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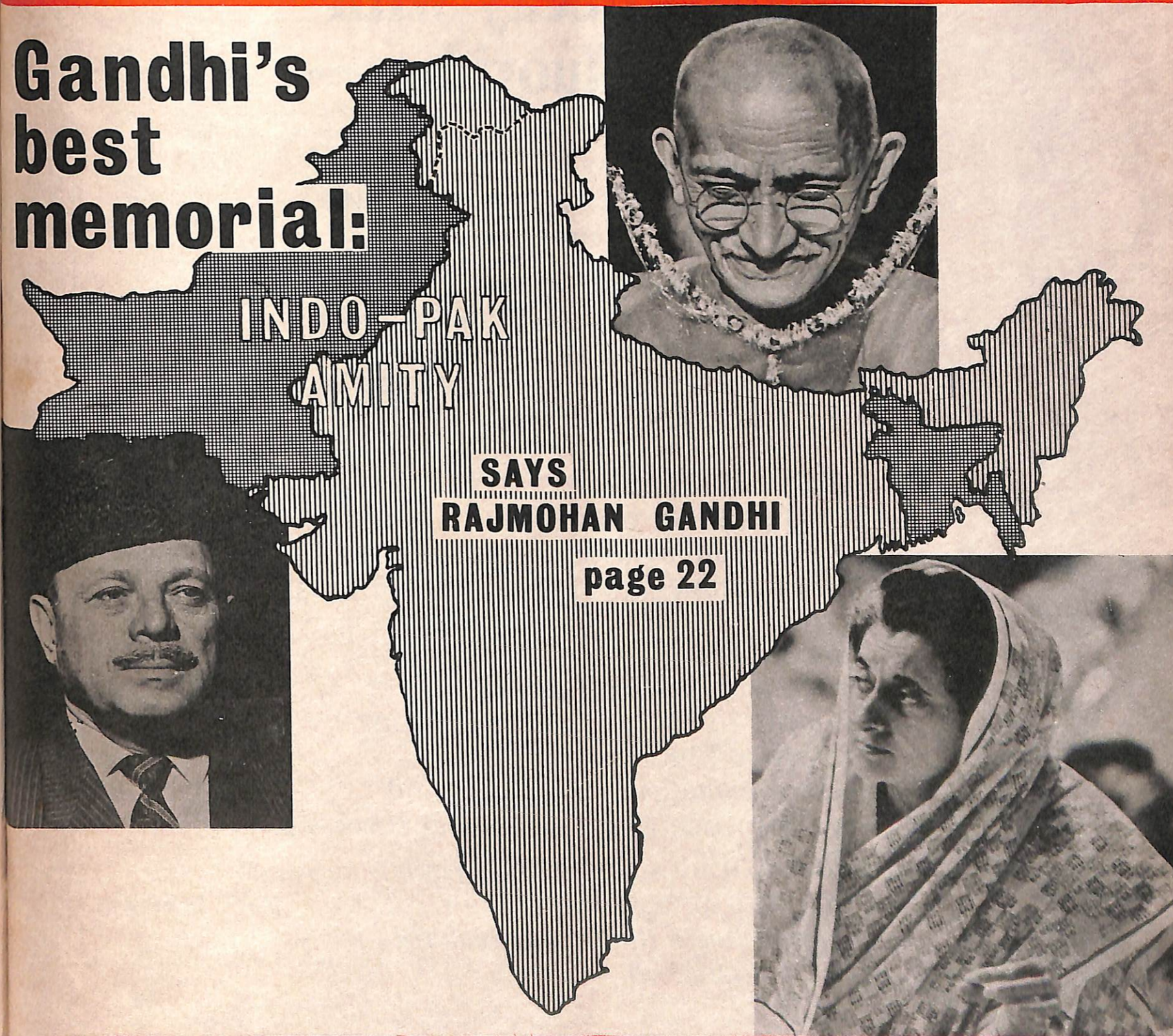
WEEKLY 25p.

VOL 3 NO 49

ASIA'S NEW VOICE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6 1967

Gandhi's best memorial!



AICC - Watch out for fireworks p.5

Strengthen your teeth against decay with Binaca Fluoride

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HIMMAT

Asia's new voice

WEEKLY

BOMBAY FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 1967

Seeds of fascism

MR K. K. SHAH, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, has announced that a committee will discuss the question of norms for the censorship of films.

The basis on which decisions of local boards are made certainly needs drastic overhaul. In the name of censorship there is a deliberate attack on freedom that would not be tolerated by the press.

Earlier this year it was only on the reported intervention of the Prime Minister that *Dr Zhivago* was released at all. The censors, timid about Russian reaction, had originally made cuts unacceptable to the distributors.

Recently a documentary was not passed because it showed a picture of the Berlin Wall. In another film, made from a successful London stage play, references to Hitler and Stalin were dealt with by deleting Stalin. The actual phrase was, "Hitler's insanities, Stalin's brutalities all in the name of right". The italicised portion was cut.

When it was pointed out that even the Russians had discredited Stalin, the censorship official replied, "But there is a move now to bring him back again."

Can there be anything more farcical for the Government of a Sovereign state to act in this way or have we already surrendered the right of free speech to a foreign power? Let there be no mistake, in the name of censorship we are being told what we must think, what we must not think, who our friends must be and a host of other things.

This censorship places enormous powers in the hands of officials, often quite junior, who are not directly responsible to the electorate, and promotes that philosophy based on the lust to control people which is integral to Fascism and all forms of totalitarianism.

Rising sun

PRIME MINISTER EISAKU SATO's tour of eleven South-East Asian countries marks a further stage in Japan's emergence as a world power.

With an economic growth rate of nearly ten per cent a year, Japan already ranks fifth among industrial nations. Within a decade, experts predict, she will become the world's third strongest economic power, trailing only the US and Russia.

Since 1965 Japan has taken a leading part in:

1. Creating the Asian Development Bank (in which

her share, 200 million dollars, equalled that of the US);

2. Launching the Asian and Pacific Council, aimed at regional co-operation for economic and cultural progress;

3. Setting up the Ministerial Conference for Agricultural Development of South-East Asia.

Economic power, derived from hard work and imaginative planning, has been the key to Japan's resurgence. She plans to extend economic assistance totalling 100 million dollars among the nations Sato is now visiting.

Militarily, Japan is prevented by her Constitution from making war or sending troops abroad. Her Self Defence Forces number 250,000 men. But conscious that economic progress depends on security, the Japanese are reconsidering their military role.

Sato's tour, and talks with South-East Asian leaders, are a natural sequel to these developments.

Moscow woos Islam

TASS REPORTS THE PUBLICATION, in Tashkent, of a new edition of the Koran, though the Great Soviet Encyclopaedia calls the Sacred Book of 455 million people "an instrument of the exploiting classes".

Russia's West Asian strategy provides the clue to this announcement. The struggle has reverted from battlefield to minds of men. Muslim rulers stream to Moscow. Last month, in a single week, Soviet leaders entertained delegates from Turkey, Afghanistan and Malaysia. President Ayub Khan of Pakistan has just completed a visit. King Hussein of Jordan, hitherto firm friend of the West, is there this week. And Russia badly wants a West Asian military base.

Dust from the West Asian war has not yet settled. But it is evidence of Soviet aims when a hereditary Western-oriented monarch, descendant of the Companions of the Prophet, is wooed by the Kremlin rulers.

Now the non-fast

"RELAY HUNGER STRIKE ZINDABAD!"

This notice, outside a city store, may proclaim a break-through in human relations. Something for International Human Rights Year (1968 in case you didn't know) to really celebrate.

In relay hunger strikes, for the uninitiated, each participant sacrifices a meal, and when his turn is over, tanks up at home or the nearest cafe. The method has all the advantages of a hunger strike—publicity, moral pressure and the luxury of mild martyrdom—but without the obvious disadvantages.

Why not a national committee to extend the principle to *bandhs*, *morchas*, *dharna's* and *gheraos*—to the mutual benefit of public and participants. Let demonstrators—and demonstrated against—come and go in relays. Work and demonstration may then both continue, in fructuous coexistence!

Briefly speaking...

Air static

A SIMPLE TO ASSEMBLE broadcasting station for use in small isolated villages has been produced by the International Telephone and Telegraph Company. Fully transistorised, it can be set up in one hour and operated by untrained personnel for bringing news, entertainment and education services to remote communities.

Perhaps All-India Radio would purchase one for their Bombay relay station. *Birbal* lives within eight miles of it but often can't hear the news for static and interference.

Disappointing

SARVODAYA LEADER Jayaprakash Narayan has pointed out that even non-Congress Governments were "very

much afraid" of making any changes in the administrative practices of their states with a view to improving them. He said that during drought relief operations he had conducted in Bihar, "heart-breaking" procedures completely paralysed the administration.

Those non-Congress ministries who imagine that the voters will condone ineptitude in them longer than they did in previous Congress regimes should get their palms read again.

Votes galore

INTERESTING figures have been published by the Electoral Commission on this year's general elections. There were 145,866,510 valid votes cast for Lok Sabha seats. Some 152,724,611 ballot papers were issued but 6,830,460 votes were held invalid and 27,641 were apparently pocketed and never placed in the ballot boxes. Percentages of votes polled, party-wise, were as follows: Congress—40.73; Jan Sangh—9.41; Swatantra—8.68; Right Communist—5.19; Samyukta Socialist—4.92; Left Communist—4.21; Praja Socialist—3.06; Republican—2.48; other recognised parties—6.57; independents—13.75.

Jumbo bhavan

INDIA'S ANIL HARDBOARDS, who pulled off a coup recently by setting up a factory in Canada, have run into a little labour trouble—not with the unions but with the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Part of their know-how exported to Canada was an elephant named Balakrishna who hauls the logs at the plant. Like his relatives back home, Balakrishna has been sheltering under a tree during off-duty leisure hours. But the animal-lovers have decreed that he "must have a home by the end of the month", so work on one was commenced.

His enterprising employers, however, are trying to get him a screen test so that during the cold winter months in Canada he could pick up a film contract in the warmer cli-

And the Devil did grin, for his
darling sin
Is pride that apes humility.
S. T. COLERIDGE 1772-1834

mate of Hollywood. If he flunks the test his employers will have to heat his "home" in Canada to keep the animal-lovers pacified.

Language sanity

THOSE WHO HOPE for sanity to win in the present language conflict will be heartened by the good sense talked by Dr S. K. Chatterjee, National Professor of Linguistics. With several other leaders of education in West Bengal he has strongly favoured the retention of English for interstate communication and for judicial administration throughout India. The educators also expressed the view that Hindi was not yet a suitable link language and any attempt to force it upon unwilling states would lead to disruption. They also oppose the holding of any public service exams in any regional language.

Birbal



from the Capital

Watch out for fireworks

by **ANTENNA**

NEW DELHI Watch out for fireworks when the Congress Working Committee meets here this week. Their cause will be Mr Gulzari Lal Nanda's dramatic action last week ordering the dissolution of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee and the appointment of an ad hoc committee to manage party affairs in its stead.

Quite apart from the strong protests that will come from Mr Atulya Ghosh and his supporters, some other provincial Congress warlords are going to utter harsh words about what they consider Mr Nanda's "precipitate" action. They fear that similar emissaries to examine the affairs of Congress bodies in other states might follow Mr Nanda's "bad example", thus causing embarrassment to them.

People here claiming to be close to Mr Kamaraj say that the party chief also feels that his emissary, in his anxiety to dethrone Mr Ghosh, went beyond his instructions. In fact, they say Mr Kamaraj was so incensed that at first he wanted to repudiate Mr Nanda, but decided not to.

There are others who say that this was not the only, nor the main, reason for Mr Kamaraj's anger. Mr Ghosh is still a force to reckon with in the West Bengal Congress, and he has also quite an impressive backing in top Congress circles in other States and at the party headquarters in Delhi. Not the least among his backers is Mr Kamaraj himself, who is still mindful of the days when the Syndicate, of which Mr Ghosh was a key member, was at the height of its glory and gave him its unstinted support.

Useful

Thus Mr Kamaraj, perhaps thinking that the Syndicate's eclipse is only temporary and that it could still prove useful to him when it emerges from the cloud under which it is at present, was averse to a move that was designed to bring about Mr Ghosh's political extinction.

As proof of the correctness of their reasoning, they point out that Mr Kamaraj has decided to associate Mr Ghosh with the selection of West

Bengal Congressmen to be members of the new *ad hoc* body, and Mr Ghosh, in the interests of his own survival and that of the party faction he heads, would see to it that as many as possible of those chosen are favourable to him.

In this way, they say, Mr Ghosh would continue to ride high in the West Bengal Congress and in the Congress Party as a whole. If anybody is going to be thrown to the wolves, it is ham-handed Mr Nanda, who cannot count on the vacillating "progressives" in the Party to save

him if the dominant group in Delhi decides to dispense with him.

Political motivation analysts say they can discern a method in Mr Nanda's behaviour. They say that in the crisis-ridden political atmosphere in Calcutta at the time of Mr Nanda's exertions there, his advisers persuaded him that if he made the dramatic move he did this would hasten the breakup of the coalition Government. They are said to have told him that the only hindrance to the return of Chief Minister Ajoy Mukherjee and his followers in the Bangla Congress to the Congress fold was the continued dominance of Mr Ghosh over it. Alternatively, Mr Mukherjee would be encouraged to boot the Commu-

continued on next page

CHALTA HAI...

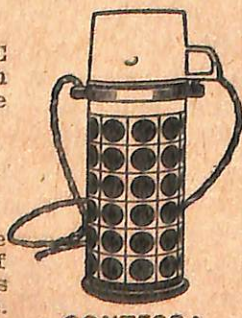


"What's the use of resigning now? Your portfolio was abolished two days ago!"

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On your toes

POLICE DOUBLE STANDARD

EVER PUZZLED by the extraordinary contrast between the way police handle traffic when VIPs are around and when they are not?

The number on duty around Chowpatty last Sunday when the Prime Minister addressed a public meeting I could not tell. There must have been hundreds more moving about in plain clothes.

When the Vice President visited Bombay the week before the police gave a similar show of force, if also of poor planning, when at the last minute they cleared the kerbs along the route, even summoning owners from a hotel to move their vehicles.

Why take the opposite view when just you and me and six million other ordinary pedestrians and drivers are around?

Desperate over the absence of any traffic police at some dangerous crossings in Bombay a colleague wrote to the Commissioner of Police what he thought were some useful suggestions. After some weeks came the curtest possible reply, largely explaining how the suggestions could not be implemented.

On another occasion the same colleague, whose car had several times been pinned to the kerb by flagrant double-parkers, went to the Traffic Control Section near Nariman Point in Bombay.

After a full minute, the inspector on duty looked up from his novel and asked what he wanted. My colleague explained the hazards caused by unregulated traffic and double parking in the centre of Bombay. "Could a few constables not be put on duty in this area to get some sanity into the situation?" he ventured.

"No use," replied the weary inspector—anxious to resume his novel. "We have no judicial powers to deal with this sort of thing. We book about 2000 cars a day but only manage to process about 600 complaints. What to do?"

Well, one thing would be to get the police showing the same efficiency towards the control of everyday traffic that they show when a VIP arrives. Of course, it would have to be done for the love of service and not for the pat on the back—or promotion—which the VIP might give but the ordinary citizen couldn't.

Freebooter

VERDICT!

This week HIMMAT...

COMMENTS on the report that Russia advised UAR to call off its attack on Israel one day before the Israelis launched theirs that the USSR seems to have been a disastrous ally and helpful foe.

★
IS EXCITED about the system of mass teaching through space satellites, worked out by US and other scientists, including an Indian, and **WANTS TO KNOW** what plans the Education Ministry has to make use of it.

★
NOTES with interest a US proposal to build a nuclear desalination plant on the Bay of Bengal, capable of producing 400 million gallons of fresh water daily, enough to irrigate two lakh acres.

★
COMMENDS the example of Canadian MPs in taking crash courses in French to break down linguistic barriers in their country.

★
WELCOMES Navy Chief Vice Admiral Chatterjee's statement that India is to build up its eastern fleet to a par with the western.

★
IS DELIGHTED that Hindustan Aeronautical have orders worth Rs 20 lakhs from Rolls Royce, famous UK firm, for supplying aero-engine parts.

★
IS IMPRESSED by Mr J. R. D. Tata's plan to make Okhamandal in Gujarat the biggest fertiliser plant in the world, producing enough fertiliser to grow 12 to 15 million tons more food.

★
IS EXHAUSTED from celebrating, this week, national Wild Life Week, National Cleanliness Day, Prohibition Week and Family Planning Fortnight.

★
CONTRASTS the Maharashtra Government's relaxing Prohibition laws with its publishing press advertisements urging people to stop drinking.

ANTENNA—from page 5

unists and their camp-followers out of his Government and form a coalition with the Congress.

In doing so, they apparently oversimplified matters. They took it for granted that Mr Mukherjee, because of his past close affiliations with the West Bengal Congress, was interested in breathing new life into this moribund organisation.

Like other shrewd judges of West Bengal politics, Mr Mukherjee appears inclined to the view that nothing, not even the ouster of Mr Ghosh, can restore the shattered image of the Congress in the eyes of the people of West Bengal. For the Bangla Congress to embrace the Congress in coalition would be to sign its own death warrant. On this point, however, the Bangla Congress seems to hold different views, as is evidenced by Mr Humayun Kabir.

The strategy of Mr Mukherjee and other Bangla Congress leaders of his way of thinking seems to be to foster a split in the Congress ranks, whereby the anti-Ghosh forces break away and join their party. Then, with a majority in the Legislative Assembly, Mr Mukherjee could dispense with the embarrassing support of the Communists. If Mr Ghosh stays on in command of the West Bengal Congress unit, the possibilities of a split in the Party may not be very far off.

★
ONE OF THE major purposes of Mrs Gandhi's recent visit to Ceylon—described here officially as very successful—is said to have been to dissuade Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake from joining the Association of South-east Asian Nations.

Mrs Gandhi is believed to have told him that ASEAN had military overtones in that one of its primary objectives was containing China, and India opposed all military pacts because they went against its policy of non-alignment.

The Ceylonese leaders were apparently made to understand that if they want economic aid from India and larger trade outlets in this country they should think twice about ASEAN. India would, however, welcome any move for closer regional economic co-operation as the strengthening of the economies of the developing countries of South-east Asia

was the surest bastion against Peking's bullying.

New Delhi's doubts about ASEAN, which at one time it seemed ready to regard somewhat sympathetically, appear to have been the result of disapproving noises from Moscow.

* * *
MRS INDIRA GANDHI is playing her cards close to her chest. Nobody can tell for certain when her much-talked of Cabinet reshuffle will take place.

The general betting is that an announcement may be made before the Prime Minister takes off on her fortnight's tour of Eastern Europe on October 8. Among the senior Ministers strongly mentioned for retirement are Mr Asoka Mehta, Dr Triguna Sen and Dr Karan Singh. The last-named and Mr Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed are tipped for diplomatic appointments.

Finding a substitute for Mr Chagla at the Foreign Office seems to be delaying the reshuffle. It is learnt that Mrs Gandhi wants to disencumber herself of this portfolio as soon as possible, but a reluctant Mr Swaran Singh seems the only alternative.

* * *
LOOK FOR an early showdown in the Jan Sangh between party President Balraj Madhok and its leading spokesman in Parliament, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee. For some time, these two leaders have been speaking with different voices in public.

Mr Madhok represents the party hawks, and has been propagating the withdrawal of the Jan Sangh from coalition governments in States where the Communists are partners.

Mr Vajpayee, on the other hand, has advocated continued membership of these coalitions and close co-operation with all opposition parties. The two leaders also disagree on their approach to the English-Hindi controversy, Mr Madhok demanding a militant stand on abolition of English.

In private, leading members of the Jan Sangh deplore Mr Madhok's "provocative" role in the recent agitation in Kashmir over the alleged abduction and forcible marriage of a Kashmiri pandit girl to a Muslim youth.

Despite Mr Madhok's spirited denials of a split in the party, a showdown is likely soon. The emergence of two rival Jan Sanghs is possible.

"Victory for commonsense" in UK industry

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

LONDON The dramatic settlement at Roberts-Arundel, American-owned textile machinery manufacturers in Stockport, England, has just provided the British press with one of its most fascinating "Whodunit?" hunts in years.

The bitter dispute had gone on for 282 days. There were regular outbreaks of violence. More than a million workers were about to strike in sympathy.

Trouble began ten months ago when the management attempted to establish a non-union shop.

It ended on September 14 when Mr John Boyd, Chairman of the British Labour Party, contender for presidency of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, told the nation on TV that a solution had been reached.

That was where the mystery began. Said the *Manchester Evening News*, "Mr Ray Gunter, Minister of Labour, failed; the Mayor of Stockport failed; the TUC failed; Trade Union leaders—both national and local—failed. The ten-month-old dispute seemed insoluble. Then, in a little over a week, Mr John Boyd... negotiated a fantastic settlement virtually single-handed. How did he do it?"

The paper said there had been two intermediaries, a "Senator X in North Carolina", and a "mysterious British trade union leader, Mr Y".

The tail piece to the *Daily Express* front-page story on September 15

was from Mr Boyd: "We worked on the theme of *what* was right, not *who* was right."

The Communist *Morning Star* conjectured that it all sounded very much like the MRA "slogans".

Finally, the well-informed *Financial Times* came out with the facts (September 19) under the headline, "Now we Know".

"Senator X" turned out to be former Congressman Charles Dean. "Mr Y," said the paper, was "Mr William Jaeger, who says he is 'responsible for labour matters' in the common link between them (i.e. Mr Dean and himself)—Moral Re-Armament."

"Can you help"

Jaeger, it appeared, asked his friend, Dean, to help with Mr Pomeranz, Chairman of the industrial group in North Carolina which owns Roberts-Arundel. "Dean responded by seeing Pomeranz and cabling back a 'Can you help?' plea on his behalf.

"Jaeger then got back to Boyd and the long-sought successful talks took place."

The paper said the peace plan included:

1 Setting up of a procedure agree-

ment between unions and management;

2 Setting up of a wages and conditions agreement;

3 Reinstatement of the remaining strikers on the same pay and on condition there will be no victimisation on either side;

4 Men with the longest service to return first.

The firm also promised to train the men for different jobs if their old jobs had been discontinued.

Boyd said that the management wanted, "To create a new spirit in the factory." Union officials claimed it a "victory for commonsense".

A worried Mr Harold Wilson and his Cabinet were grateful for that "commonsense", which included a praiseworthy change of attitude on the part of Mr Pomeranz, patient negotiating by Mr Boyd and a most intelligent contribution from Mr Dean and Mr Jaeger in supplying the spirit which caused the *Sunday Times* to headline its story: "MRA helped end 10-month strike".

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C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

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P. SUNDARAYYA, General Secretary
Communist Party (Marxist)



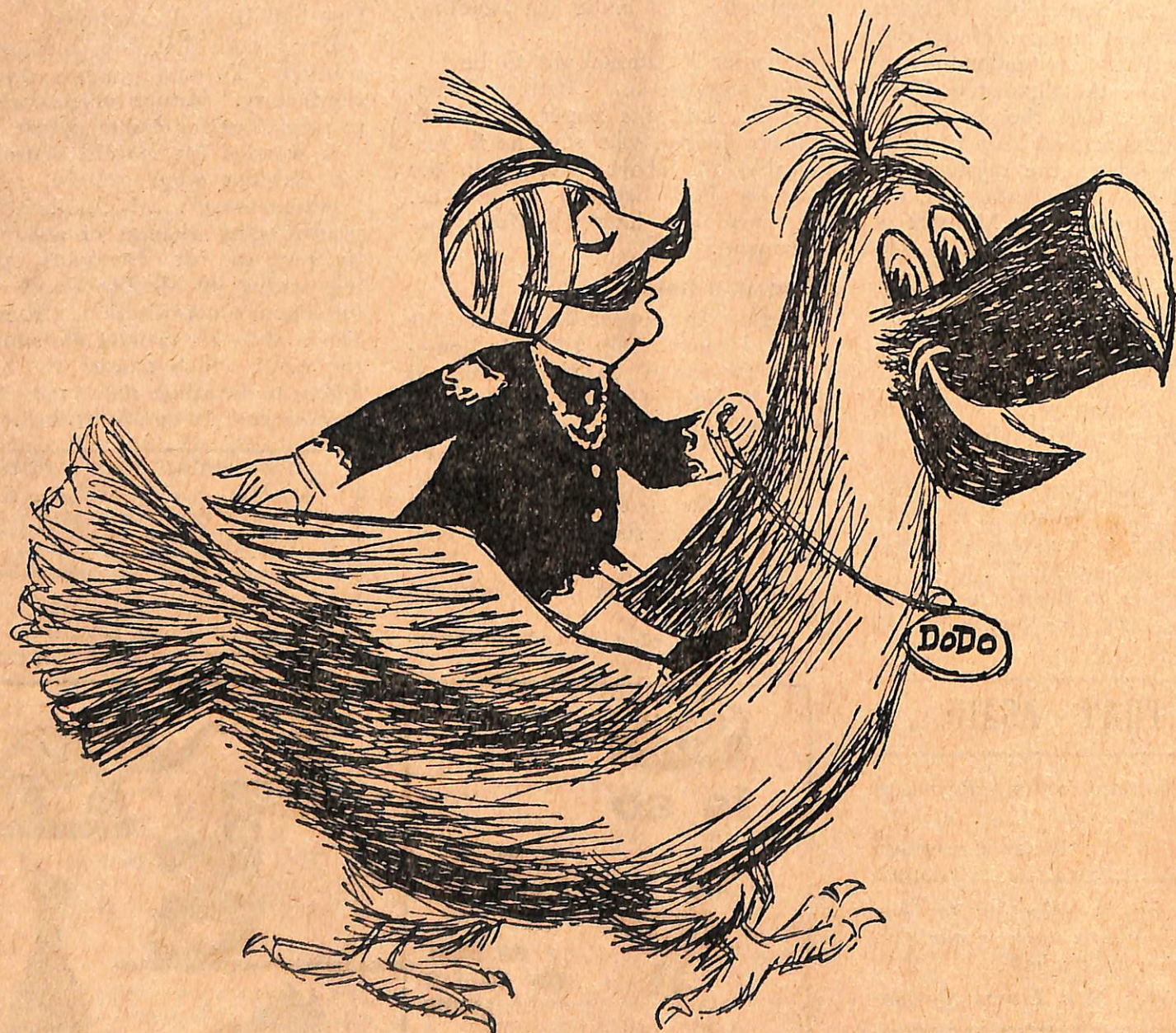
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AIR-INDIA

FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

President de Gaulle in Poland

FROM PIERRE SPOERRI

GENEVA Before leaving Paris for Poland, President de Gaulle said to a friend: "This is the most moving and most important journey which I have been called to accomplish. I consider the visit to Poland, to the 'whole' of Poland, to be one of the highpoints, maybe even 'the' highpoint of my life."

After the storm produced by his trip to Quebec, some had wondered if de Gaulle and the Polish leaders would go ahead with the state visit. Both Polish leaders and French diplomats were conscious of innumerable hot issues which some planned—or unplanned—words of the General could bring up. But de Gaulle insisted on going ahead.

There is no doubt that the French President would have found in a country like Rumania a better soil for his political ideas of a "third force" between the super powers. But, for de Gaulle, Poland was the cornerstone needed for his new concept of Europe.

One key thought in de Gaulle's political faith is that the concept of nation is much more fundamental than the concept of ideology. De Gaulle had known Poland in 1919 and 1920 when he served as a young officer with a military mission. From Warsaw he wrote his first love-letters to his future wife. So in one way, de Gaulle tried to address himself to the "eternal" Polish people and to treat the present Polish Government as just one in a long line of

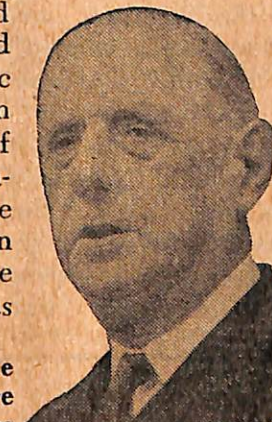
governments which have run that unhappy country.

Without any doubt, de Gaulle succeeded in showing himself as the head of a country friendly to the Polish people. He also succeeded in demonstrating that he was a man of faith and that he believed his Catholic creed to be an essential part of his and his nation's life. He knelt down in several of the churches he was asked to visit.

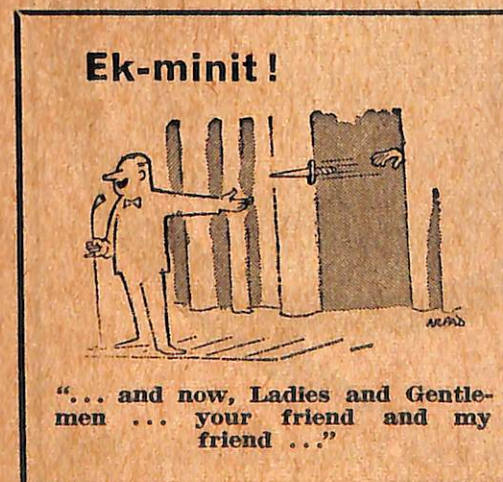
But de Gaulle had two more important issues in mind. He expressed them twice in unmistakable terms, once in Krakow, the other time in a meeting with the Polish leaders in Warsaw. On one occasion he said: "I have come to serve a very great idea... a great united Poland and a re-united Germany, reconciled. This is why I do not want to recognise a second Germany."

The accompanying thought to this appeal for Polish-German reconciliation was the more subtle call for a freer relationship of this new Europe with the super-powers in East and West.

But on both these points, de Gaulle found no obvious response. Probably he did not expect the Polish leaders, who have based their whole national policy on their hatred of Germany and friendship with Russia, to revise their ideas during his visit. He also knew that he had little to offer in terms of power except the public



de Gaulle



continued on next page

The week in ASIA

MOSCOW — Pakistan President Ayub Khan secured a promise of Soviet commodity aid until 1975. But he failed to extract any embargo of Soviet arms supplies to India.

TOKYO — Japan announced a new five-year foreign economic co-operation plan to begin from this year. This would bring her foreign aid up to one per cent of national income in the target fiscal year of 1971.

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian police seized thousands of pro-Peking leaflets in a raid on the Labour Party's Johore office. The posters, coming through Singapore, carried Mao's "thoughts".

SAIGON — Several hundred students held an anti-Government rally and sang nationalist themes. One of the songs ran: "Our peasants need everything but our good allies, on both sides, give them nothing in the name of peace but the beautiful red copper bullets of their civilisation."

SEOUL — South Korea decided to give firearms to civilians and treat them as equals to policemen. This is to protect transport and industries against North Korean sabotage.

COLOMBO — In a new move to raise more revenue, Government decided to run a new quarterly lottery with a tax-free first prize of Rs 2,00,000. It is already netting Rs 10 million from the current lottery.

KARACHI — Canada will give Pakistan fertilisers and commodities worth 11 million Canadian dollars.

KATHMANDU — The National Assembly decided to continue the present party-less political system. The King introduced it a year after he had scrapped the parliamentary system as unsuitable to Nepal seven years ago.

DJAKARTA — The University Students' Action Front which launched the drive to oust President Sukarno from power demanded the resignation of the Government if it could not hold the price of rice. "We cannot study on empty stomachs," student leader Batubara told a rally.

approval of the Oder-Neisse frontier and some nationalistic remarks in the former German territories which were taken very badly in Bonn.

De Gaulle put his truth clearly

and without compromise. He refused to join in any anti-German demonstrations. In the Golden Book of Auschwitz where millions of men and women died in the gas-chambers, he even wrote: "In Auschwitz! What sadness, what horror and still what human hope!"

Queen Elizabeth II enters the race

FROM GORDON WISE

LONDON British bookmakers picked up a tidy windfall over the naming of the latest Cunard Queen. The odds were three-to-one that the Q-4—or Job 736, as she was listed at John Brown's yard—would be named the "Princess Margaret". "Britannia" and "Churchill" were runners up.

But the name "Queen Elizabeth II" seems to have pleased most. By the time the new Queen sees regular service—fitting out will take at least twelve months—the present "Queen Elizabeth" will have been withdrawn, doubtless amid similar nostalgia to that which is presently speeding the "Queen Mary" on her last voyages.

It is often said that the British need more faith in themselves and less breast-beating introspection. The launching of the Q-4, (as she will continue to be known despite

the betting) is a symbol of this faith. Not only have the Cunard Line and John Browns bravely kept steering into the heavy economic seas. The British people, through the agency of the Treasury, have a financial interest to the tune of a loan of £24 million to Cunard out of a total cost of £29 million.

In cold cash, the future does seem hazardous. Cunard has lost a mountainous £21.6 million on its seven passenger ships in six years. In the 1950s, a million passengers took the more leisurely trans-Atlantic trip,

For many Poles, the visit of de Gaulle will have at least opened a window on a different kind of world. Even if his vision will have been considered by many as too visionary, the look into a different future will have given some hope, a commodity not too common in Warsaw today.

about the same number as went by air. But in a decade, sea traffic has almost halved to around 600,000. Air traffic has topped the five million mark, is growing at 15 per cent, and will doubtless continue to do so when it is boosted by jumbo jets and supersonic aircraft.

Cunard, of course, have done their arithmetic. The Q-4 is a convertible ship, designed for a four-and-a-half-day voyage between Southampton and New York as a summer service; and for sunshine-area cruising in winter. Cruising is a "growth industry". But already it is highly competitive, especially for a ship with such high capital and operating costs.

There is a good deal of "canny" Scots foresight in the design of "Queen Elizabeth II". Though of 58,000 tons as compared with the "Queen Elizabeth"'s 80,000, she is

only a cricket pitch shorter because of the new lightweight materials, such as aluminium, used in her construction. This weight-saving enabled the designers to add a thirteenth deck. She will be able to navigate both the Suez and Panama Canals, unique for

a ship of her passenger-carrying capacity.

If there is to be a second Elizabethan era for Britain, then "Queen Elizabeth II" will be a worthy herald of it.

Will rubber bounce back?

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

KUALA LUMPUR The question is no joke in Malaysia, which produces 40 per cent of the world's natural rubber. Falling prices have sadly flattened the tyres on the wheels of Malaysian economy to a point where drastic measures have to be taken to keep the vehicle moving.

In 1915 the price was around Rs 2.60 per pound. Today's price is half, due mainly to competition from synthetic rubber.

To stabilise the falling price, the Malaysian Government has intervened in the market and bought rubber for stockpiling. Steps are also considered against speculators who buy and sell so-called "paper rubber", a transaction in which no real rubber is transferred.

What is most needed is an international agreement to stabilise rubber prices. This has already been achieved in the tin industry. But so far the industrialised rubber-consuming countries, especially USA, have showed little enthusiasm for a rubber agreement.

However, a new note has been struck by the Australian Government. On its own initiative, Australia is raising the matter of a stable and fair price for natural rubber with the US Government. Under the headline "Welcome help from Canberra", the *Malay Mail* greets the Australian move: "Canberra could easily have done nothing in this case. Instead it has made a gesture which could turn out to be very constructive indeed." The US response is reported to be positive.

Meanwhile the Malaysian Government has sent out invitations to a rubber summit meeting to 14 rubber producing countries. Chances are that rubber will regain much of its original bounce.

The week elsewhere

LANGUAGE HEROES

OTTAWA—Eighteen English-speaking Canadian MPs are spending part of their summer vacation learning French. They work 14 hours a day, seven days a week during the three-week course. 4000 civil servants have enrolled in similar courses, whose aim is to break barriers between English and French-speaking Canadians.

TIBET A "PRISON"

NEW YORK—The Dalai Lama's elder brother, Gyalo Thondup, told a press conference that Tibet today is "a vast prison". "Not a single Tibetan, irrespective of social status, holds any significant position in the Government," he said. Two-thirds of Tibet's grain production went to

China, and the people were reduced to subsistence level although 50 per cent more land was being cultivated. Thondup said indoctrination of 16,000 Tibetan youths taken to China had failed. When they returned to Tibet, they resisted the Chinese.

NEW CURRENCY AGREED

RIO DE JANEIRO—Financial leaders at the 107-nation World Bank International Monetary Fund conference approved plans to create a new international reserve currency, called Supplementary Drawing Rights. Details have yet to be worked out and agreed on. Experts call SDR "as important an innovation in international economic life as the creation and issue of paper currency (as against coins) in national economic life".

The week in INDIA

CALCUTTA — In the past nine months there have been 150 major thefts of overhead equipment, 180 cases of squatting on tracks and 61 cases of alarm-chain pulling per day on the Eastern Railway. The stolen goods included seven kilometres of overhead conductor copper wires, 20,000 signalling cables and 14,000 electric bulbs.

HYDERABAD — According to Irrigation Minister Sidda Reddi, milk worth Rs 38,000 was thrown into the canal at Pamaru in 1966-1967. The milk was spoiled due to failure of the UNICEF-gifted compressor and climatic and "other" circumstances.

TRIVANDRUM — The Education Department of Kerala University is now conducting a study on the political attitudes of teachers and the socio-political attitudes of students of the ninth and tenth standards in schools and pre-degree classes of colleges.

AHMEDABAD — 4.5 million people in the country are impaired by blindness, according to Dr V. C. Gupta, Director of the National Programme of Trachoma Control. Smallpox, injuries and malnutrition were among the causes of blindness.

LUCKNOW — UP Government offices will switch over to Hindi by January 26, 1968, said Finance Minister Ram Swaroop Verma. Government will replace 3300 English typewriters with Hindi.

NEW DELHI — It was virtually a "Students' Week" in India. Students of Balasore, Bhadrak, Nagpur, Hyderabad and Calcutta clashed with police in protesting to press their demands. In Karimganj there was trouble over molestation of a girl; in Trivandrum some engineering students were held for painting slogans; in Sholapur there was a clash with police over arrests of some students. And in Srinagar students tried to defy a ban.

SHILLONG — 14 people died and 39 were injured in the Assam Mail derailment near Alipurduar junction. A part of the track was blown clear off, and Government suspected sabotage.

NADIAD — A "saint" who neither ate nor drank for over two years gathered a sizeable number of devotees who lavished on him gifts. But a tin of gur which was mysteriously getting emptier gave him away.

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STATE BANK FOR SERVICE

STERILISATION: Social & national consequences

BY DR ERNEST CLAXTON

ON JULY 19, 1967 a programme of voluntary sterilisation was announced by the Government of India. Husbands with three children were invited to undergo the operation of vasectomy and were to be rewarded by receiving a transistor radio set.

Little research on effects

The operation in itself is not a serious procedure in skilled hands, though unless it is performed meticulously it may cause infection or haemorrhage and be followed by pain. A few cases are unsuccessful.

For all practical purposes it is irreversible. Little work has been done upon the psychological or remote effects,* though, while generally it does not interfere with sexual activity, it may produce feelings of guilt, dissatisfaction, or inferiority. However, it appears likely to promote promiscuity and disrupt family loyalty.

In mammals the purpose of sexual intercourse is reproduction or the continuation of the species. It is alleged by certain philosophers that man differs from animals in that for him the purpose of sex is pleasure and reproduction can be incidental.

In man, however, there is more to sexual intercourse than both procreation and pleasure. Ideally the act is sacramental; it is the physical expression of an intimate and spiritual relationship between husband and wife. A co-operative act between the partners and the Creator, the fruit of which is a new person.

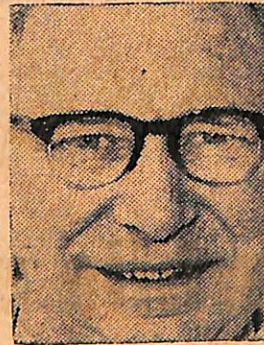
Nature is lavish in her provision of sperms for fertilisation. It is inconceivable that there should not be the intent by the Creator that procreation should follow intercourse. Were it not so, surely the possibility should not be so generous. Nevertheless, as fertilisation of the ovum, or female germ-cell, can only take place when the ovum is ripe and located in the appropriate part of the female reproductive tract, it is obvious that

not every act of sexual intercourse is intended to be reproductive.

There may be medical or economic reasons why the size of a family should be limited as a temporary expedient. As sexual intercourse is essentially a matter for the individual participants, any interference with the natural result of the act is the responsibility of the participants themselves.

It is, however, understandable that the government of a country must be concerned with food and water supply, houses and work, and may well consider that population limitation is necessary. One can with reason ask whether governments have the right to interfere with personal liberty so as to sterilise and make abnormal whole sections of males for the purpose of keeping the population within bounds.

It is quite obvious that sterilisation will remove restraint and turn



Dr Ernest Claxton is a former Principal Assistant Secretary of the British Medical Association.

the procreative act into an indulgent physical activity freed from the limitation of intimacy. It is impossible to say with any certainty what effect this will have upon discipline, character or morale. A nation's moral fibre depends upon hard work, loyalty, integrity of its members and a sense of national responsibility, purpose and proper pride.

In the past the family units have been the bricks that build up the structure of the nation. Anything which weakens the family unit ultimately weakens the nation.

Whatever remedy is promoted, however, should be in line with national integrity and purpose. Therefore, before jumping to the remedy of limiting population by sterilisation, or by mechanical and chemical

means of birth control, a nation should clarify its role and purpose in the world. If that purpose can be proclaimed with telling and attractive reality, people will at least have the chance of perceiving an objective far greater and more satisfying than the personal demands of sex. Many will respond and, as national prosperity is promoted through the hard work and selflessness of people, more will see its value and will be prepared to co-operate.

The selfishness of indulgence has already spread like a cancerous wasting disease. Multiplication of the human race is pointless, reduction of the rate of increase is essential, but it should not be achieved by interference with Nature. Man is meant to co-operate with Nature and the only natural way of limiting population is by personal self discipline and continence.

Mutilation (even by consent) is abnormal and degrading. It shows disrespect for man, the pinnacle of God's creation. It is the surrender of freedom; when once performed the subject no longer has choice concerning reproduction.

For a nation to pioneer self discipline and transform or sublimate its sex potential to constructive ends seems to have far greater value than to provide for the animal instincts of its population and, at the same time, interfere with their natural results.

This revolutionary conception requires a miracle in people to put their nation's needs before their own desires. They would need spiritual power to enable them to do so. It challenges the whole attitude of men to their womenfolk. Too often in the past men have looked on women as inferior, to be used for our pleasure, to do our chores.

What is freedom for?

Mahatma Gandhi gave India freedom or independence. The question must be asked what is freedom for? India has a special role to play in Asia and the world. She could be

continued on next page

How it works at a typical clinic

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LAST WEEK, the Mayor of Bombay, Dr Leon D'Souza, advocated that municipal employees should get no increments after the birth of a third child and on the birth of a fourth child should be dismissed. HIMMAT visited one of the vasectomy "clinics" conducted by the Municipal Corporation at a railway station. In between operations, done in a side room off the main public concourse, HIMMAT spoke with the doctor. He wore no gloves or apron and joked with his assistant as he operated. A young lady clerk in the same room dealt with the small straggling queue of patients.

What will be the effect in, say, ten years' time on the character of men who have undergone vasectomy operations?

"I don't know. I won't be here anyway. I am expecting to leave for the UK or USA in January."

Have Indian doctors made a study of possible side-effects of vasectomy, the loop and the pill?

"Hardly any research is done by the medical profession in India. It is mostly done by experts in the West."

What success is the loop having?

"None. It is a failure and a waste

of money in my view. Women are paid to have it put in. Then they take it out and come for payments



ABOVE, LEFT: Police watch for any malpractices at a Bombay railway station clinic.

ABOVE: Assistants prepare antiseptic in the operating room.



LEFT: These volunteer promoters get Rs 10 for every patient they bring.

and another insertion."

What sort of people come to you for vasectomy operations?

"Mostly men from the slum areas and the goon-dha type. Each patient gets Rs 20 and the volunteer promoter

"Yes. I get an average of 30 patients per day. A reaction might set in against it when it begins to reach the middle-class people earning Rs 300-400 per month, people with religious beliefs. So far, people of this type are not coming forward. They may be going to hospitals, but I don't think so."

D.D.T.

BELOW: A patient receives his Rs 20 following the operation.

BOMBAY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
FAMILY PLANNING EXHIBITION

TWO OR THREE CHILDREN... ENOUGH



VASECTOMY ON THE MALE WHICH IS VERY SIMPLE
SAFE AND TAKES ONLY 10 MINUTES IS PERFORMED
AT CENTRAL RAILWAY DISPENSARY
ON PLATFORM NO 1 - PLEASE INQUIRE WITH
OUR WORKER AT THE EXHIBITION.

A SMALL FAMILY IS A HAPPY FAMILY

LEFT: Banners on Bombay stations direct patients to improvised clinics on the premises.

the bridge between East and West.

She could give China a revolutionary idea to live by when the brotherhood of all mankind, based on honesty, caring and unselfishness, would outstrip Mao's revolution of world conquest. As an industrial and sophisticated society India could help Europe to see that scientific knowledge without a spiritual impetus can never satisfy man, who by nature is a spiritual being.

With such an overall objective, provision should be made to teach

and inspire the people to live for each other, to share the wealth of their world, to be free to live and enjoy life without the domination of sex or personal possessions. Self discipline and integrity should be the real capital of the country. This would provide the financial capital enabling the production of food and houses for the nation.

Moral Re-Armament, the application of absolute moral standards, is what every nation needs. Absolute

continued on page 21

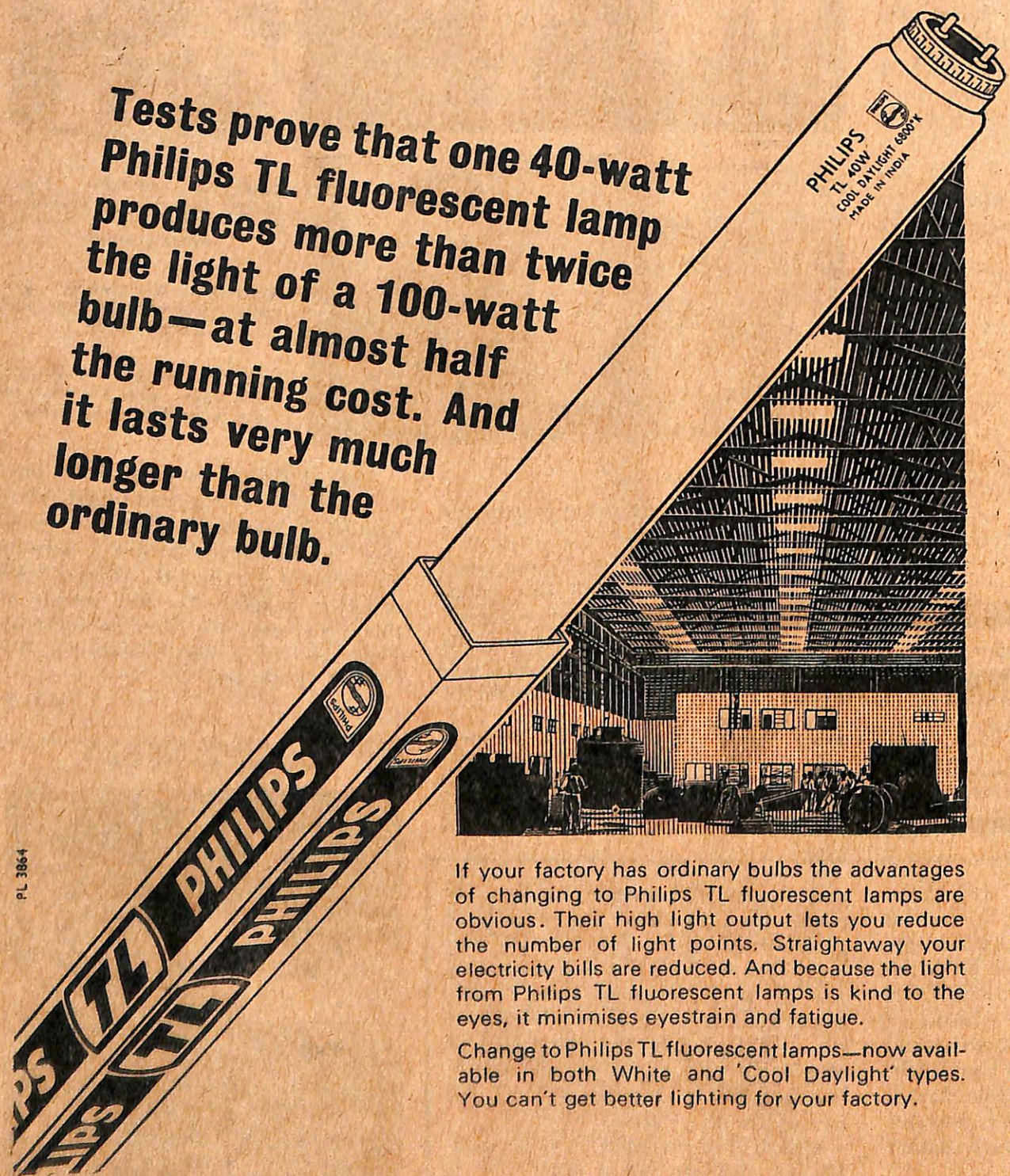


*Social and Psychological Aspects of Vasectomy—Johnson, American Journal of Psychiatry, Vol. 121. 5 Nov. 1964.

PHILIPS TL fluorescent lamps

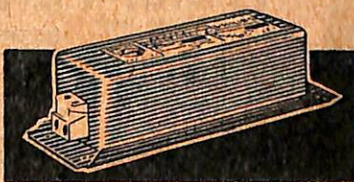
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PHILIPS
FOR THE NEWEST IN
LAMPS

Educators put three sides of the language debate

HIMMAT asked three Bombay professors—from the English, Marathi and Hindi faculties—identical questions on the language controversy.

PROF. M. A. GIDWANI, Head of the English Department, Jai Hind College, Bombay:

"A time must come when English should be replaced by a national language. Till that is ensured, we can't do without English at any stage of our education. At the same time, we should so reorganise our educational system as to have regional study at primary level and regional language, English and Hindi at the secondary level and English as a compulsory subject at the university level with Hindi wherever possible.

"If you insist on the regional medium, a stage will come when people of one State will not be able to communicate with people of another. The Supreme Court will have to be abolished. Think of a situation where the Maharashtra High Court gives a judgment in Marathi and the Madras High Court a different one, on an identical issue, in Tamil. The Supreme Court has to give the final ruling. How is it going to interpret the words?"

The total replacement of English will only lead to emotional disintegration. We were welded into a united nation by a foreign language and now we want to disintegrate it by discarding that language. Mobility of labour will be severely restricted.

"And then the question of translation of books. You are unable to raise the standard of living of teachers by spending a few lakhs of rupees and you talk of multi-language translation involving crores!"

"Secondly, the translator must have not only adequate background of the subject—like medicine and science—but of the language to be translated.

"Thirdly, by the time you finish the translations there will be considerable addition to knowledge and then you will always be behind progress. If we wish to preserve unity and develop rapidly we must have English, but it must be replaced by a link language in the natural course of time."

Pipe-smoking, balding Gidwani was born in 1914 in Hyderabad (Sind). He was educated in the D. J. Sind College, Karachi, and St. Xavier's College, Bombay. He took his MA in English and French.

A prolific writer, Gidwani has been a chief reporter of a news agency and also assistant editor of an English news weekly. He has also published an English novel and has edited a Shakespearean play.

PROF. M. V. DHOND, Head of the Department of Marathi, Elphinstone College:

"I feel that English should be replaced by a regional language as the medium of higher education but the switch-over should be smooth and gradual. It can be done by preparing text books and training lectures over a period of time.

"I don't say the study of English should be discontinued. It is an asset. In fact, I read more English books than Marathi books. You CAN intensify the study of English. But that should not be the medium.

"Advanced education like science and engineering through the regional language would not be so difficult.

An all-India terminology can be prepared which can be accepted by all. You can also use western terminology. The language of science is after all a language of symbols. But I concede that the teaching of humanities might pose a problem.



Prof. M. V. Dhond the teaching of humanities might pose a problem.

"Regarding mobility, all over

ON THE Spot

HIMMAT meets people

Maharashtra the percentage of non-Maharashtra teachers is very low. Usually the professors are from their own regions. There are instances of non-regional students standing first in the regional language.

"I don't believe 'balkanisation' will happen. People think that the unity of the country has been achieved because of English. It is false.

The common enemy united us in the past. What unites is the common ideals, common culture and philosophy.

"You cannot force Hindi on unwilling people. Hindi will take its place

gradually. By forcing the pace, you create ill-feeling.

"What would happen if English is continued? The new teacher recruits are not as proficient in English as the old generation. If you want English to be the medium of instruction you will have to improve the standard of English considerably—which is just not feasible now."

Born in Bombay in 1914, Prof. Dhond was educated at Wilson College and the Government Law College. He took his MA in Marathi and Sanskrit. He has written two books in Marathi and a number of research papers.

PROF. JAGADISH CHANDRA JAIN, Head of the Department of Hindi, Ramnarayan Ruia College, Bombay:

"English, as a medium of higher education, must go. The advocates of English say they can't eat, laugh or breathe without it! I concede that English is important. We cannot neglect its study. But it cannot be a medium of education. Only the top people in our society have gained by its use. I would, therefore, suggest regional languages for higher

continued on next page

studies. The whole process could go on slowly.

"Hindi should be taught on a more scientific basis—and we must be clear whether such teaching is from the literature or the conversational point of view. We should also be clear about the type of Hindi we are going to introduce as a link language.

"As regards translations, we need

not translate each and every word. We can call "carbon dioxide" as it is. Regarding lack of suitable text books, I would suggest that teachers should be encouraged to write more books in the regional languages. The necessity of Hindi will be felt in course of time."

Professor Jain was born in 1909 in Muzafarnagar, (UP). He passed his BA from Banaras University. He did MA in philosophy and got his

PhD in Sociology from Bombay University.

In 1942 he was detained for taking part in the "Quit India" movement for six months. He later went to China as professor of Hindi in Peking University.

Prof. Jain has written some 40 books—in Hindi and English. He was a prosecution witness in the Gandhi Murder Case and is a witness in the present inquiry.

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davp 67/232

HIMMAT, October 6, 1967

viewpoint

Quality, not medium, the priority

First prize to Ashok Shah, Poona

DR SEN AND HIS COLLEAGUES have been organising chaos. With their new education policy they are gambling with the unity of India and the future of the growing generation.

Firstly, their passionate advocacy of the regional languages is not borne out of a passionate dedication to the cause of education nor of a genuine concern for the enlightenment of the masses. There is no doubt that this decision is an act of political expediency that our leaders are trying to camouflage with loudmouth sloganism.

The muddleheaded politicians hope that out of this new "divide and rule" policy Hindi will emerge as the sole link language filling the vacuum left by English—and thus we will find a way out of the present dilemma.

The introduction of the regional languages as the sole medium of education will strike a fatal blow to the very existence of India as one nation. "Unity in Diversity" of which we are all rightly proud, was created and is sustained by a minority of intelligentsia, able to meet and talk meaningfully to each other because of the English language. Nothing could be more suicidal than to break this backbone of national unity without having a proper link language.

This will leave us with no common medium for interstate or centre-

VIEWPOINT COMPETITION

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HIMMAT, October 6, 1967

University education in regional languages will be disastrous

gentsia without seriously damaging her chances of survival.

According to recent research it will need a thirty-fold increase in our publishing capacity within a few years and 30,000 translators with a good university education and a good command over English and the regional languages (intelligentsia?) working every day for the next five years to translate selected books from the present stock and the constant flow of material in 16 languages. This is a minimum if the standard of education is to be kept where it is.

It is possible to adopt a progressive attitude towards regional languages without disturbing the place of English, till we have a language mature enough to serve as a link language and acceptable to all. The quality of education that will produce patriotic nation-builders is the priority, not the medium of instruction.

Attention distracted from vital issues

Second prize to A. S. Ravindra, Bangalore 3

WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD is moving forward at lightning speed, to slide back by centuries is going to be disastrous. To replace English with regional languages is to replace buses with bullock carts.

First, is it necessary to change over from the present medium of instruction? There are enough problems which demand the fullest attention and concentration of the ablest of our leaders. It is the height of stupidity to use their energies to create fresh problems. Or is that a crooked plan to distract the attention of the nation from their failures?

Secondly is it possible and realistic to translate, teach and understand all the complicated mathematics and science subjects which are developing every day? This is where the disaster comes.

Let us face the fact that English is far more developed than any of our other Indian languages. I am a dental student. Only the craziest nut will attempt to translate the "complications in periodontology" or a

description of the hundred different types of oral cancers and their histological features.

There are many reasons for this move to prove disastrous:

1 Directly, in the universities, standards with fall irreversibly—I do not think we have competent translators.

2 It encourages the narrow linguists who feel they have triumphed because they have got their way. Violence and divisions increase.

3 Any inter-university exchange programme of professors and students will cease or will have to be accompanied by a body of translators.

4 There will be no prospect for any foreign students to study here and India will be further isolated.

5 What happens to the national institutions like the IIT which are planned to take the best students from all parts of India?

6 Finally, but most important, attention from the most vital problems like the food situation, defence and industry is greatly distracted.

BOOKS

India and Asia

INDIA AND THE FUTURE OF ASIA: by Patwant Singh (Faber & Faber, London. Pp 243. Price 30/-).

EMERGING into independence, India has had so many problems to face, and these are so vital that in discussing them thoroughly, the author of this book has not had the leisure to pay sufficient attention to the second part of the title of his book, namely the future of Asia.

As the aftermath of an alien rule, a backward economy, poverty, insufficient administrative experience and elementary knowledge of practical diplomacy handicapped independent India. But she had inherited the rule of law, democratic institutions and freedom of expression. On the other hand certain dangers have begun to show their heads: "regional rifts, an utterly irrational linguistic intolerance, inflation and rising prices, and casting a long shadow over it all, a menacing, aggressive and expansionist neighbour, China."

Some hope

The author further complains: "In India today there is a crisis of leadership, of small men unable to rise to the big challenges facing them as leaders of the world's largest democracy, of politicians politicking at the expense of national stability, of those in positions of pre-eminence weakly submitting to the capricious demands of power-hungry men jockeying for high offices." But the author finds hope in the great steps that have been taken for an economic and industrial breakthrough, in the triumph of democratic practices, in the capacity of the people to give a great deal, without being made to at bayonet point, and the dedication to, as well as practice of, the secular ideal.

Going into details, the author, after a rapid survey of history's legacy, dis-

cusses India's developing economy. As early as 1931 the Congress had accepted planning as the basis of economic development, and in 1938 set up a fifteen-man National Planning Committee. Industrialists, financial experts, economists and scientists were included in it. But it was only with the coming of independence that the Planning Commission had its definite place in the economy of the country.

The First Plan was successful beyond all expectations, and the author proves it with many details. The Second and Third Plans were not as successful. The size of the Fourth Plan is criticised, and the author suggests that the Plan should "develop agriculture, bring existing industries up to full production capacity, and start only those industries which are vital to the country's defence requirements." Food as the continuing crisis, the debate between private and public sectors, the taxation tangle—all these are dealt with, making many observations about which there are bound to be differences of opinion.

Facts and figures

There may not be so much difference of opinion regarding his criticism of the pusillanimity of government regarding Socialism and non-alignment; as also regarding his insistence on population control, scientific education, television, and tough policing of political interference in administration. Facts and figures support his clear-cut views.

P.L.S.

Rs. 5000 prize announced

INDIA BOOK HOUSE is giving prizes of Rs 5000 each for the best manuscripts of fiction and non-fiction, in English, by Indian authors. "Give us the manuscripts and we shall give you the books," Managing Director G. L. Mirchandani told a press conference in Bombay last week. The firm was all set to publish children's books and paperbacks, he said, but had failed in getting "the right materials, written by the right type of authors". They wanted to encourage Indian writers to bring out books, not only for the Indian public but for export.

This India

THE OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATION OFFICE in Delhi is the largest telegraphic centre in India. It is our link with the world. A friend of mine was sending a press cable to London. The total cost for the specified words was Rs 25.92. The official behind the counter wrote out a receipt for Rs 26 and handed it to him.

"We have no change," he added indifferently. Seeing the astonishment on my friend's face, he continued, "It's not our fault. Blame the Reserve Bank." The more my friend asserted that it was wrong, the more adamant and offensive the official became. My friend in reasoning with him suggested that if it was a genuine mistake he could have said sorry.

"Sorry! I never say sorry. Why should I?" he practically spat out the words.

A classic example of mountainous Indian pride.

It is not a rare phenomenon to have schoolmates studying in the same class not on speaking terms for a year or two or even three in many cases. The same is true of business colleagues or brothers in the same family. The original cause of falling apart may be simple but neither side will make the first gesture to make up.

In national affairs and international relationships this pride can be a costly business. Pride is not a virtue but an expression of inflated ego. Apology is not a sign of weakness but of courage and greatness. We as a nation and people need to acquire the art of making friends out of enemies.

A young Hindu Brahmin girl from a village apologised to the Harijans for the way her community had treated them for centuries. This happened at a meeting of three hundred Harijans one night in Calcutta. Old grizzled wizened men were moved to tears. Hate and hardness were melted and trust established in one evening by that apology.

Sorry, genuinely said, can be an important key turner in the opening of many doors that have been shut for years.

Heerja Chowdhury

This was a Life

CYRUS II Died 530 BC

CYRUS II, known as "the Great", was the founder of the Persian empire — present-day Iran. Legend tells that because of his father's jealous fears, he was exposed in the mountains at birth, but rescued and befriended by a shepherd couple. His birth later recognised, he became king.

Cyrus was an outstanding soldier and statesman. By 549 BC he had united his own kingdom and conquered the adjacent race of the Medes. By the time his son succeeded him, he was ruling the entire east as far as India. But though great conquerors, Cyrus and his successors conducted wars with a new humanity. Babylon, for example, was taken without bloodshed.

In contrast to the Assyrian policy of destroying cities and slaughtering or enslaving their occupants, and then resettling the area with other displaced nationals, Cyrus welcomed conquered foreigners to his court and gave them high positions. He also allowed captive peoples to return to their home.

A cylinder has been excavated with his decree written on it allowing the repatriation of Lydians, Greeks, Jews and other enslaved peoples, with all that they needed to take up their national life again.

As an administrator Cyrus was brilliant. He divided his lands under satraps, the chief of whom was known as "the eye of the king", and had control over the whole empire and all the officials. The Government records were so well kept that when, a hundred years or so later enemies tried to prevent the Jews from rebuilding their temple, searchers were able to find in the archives of the royal treasury a copy of the original decree, and building continued.

The people over whom Cyrus ruled were mostly strong, vigorous peasants, living in a healthy climate, and used to hardship. Cyrus seems to have been able to inspire them with love and respect for himself, and also with a spirit of patriotism and self-sacrifice. As a result, the Persian empire lasted for 200 years.

D.M.P.

W.H.O. ELECTION

AN article appeared in HIMMAT (September 1) entitled "Reverse at Ulan Bator". While your correspondent may be right in having a crack at the "Big Brother" attitude, I feel he misses some important points.

It is alleged that India went back on her word on a number of occasions. Surely no delegate would have the right to commit his Government in a matter of this kind which cannot be considered a subject of national policy — and one would suppose this to be obvious to all. If this is so, then would not anyone who accepts such a commitment really be as guilty as the one who gives it?

The article also gives the impression that it is wrong for the same person to be repeatedly re-elected to the office in question, whereas it is probably in the best interests of all concerned for there to be continuity of policy and direction if this is found to be in good hands. However, in view of the fact that an Indian had held the post since its inception and had reached retirement age, it would have been a gesture of common decency if India had refrained from putting forward a candidate this time irrespective of whether or not there had been any kind of "gentleman's agreement" on the matter.

Finally, it is a pity that this article leaves a nasty taste in the mouth about an Organisation which most people agree is doing one of the best jobs in the UN family.

A READER, Geneva

HIMMAT ON THE SPOT

S.V.B. writes (HIMMAT, September 15): "Barrister Nath Pai was elected president of the London Majlis, an honour even for an Englishman. (The only other non-Englishman to gain this

STERILISATION—from page 15

to its right level, absolute unselfishness will ensure fair distribution of food and wealth, absolute love will answer the emotional and material needs of people.

The great advantage which proposals for sterilisation provide, I believe, lies in their rejection, and the promotion of the positive alternative, that is, the development of individual responsibility for the life, welfare and direction of the nation. This can only happen through change in people, their motives and character. This is the miracle the world is waiting for. India is beginning to experience it and by making the right choice can both demonstrate it for herself and give it to the world.

Letters

honour was the late Prime Minister of Ceylon, Bandaranaike)".

I am afraid S.V.B. in this respect has his facts a little confused. In its earlier days, before India's Independence, to London Majlis the word "India" meant Indian, Burmese and Ceylonese, and membership was open to all students of "Indian" origin in London, irrespective of their nationality or domicile. With the advent of Independence in India, Burma and Ceylon and the creation of Pakistan, the meaning of "India" became restricted to the geographical limits of India. At no time in its history, at least until 1957, had London Majlis allowed membership to non-Indian origin. Born out of nationalist feelings, throwing open its membership to all nationalities would have been self-defeating.

(Ex-president of London Majlis)
S. K. SEN GUPTA,
Calcutta 16

SUEZ ALTERNATIVE

CAN any country take for granted free passage through the Suez Canal for international trade, commerce and national security? Secondly, is there any way left but to have an alternative Canal, parallel to Suez?

A deep sea canal can be constructed very successfully by connecting the Red Sea with the Mediterranean by digging a deep sea canal from the Gulf of Aqaba port of Eliat, through the Dead Sea to the port of Ashdud, north of Gaza. Prior to the Second World War, with the possible danger of the Suez Canal being closed by Nazi action, plans were mooted for the building of an alternative canal from Eliat to Haifa. Again the problem has become one of immediate urgency and of world-wide importance.

K. RAMASWAMY, Bombay 25



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Pakistan and India

by Rajmohan Gandhi

New Delhi, October 2

TODAY is Gandhi's birthday; next year will be his centenary. Various agencies, Government and private, are bringing his name and face to the public's notice. Apparently stamps, coins and currency are to be issued carrying his profile or signature. Much of this is needless and expensive.

My conviction is that the finest and, in the practical sense, most intelligent way of honouring Gandhi would be for Indians to make up their minds that they will settle and end Indo-Pakistan differences. Pakistanis and Indians mixing as friends and partners at official and individual levels—Gandhi would welcome such a birthday gift when he reaches a hundred. After all he was shot to death while working for it.

It is invigorating to read Kulsum Sayani's letter in this morning's Times of India. Writing from Bombay she says: "I was in Pakistan recently for nearly a month in connection with a wedding. I took this opportunity to further the cause of friendship between India and Pakistan. I met President Ayub Khan who seemed to me genuinely anxious for friendship with India and wants to invite our Prime Minister to Pakistan. Goodwill should be developed on both sides so that both can progress."

Not so great

I have a hunch that men set on this objective will discover that the obstacles in their path are more easily crossed than they had thought. Many of us treat Indo-Pakistan differences as a constant with which we shall live for decades.

Real factors have been responsible for today's climate of bitterness. But nine-tenths of the wall that divides us is composed of fear and distrust. This section of the wall is not solid, although it appears menacing and impenetrable. People can walk through it, in either direction.

Nations are like individuals. Not

every rebuff is meant to be one. Often it is tendered to probe the depth of the other side's intentions.

On this question of relationships with neighbours, we are miles behind the world. Germany and France had centuries of war. Today they are united as friends. The turn of events is proof of the triumph of commonsense over emotions that are real but primitive, and curable.

Not all Indians think of Africa as having too many lessons for us. Yet some of that continent's nations have shown a practical statesmanship worthy of simple emulation.

Until quite recently Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia were bitterly divided over their border areas. Feelings were high, people were getting killed and "historians" were not lacking in each place who brought out the black of their antagonists' ancestors.

Now the picture has changed. The Kinshasa conference of the heads of African States succeeded in ending the feud.

We can learn

Some may think it vulgar and below our dignity to learn from Europeans. But are there compelling reasons also to blind ourselves to the accomplishments of African comrades?

Indonesia and Malaysia are nearer home. The hating between them was not child's play. Guns backed the "confrontation" slogans. Today there is a perceptible change. The confrontation policy has been given up. Trade has been eased. They are working on a common language and script for the two countries.

Not the existence of special conditions but stubborn pride in both nations prevents a solution between India and Pakistan.

Friendship between the two will bring relief to the whole world. Countries like Ceylon, as Indira Gandhi would have discovered, are puzzled by the sustained bitterness.

Our incessant and childish bickering, not only inside our nations but in every world capital, has supplied more amusement and evoked more contempt than almost any other international issue.

Russia, America and the European nations are, in the final analysis, paying a good proportion of the defence bills of India and Pakistan. Our getting closer together is not likely to infuriate them. And surely the fact that America and Russia are both desirous of Pak-Indian friendship is of some consequence. About the only nation that seems not keen on it is China, and even here the policy is the Government's, not of the people.

International effectiveness

Is it really shrewd to insist on a posture vis-a-vis Pakistan that nobody in the world wants except China? Some subtle and deep reasons must exist, but they have not been explained.

The economic case for friendship is of course unanswerable. The prices would fall, rents would go down, rail and road transport would be cheaper, and there would be gains across an incredibly wide range if both nations slashed their defence budgets. The enmity is simply not worth the price.

Our effectiveness internationally will, of course, be suddenly multiplied after settlement with Pakistan. Instead of something to talk, we will have something to say. Indonesia and Malaysia would be further encouraged. Nigeria's Federal Forces and Biafra may say, "If Pakistan and India can get together, so can we."

It took Hindus, Muslims, the British and many others hundreds of years to create in the varied people of this subcontinent the unity and affinity that existed in the years before freedom and partition. It has taken a much shorter span to damage it. The destruction is far from complete, and reconstruction could be speedier still.

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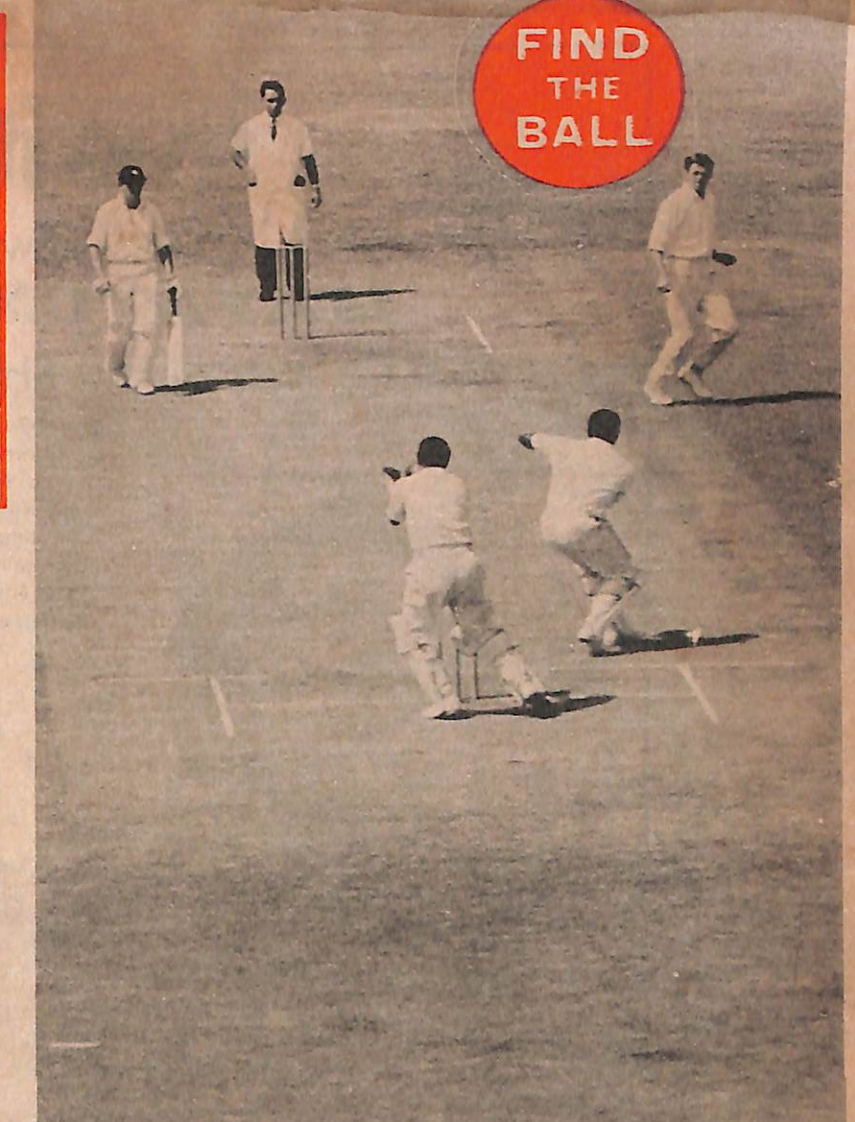
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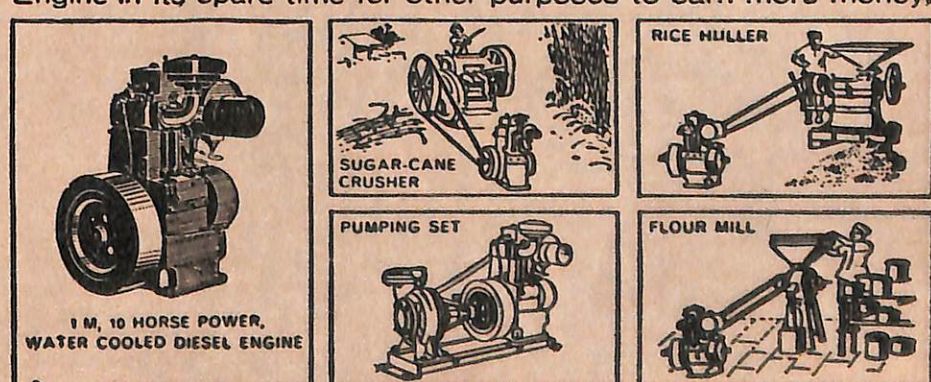


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AJOY MUKHERJEE
West Bengal Chief Minister

Ajoy takes Congress for a ride

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WHAT NEXT IN NAGALAND

by
ANTENNA