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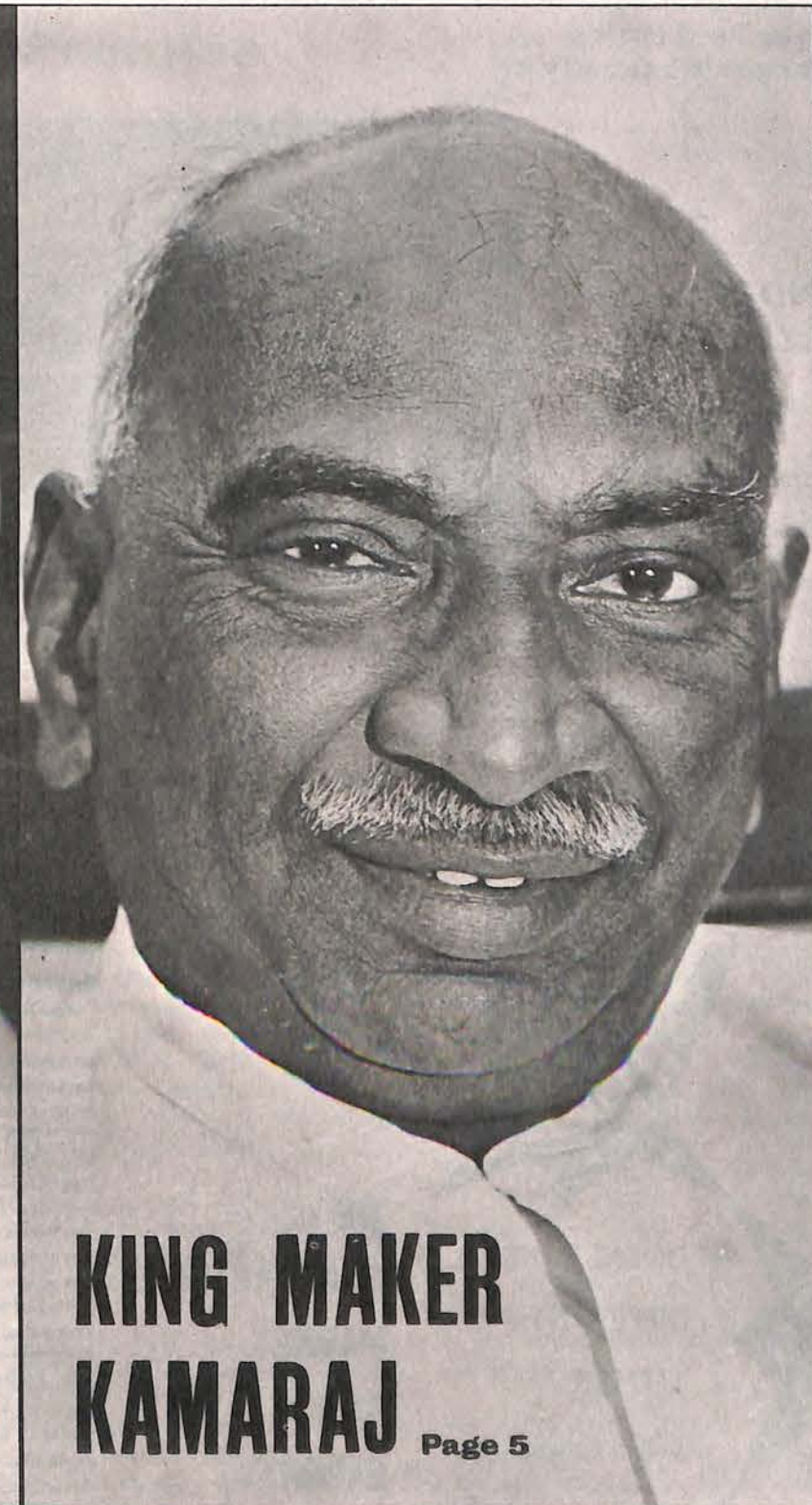
25P

Asia's new voice

WEEKLY



Indira Gandhi



KING MAKER  
KAMARAJ Page 5



Morarji Desai

Friday  
January 21  
1966

Under the Lens  
**TASKS OF SHASTRI'S SUCCESSOR**

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# HIMMAT

Asia's new voice

WEEKLY

Bombay

Friday, January 21, 1966 Vol. 2 No. 12

## It's a Promise

PRIME MINISTER Mr. G. L. Nanda is to be congratulated for his speedy announcement that the Tashkent agreement will be honoured.

To the world it left no doubt of India's intention and was evidence, if evidence were needed, that the nation backed the late Prime Minister in his "intense and mighty effort for winning an honourable peace". Mr. Nanda's statement crystallized the heartfelt conviction of millions and was a call for rededication by everyone to spare no effort in implementing the Tashkent decisions.

Without losing time the Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Swaran Singh, has announced that Indian and Pakistan; Service Chiefs will meet soon to consider every aspect of the withdrawal of troops. In his welcome broadcast talk, he rightly underlined that the central point of the declaration was the renunciation of force, and that it was a tribute to Mr. Shastri and President Ayub Khan that the two countries had agreed not to resort to force to settle the issues between them.

## Nigerian Coup

THE NIGERIAN blood-shed will dismay all who love Africa; gladden imperialists—white, black, red or yellow—whose intrigues thrive on division; and comfort white supremacists, who will use it to justify their policy. Men who kill to get power can't complain of those who use force to keep it.

Nigeria, Africa's largest country with its 55 million people, has been reckoned one of the most stable and progressive on the continent. Its four Regions based on tribal groups have held together, despite several crises, since independence in 1960.

Last weekend's coup, led by middle-rank army officers, has put all in hazard. The Prime Ministers of West and North Nigeria were slain, and the Federal Premier kidnapped.

The rebels came mainly from the Ibo people of Eastern Nigeria. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the kidnapped Prime Minister, is from the Muslim North, whose inhabitants comprise half the total population of the country.

The evidence so far points to Eastern or Southern fear of Northern domination as the main cause of the revolt. The rebel officers themselves said their aim was to end political corruption. The Western Region elections last October were rigged by the Western Premier, say his opponents. Since then at least 153 people have been killed in the Region in a mounting wave of violence.

The coup was executed ruthlessly. The wife of the Northern Premier was killed along with her husband; a loyal battalion commander was shot in bed. There is a resemblance to the abortive coup in Indo-

nesia last September, when six generals were tortured and slain, and the five-year-old daughter of another machine-gunned. Could the same virus be at work?

The Provisional Military Government of Major General Ironsi, the Army Chief of Staff, will first have to restore order and prevent the catastrophe of tribal and religious civil war.

President Azikiwe was abroad, recovering from an operation, at the time of the revolt. His interventions have more than once averted civil strife in Nigeria. Dr. Azikiwe is from the East. Nigeria needs now the highest wisdom her statesmen can give.

## Cost of Anti

PRESIDENT SUKARNO states that 87,000 people have been massacred since the abortive coup shook Indonesia on the night of September 30.

Some diplomatic sources estimate up to 300,000 dead. Even the more modest figure represents a toll far higher than that of the atom bomb on Hiroshima, or the last three months of fighting in Vietnam.

The hate-fired retaliations have become a devilish process. Anti-Communism has proved as harsh and as costly as Sukarno's brand of Communism.

As well as Sukarno's impotence in the face of such hostile reaction, there appears a paralysis on the part of Army leaders when it comes to removing the President and his supporters.

It was believed that Sukarno was ruling only at the indulgence of the Generals. He has, however, increased his hold on his anguished people. With Deputy Premier Subandrio still beside him, despite Army objections, Sukarno has stood his ground. He has managed to retain Subandrio as head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Nation-wide protests against rising prices culminated in a demonstration by 8,000 students outside the President's palace at Bogor. It prompted Subandrio to announce the formation of a Sukarno Legion to protect the President's person.

Firing squads have been formed to deal with merchants caught exploiting the current economic situation. At least one Chinese trader has already been sentenced to be shot in Surabaya in East Java. But a new economy won't be built with bullets. A firing squad cannot take the place of a sound economic policy.

Somewhere the rot has to be stopped. So must the killing. Whatever a man's political label, he is still someone's husband or son or father. The longer the Army condones the blood-letting on the one hand and Sukarno's manoeuvrings and extravagant inefficiency on the other, the harder will it be to unite the country, expunge the bitterness, cure the tragic and unwarranted economic distress and make of that richly endowed nation a Republic of peace and purpose.

## Briefly Speaking ...

However large the glass may be that is offered us from abroad, we prefer to drink from our own, though not without clinking glasses all round.

GENERAL DE GAULLE

### Not in Vain

ALL HAVE PAID glowing tribute to Mr. Shastri, at home and abroad. Many feel that the burden of his office may have hastened his end. Reader G. V. Ketkar of Poona 6 wrote, on January 11, "Early this morning I was stunned by the news. Your issue of January 7 was on my table. I turned its pages. The following sentence from your article caught my eye: 'Unlike Mr. Shastri's last visit to the Soviet Union, this one will not be roses all the way. It will be a war of nerves.'"

"Now", he adds, "there is a war of nerves before India for every Indian."

### CHALTA HAI...



VINS

"You will be glad to know our scientific knowledge is not being wasted—it took 11 engineers, 6 draughtsmen and hoards of apprentices to finish this project model."

This weekly feature comes to you through the courtesy of the Eagle Vacuum Bottle Mfg. Co. (Pvt.) Ltd., manufacturers of the Eagle range of vacuum flasks, jugs and insulated ware.



INSUL PEAR

Mr. Ketkar is right. Addressing a crowded public meeting in Panchgani to pay tribute to the late Prime Minister, the President of the Municipal Council called on 20-year-old Ashok Shah from Poona to speak on behalf of the Roving College for a New India. Mr. Shah recalled how MRA-trained students met Mr. Shastri twice in the last six months. At Palam Airport they sang for him on his departure for Yugoslavia. The late Prime Minister met each one personally. The second time was at his official residence. "Keep it up!" Mr. Shastri had said, when they told him of their determination to raise an army of youth to live straight and make the country great.

"In this country of 450 million, one man should not have to carry the load Mr. Shastri did any more," said Mr. Shah. "Our nation is 18 years old. It is time every Indian took on the responsibility maturity brings."

### Insurance Claims

THE SUNDAY TIMES gives a selection of excuses put forward by British motorists on accident claim forms. Here are some of them:

"I collided with a stationary tramcar coming in the opposite direction."

"I left my Austin 7 outside and when I came out later to my amazement there was an Austin 12."

"A pedestrian hit me and went underneath the car."

"I blew my horn but it would not work as it was stolen."

"I consider neither vehicle was to blame but if either was to blame it was the other one."

"I knocked over a man. He admitted it was his fault as he had been knocked over before."

### World's Fastest Talker

HAVING ACHIEVED an economic miracle West Germany has time to indulge in exercises like "who has the fastest tongue in the world". Steel City Essen has produced the champion in Peter Spiegel, a 62-year-old press stenographer who, before his

speech tournaments, "oils" his tongue with raw egg yolk.

Spiegel has the world record of speaking 908 syllables per minute, established on October 9 last year.

His represents a triumph for the male population over the best tongue-trained market woman. When a female champion was produced in comic artist Gisela Schluter, she could barely manage 440 syllables per minute.

### Public Relations

IT MAY BE some consolation to know that not only India muffs up her public relations. In Holland, on a recent visit by a Soviet youth delegation, they were taken to the Dutch Parliament at the Hague to see how democracy works. But on the same day, the Dutch press printed the results of a Gallup Poll in which 64 per cent said that Parliament was out of date.

### Wow!

"CHAIRMAN MAO's words are words at the highest level, with the highest authority, having the highest power, true to the last word, and each word equals the strength of 10,000 words of others."

Chiehfang Chun Pao—leading Chinese army paper.

R. M. L.

### Howard's Comedy

PETER HOWARD'S comedy "Through the Garden Wall", first staged in Japan, had a long run in the West End of London. German, French and Italian casts have staged it successfully in Europe. Now MRA will present it in India under the direction of Howard Reynolds, whose productions have won applause in Britain and the USA.

He is busy at work on rehearsals in Bombay with an all-India cast. The premiere will be on January 31 at the Bhulabhai Desai Auditorium, off Marine Drive, at 6.30 p.m. and it will run for five consecutive days at the same theatre.

Box office is open at Chetana, Rampart Row, 11 a.m.—6 p.m. Tickets are Rs. 10, 5, 3 and 2.

## Kamaraj the Kingmaker

By R. M. Lala

It was a simple village wedding in Salem district. There were only 50 guests. The Chief Minister's car rolled up and out stepped Kamaraj. The bride's father, an impoverished Congress worker, had invited but least expected him.

The beetle-browed, tall solid figure of Kamaraj had breakfast with his friend, relaxed and talked of old times. "We were prisoners together once. We are still friends." He collected his coconut, entered his car and drove on. A minute later he stopped his car, pulled out his cheque book, wrote out a cheque and asked his driver to give it to his friend. Seeing a four-figure sum, the Congress worker broke into tears.

Kamaraj's work is built neither on ideas nor on learning, but the people. There is hardly a Congress worker in Tamilnad whom he does not know personally. He never forgets a face. In a nation replete with talkers, he stands out as a monosyllabic doer. In a nation greedy for degrees, he demonstrates the triumph of native wit over bookish learning.

### Off to Jail

Kamaraj comes from a caste of toddy-tappers (*nadars*). He was born in the village of Virudhanagar in Ramnad district, Madras State. His father died when he was quite young and his mother, Sivakami Ammal, brought him up. Proud of her son, she is still alive.

The turning point in Kamaraj's life was when he heard Gandhiji speak at Madurai. From that moment onwards the desire to enter politics got hold of him. He started a shop trading in Trivandrum, but left it in a few months. His first political activity was the salt *satyagraha*. He was convicted for two years. As a young volunteer who waved flags and marched in processions, he came under the influence of Madras leader Satyamurthi who groomed him for future leadership of the Tamilnad Congress, of which Kamaraj became President in 1939. He retained that office till 1954 when he became Chief Minister of Madras State.

His great virtue as an administrator was his theory that in all routine matters he should leave the job to the civil servants. Though he would be quite willing to collect large funds from industrialists for the Congress Party, unless there was a case of real injustice he would refuse to interfere on their behalf in administrative matters. Otherwise he would say, "Parkalam," ("Let us see") and move on.

He left his fellow Ministers in charge of day-to-day work to free himself to tour Madras 20 days in the month. He was a good listener. He went on the spot, heard people's problems and tried to resolve them. He was easily accessible and anyone could walk into his house with problems till the late hours of the night. Once torrential rains hit Madras and the slum areas were flooded. Though Chief Minister, he walked one and a half miles through knee-

ALL EYES are on 62-year-old Congress President Kamaraj, whom Vice-President Humphrey called "one of the greatest political leaders in the free world". Kamaraj runs the biggest political machine outside the Communist countries and handles it adroitly. At a moment of supreme crisis when he plays a part in choosing the Prime Minister is the one time when he misses his two-hour afternoon nap, but all the same seems to relish the challenge of the task.

deep water, organized relief and stayed with the slum dwellers overnight. People remember that. He started the midday meals for poor school-children, a scheme which has now been extended to the rest of the country.

When Kamaraj left the office as Chief Minister, he did not leave alone. He took five other Chief Ministers with him to do "organizational work". Also at that time three senior Central Cabinet Ministers had their resignations accepted under the "Kamaraj Plan".

Others could not find much "organization work" to do, but the net result was Kamaraj's own election as President of the Indian National Congress. This once exalted office had some pale and anaemic holders

overshadowed by the banyan tree that was Nehru. When Kamaraj came to the scene Nehru was aging rapidly and at Bhubaneswar Nehru suffered his first stroke. At Nehru's death, Kamaraj deftly handled the unanimous election of Lal Bahadur Shastri as Prime Minister. Those who had known him would have been aware that his loyalty to the Nehru family was so strong that, after Shastri, Kamaraj would advance Mrs. Indira Gandhi as his candidate.

The Nehru family reciprocated Kamaraj's loyalty. At Ooty a few years ago, when four Congress leaders went up to Mr. Nehru and blamed Kamaraj for Congress defeat in Madras civic elections, the late Prime Minister is reported to have literally rolled up his sleeves and threatened to throw the Congressmen out of his presence. "But for him," thundered Nehru, "Madras would be another UP. It is Kamaraj who holds it together."

He is a political tactician. The nearest label he can be given is that of pragmatist. If his thinking has been influenced it is by Mr. Nehru. In a foreword to a book entitled "Danger of Right Reaction", he writes: "Our ultimate goal is the establishment of a Socialist society through democratic and peaceful means... Much has been achieved in this direction through planned economic development. The process will continue until we have reached our long-cherished goal."

### Wants Strong Centre

At home he wants a strong Centre where there is no place for regional, sectional or linguistic considerations. Abroad he doesn't want India to be hustled into a military alliance with the United States. Those who aimed at close relations between USA and India belonged, he said, "to the capitalist classes of India". He has looked kindly on Mr. Kosygin in the last months, but he has made few comments about America.

Many stories are told about him, the most common being that he cannot read or speak English. He has spoken occasionally to pressmen in English, and a HIMMAT correspondent who travelled in the same plane once found him reading "Inside Russia" by John Gunther.

Since his Presidentship, he has weathered successfully the language

Continued on page 17



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## Tasks of Shastri's Successor

Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri's successor will be known by the time this column appears in print. At this point it seems to be a contest between Mrs. Indira Gandhi, backed by a majority of those who control the Congress Party machine in the States, and Mr. Morarji Desai, former Finance Minister, who fights a brave, but seemingly difficult, battle. In the intense power play of political ambitions, the unenviable responsibilities of anyone who assumes the office of Prime Minister, are for the moment forgotten.

### Tougher Assignment

Whoever is elected to this high office has a tougher assignment than the late Mr. Shastri, difficult as his job had been when he took over after Jawaharlal Nehru. For one thing Mr. Shastri was the product of "a consensus" in the Party. The nation accepted him with sympathetic understanding. It responded to his humility. Even the Opposition gave him a period of grace to prove and establish himself. The new Prime Minister may expect none of these advantages. Besides, Lal Bahadur Shastri belonged to that category of men who rise to the occasion and are made great by their response to great challenges.

Mr. Shastri took charge of an India that was substantially disunited. He

left the nation more confident, if not more united. He inherited an India whose reputation was at an all-time low. The nation's image abroad was one of division, weakness and the threat of instability. But without much experience in international affairs, he succeeded in repairing fences with all our neighbours—Nepal, Burma and Ceylon.

Himself accused as a "prisoner of indecision", he helped to shift Indian policy from the "Hamletian" indecisiveness of Nehruvian idealism to matter of fact firmness and strength. He restored to Indian policies, both internal and external, a measure of common sense and realism that were absent in some of the earlier "faithful to the Marxist text book" policies.

There is something of the heroic in the picture of President Ayub Khan as one of the pall bearers of Mr. Shastri. Similarly with our neighbour, Nepal, with whom we have had indifferent and even hostile relations for a long period, he established a very close link. King Mahendra said about him, "He was the greatest friend of Nepal."

The greatest tribute to Lal Bahadur Shastri is perhaps in the quick reaction of sorrow from the leaders of the Naga underground, whose war of 12 years' duration with India Mr. Shastri ended by a courageous cease-fire. He has left us a legacy of firmness, but also of friendship. He had that remarkable quality of a true Gandhian—of changing even his enemies by recognizing the right in their point of view.

### "No" to Chauvinism

Will the successor of Mr. Shastri have this same largeness of spirit and wisdom? Though Mr. Shastri's successor does not constantly have to measure up to comparison with an idealized predecessor or justify actions in terms of interested interpretations of the past policy, he or she does have an equally difficult task of carrying forward much unfinished work which will need statesmanship of a very high order.

Most important, of course, is the implementation of the Tashkent agreement and the cementing of friendship with Pakistan. The Tashkent agreement has demonstrated that in President Ayub

## Under the Lens



by **R. VAITHESWARAN**

Khan the new Prime Minister will find a friend and leader of the highest calibre willing to do his maximum to co-operate in re-establishing good neighbourly friendliness.

It will be no easy task of course for a leader whose prestige and authority have yet to be established in the nation. But the country which responded magnificently to Shastri in the decisiveness of war as well as in the statesmanship of peace will also back the strong leader who says "no" to the temptations of chauvinistic pressures and the short-sighted reading of national interests.

### Naga Question

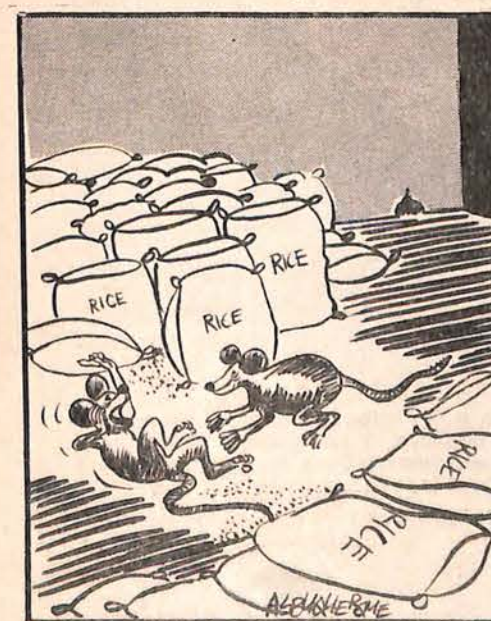
Next in importance only to Indo-Pak relations is the problem of peace on the north-eastern border and the Naga question. Lal Bahadur Shastri died just before he was to receive leaders of the underground who were all set to come to Delhi to meet him.

Equally decisive will be the confidence that the leader can inspire which will help the nation to endure the privations entailed by the present acute shortage of food in west and north and central India and the unchecked inflation that pinches every middle and working class pocket.

Will the new Prime Minister be free enough to be un beholden to the groups that put him (or her) in power, forceful enough to implement a national policy of work, more production and greater austerity?

The late Prime Minister set a very high standard of personal integrity for his successors and followers. When he died he left a debit account in his bank, not having fully repaid the loan which had enabled him to buy his car. Had it not been for the pension of Rs. 1,000 per month granted by the Government of India to Mrs. Shastri and his children, his

*Continued on next page*



"Ha... Ha... eight million tons consumed by our crowd. At least we don't hoard it."

family would have been totally unprovided for.

However, it is not only the new Prime Minister who will face the judgement of the people of this land and of history; equally it is the Congress Party, the Opposition and the nation who are on trial. It will not be the fault of the new Government

if a short-sighted view of Party interest generates passions and tensions that threaten the nation with anarchy and a recrudescence of the hate campaign which destroys the bridges that Mr. Shastri painfully sought to build. Neither would it be legitimate to accuse the Government of inaction or indecisiveness if the criterion

of the present choice is the possibility of keeping intact local and regional areas of control by party satraps. This will be the road to violence which can only engulf the nation in the bitterness of war and civil strife which is now so common in many parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Though the immediate responsibility for the election of a leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party rests only with itself and the Party in general, the continuity of stable and democratic Government depends on the nation as a whole.

If the 18-month tenure of Shastri has proved anything, it is the fact that the long-term prospects of democracy depend on the ordinary man. The strength of democracy is based not on the brilliance of a few, but on the responsibility of the many. Greatness may sometimes be made up of flashes of genius. It is more often built by the persistence of the sensible and hard-working.

The hour demands not only a suitable successor for Shastri, but a revolution of responsibility in the nation.

## FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

### Vietnam—Japan Has to Choose

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Tokyo

**At the time of the Korean War Japan, under Allied occupation, had no political responsibility. The Vietnam War has a meaning for Japan that the Korean War never had. Vietnam is the first international issue requiring from Japan its definite political judgment.**

In the political situation this year it is possible that foreign policy matters rather than economic questions will become the major issues between Government and Opposition parties.

Between the United States and Japan there are the issues of Vietnam, Okinawa, the Security Treaty termination in 1970 and China, which underlies all three problems. Last year Prime Minister Sato made two trips abroad. One to the United States; the other to Okinawa. The Okinawa issue is the most important pending question between Japan and the United States.

There are several questions bound up with the problem of national security. One is whether Japan continues its present policy of alignment (embodied in the US-Japan Security Treaty) or adopts a policy

of neutrality. Another is the future of the Self-Defence Forces, especially relations between military and political affairs. There is the status of Okinawa whose people are neither Japanese nor American citizens. And finally there is the question posed by the threat of Communist China's nuclear weapons.

The former Director-General of the Economic Planning Agency, Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa, asked recently, "Who is studying, in Washington and from a long-range viewpoint, what policy America should take toward China?"

"America possesses military power unrivalled in the world," he continued. "How to use it can be figured out by electronic computers. But how to manage to leave it unused is the job of statesmen."

### Strike Closes New York Schools

FROM STEWART LANCASTER

New York

**On the eve of President Johnson's annual State of the Union message a domestic crisis stole the headlines from the Vietnam war.**

America's largest city, which a few months back suffered a total blackout as a result of an electrical power failure, was just recently caught in a transportation strike stopping all trains and buses into New York City.

The power failure was blamed on an electronic failure; the transportation strike is blamed on a human failure to negotiate the Transport Union's demands for higher wages.

The Transport Union demanded a pay rise that would have cost New York City \$680 million over a two-year period. The New York Transit Company turned down this exaggerated demand and the transportation strike began. The people of New York were again forced to walk to

work. It's healthy for some but difficult for the millions who live more than thirty miles from their place of employment.

Much criticism and strong feeling has been aroused over the unreasonable and illegal strike. "Why," it was asked, "was the Bethlehem Steel Company so strongly denounced by the White House when the price of steel on one of its products was raised, and no reprimand was given to the New York Transport Union leaders when they defied a New York State law to strike?"

The President "without hesitation invoked the prestige of his national leadership against the steel company's price increase", reports the *Continued on page 11*

## The week in Asia

**DJAKARTA** — President Sukarno ordered the expulsion of all US correspondents for giving what he called a misleading picture of Indonesian events.

**KARACHI** — Two people were killed in demonstrations against the Tashkent declaration in Lahore and Multan. The West Pakistan Government closed educational institutions following the disturbances.

**HANOI** — Russia promised North Vietnam increased aid following Praesidium-member Shelepin's visit to Hanoi. Shelepin visited Peking on his way back to Moscow.

**TOKYO** — Japan's trade with Communist China increased 56 per cent to a total of 2,015 million rupees, for the first time exceeding Japan's trade with Russia.

**CAIRO** — South Arabian liberation organizations formed a united "Liberation Front of Occupied Southern Yemen" to overthrow British rule in Aden and South Arabia by violent means.

**ADEN** — Yemeni Royalists claimed to control the strategic Chinese-built road between Sanaa and Hodeida in renewed fighting following the breakdown of peace negotiations with the Yemen Government.

**COLOMBO** — Curfew continued in Colombo and armed guards were placed on trains following the violent demonstrations against the recognition of Tamil as an official language in northern Ceylon. A one-day general strike was a failure.

**PEKING** — A Malayan National Liberation Army delegation was welcomed in Peking, suggesting a shift in direction of the "crush Malaysia" campaign from Djakarta to Peking.

**RAWALPINDI** — The *Pakistan Times* said a further Indo-Pakistan summit conference was "likely" in order to make contact between President Ayub and the new Indian Prime Minister.

**BAGHDAD** — The Iraq Prime Minister announced that Iraq and Iran had agreed on proposals for settling their border dispute, reported Baghdad Radio.

**SAIGON** — The US sent its first battalion of tanks—72 M-48 medium tanks—into the Vietnam war.

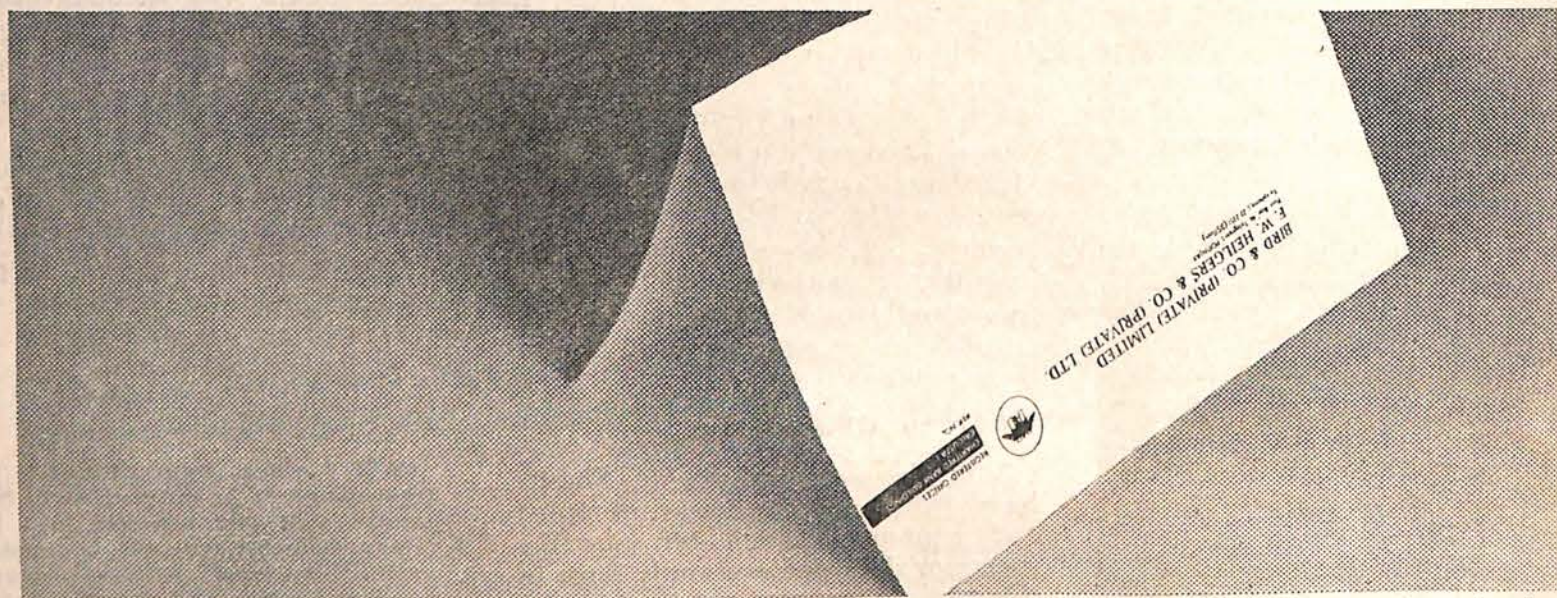
**TEHERAN** — Russia and Iran signed an agreement on economic and technical co-operation: Russia will aid Iranian industrial projects; Iran will export natural gas to Russia. Trade between the two countries is expected to quadruple by 1971.



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Many years ago in ancient Kalinga there lived a boy and a girl who deeply loved each other. But, alas, the stars were against Kedar and Gauri, the young lovers; they were kept apart by the girl's father.

Thus denied in their love, Kedar and Gauri became desperate, and one dark night they stepped out hand in hand to escape into the world

Many miles they walked in the night and the following day under a blazing sun till Gauri's throat became parched and she begged for some water. Bidding her to take care of herself, Kedar left, but he had hardly gone when Gauri found a tiger on her trail. In her desperation, Gauri threw off some of her clothes to put the beast off her track and hid herself behind some trees. Thus foiled, the tiger went away, but when Kedar came and saw Gauri's torn clothes, he feared the worst. Beating his breast, he fell to the ground and stabbed himself with his knife.

Two beautiful temples near Bhubaneswar, devoted to Kedar and Gauri and visited by many people every year, commemorate this immortal tale. To hear the myths and legends of our country and legends of our country is one of the pleasures of motoring. And you discover so much more when you go by road.

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Tourist Industry

Tourism Boosts National  
Income, Earns Foreign Exchange



DC-591

FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

New York Times. "But in the case of the illegal transport strike no rebuke has been forthcoming from the President."

Three million people have been denied public transport by the strike. Educational institutions attended by almost two million students have been closed. A court order was torn

up by the union boss Mike Quill on national TV and when he was arrested he told the judge to "drop dead in his black robes".

The public feel that the President's silence on this issue is overly political and unfair, that industry is being discriminated against and that delinquent labour leaders are left uncensured.

Will Libya's Riches Boomerang?

FROM HARRY ALMOND

Benghazi

A Cabinet Minister recently told this correspondent in Tripoli, "We learned in the first years after independence from the school of poverty, and we overcame many difficulties. Now we must learn to live with wealth, and that presents even more problems."

On the same day the Arabic press published Esso Libya's announcement that their exports of oil had passed the 500 million barrel mark in the four years since the port of Mersa Brega had been opened. Esso's production at present represents about half the national figure. The rest is produced by Oasis, Amoseas and Mobil. A 300-mile pipeline, with its outlet in Tobruk, is under construction for British Petroleum. The oil boom is just beginning.

Libya's 680,000 square miles are more than three times the area of France. Her population is only 1.6 million, but the people are almost entirely concentrated in the 1,000 mile-long narrow coastal strip. This represents an increase of nearly 50 per cent over the 1954 census total.

The three regions—Tripolitania on the western half of the coast, Cyrenaica to the east, and the Fezzan in the interior—are united under the monarch, King Idris I. Representative government functions through the Senate, whose members are appointed by the King, and the House of Representatives who are elected from 91 constituencies. All revenue is collected by the central Government who allocate 80 per cent of their oil income to long-term development.

The seat of government alternates at the moment between Tripoli and Benghazi. There is a move to establish a Brasilia-like new capital in a village called Beida, half way between Benghazi and Tobruk. The

King stays more or less in seclusion near Tobruk, inaccessible by scheduled transport. Thus Government is often dispersed along the length of the coast.

However, foreign embassies are in Tripoli, and much of the business of government is conducted there. It is a beautiful and dignified city of 400,000. Benghazi, with 300,000 people is, by contrast, a bustling boom city. Huge diesel trucks laden with the machinery of oil development follow donkey carts of baled hides down the waterfront. It is a typical desert-edge Arab city, but the building spree has already started with large modern apartments and office buildings. Texas drawl, BBC English, Italian gesticulation and Arabic guttural mix in barber shop and hotel.

Close to the desert tradition and faith of Islam under the spiritual leadership of King Idris, Libya is facing a breath-taking boom. Thoughtful patriots are concerned with the threat of moral deterioration which can all too easily ride in on the back of affluence. The King is 75 years of age and in fragile health. The issue of succession makes the need for reinforcement of moral foundations even more acute.

A member of the Government told of a legendary and whimsical figure, Hajji Goha. Goha, so the story goes, had two donkeys tied to a tree near his home. One broke loose and did considerable damage in the garden.

Continued on next page

The week in India

**NEW DELHI** — Mr. Mahavir Tyagi resigned as Rehabilitation Minister because he disagreed with some aspects of the Tashkent declaration.

**TRIVANDRUM** — Kerala had only ten days' supply of rice left, stated a civil supplies spokesman on January 14.

**JAIPUR** — Five thousand eight hundred and eighty-two more villages in Rajasthan were declared famine-affected, bringing the total to 6,064.

**DHANBAD** — Four miners were killed and eight trapped underground when a roof caved in at lower Badjna colliery.

**CALCUTTA** — A Port Trust spokesman said Calcutta had received and cleared an average four to six PL 480 food ships a day since the beginning of this month.

**ALLAHABAD** — Despite cold weather, nearly a million people took a holy dip in the Ganges and Yamuna on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. Police, for the first time in India, used TV to control the crowds.

**TRIVANDRUM** — Kerala Electricity Board imposed a 100 per cent surcharge on industrial consumers because of the high cost of power imported from Mysore.

**NEW DELHI** — US Vice-President Humphrey invited Congress President Kamaraj to visit the US. Kamaraj was understood to have accepted.

**MADRAS** — The Hindu failed to come out on January 12 because its employees did not come to work. The secretary of the employees' union said the workers were "dazed" by the news of Mr. Shastri's death.

**CALICUT** — The Planning Commission sanctioned Rs. 66 lakhs for development in the Union Territory of the Laccadive Islands.

**JAMSHEDPUR** — Three thousand one hundred workers of the British-managed Indian Cable Company went on strike against the laying off of 664 workers. This was said to be due to shortage of raw materials.

**NEW DELHI** — Mr. Arshad Hussain, Pakistan High Commissioner, resumed his duties in New Delhi. Mr. Kewal Singh, Indian High Commissioner in Karachi, has returned to his post.

**BOMBAY** — Mr. G. P. Sippy, President of the Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association, said films should be used to promote friendship between India and Pakistan, the cause for which Mr. Shastri died.

Seeing what had happened, the Hajji took a stick and gave the other donkey who was still tied up a good thrashing. When his friends protested, Hajji Goha explained, "I know these donkeys better than you do. The donkey I've beaten would have done much worse damage than the other, if he'd gotten free."

## Kenya Starts Youth Initiative Scheme

FROM VERE JAMES

Nairobi

While Rhodesia continues to occupy the headlines in the British and African press a practical answer to the Central African dilemma continues to unfold in Kenya. President Jomo Kenyatta began the year 1966 by announcing an Initiative Scheme of character-building for young men between the ages of 15 and 24.

The Initiative Scheme, to be known as the President's Award, will promote activities that will enable young men to acquire self-reliance and the value of using their talents in the service of others.

"Both these qualities are important attributes of citizenship," the President said, "But these alone are not enough, a spiritual faith is also needed. It is hoped that leaders will regard this aspect of a young man's progress as paramount.

"Because on this factor, interpreted in its widest sense, the value of this scheme will ultimately depend."

Speaking in Mombasa the same week, President Kenyatta welcomed those Europeans, Asians, Arabs and

Our friend added, "You see, it is not so much the problem of the few who get into trouble now that concerns me. The real cause for anxiety is what would happen to all the good people, if present moral and spiritual guidelines are removed. That is why we believe our first goal must be to give moral rearmament to the young people of our country."

Kenyatta has experienced that the only effective way of dealing with the past is forgiveness; and that practical preparation for the future must give priority to the character of his people. This is an unprecedented level of statesmanship in Africa which other leaders, black and white, should ponder—and follow.

**AN  
IDEAL  
COOKING  
MEDIUM**



**RATH**  
VANASPATI

## Sato Aims to Change Japan's Image

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Tokyo

The New Year begins with Asia the main arena of the Cold War. According to the London "Times", America anticipates a "ten-year Cold War" with China.

After long negotiations the Tokyo-Seoul rapprochement has been brought about which Prime Minister Sato calls "the first step" in his Asian diplomacy. Interest is now centred on the next step.

The Prime Minister is said to be planning a visit to Moscow around June. This is in line with his frequent statements that "after the Japan-ROK rapprochement comes the betterment of relations with the Soviet Union". Foreign Minister Shiina went to Moscow in mid-January to conclude the Russo-Japanese aviation treaty.

### "Economic Animal"

Japanese co-operation with the Soviet plan to develop Siberia is becoming another possibility.

At home the timing of a possible General Election this year will be bound up with the Government's success in dealing with the ever-rising consumer and public utility prices and the persistent economic recession. Abroad, noticeably in Africa, the Government aims to rectify the image of Japan as an economic animal following a "money-making" principle and not giving a thought to others.

### UN Opposition

This view was indicated in an analysis of votes for Japan as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Several African countries abstained. A Japanese diplomat commented that some did not vote for Japan because of its policy towards South Africa.

Prime Minister Sato says, "The Japanese people must first of all fully understand the fact of a 'reborn Japan', the character of which has changed drastically since the war. I want the Japanese to understand this fact first—and then go on to seek the understanding of all other Asian nations."

## The week elsewhere

### FORCE "IF NECESSARY"

LAGOS—The Commonwealth Prime Ministers gave qualified backing to Britain's policy of ending the Rhodesian rebellion by sanctions and agreed to meet again in July if the Smith regime had not been brought down by then. They also agreed that the use of force "could not be precluded if this proved necessary to restore law and order". The Prime Ministers decided to appoint committees to advise on further action and to speed training of Rhodesian Africans.

### CHINESE DESIGNS

EDINBURGH — Chinese harassing attacks on the Tibetan border may be the prelude to a campaign of subversion across the Himalayas, according to a report in *The Scotsman*. This was said to be the view of Indian officials. The Chinese are believed to have started a long-term campaign of harassment with the object of penetrating the "tribally unstable" NEFA. "This would per-

mit China to break loose from the geographical confines of the Himalayas," states the report, "after which she could dispense with further military action and begin to infiltrate and subvert in the respectable revolutionary way."

### FAMINE IN AFRICA

LUSAKA—Drought has gripped Central Africa. Over 100,000 people are being kept alive by government or international assistance. By mid-year the number may be 400,000. In Bechuanaland, one of the worst affected countries, 350,000 cattle are reported dead or dying. In Zambia half the maize crop has been lost. Other countries affected are Basutoland, Swaziland, Uganda and Rhodesia.

### FAIR DEAL FOR GROWERS

CAUX, SWITZERLAND—A fair deal for Indian and Pakistani jute growers is one of the aims of Robert Carmichael, President of the French and European jute industry. Speak-

ing here at the Swiss Moral Rearmament conference centre, Carmichael said he had set himself four goals:

"Guarantee a fair return to the jute growers of India and Pakistan.

"Give a fair payment to the transporters and intermediaries who serve the industry.

"Guarantee a fair income to the industries of India and Pakistan as well as Europe.

"Satisfy the needs of the world for jute of perfect quality at a satisfactory price."

Carmichael described last September's jute agreement in Rome as "the first step in building up a sound jute economy in the world".

### STUDENTS BACK US POLICY

WASHINGTON—Nearly half a million US college students have signed a declaration backing the US fight in Vietnam. Members of the National Students Committee for the Defence of Vietnam last week presented a scroll representing the signatures of 447,000 students from 322 colleges to Vice President Humphrey.

energy, and release the housewife for "more" productive labour, workers are compelled to eat in badly managed mess halls.

The most tragic aspect of their condition is the enforced separation of families as a result of sending workers' dependents to the rural areas to work there. As many as a quarter of the total workers are thus separated from their families. Increasingly, they are also forced to live collectively in overcrowded tenements.

There would be much to learn from the Communist drive for mass education of workers, if it were divorced from the thought-control which is an inevitable aspect of the Communist literacy drive. There is also a great deal to be said for the recognition given to the best workers under the system of "labour emulation". But the enthusiasm of the early period after the revolution is bound to disappear progressively if its only result has been to convert the workers into "slaves of production".

R. V.

## BOOKS

WORKERS OF CHINA by K. E. Priestley, (Ampersand Book, Allen & Unwin, London, 3s. 6d.).

The constitution of China defines the Chinese People's Republic as a "People's Democratic State led by the working class".

In theory, the workers lead the State. It exists for them. They are supposed to enjoy secure employment, housing, social insurance, opportunities for education and advancement.

But in practice, "The dread of being without work has given way to a burden of toil, to family separation, to collective living, to political indoctrination, to scanty and over-organized leisure. No longer is the worker an independent human being, able to form his own opinions, to choose his own job, to live where he will; rather he is an industrial serf."

Mr. Priestley, who was for many years head of the Department of

Education in Hong Kong, visited China especially to study workers' conditions. His brief study is an honest and illuminating evaluation by a competent scholar.

The main interest of the Chinese state is not the welfare of the workers but the drive for industrialization that will make her a great power. The Communists make no secret of this. The constitution for Trade Unions, adopted in December 1957, stressed that the function of the unions is to "develop the enthusiasm and initiative of all workers so that they may consolidate labour discipline of their own free will and ensure the fulfilment and over-fulfilment of the construction plans of the state" and that "individual interests must yield to the interest of the state".

### Twelve-hour Day

Increasing productivity is the main task of trade unions. A twelve-hour day is now normal. There is constant effort by coercion and what is called "labour emulation" to increase the product.

To save the workers' time and

# LETTERS

## STATE AUTONOMY

SIR: Mr. Nijalingappa, Mysore Chief Minister, has rightly said that states' autonomy is being curtailed by depending on Central Government for grants in aid. As long as one party is in power both at the Centre as well as in the states the autonomy question will not be raised. For democracy one-party rule cannot be expected forever and hence it is now time for the Centre to arrive at a solution whereby states' autonomy will not be affected.

To maintain autonomy of states, each state should have its own resources to implement plans and to develop the state. There should be no deficit financing. Each state should have a planning body comprising economists, industrialists and eminent men representing all walks of life to draw out a plan in consonance with the states' resources. There should be no ambitious planning.

Further, the Centre for its part should retain only a few portfolios such as Defence, Foreign Affairs, Communications and leave the other things to the states. The Centre should act as an advisory body with the states' subjects, if it is considered important, and not interfere with the states' autonomy.

C. L. NARASIMHAN\*

Madras 4

\* This week's Rs. 10 prize winner.

Indian states do not have the autonomy enjoyed by those, for example, in the United States.—Ed.

## ADVICE

SIR: It is a pity that a few unmarried ladies and gents often talk about the value of Family Planning. However educated, qualified or vice versa they may be, is it impertinent to ask whether they are competent to advise the mothers and fathers when they are still "Miss", "Kumari" and bachelors?

P. V. GANESAN

Madras 4

## OUR SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL

SIR: In the scientific laboratories and technical offices of the Government of India, there are such posts as senior technical assistants to which persons with a high Master's degree and three or four years' research experience are recruited. These are classified as Class II (Non-Gazetted) posts, carrying a pay scale of Rs. 325-575 with an annual increment of Rs. 15 only.

Young personnel who want to take up research and technical investigation as their future career apply for these posts in the hope that they can have better prospects. But disillusion is in store for them and they have to wait for promotion even for 10 years or more.

Meanwhile the applicants have to be satisfied with a meagre increment of Rs. 15 only. This stagnation has a demoralizing effect reflected in the quality of performance in laboratories and other offices. The Government of India can alleviate the grievances of such staff by elevating them to the grade Class II Gazetted with a regular pay-scale or merge both the grades, Class II Gazetted and Non-Gazetted. Moreover an extra allowance should be provided for such staff which should be called an inducement allowance. Only then can we be proud of scientific advancement in our country.

K. L. VARAHAN

New Delhi 16

## TTK VICTIMIZED

SIR: In an editorial you comment on the exit of TTK and suggest that the charges levelled against him should be investigated and that he has to clear his name. If, however, the public enquiry proves that TTK is not guilty, then will the persons who made the charges including the parliamentarians be punished for defamation? Kindly let me know.

The way in which TTK was forced to quit office shows that he has been victimized by the big business sharks and the stooges of capitalists.

P. AMIRTHAM

Bombay 75

## UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY

SIR: The growing concern at attempts by politicians to interfere in the internal affairs of places of higher learning has been fully reflected in the Convocation address delivered by Dr. K. V. R. V. Rao at Osmania University. The venue was well chosen, for the Andhra Pradesh Government recently introduced legislative measures to permit Governmental interference in the affairs of state universities. The argu-

**HIMMAT awards Rs. 10 for the best letter received every week. Letters should be brief and exclusive.—Ed.**

ment adduced was that "misuse" of powers by the universities had to be checked. The real motive evidently was that the University should also become a place where official patronage could be sought and conferred. Hence the angry protests from teachers, students and enlightened citizens alike.

Dr. Rao has rightly pointed out that autonomy is an essential precondition for the efficient working of a university. A place of learning should be free from the poisonous influence of power politics, for otherwise dedicated study and research will become impossible.

T. P. SATHYANARAYANA

Hyderabad 1

## WORKING WITH ASIANS

SIR: Two world wars have been waged leaving behind them disease and destruction. Both these wars were fought mostly on European soil. The battleground has lately shifted to Asia.

Are Asians unaware of the far-reaching effects of a war? It is time for the war-minded Asians to think, and rethink over their aims. They forget the main aim of bringing prosperity to their people. Do they still think that war will gain it? The only way to prosperity is to work jointly with all other Asians and to extend the hand of friendship to other continents.

A. J. SHAH

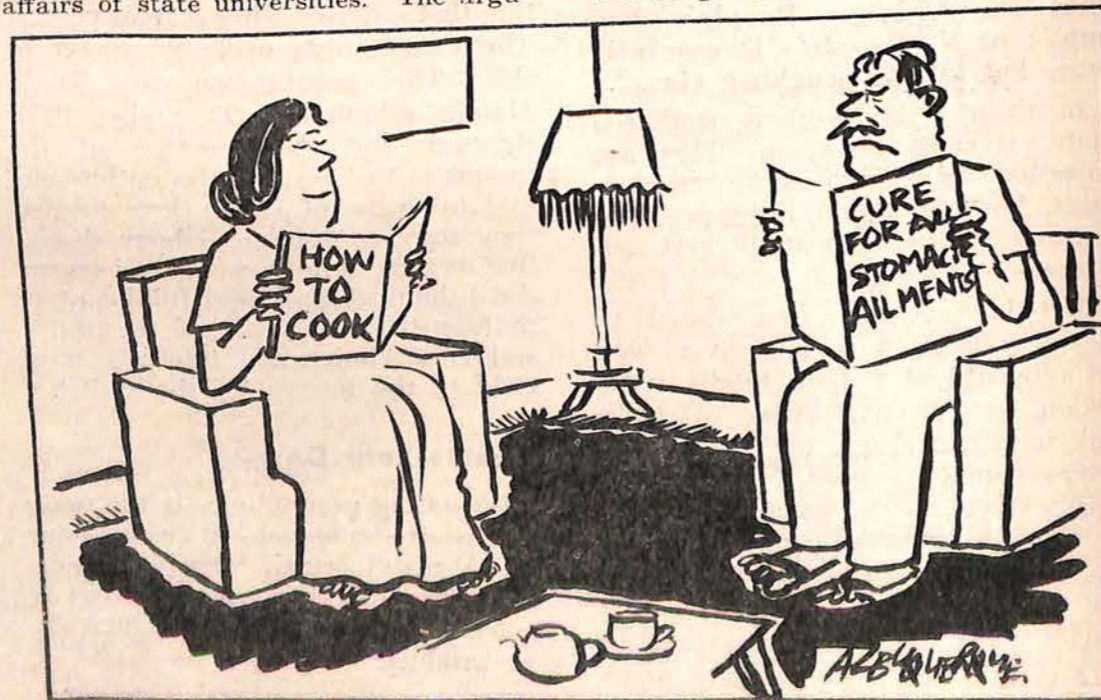
Prantij, Gujarat

## REPORTING

SIR: Thanks very much for the wide scope and constructive tone of your world reporting and editorials.

LELAND W. HOLLAND, SR.,

Los Angeles, USA



HIMMAT, January 21, 1966

# ON THE Spot

HIMMAT meets the people

## Why Did He Have to Die? Asks Tarapore Widow

In a recent outbreak of violence outside the Tarapore Atomic Project, 100 miles north of Bombay, eight workers were killed and at least 18 injured. When HIMMAT correspondent Hari Mohan Sharma visited the site soon after, he found the majority of the workers' families in the nearby village shocked and terrified. They were an angry people. He interviewed the widow of one of the workers shot. He was a truck driver called Kundan Singh.

Tarapore is more than an incident; it is a symbol of the disturbed state of our industrial relations.

At this stage when allegations are levelled against different parties by various sides involved in the dispute, HIMMAT is not going into details of who is right and who is wrong. One thing is clear. Whatever the cause—inter-union rivalry, callousness of the Government or management, denial of legitimate claims for wages and conditions—the ultimate cost in such disputes, if not resolved, is paid in the lives of innocent people, the helpless widow, the orphaned children, the insecure future as of this Sikh family.—EDITOR.

**I stumbled through nearly two miles of pathways heaped with refuse. I was walking from the Atomic Power Plant to the village of Tarapore.**

At a hut, rather small and cluttered, I was face to face with a Sikh lady Surendra Kaur. Under 30 years of age, she sat on the ground, her hands placed on her knees. They were hands that had known hard work for her three children Sarup (10), Lakhoi (7) and Annopsingh (2), and for her husband, Kundan Singh, who was alive till a few days back. They were hands that must have spanked her children, tended them in babyhood and illness and caressed them. These hands now pathetically expressed more than any words could say.

The children, conscious of a stranger in the hut, were peering through a broken wall. They were too innocent, their lives too narrow and removed from the hard realities of life, to understand the full impact of the tragedy they had recently suffered. Without looking at me, she lifted her eyes and fixed them on the roof, and began to whimper like a lost and whipped child. It looked as though she were searching for something she would never find again.

After listening to my broken words of sympathy, she waved her

hands in agitation, as though to ward off something. The weight of sorrow and depression appeared to be too heavy for her to articulate orderly thoughts. She began a monologue in a low, sobbing voice:

"I wish we'd never left home... He sacrificed everything for his work... for his children... for us... all his youth, his days, his nights. And what did he get in return for it? Death... and his children—the street... the children about whom he used to say that there was nothing he'd not do... I cannot believe, even to this moment, that he has died... can die."

She stared at the street... waiting, watching with pathetic impatience.

"Why did he have to die? Why didn't I die. I... I... I...?" She whispered brokenly.

She was panting hoarsely. Her voice became a sob.

"They killed my husband and made me a widow and before God, they will answer for it. They drove my husband to death. God will reach them some day. They can't keep God out of their reckonings. You can't shut out God. No. No. No. Yes, God is there. But where can I find Him? Where shall I go with my children? Without my husband, I'm cut in half... I have nowhere to turn... no hand to grasp..."

She was more coherent as we talked on.

I asked Surendra Kaur what her future plans were. She replied, "I am going back to my village in the Punjab and there I shall raise my family."

"And who will support your family?" I asked.

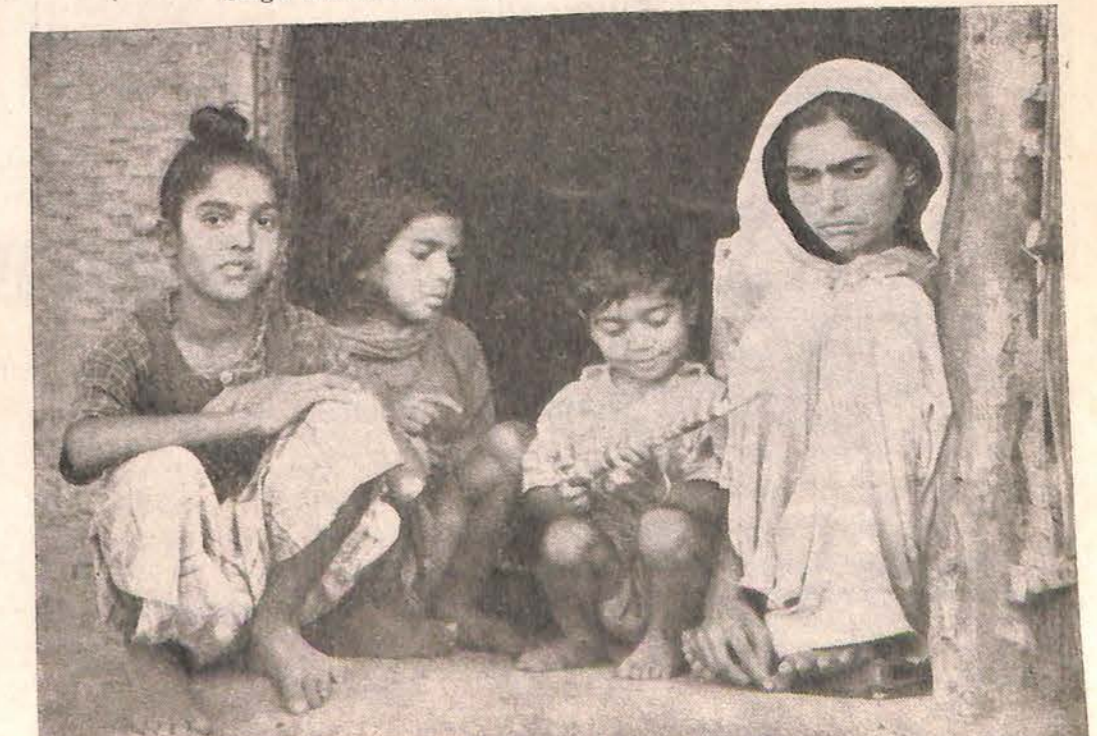
"The Union has promised to pay our expenses for the next six months, but I don't know what will happen thereafter."

H.M.S.

(Editor's note: Readers who wish to contribute to a Fund to help widow Surendra Kaur and her family start life again, may address their cheques and money orders to the Editor, Himmat Weekly, 294 Bazar-gate Street, Bombay.

All gifts will be acknowledged.)

The widow and children of truck driver Kundan Singh who was shot dead in the Tarapore firings.



HIMMAT, January 21, 1966



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### This was a life CHARLES P. STEINMETZ 1865—1933

WHEN A LARGE and wealthy company offered Charles Steinmetz a well-paid position and extensive facilities for research, he was delighted with the prospect. A week later he turned the proposition down. The company then offered him an extra \$2,000 on his salary. But Steinmetz said that no matter how much was offered, he would not accept, because his employer who had befriended him when he was poor and in need of a job, did not want him to leave.

Charles Steinmetz was born in Germany from which he fled in 1889. He had been at the University of Breslau and had become mixed up in politics of which the Government of Bismarck did not approve. He migrated to the United States.

Early in his career he discovered the law of hysteresis, making it possible to reduce loss of efficiency in electrical apparatus resulting from alternating magnetism. When his discovery was made known to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, he was acknowledged as a genius in the field of mathematics.

From 1893 until his death, he lived in Schenectady, New York. One of his outstanding contributions to modern industry was the transmitting of electricity over long distances. Direct current at that time could not be transmitted more than three miles. Steinmetz developed a practical calculation method which showed alternating current could be transmitted over longer distances. An experimental generator was built which transmitted over a distance of 26 miles. This was a revolutionary leap forward in the electrical field.

Steinmetz was under five feet tall and a hunchback. He was the third generation of his family to be born this way and he decided never to marry lest he should pass on this disability to yet another generation. But he acquired a family by adopting one of his assistant engineers and his "son's" children looked on Steinmetz as their grandfather. He in turn was devoted to them and once kept Henry Ford waiting half an hour while he told them a bed-time story.

He died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 59 a few weeks after he had returned from an extensive and exciting trip across America.

Although he made far-reaching technological and scientific discoveries his own prediction was that "the next great discoveries will be made in the realm of the spiritual".

## Q and A

**Q**—Has the multi-racial society, as in the US, Latin America and certain African nations, come to stay?

KAMLA DESHPANDE, Bombay 1

**A**—I wish it had come to stay. There will always, however, be men who will try to put the clock back. Mr. Smith wants an entirely white-dominated Rhodesia. Dr. Nkrumah wants to raise an all-Africa force to end white rule. There will be black, white, brown and yellow men in the years to come who will plan to come to power on the issue of race. What is won by one generation can be lost by another. Each generation will have to throw up men and women who will stand up and fight to maintain a multi-racial society.

Meanwhile one challenge of our times is for one nation to produce the ideal multi-racial society where not colour, but character, counts, and where every man and woman is treated as a son and daughter of God.

Sentimentality and patronage is a poor foundation for a multi-racial society. A common plan and purpose can be the greatest cementing factor for such a society.

**Q**—What are the achievements of the United Nations in creating world peace in the year ending December 31, 1965?

ANNASAHIB B. KHOR, Satara

**A**—The UN has the twin roles of maintaining peace in the hot spots of the world and creating the conditions of world peace on a longterm basis. The two areas where United Nations assistance has proved invaluable in 1965 have been Cyprus and the Indo-Pak conflict. Without the UN not only would there have been serious bloodshed within Cyprus, but it would very likely have brought into play the forces of Greece and Turkey. The UN forces under the inspired military leadership of the late General Thimayya brought the situation under control.

**KAMARAJ**—from page 5

crisis by reclaiming lost ground for the Congress in the south and at the same time not alienating the north.

During his regime, the Congress has openly split in Kerala, resulting in the fall of the Congress ministry. To an offer by the Kerala Congress that they come together with the parent body, Kamaraj replied he would rather work with the Left Communist Nambudiripad than dissident Kerala Congressmen. He may yet unite the Congress forces in Kerala.

### COMPETITION

\* Our education is unrelated to India's need.

Closing date: February 4

\*\* Who would you choose as members of a National Government for India and why?

Closing date: February 18

Prizes: Rs. 25, Rs. 15

Send entries of 500 words or less to:

Viewpoint, HIMMAT, First Floor, 294, Bazargate Street, Bombay-1.

But for the persistent efforts of U Thant, backed fully by the United States and the USSR, the Indo-Pak hostilities would have continued last September.

In certain parts of the world the UN force has to be maintained, for example in Gaza, to prevent another conflagration. Incidentally, India has the largest contingent in the UN emergency force in Gaza.

One situation where the UN has not been able to assert itself is in Vietnam, but even so there is the moral pressure of the Secretary-General for a peaceful settlement.

There has been rather slow but steady progress with disarmament talks in which the USA and the USSR are the main parties.

**Q**—Will it not be proper and patriotic to rename the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as "Subhash Dweep" and "Bhagat Dweep" respectively?

DAMJI JIVRAJ SHAH, Bombay 9

**A**—The trouble with renaming places is that we raise an unnecessary storm as to whose name should be allotted to a specific street corner, island or place. And it only helps to confuse everybody thoroughly. The best tribute we can pay to the men whom we honour and revere is to live as they would like us to live and make India a living memorial to their greatness.

ANY QUESTIONS?

SEND THEM TO Q & A, HIMMAT.

Kamaraj is aware that the true test of Indian democracy lies not only in the smooth transition from one Prime Minister to the other. He sees in poverty the greatest danger to Indian democracy. For this reason he often tends to make strong statements against the rich. The other danger to democracy is corruption. Though personally honest, he is not drastic with the corrupt. He tends to decide issues on a basis of expediency rather than what is right. He has proved himself a supreme politician. The future may show him as a statesman.

# Lal Bahadur Shastri

By Rajmohan Gandhi

## Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S LEADERS, newspapers and common man have been one in their sympathy with India over Mr. Shastri's passing.

All Australian flags in Canberra are flying at half mast. The Governor-General, Lord Casey, the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, and the leader of the opposition, Mr. Calwell, have given Mr. Shastri high praise for his leadership. Newspapers have published front-page stories, editorials and special articles about him.

There is a sensitive appreciation of his abilities, remarkable understanding of India's loss and great dignity in the treatment of the news. The same is true of the television and radio coverage.

I am grateful as an Indian to witness this expression of Australia's feelings for India. Most moving are the spontaneous comments of ordinary Australians.

"Very sorry about your country's loss. This must be a sad day for you," said a guard at the Governor-General's residence as I arrived for my appointment with Lord Casey. The man was direct and real. I told him that Indians appreciated the flags being lowered. "You are a sister country. We feel for you," he remarked.

## Huge Task

Lord Casey, who was Governor of Bengal in the forties, was just as real and wholehearted in registering his sorrow.

The Indian High Commissioner here, Mr. Chatterji, says there is a continuous stream of visitors at the High Commission. The Prime Minister called, as did most senior officials of the External Affairs Ministry and many others.

Mr. Shastri's gentleness and shrewdness and his ability in consolidating his leadership are the qualities newspapers have highlighted. His modesty comes in for special praise. A leading columnist recalls his statement on assuming office, "I am a mediocre man."

Shastri, the Small One taking on a Huge Task, is the picture that has drawn nearly everyone's admiration. Published and pri-

vate opinion also credit him with introducing a more pragmatic element in Indian foreign policy after he succeeded Nehru.

And practically all Australians would say "Amen" to the sentiment of the Socialist leader, Mr. Calwell, that the finest tribute to the dead leader would be permanent friendship between India and Pakistan.

I believe it strangely fitting that Mr. Shastri, like Mr. Nehru, should have died while in pursuit of Indo-Pakistan amity. Newspaper headlines in India the day before Nehru's death had predicted an early Nehru-Ayub meeting. Nehru had, indeed, taken unusual steps in his last months to create a climate where the Indo-Pak cleavage could be bridged.

## Sealed by Death

Mr. Shastri and President Ayub surprised pessimistic reporters in Tashkent by producing their declaration of intent.

The pledge was not signed in blood but it was sealed by the death of a sincere man.

A vow of friendship and peace, a gay handshake between Ayub and Shastri, a smiling and proud Kosygin, goodnight greetings—and within three hours Lal Bahadur Shastri died with God's name on his lips.

It is one more life added to the sacrifice of many thousands of Indian and Pakistani soldiers. Our respect for the dead will be revealed in the steps we take—or do not take—to pull down the barriers of hate and fear that divide India and Pakistan.

## Ordinary Man

Mr. Shastri brought in the age of the ordinary man in India. Looking after India and being responsible for taking Indian society forward is one of the world's toughest jobs. And to do it as a successor to Nehru was harder still.

Mr. Shastri was thin and short. Nobody had described his personality as brilliant. Nobody had called his oratory powerful. Not

many had said, "Shastri is my hero."

Yet Mr. Shastri was elected as Nehru's successor. And without arguing about his inadequacies, real or imagined, he stepped straight into the big man's shoes and proceeded with the task of the Prime Ministership.

It was not long before people began to say that Mr. Shastri was an able and effective Prime Minister. Some even said, "He may not have Nehru's flair and flourish, but he gets more work done."

Mr. Shastri showed India that brilliance and charm and storybook greatness are not the essential qualities of a leader. All that is required is a willingness totally to serve one's country.

India learned from him that more important than the size of the dog in the fight was the size of the fight in the dog.

Many in India and throughout the world are prima donnas. They demand attention, flattery and lights before they will go to work. They insist that others convince them of their greatness and importance before they will act their part. They grumble about what they lack and what they must have before they can perform in front of judging eyes.

## Went Right Ahead

Not Lal Bahadur Shastri. He went right ahead with the job. He plunged himself into the depths of national and international problems without wanting others to prove to him that he had the stamina and skill to swim through.

If we can copy this quality of Mr. Shastri we can change India. We can deal with the food shortage, with corruption, with caste and language division, with lethargy and the sense of frustration.

I will fight for a new India just as I am, clever or ordinary, tall or short, in a big position or small. That is the outlook India wants. Today's India does not need a Gandhi, a Churchill, or a Napoleon. She needs tens of thousands of ordinary men who offer themselves just as they are.



Passing India Gate on the last journey



Our Defence Forces escort the cortege



One million came—in respect, in anguish and to shower their floral tributes



Vice-President Humphrey, Secretary of State Dean Rusk represented USA



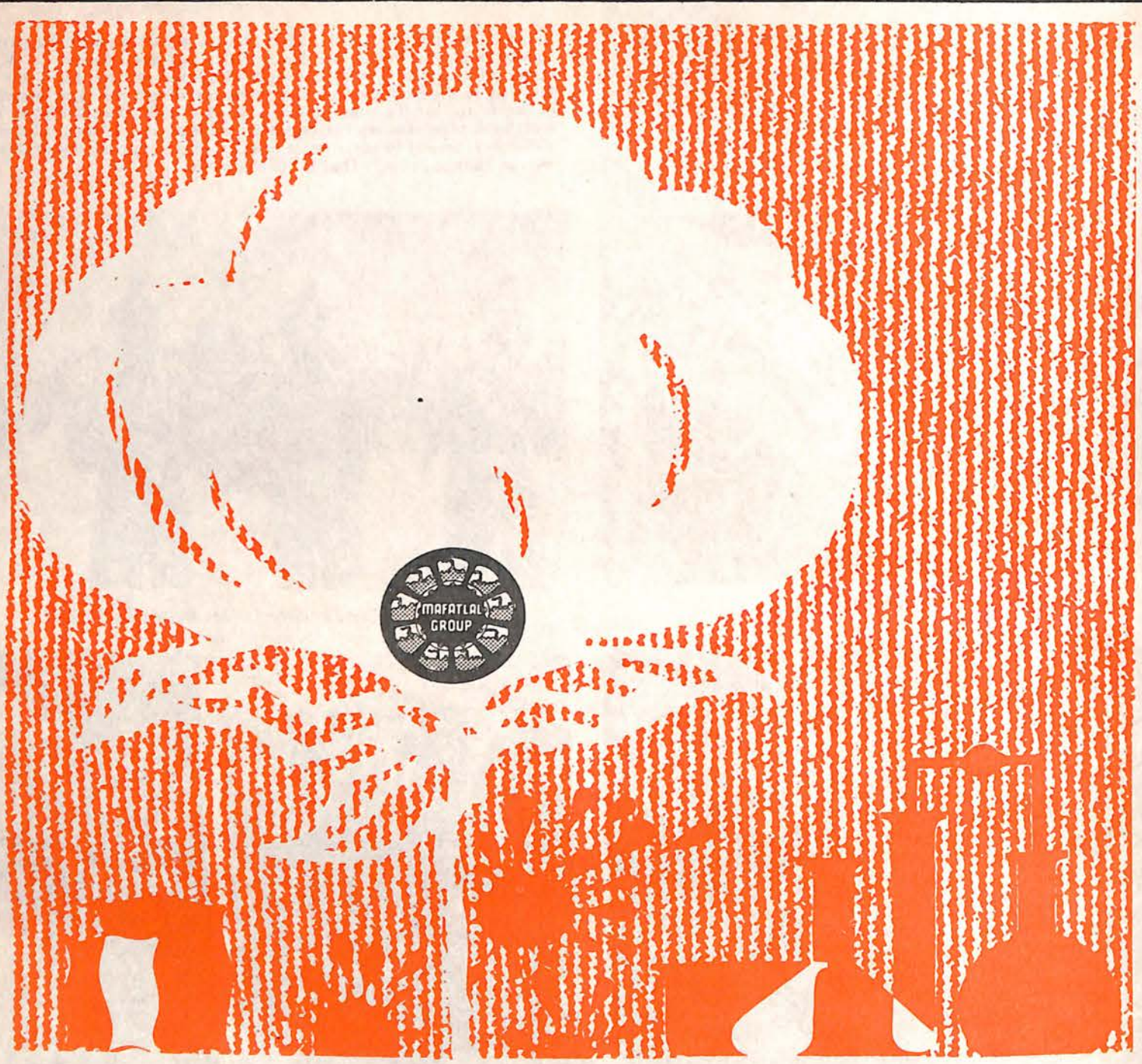
G. L. Nanda, interim Prime Minister



President Radhakrishnan at the cremation with Premier Kosygin (left), and Vice-President Humphrey, Lord Mountbatten representing the Queen and Mr. Dean Rusk



Prime Minister Kosygin flew from Tashkent



**GROWING BIGGER EVERY DAY**

That's us. Always trying to do a little better than yesterday. Always doing it. Textiles, jute, dyes and chemicals. These are the interests we have today. Tomorrow? The possibilities are endless. The future is wide open.



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25P

Asia's new voice

WEEKLY



**P.M. INDIRA GANDHI**

**"...I want to be myself..."**

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Friday  
January 28  
1966

Under the Lens

**THE NEW GOVERNMENT**