STRAIGHT TALK

KASHMIR - ANOTHER COLD WAR VICTIM

India and Pakistan are today almost at war. This is a great tragedy for the Indian and Pakistani people. It poses a grave danger to world peace.

All this has come about because of imperialist chauvinism and intrigue over a considerable period of time.

The creation of India and Pakistan was the beginning of the end. It was the manifestation of the imperialist policy of the British Empire.

After the conquest of India, the British Raj created a social base for its rule. Having conquered the Mongols, it adorned them by creating a new Indian nation made up of puppets, princes and maharajas and in British India, zamindars and landlords.

Subsequently, it played a role in the undeclared independence movement led by Gandhi and Nehru. The demand of Jinnah that the leader of the Muslim League was stabbed in the back by Nehru, the leader of the Indian National Congress, who disavowed Gandhi.

Kashmir became a problem because of its religion, ideology and the Cold War. It was not India in sentiment. Sheikh Abdullah, the leader of the Kashmiris who was subdued by the Frontier Gandhi, was a strong supporter of the Congress Party. But the majority of the population was Muslim.

This posed the question of how to deal with the Muslims in the territory. The future of Pakistan was in question.

In keeping with the cordon sanitaire - the containment of communism - the policy of the Labour Party assumed the war on the side of the allies. Churchill even declared that he was not appointed the First Minister to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire.

PARTITION

After the war, when the Labour Party assumed the reins of government, the British granted India freedom. But when she was accorded the status of a member of the Commonwealth, she was asked to have a sense of security.

It is not surprising that the new Pakistan would need to be created. It was a new creation made up of the territory of Pakistan.

The problem of Kashmir was to draw the line on the map. Pakistan was created by the British in the north of the East. The problem of the North was created by the British.

India stood clear of these alliances because of its policy of non-alignment. But the recognition of Pakistan by the US and the UK caused her to divert a vast amount of her resources to defence, which would otherwise have gone to development.

With the cordon sanitaire policy in shambles after the penetration of the Middle East, the Anglo-French forces in Egypt in 1956 with Qasim becoming a great military and economic power in the Far East, India became increasingly important in the balance of power between East and West, between capitalists and socialists. With her 600 million people, she could play a decisive role in maintaining the balance of power. 
COMMUNIST BOGEY

At first the Americans were opposed to India because of her policy of non-align-
ment, which was formulated by Nehru. They were also unhappy about the socialist orienta-
tion of her economic policy. As a result, the World Bank withdrew offers of aid after the draft second 5-year plan was published.

But US policy was forced to undergo a change. By 1969, the world balance of forces had materially changed in favour of socialism and com-
munism.

For the West it was necessary not only to contain communist China but also to prove that underdeveloped countries that central eco-
nomic planning and development under democratic socialism as in India was more
successful than under com-
munism in China.

After all China was making more rapid economic strides and graduating more
people than success.

In this new situation, par-
sicularly after the China-
India border conflict, the US
rubbed up the aid of India
with arms, equipment and
food. Economic aid denied
before was also now granted.

As India began to receive
military and economic aid,
Pakistan, the former recipient
began looking more and more

The resultant tragedy is
that having thus been caught
in the cold war, these two
countries have to spend vast
amounts of their annual
revenues, equivalent to over
6% per cent for defence. And
now they are facing each
other with the most lethal

The consequences of this
struggle are clear. Only the
poor, poverty ridden million
will suffer. The "counter-
revolutionary clique," the Shah
and the feudal and capitalistic
group who were being undermined by social unrest, will now strengthen their position with emotional hysteria and na-
tional fanatism.

This has been the ex-
perience in Latin America.

The West, having used the
eye of communism to give
arms and ammunition to the
ruling clique — the S societal and upper strata — to maintain
itself in power, to establish
authoritarianism and preserve
the status quo by destroying
constitutional democracy.

The tragedy of the present
battle between Pakistan and
India must be noted by all
the Chinese people. The
same fate must not befal
Gwong. Those who advocate
partition, please note. Par-
tition has only aggravated the
problems on the Indian sub-
continent. And it will be no
solution to the problems of the Chinese people.

The solution is national
unity and racial harmony.

This must be forged by a
united working class struggle.

If the PNC leadership con-
tinues to refuse to work out a political settlement with the
PPF for the good of the
people and the country, then
it is the duty of the PNC
followers to join with the
PPF rank and file to fight
against the imperialists, their
Water Street puppets and
landlords. The opportunist
politicians must be exposed
for selling out the country and
acting as the front-men of
the foreign exploiters.

Pakistan has demonstrated
that futility does not pay in
the long run. To avoid pit-
falls, an end must be put to
BG playing the imperialist
game. The imperialist must
also be told that if they now
the wind, they will reap the
whirlwind, that they must
stop playing the dirty game of
force and fraud, and divide-and-rule.

Let's all hope that a speedy
settlement will be achieved to
stop this internecine unde-
cleared war. The United
Nations and the Afro-Asian
non-aligned groups. Coun-
tries are the best agencies to
work out such settlement. Both
India and Pakistan would do well to free them-

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