hindi, Urdu, Persian, Bengali, English, French and German. He played the violin and sang. He was keen on big-game hunting, tennis, cricket and polo. He was to have a different future.

With arrests imminent, an early day for the wedding was fixed and the female members of the family went into urgent consultations as to the nature of the *sari* to be worn by the bride. No sooner had unanimous agreement been reached than a letter

arrived from Gandhiji, announcing that he and Kasturbai were coming to the wedding. The Mahatma took it for granted that "The Little Daughter" would be married in *khadi*. He sent six yards, almost as fine as silk, "spun by Kasturbai with her love". And that was that. The bride was married in *khadi*.

The scenes of patient dignity and intensified purpose in prison life are



Mrs Vijaya
Lakshmi Pandit

strangely moving—the sacrifices, the beatings, the imprisonments, the ever-renewed decisions to shed comfort, self-interests, even life itself for India. In the midst of this atmosphere Madame Pandit's three daughters were born and grew up.

Madame Pandit entered Congress political life at the Karachi conference of 1931, with the full support of her husband. "Gandhiji is right," he said, "You cannot stop now." As a result of this decision and to enable Vijaya Lakshmi to be free to work full-time for the Congress, the children were sent away—Lekha, aged seven, to school at Poona and the younger ones with her. Vijaya Lakshmi protested. Nothing mattered to her as much as being with her children. But Lekha voted with her father.

"Don't worry, Mummie," she said. "We'll be all right." When the three little girls boarded the train, Lekha unfurled her Congress flag.

Soon Vijaya Lakshmi was in jail. She shared a tiny cell with her sister, Krishna, and two women whose sins had nothing to do with politics. "Vermin crawled everywhere. Firmly, Vijaya Lakshmi took charge of house cleaning. The scarlet ladies giggled then sobered and joined lustily in sweeping and swabbing."

After months of prison, ill-fed and without medical attention or medicine, Madame Pandit and her sister were suddenly released. They re-

BOOKS

turned to Anand Bhavan and found it darkened and Motilal's once *pukka* British drawing room stripped bare from ceiling to floor. The police, they were told, had come many times to take many things. "They always said it was to pay the fine."

"Twenty-one years afterward, Her Excellency Madame Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, dined in stately English homes whose owners showed her Persian carpets, Tibetan screens, priceless Gandara sculptures, which they said happily were purchased for a penny to the pound from dealers in Indian *objets d'art*. She was too much the diplomat, by then, to mention that their cheap-bought treasures were loot from Anand Bhavan."

Further steps lay ahead for Vijaya Lakshmi. When Lord Irwin, as Viceroy, promised Dominion Status as "the natural issue of India's constitutional progress", it became vital for Congress to place as many party members as possible in India's legislative assemblies. Accordingly Vijaya Lakshmi stood for an elective policy-making office for the first time. Her overwhelming election to the UP Assembly brought her the offer of a cabinet post in the provincial government.

Familiar figures

The story moves along well-worn rails, telling of the rising influence of Jinnah and the coming of the world war. Figures, then unknown, that were to become national leaders, stalk across the pages. There was Vinayak Navahari Bhave, of a prosperous West Indian Brahmin family. "He told Gandhi he had one ambition in life: to kill an Englishman." "Gandhi," he said, "taught me how to control the volcano of anger and passion that was ever alive in me."

Madame Pandit was elected President of the All-India Women's Conference and in 1941 addressed her first all-women's audience. In August 1942, Madame Pandit was taken to prison again. The police came in the middle of the night.

continued on next page

"Indira listened to her instructions, then dressed, while Vijaya Lakshmi waked her daughters. They asked no needless questions, and helped gather and pack what she would be allowed to take with her. Rita, only twelve, looked so small that her mother's heart ached. But Rita said, 'How wonderful, Mummie, to live in these days. I wish I could go to jail, too.' Tara whispered, 'Let's say goodbye on the veranda. I want the police to see how we take these partings.'"

Family in gaol

Lekha managed to get herself arrested and for seven months mother and daughter were prison cell-mates. "Both did their best to show their guards that nothing could upset a Nehru." Ranjit was in gaol, too.

It needed courage to send Lekha and Tara to school in the United States. Their parents thought far ahead. They said: "Independence, too many, is coming to mean not merely the end of British rule; it

means solution of every problem. Belief that the British are to blame for everything that is wrong stops thinking where it should begin."

A few hours after her children's departure Vijaya Lakshmi was back in gaol. Soon Lekha and Tara were to hear of the death of their father. They cabled from Wellesley: "Be brave, Mother. He can never die. He lives in us."

General Stratemeyer sat next to Vijaya Lakshmi at a dinner party and invited her to America. At Gandhi's request she accepted. "There was no one to meet her when she set foot on American soil for the first time. She found a telephone, and after a delay that seemed interminable, heard Lekha's voice, now Wellesley mannered. 'Mummie, where on earth are you calling from?' She steadied before she answered. 'Why, from New York.' There was brief silence. Then mother and daughter shared the luxury of tears."

In January, 1945, Madame Pandit was invited to head an Indian delegation to a conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations. She accepted and her career on the world stage

began. She attended the United Nations conference at San Francisco on behalf of the Committee of Indian Freedom and the Indian League.

Madame Pandit's next visit to the United States was to be an official one. Lord Wavell appointed her to head India's first delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, convening at Lake Success. Also in the delegation was Krishna Menon. The author tells us that he "lacked respect for voices other than his own," and adds, "on the evidence, if there was bitterness, it was all on one side. Vijaya Lakshmi holds with Gautama Buddha, who said, 'If I refuse to accept my enemy's anger, he is left with it, and he, not I, must live with it.'"

Independence found Mrs Pandit India's first Ambassador to Soviet Russia. From Moscow Mrs Pandit went as Ambassador to Washington. She soon succeeded in making friends and giving America a new picture of India. She returned to India to be elected to the Lok Sabha.

Madame Pandit's missions to Russia and to China are described. Then,

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FILMS

"The Jokers"

METRO, BOMBAY

A JOKE CAN create a giggle, a laugh or a guffaw, but a royal joke can land you in trouble—very serious at times—as is seen in Universal's laugh-proving crime-thriller "The Jokers", which opens at the Metro this week.



Spiced with excitement and suspense from the start, the film shows how two brothers ingeniously stole the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London only to land in an inexplicable situation. It is a superb anticlimax.

Defly directed by Michael Winner, the film has Michael Crawford, and

WEST BENGAL—from page 7

Ghosh emerged from the Assembly, and the crowd booed and jeered while his motorcade drove off.

Twenty minutes after, the Speaker Banerjee emerged. People swarmed all over his automobile. One man got onto the hood of the car and addressed the crowd, shouting: "Long live Bejoy Banerjee! Long live the UFI!" The crowd was hysterical. Fortu-



The burglar brothers find a hiding place for their "royal loot" in "The Jokers".

Oliver Reed in the stellar roles, while Gabriella Licudi, Ingrid Brett, James Donald and Harry Andrews provide excellent supports.

"The Jokers" is surely an inexpensive success.

SCREENER

nately a few persuaded the man on the hood to come down or else the car would cave in. They cleared the way and the vehicle moved off.

Before anybody could say "Jack" the police regrouped and made another lathi charge. This put an end to all the spirit of the demonstrators and they decided to call it a day. Many must have woken from their sleep the next morning with terribly sore throats.

This India

INDIANS WANT CHANGE

I SHALL CONTINUE from where I left off in last week's column. I wrote about the workers from a metal factory whose homes my friends and I visited in Bombay.

These workers are taking part in an industrial drama, "Jo Bhool Gaye Hain", which was recently staged in Bombay. The audience consisted primarily of dockworkers. The play is about a capitalist and his family, a trade unionist and his family, and how the strike in the factory is solved. In the final sequence the capitalist and the worker shake hands. The spontaneous outburst of applause with which this was greeted interested me.

At the end of the performance I asked our servant, who comes from a village in Kerala, what he liked best in the play. "The boss and worker coming together and making peace," was his reply.

A few days later some of us spent an evening with these workers acting in the play. Notebooks and pencils were distributed to write down the thoughts we might get to change the situation in the country. We listened to God together. With great keenness and curiosity the workers wrote down in their new notebooks. With matching eagerness they jumped up to share the thoughts they had had.

A dockworker, living in a village of 42 inhabitants, remarked that his thoughts had taken him back to the time when in college he had burnt the attendance register of a professor who refused to be bribed to increase his short attendance. This man decided to write and apologise. His other thoughts were to send money to his neighbour whose pumpkins he had stolen, and put right the quarters in his own home.

Said a solidly-built tin worker, "A new factor is coming into our factory after twenty years. Today, for the first time the management of the factory were present at the Trade Union meeting."

This revealed to me that the people of India want change, beginning with themselves, and unity. They do respond to the highest and most demanding task.

Neerja Chowdhury

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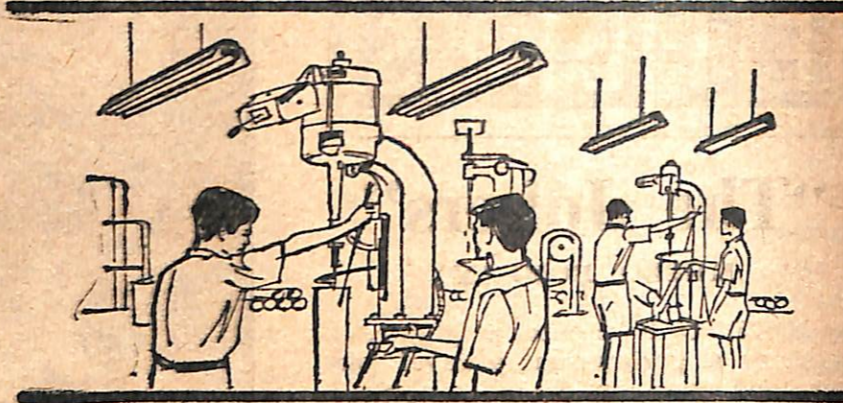
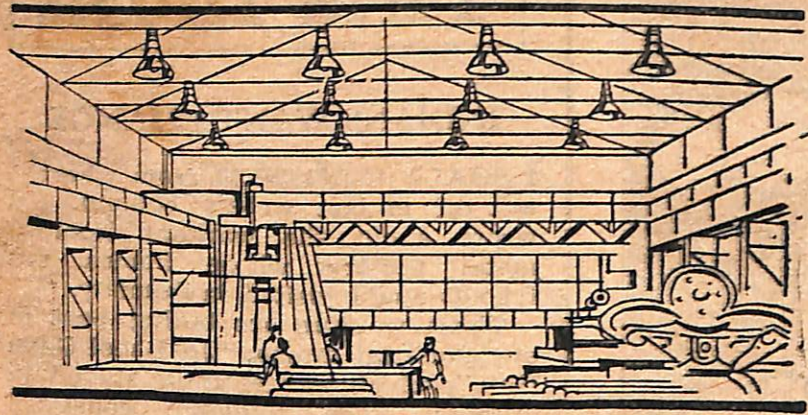
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sport

Welcome visits

Ceylon is our best neighbour so far as sport is concerned. Its rugby football teams, cricketers, golfers and billiards men are no strangers in this country; and for university sport Ceylon is accepted in all our competitions. A welcome addition this season is its hockey team which participated in the Nehru Tournament at Delhi. Though beaten by Sikh Regimental Centre, Meerut, the islanders have left behind a good impression both in play and in conduct. And they are sure to be taking away with them valuable experience of how the game is played and organised in the champion country.

Our sportsmen also pay frequent visits to Ceylon. Only recently our swimmers were in Colombo for the second international between the two neighbours. How one wishes that we could develop the same cordial sport relations with all our neighbours. Sportsmen would like, for instance, the Pakistani, Burmese and Malaysian teams in action in India and our players and clubs touring those countries. These neighbourly internationals would be more popular and useful than occasional and expensive participation in unequal world contests.

Soccer improvement steady but slow

NOW that Indian soccer has accepted and tried out ninety-minute play (instead of the shorter periods of the past) it is time the technique also underwent the necessary change. Watching the competitions in Bombay, one finds that our players are still hugging the outmoded style of short passes and fast running with the ball.

Even many visiting teams in the Rovers tournament have not impressed us with their methods, though, no doubt, they have pleased spectators with their individual skill and flashes of form.

What coaches should stress and players should appreciate is the big difference between individual speed and the pace of the game. Some of the star foreign teams and players who have been seen in action in our country have demonstrated that in spite of their apparent heaviness and

slow movement they could develop and maintain a hot pace throughout the ninety minutes, with the tempo increasing in the last quarter. Most matches between evenly balanced teams are won and lost in the vital fifteen or twenty minutes before the end.

This is possible because the players use their feet more for directing the ball to a well-placed colleague than in running with it to him. Surely the ball travels faster and farther with a kick than by being pushed along in short jabs by the individual. Well-trained teams, therefore, are rarely leg-weary when making the ball do all the work. That again is the reason why Indian teams playing abroad have been praised for their ball-control and pattern-weaving but criticised for poor finishing. After running with the ball it is more difficult to shoot hard for goal than when a team-mate passes the ball for the marksman to hit for the net.

World advances fast

It is this economy of effort that our teams will have to develop to excel in ninety-minute soccer. Our recent failures in Asian tournaments—in which we were once at the top—have at least gained us experience of modern soccer styles. We do see some improvement in our method of play after each international defeat. But the progress is too slow to catch up with the advancing world. We must step up the change-over in technique to be able to meet our rivals on par.

Cricketers abroad

THE Indian cricket team touring Australia seems to be still all abroad. Neither the batting nor the bowling has come up to the expectations of home supporters. Of fielding, the dispatches contain little except wicket-keeper Engineer's excellent performances. Incidentally it is this same player who is putting up firm resistance to the pace attack of the host teams, and his century in his very first innings of the tour, against Western Australia, came as some consolation to the numerous followers of the game in this country. With our limited attack, the batsmen will have to regain and retain top form to keep interest in the tour alive at home and in Australia.



Vice-Captain Conrad Hunte (right) with Skipper Gary Sobers pictured during their Indian tour last winter.

How Hunte retired

HIMMAT HAS RECEIVED the text of the cables exchanged between Conrad Hunte and the West Indies Cricket Board on his retirement. Hunte sent his resignation cable from London on November 21:

THE SPECIALIST HAS CONFIRMED MY RIGHT KNEE UNFIT FOR MCC WEST INDIES TEST SERIES AND HE IS FORWARDING A REPORT. I REGRET I MUST ASK YOUR PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE SERIES. THOUGH I WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD TO CONTINUE PLAYING FOR THE WEST INDIES IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPORT I FEEL IT RIGHT TO RETIRE FROM FIRST CLASS CRICKET AND GIVE MY FULL TIME TO THE MORAL REARMAMENT OF THE WORLD. I AM GRATEFUL BEYOND MEASURE TO THE WICBC AND THE WEST INDIES TEAM FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAY A PART IN THE WEST INDIES CRICKET ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS. BEST WISHES. CONRAD.

For the West Indies Cricket Board, Mr Peter Short replied:

THE PRESIDENT AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE WICBC DEEPLY REGRET YOUR INABILITY TO CONTINUE PLAYING CRICKET FOR THE WEST INDIES. IN YOUR LONG AND ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER YOU HAVE EXHIBITED THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF SPORTSMANSHIP, BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD, WHICH WILL REMAIN AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE FOR YOUR SUCCESSORS TO FOLLOW AND LIVE UP TO. I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR WEST INDIES CRICKET. GOOD LUCK. PETER.

● **topscorer**

in 1953, at the age of 53, she became the President of the United Nations, the highest elective office any woman has ever held. This honour was to be followed by her appointment as High Commissioner to the UK.

Madame Pandit was called back to India to help plan in advance the visit of Queen Elizabeth II and to escort her friend around India. "The

two Great Ladies of the British Commonwealth were together, when on Republic Day, January 26, 1961, Free India's Armed Forces paraded and softly, massed bands played *Abide With Me*. The Queen was told, 'It was Mahatma Gandhi's favourite hymn.' She said: 'It was my grandfather's favourite, too.'

The title of this book is taken from a verse that flashed into Madame Pandit's mind when she heard of the

death of Gandhiji. The poem told of the time when the whole world thought the sun was dying, and there would be darkness on the earth for ever. Then from a shadowed corner, an earthen lamp said, "Light me, and I will do the best I can." "This is the story," the author rightly says, "of a lamp that has shone against the night, not only in India, for half a century."

R.O.H.

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This was a Life

SIR JAMES PEIRIS

1856—1930

JAMES PEIRIS was born in December 1856 into comparatively wealthy surroundings. His father's sense of honour led him to the financial rescue of a speculating brother and much of the family fortune was lost. Young James, 15, was jolted when these events led to his father's early death but it served as a stimulus to his pride and ambition. Winning the coveted English University Scholarship, 21-year-old James arrived at St. John's College, Cambridge, and in 1882 he was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn.

In 1887, he settled down to a successful career at the Ceylon Bar. His interest in Ceylon affairs was aroused by the National Association, a powerful body with representatives from all communities. His work now took him the length and breadth of the land and gave him an intimate knowledge of the needs and difficulties of his people.

From 1898—1908, seated in the Colombo Municipal Council, he studied the political and social needs of his countrymen. The memorandum he submitted to the Colonial Secretary at the latter's request in 1909 on reforms for Ceylon has now become a historic document. He founded the Social Service League in 1924.

His political career began earnestly soon after the Sinhalese-Muslim riots in 1915, when he demanded a Royal Commission of inquiry. 1920 saw him elected as Chairman of the Ceylon National Congress and four years later as Vice President of the new Legislative Council. He was a healer of wounds and a header of words and always tried to find a way of avoiding open hostilities. He always decided beforehand what he wanted and never asked for more. His negotiations were nearly always successful.

His secret was daily guidance from God. His faith, like his character, was simple, honest and sincere. His motto was "Truth conquers". To criticisms he replied, "My shoulders are big enough to bear them."

In 1925, he was knighted. His service to the country, specially with constitutional reforms, will always be remembered.

V.V.

REMOVE FOOD ZONES

IT is very gratifying to know that the Government expects the country's production of foodgrains this year will reach a record amount of 100 million tons. We have to do much rethinking about the present single state food zones and restriction of grain movements, as well as the unremunerative price offered to the farmers.

It is necessary for the farmer to have incentive to produce in subsequent years. One of the solutions would be to procure all grains—paddy and wheat—at a price profitable to the farmer and redistribute the husked wheat and rice at cheaper subsidised price through Government retail shops to the public. The Government, by doing so, will wipe out black-marketing.

The agriculture and food situation in our country is such a major problem that it warrants being brought entirely under a Central Government Department like the Railway and Postal service. In the past we have found ever so often that the surplus states are rather reluctant to release their stock to deficit states in time of scarcity. Such a situation could be avoided.

DR I. S. MENON,
Newcastle Upon Tyne, U.K.

THREE-LANGUAGE FORMULA

THE three language formula as it stands today has one snag in that it envisages the teaching of a third language, which is not the regional language. This is an unnecessary and useless imposition on the student. The three language formula should be such that while the medium of instruction continues to be English, the second language must be the regional language, and Hindi the third language compulsorily. The results of such a formula are manifold. First, English will continue to enrich our intellect and keep us on a par with the modern scientific world; secondly, the regional languages will continue to develop, and there will be no fear of their disintegration; and thirdly, in a decade or so, we will have a whole generation of Indians, knowing Hindi, for mutual communication and understanding. This by itself will promote national integration. Therefore the necessity of making Hindi, or the regional language, as medium of instruction is not essential. To bring about such a change is dangerous, in that it will lead to national insolidarity.

CHRISTIE M. JUAN, Secunderabad

CRICKET POST-MORTEM

IN the selection of our team for the Australia and New Zealand tours by the Board of Cricket Control in India, we quite appreciate the bold policy of giving chances to youngsters rather than calling for the assistance of old regular players but we do not agree with the way they have selected this team for such a big tour. Though Australia was beaten by us in a test

Letters

in their last visit, they are still a better team, second only to the Caribbeans. They still possess very good fast pace bowlers of a class such as Mackenzie, Connally, Hawke and a band of batsmen of world class—Simpson, Lawry, Cowper, Redpath, Thomas and Walters. Facing these men on their home ground is a great task.

Our new band of sixteen players are no doubt good but there are notable omissions:

1 All-rounder Jayasimha (who has been acclaimed by the Press for his captainship in the Duleep Trophy).

2 The agile and aggressive opening bat cum-wicket-keeper Budhi Kundaran.

And 3 the young, energetic off-spinner and dependable middle-order batsman Venketaraghavan. He has shown his top form in both matches played here at Bombay.

Though Umesh Kulkarni is a good fast bowler, we have enough in this team already, with Desai, Surti Abid Ali and Subramaniam. If this place could have been given to off-spinner Venketaraghavan, it would have added more strength to the team. Further, Kulkarni is not a regular opening bowler for Bombay.

G. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Bombay 1

SHOCKING SERVICE

ON NOVEMBER 23, we stayed overnight at the retiring rooms at Old Delhi Station. We were given one bedroom with two beds (charge Rs 12 total). The place was filthy. When we requested a change of bed-sheets and towels they were not supplied. We were told the dhobi had not returned them. When we asked for a complaint book we were told they didn't have any such thing and we could report to the Station Master if we pleased. Are these the facilities available in the capital city of India?

S. S. HOSKERE, Boisar, Maharashtra

BLUNT YET IMPARTIAL

I have never come across such an independent forthright journal as Himmata. Its criticism is blunt and scathing—yet impartial. Himmata does not believe in classes or parties and spares neither top brass nor small fry be they red, yellow, black or brown!

In spite of its many interesting features, I think it needs a teenagers' column.

DILIP MEHRA, Bombay 14

I AM STOPPING a few other periodicals I was getting, and subscribing to Himmata as I believe that Himmata can substitute all of them.

FR. JOSE M. LAWRENCE
Gudiyattam, North Arcot District



Dangerous prop

by Rajmohan Gandhi

THE MYSTERY is becoming more mysterious. The press is full of a remarkable statement by Ajoy Mukherjee, Chief Minister of the ousted West Bengal Cabinet, prepared by him for release on October 2:

"From the activities and professions of these parties (the Left Communist Party and its associate parties) it is quite evident that they do not believe in parliamentary democracy... intimidation, assaults and riots are being organised in different areas to create a reign of terror. These parties have brought about a disaster in the industrial field... By the grace of these parties 60,000 to 70,000 workers are on the point of being unemployed... Many units which middle-class Bengali businessmen had built by selling ornaments, raising loans and putting in hard physical labour... are now on the way to total ruin.

"Thousands of homes, schools, temples, mosques, churches and other places of worship will be burned to ashes; lakhs of men and women... will be killed; thousands of women will be raped.

"This Left Communist Party and its associate parties should not be allowed another day's opportunity to bring ruin to the country through their membership of the Cabinet. Keeping this in mind, I am compelled to resign as Chief Minister with a very heavy heart."

Ajoy throttled conviction

Ajoy Mukherjee did not release the statement. He did not hand in his resignation. When P. C. Ghosh, his non-Communist colleague, took 16 other UF legislators out of the Communist-dominated alliance and reduced it to a minority, Mukherjee allowed himself to be used as the "leader" of the Communist-organised defiance.

What is the hold the Communists had and presumably still have on him that caused him to throttle his own conviction?

If there is even a grain of truth in Ajoy Mukherjee's sentences quoted here and in the many similar reports of non-partisan observers, the responsibility of the

Central Government and of the country's citizens is plain. The "revolution" of blood and hate must be prevented.

Indira Gandhi's Government appears unconcerned. No signs are visible of attempts by her to alert the administration. There is no evidence of the Congress Party treating the threat as real or immediate. She has not moved to get the support of other parties.

There is a source to which she has turned for help — the Kremlin. She seems to have concluded that there should be no official or vocal recognition of the threat to democracy. She appears also to have decided that private deals between Moscow and her Government, deals which are seldom exposed to daylight, are the surest method of coping with it.

One such deal has emerged into light and air, and the aroma shed by it is not exactly alluring. The Indian Express, in fact, says that it "stinks in the nostrils".

A slur on the Press

Under this deal, the Press and Information Bureau of the Government of India will circulate to Indian newspapers Russian news, feature articles and photographs supplied by Novosti, the Soviet agency. In return Novosti will circulate Government of India handouts to newspapers and periodicals in the USSR. Pointing out that Novosti-supplied news is not news but official Communist propaganda, the Indian Express says, "By demeaning itself to serve as a pipeline for such 'news', the PIB... casts a slur on a Press which over the years has fought vigorously to maintain its independence... The press and newspapermen of India should have nothing to do with this disgraceful business."

Why should Indian news and views be presented to East Europe only by Government of India agencies? Why shouldn't the PTI, the UNI and other agencies in India have the freedom to describe Indian events to the press and people of East Europe? In return

for this dubious facility, our Government seems to have agreed to use its immense and far-reaching machinery to make Moscow's propaganda available to the Indian Press. This, according to the Indian Express, "makes sinister what is already scandalous".

This arrangement, however, is only a symptom. The disease is the secret, exclusive and excessive dependence of Indira's Government on the Kremlin. This reliance is contrary to the principles of freedom and objectivity and even to the theory of non-alignment. And it is utterly risky as far as our national interests are concerned.

High price for friendship

Moscow cannot be for us THE answer to Peking's designs. The extremist line of Mao cannot be defeated by the milder Communism of Messrs Kosygin and Brezhnev. Spreading the Muscovite version of class war, anti-Westernism and materialism will not check the relentless, even if confused, tide of hate from Peking.

Moscow's friendship is a good thing to have, but is it to be sought at a price so high that it antagonises a great section of our own country and a substantial part of the whole world?

Power patterns shift. Stalin's Russia and Hitler's Germany were enemies, friends, and enemies again. Who can say that Russia and China will never come to future agreement? Russia's attitude to us, entirely based on our value to her in fulfilling her world ambitions, can change from one day to the next. In order to settle with a post-Mao and possibly a different China, the Kremlin could, and would, hand over its influence over India to the Chinese.

In such an event, all our links with Russia could suddenly become available to China. And there will be hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country, trained and quite likely armed by the Left Communists, ready to celebrate and the implement the transfer. What looks like an attractive prop could prove a deceptive bludgeon.

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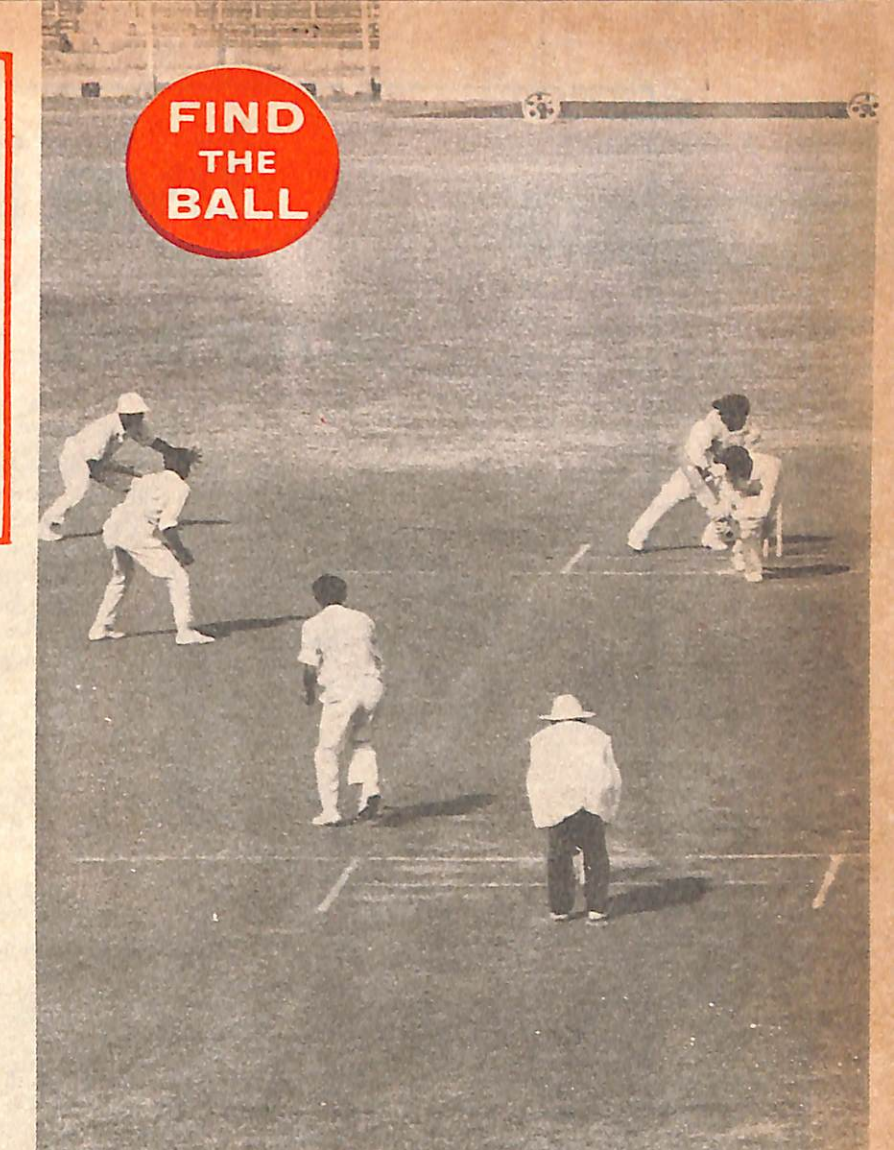
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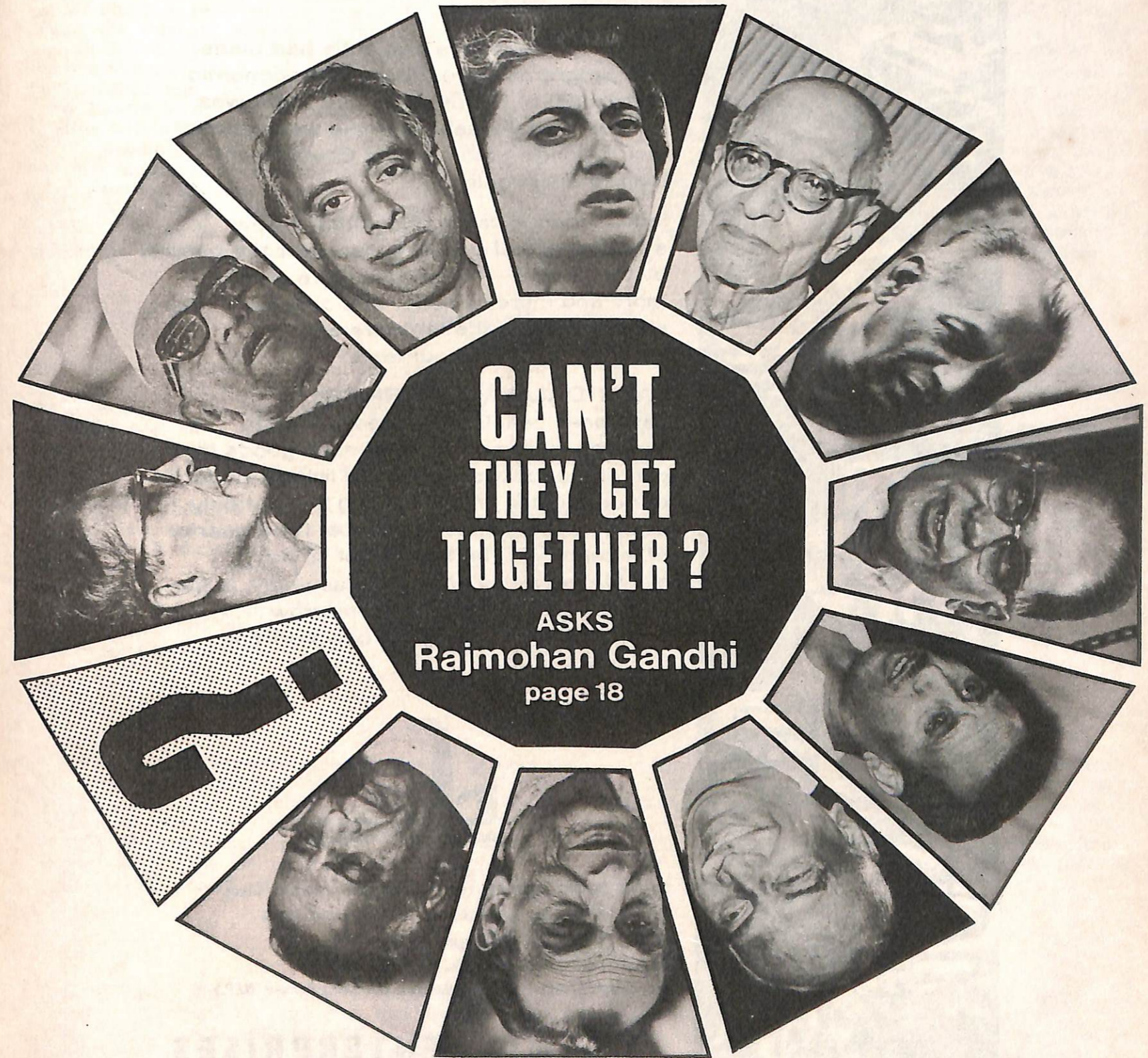
HIMMAT

WEEKLY 30p.

VOL 4 NO 7

ASIA'S VOICE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 15 1967



**CAN'T
THEY GET
TOGETHER?**

ASKS
Rajmohan Gandhi
page 18

PEOPLE'S VERDICT ON AJOY p.7