

# The Economic Weekly

A Journal of Current Economic and Political Affairs

(Established January 1949)

December 15, 1950

Volume VIII—No, 50

Eight annas

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## Mission to Washington

IT was inevitable that, the moment India became independent, she would emerge as the leader in Asia. Much has happened in Asia and in the world since India's independence. Some of the Western countries have been inclined to write India off as an ally for democratic peace. Suspect in both camps of the "cold war", India has pursued a policy of good neighbourliness. Her foreign policy is now better appreciated. India's economic achievements compare favourably with those of Communist China. Bandung has convinced Asia that India has no design to be an arrogant and aggressive leader in Asia. Her moral status is now firmly established. New Delhi's foreign policy is appreciated in Moscow, Belgrade and Peking, Cairo values New Delhi's mature judgment. Despite the Anglo-French aggression in Egypt, India remains a member of the Commonwealth. Since the Anglo-French aggression in Egypt, India and America have drawn closer together.

Since independence, New Delhi has functioned as a bridge between two rival sides in the "cold war". India's first major achievement was the joint enunciation of Panch Shila by New Delhi and Peking. This was the prelude to Bandung. Her second achievement was to convince the Soviet Union that Panch Shila was the only secure basis of relations with nations and neighbours. Deeper international influences would seem to confirm Pandit Nehru's reiterated belief that, in spite of Hungary the process of liberalisation of regimes in Eastern Europe will continue. In the past, India has adroitly exercised her influence as a Commonwealth member and her friendly relations with Communist countries to ease the tension between the two rival camps. In the changed current phase of the international situation, it is essential that New Delhi must cooperate with Washington to eliminate local tensions as well as to maintain world peace. It is a happy coincidence that Pandit Nehru will have talks with President Eisenhower at an opportune time when India and America are in closer agreement on the immediate world issues.

Developments since the Summit Conference at Geneva have provided the opportunity for closer collaboration between India and America in the interests of world peace. De-Trumanisation, along with de-Stalinisation is a process which is not without significance. But it is neither necessary nor relevant to stress any clandestine understanding between America and Russia to evacuate Europe for joint exploitation of Asia. This is not the main motive behind Washington's hostile reaction to the Anglo-French aggression in Egypt. Here, it is useful to discuss the changed global strategy since the Geneva understanding between East and West not to start an atomic war. Before the Geneva Summit Conference, Washington's policy was to ring the globe with bases and bastions. This strategy has become obsolete since the "hydrogen" stalemate. Pentagon now relies on "Forgo America" for strategic retaliation in the event of war,

Washington's earlier policy of fortifying overseas bases has had some unintended consequences. It has encouraged the revival of Anglo-French colonialism. With American supplies of war equipment, Britain and France had tried to maintain their positions in Indo-China, Algeria and Cyprus. Since the nuclear deadlock, Britain and France have increasingly relied on NATO equipment to perpetuate colonialism, NATO

The Economic Weekly  
15 Tamarind Lane, Fort, Bombay  
telephone : 23406 .  
Annual Subscription : Rs 24  
Foreign : Rs 27