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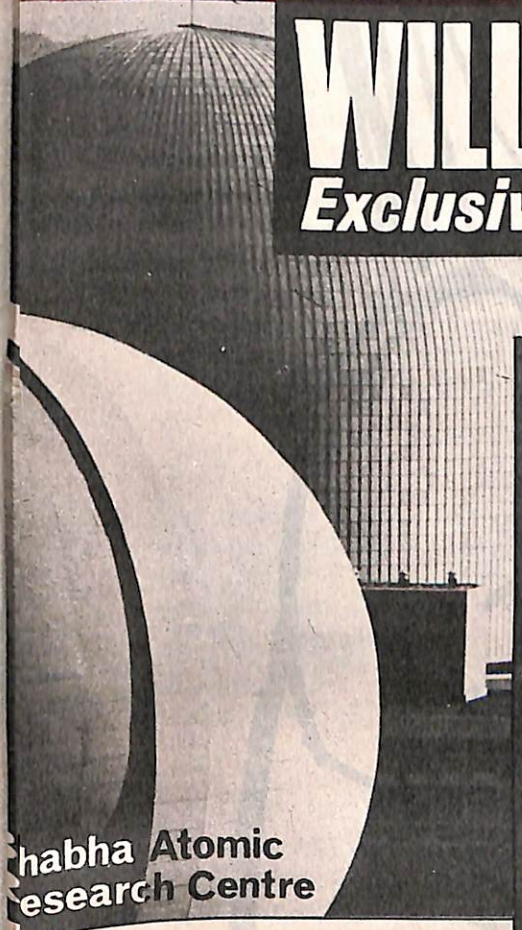
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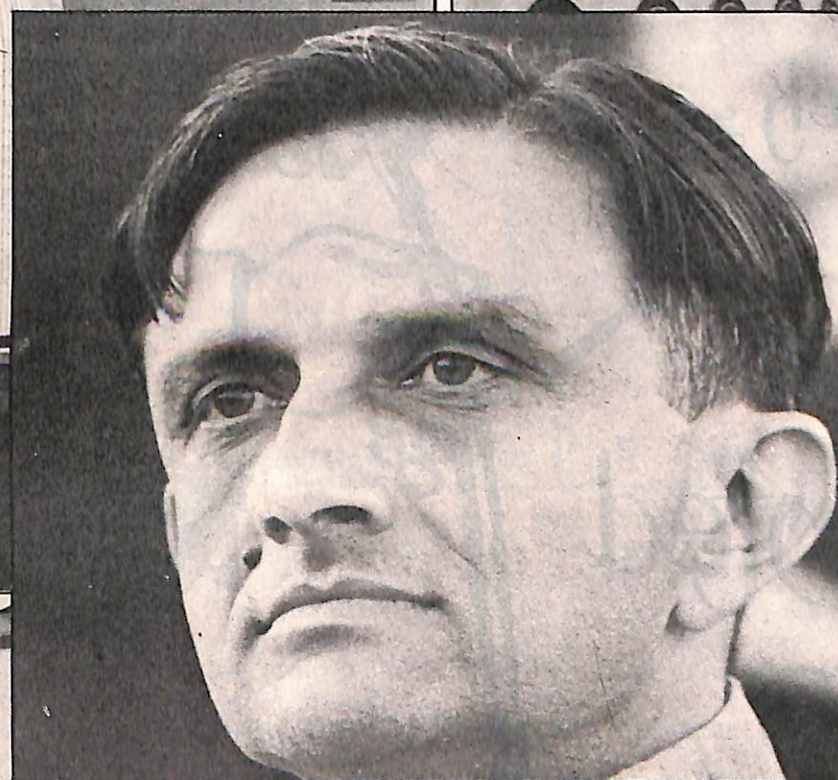
FRIDAY MAY 17 1968

WILL INDIA MAKE THE BOMB?

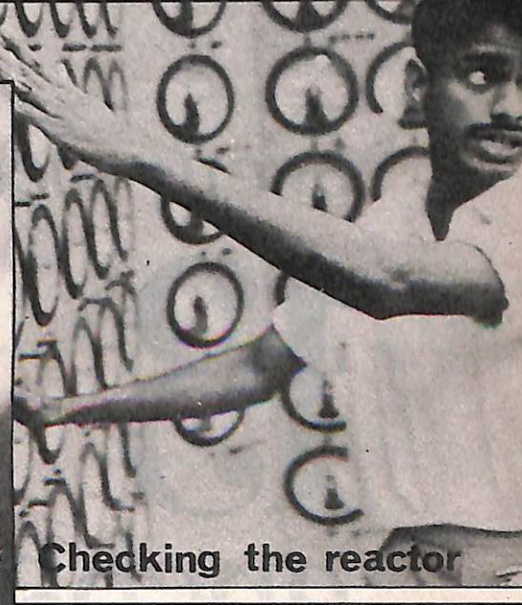
Exclusive survey of India's atomic potential p.7, 13, 17.



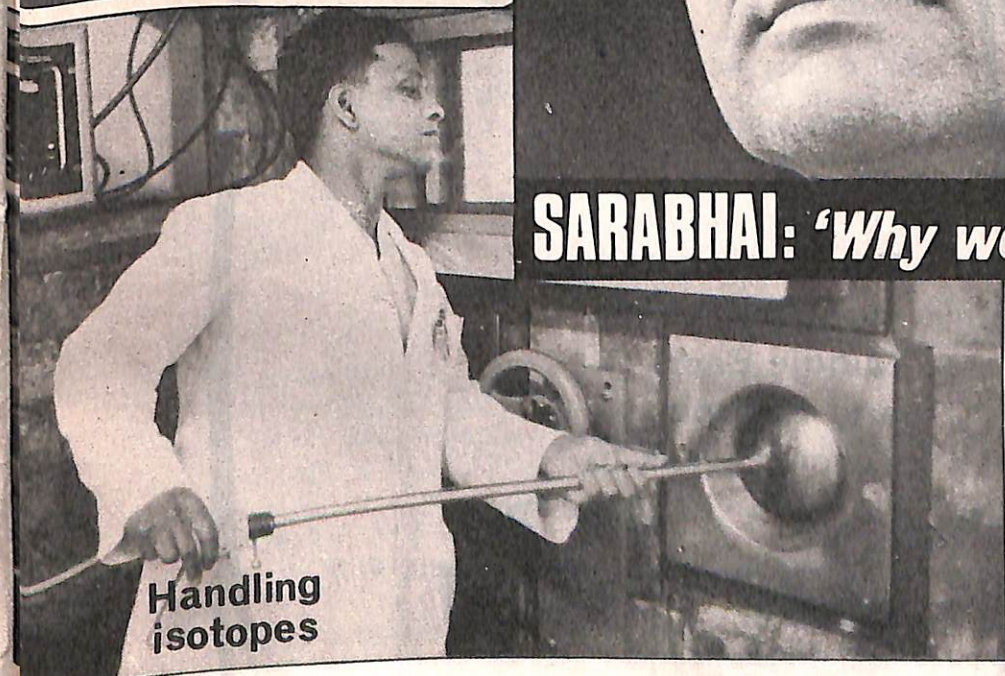
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre



SARABHAI: 'Why we won't sign'



Checking the reactor



Handling isotopes



Potato preserved by irradiation

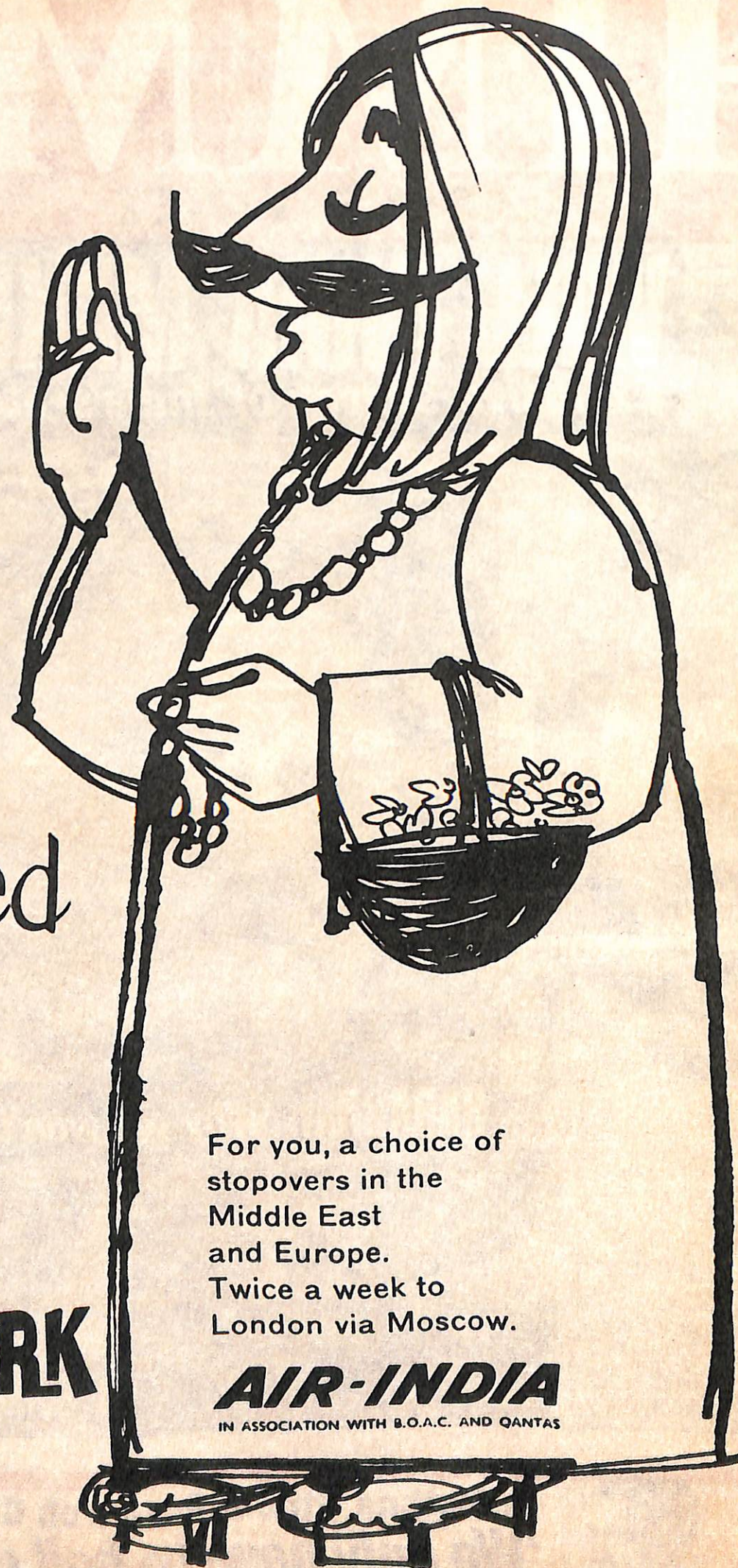
Dr. Sethna, Atomic Research Chief, says:
'We only have to boil up the kettle'



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Editorials

In quest of peace

ANYONE who thinks that Hanoi has come to Paris in a chastened mood is sorely mistaken. On the eve of the talks, the Viet Cong launched a spectacular attack on Saigon. The day the talks opened, President Ho Chi Minh called on the Viet Cong to "win yet bigger victories".

In the opening day speeches, the chief North Vietnam delegate, Mr Xuan Thuy, complimented President de Gaulle for having demanded an end to the bombing in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of US troops from South Vietnam. He thanked France for offering Paris as a venue for talks.

On the other hand, Mr Averell Harriman, chief US delegate, in his opening speech, reminded France of the personal part he played in bringing to an economically prostrate France 20 years ago the blessings of vast American aid. No one will deny Mr A. Harriman's sterling role but it does seem somewhat out of place

for a man involved in delicate political negotiations to sing his own praises.

While both the South Vietnam Government and the National Liberation Front (political wing of the Viet Cong) are not at the Paris Conference, any decision arrived at in Paris will need to be implemented by them.

According to a recent article in *Le Monde*, the views of the NLF do not always coincide with Hanoi. The President of the NLF wants first an "independent" and neutral South Vietnam and "ultimate re-unification" with North Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh wants speedy removal of the 17th parallel that divides the two Vietnams.

How far will the US be able to get South Vietnam's acceptance of concessions she may wish to make?

All this underlines the difficulties that beset the negotiation. It could be a long innings. Meanwhile one can only hope for a ceasefire that brings about a lull in the fighting, and sanity to that war-torn land.

Bridge-builders needed

THE UNION GOVERNMENT appears all set for the re-organisation of Assam, and within a couple of days the final decision is expected to be announced. Reports from Shillong indicate the possibility of Chief Minister Chaliha resigning from office if the organisational wing of his Congress Party is dead set against the terms of reorganisation.

The Chief of Army Staff visits Shillong, no doubt to

make preparations in case there is an outbreak of violence. However tragic any fragmentation of strategic Assam may appear, even more tragic will be a further division in the hearts of the plains and hill peoples of the area.

True patriotism does not lie in resorting to violence but in building bridges of unity between the multiple races of this fascinating and promising part of India.

De-fusing Indo-Pak ties

A NEW TREND is evident in the coverage of Indian events in Pakistan's press. Reports of recent communal disturbances in this country have, by and large, been factual and free from emotional overtones. Feature articles attempt to analyse the Indian scene objectively.

One columnist in *The Pakistan Observer* praised "the inherent strength" of India's democratic set-up which will "help her weather the many storms ahead".

"In the foreseeable future," he wrote, "there is no threat to the integrity of India from the agitations of language, provincial autonomy and, in general, the Centre-state equation."

This change of tune coincides with a new approach to foreign relations based less on nationalism than on a carefully-laid extension of contacts with other nations. Mr Arshad Husain brings an extra touch of expertise to his post of Foreign Minister.

Pakistani columnist Mr Suleri states that though the new approach will uphold Pakistan's national interest it "has to be nonetheless carried out without emotional outbursts. We cannot afford any tantrums."

This will go far towards building what India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr B. R. Bhagat, called "a climate of confidence between our two countries".

Poetic proliferation

MANY arguments are set forth by the Nuclear Powers to persuade all and sundry to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The American and British UN delegates even attempt to rally Shakespeare to the support of their cause.

Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg ended his plea for the Treaty with a quote from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar":

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries."

Mr Fred Mulley, Britain's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, felt it necessary also to invoke the great Eliza-

bethan who, after all, belongs to British literature and not America's. Calling Mr Goldberg's quotation "very appropriate to our situation", he nevertheless felt that "the following lines of that play, less frequently quoted, state even more clearly the issue".

With all the pride of proprietorship, he recited:
 "On such a full sea are we now afloat,
 And we must take the current that it serves,
 Or lose our ventures."

Delegations from countries like India, who stand to gain or lose greatly by the Treaty, would have done well to remind the General Assembly that the much-quoted bard also wrote:

"To be or not to be: that is the question."

Briefly Speaking...

"Exciting" revolution

FOR ONCE, a strong endorsement of the Government's policies from industry.

The recent President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India says, "The Government are wholly committed to exporting and there are indications that the country is being realistic about its problems."

The speaker — British businessman Mr Cyril Pitt, formerly Chairman of ICI in India. His audience — over 100 leading British industrialists at a meeting of the Confederation of British Industries, hardly a setting conducive to politically-motivated over-optimism.

"The most exciting thing that has happened in India since independence is the agricultural revolution," he said. He estimated that this year's

record crop of 95-105 million tonnes of food would put the equivalent of £750 million into the Indian farmers' pockets.

Disappointing

THE MEN attempting to restore sanity to the chaos left by President Sukarno of Indonesia enjoy the sympathy of much of the world. Adam Malik, Indonesia's Foreign Minister is among the ablest of the new Government. It is jarring therefore to read that Malik and his Government intend to disregard the terms of the original UN agreement by which Indonesia was given sovereignty over West Irian.



Foreign Minister Adam Malik

Malik claims that the plebiscite called for in the agreement is no longer necessary. The regional legislature is said to have informed the central Government that as the people of West Irian considered themselves to be Indonesian there was no need to exercise the right of free choice. This brand of Governmental reasoning is pretty thin.

The people of this territory are altogether different racially from other Indonesians. Sukarno's agitation to annexe West Irian was part of the same campaign that led to confrontation with Malaysia. Mr Malik and his colleagues have been anxious to demonstrate that they reject the opportunism of the previous regime. Their stand on the West Irian agreement is a clear departure from such an attempt and threatens the new Government's credibility in many quarters.

Alarming parallel

WILLIAM L. SHIRER describes in "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" a political situation in Germany in the early 'thirties preceding Hitler's rise to power which, to one who scans the political scene in India's states today, presents an alarming parallel.

"There were too many political

No excellent soul is exempt from a mixture of madness.

ARISTOTLE, 384-322 BC

parties (in 1930, ten of them each polled over a million votes) and they were too much at cross-purposes, too absorbed in looking after the special economic and social interests they represented to be able to bury their differences and form an enduring majority in the Reichstag (Parliament) that could back a stable government capable of coping with the major crisis which confronted the country

"Cattle trading"

"Parliamentary government had become a matter of what the Germans called *Kuhhandel* — cattle trading — with the parties bargaining for special advantages for the groups which elected them, and national interests be damned. No wonder that when Bruening took over as Chancellor on March 28, 1930, it had become impossible to achieve a majority in the Reichstag for any policy — of the Left, the Centre or the Right — and that merely to carry on the business of government and do something about the economic paralysis, he had to resort to Article 48 of the Constitution, which permitted him in an emergency, if the President approved, to govern by decree."

Happy hunting

MAO'S THOUGHTS when exported seem to inflict on other Communist parties the same faction fighting that they have spawned in China. In Denmark two pro-Peking groups argue over the "correct" interpretation of the Thoughts. Certain Belgian "Left" Communists have been accused by their comrades of "Zionist machinations" and have formed a new party. France has three pro-Mao groups who each accuse the others of "betrayal of the working class". One has even been branded the "anti-Marxist-Leninist Mafia". West Germany has four different organisations, each of them sympathetic to the Chinese Communists. Two Maoist factions in Austria hammer out their disputes in the law courts. A leading Chinese official viewing the prospects for his party in Europe is reported to have compared the situation to "a happy hunting ground for all kinds of charlatans and demagogues".

Birbal

HIMMAT, May 17, 1968

FROM THE CAPITAL

BY ANTENNA

Mrs Gandhi's voyage of discovery

NEW DELHI When Mrs Indira Gandhi sets out on a two-week long tour of Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, she will go not as just the head of the Indian Government paying courtesy calls on friendly countries but very definitely in the role of a pioneer making a voyage of political discovery.

This aspect of her visit will be more visible in Australia and New Zealand, which a Prime Minister of India is visiting for the first time since independence. Why this visit has had to wait for more than 20 years is a matter which our foreign policy architects should be made to explain at the bar of national opinion.

On the Indian side, Mrs Gandhi has expressed her firm conviction that better understanding and closer co-operation are very necessary in all fields between India and these countries. It is to be hoped that she will not be deflected from this aim by pressure groups and individuals here and abroad whose vested interests are likely to be threatened by opening up new avenues of accord and joint effort with Australia and New Zealand.

Already, *Century*, the mouthpiece of Mr Krishna Menon, who constitutes a one-man lobby for Moscow and Cairo in New Delhi, and appears to evaluate India's foreign policy solely in terms of how it can bring advantage to his patrons overseas. *has stated* is unexceptionable. But as a political exercise it can lead this country into serious misadventures."

Far-reaching consequence

From the point of view of Mr Menon and those who think like him, anything that can deflect India from looking towards the Middle East and Eastern Europe is bad. However, others who think primarily in terms of India's interests must welcome any bid to improve our ties with South-East Asia and its easterly projection, Australasia, which geopolitically as well as economically is of tremendous consequence to us.

Mrs Gandhi is visiting these four countries in the context of the announced British withdrawal of its military presence from the region by 1971 and prospects of a final peaceful settlement of the war in Vietnam. If, as seems almost inevitable, peace brings in its train an American pull-

out from Indo-China and the extension of Communist rule to the southern part of Vietnam, a fundamental change in the balance of power in the Indian Ocean region is bound to take place.

This change is of the greatest importance to all the non-Communist countries along the seaboard of the Indian Ocean, and the biggest of them, geographically and in terms of industrial development and military strength, are India and Australia.

These new power equations are inexorably compelling India to take more interest in its neighbours in the South-East, and they too must reciprocate this interest, for the same set of political circumstances will now come to have an increasingly large bearing on their destinies.

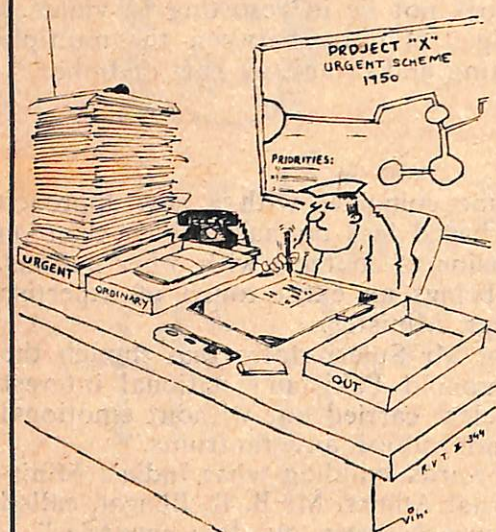
The question is to what extent Mrs Gandhi will be able to cut away from the connections and ideas which belonged to a different historical phase, and adapt India's foreign policy thinking and planning to meet the new situation caused by the serious diminution of the influence of the two biggest Western powers in the Indian Ocean area. That a new approach to international affairs, involving perhaps a new pattern of relationships, is necessary seems to be realised, rather dimly it must be admitted, in New Delhi. It remains to be seen whether this awareness develops into a growing conviction and is acted upon boldly.

A major surgical operation is needed in regard to our foreign policy so as to do away with the rigid stances of the past and reshape it in the light of new developments.

To add a postscript: the news of the discovery in Nepal of what appears to be part of a multi-stage

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CHALTA HAI..



"Dear Sir,
With reference to yours of April 16, 1958..."

THIS

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QUBIRAMA

on your toes

LAND OF LOTUS-EATERS

...the former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court was Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry appointed by Congress Chief Minister P. C. Sen and later disbanded by the United Front.

Mr Lahiri alleges that the West Bengal Government overestimated the short-fall in cereal supplies in 1966. The food policy pursued by the Government succeeded in converting the entire population "into a race of criminals". By ignoring the pulse of the people, he believes, the authorities drove the country "to the verge of civil war".

The food policy was carried out, says the report, in the teeth of the fiercest opposition that any Government measure had encountered since independence. As many as 52 control orders were in operation. "Panicky declarations about food shortage and panicky measures to cope with it, induced hoarders and *jotedars* to withdraw stock from the market."

"The administrative decision that there was an unbridged gap of one million tons, springing from files which

had no relation to reality, was at the root of the mischief." Mr Lahiri's investigations led him to... revolutionary policy of complete State trading in cereals by the total elimination of normal trade channels?" Mr Lahiri points out that in 1963, when the cereal deficit was the largest, there was a minimum of interference with normal trade. The price of rice then was 71 paise per kilo. In 1966, during the "miscalculated" shortage, when controls were in force, the price was Re 1.06 per kilo.

On the cost of controls, Mr Lahiri quotes a senior official as saying that Rs 80 lakhs were spent on cordoning off districts alone. "These figures leave me wondering if I am living in the land of 'Lotus-eaters'."

"The medicine prescribed by the doctor in 1965 and 1966," concludes Mr Lahiri, "was much more dangerous than the disease itself."

Government authorities who are still wedded to bureaucratic food controls should make a close study of this report and have the courage to bridge the gap between dogma and reality.

Freebooter

HIMMAT, May 17, 1968

VERDICT!

This week HIMMAT...

WATCHES WITH INTEREST the visit of a Naga delegation to the Dalai Lama to learn of his experience of Chinese subversion.

PREDICTS that the days of the blue-flowered water hyacinths that choke India's rivers are numbered since New Delhi and Cairo agreed to wage war against them, and **WELCOMES** other fields of collaboration between the two countries including desert reclamation and desert agriculture.

SYMPATHISES with China's acting Chief of Staff who crossed swords with Madame Chiang Ching, Mao's wife, and lost his job for stating that history had shown that whenever a woman interfered with politics the dynasty crumbled.

WELCOMES the statement of Mr B. P. Koirala, former Prime Minister of Nepal and a member of the State Council, that "in times of

NOTES Pravda's warning to Soviet citizens against fraternisation with the one and a half million tourists who annually visit the USSR, on the grounds that they are potential spies hired by Western agencies.

DESPAIRS at the report of nutritional experts that only one in four pre-school children in South India receives milk regularly and that their diet contains only three-quarters of the calories and sometimes as little as one-tenth of the vitamins considered essential.

ROCKS WITH MIRTH at "Anna"'s statement in Tokyo that as Japan had learned to live with her seismic disturbances, so India was adapting herself to earthquakes of a political nature.

CHEERS the report that the Bhilai steel plant's exports increased three and a half times in 1967-68 over the previous year, mainly going to Japan.

ANTENNA—FROM PAGE 5

rocket of, it seems without doubt, Chinese origin, and similar discoveries earlier on Indian soil, would indicate that China has perfected, or is very near perfecting, a medium-range missile and a delivery system.

Since entering the nuclear weapon race is not a sensible answer to the threat from Peking, the need for closer collaboration with other countries, to which China's nuclear potential poses a menace, becomes obvious.

China's new-found atomic strength will not cause sleepless nights in Cairo and Belgrade, still less in Moscow. But it certainly will in India's South-East Asian backyard. It does not require stupendous intellectual capacity to realise that here is where India's true interests lie.

An example of the muddled thinking that needs straightening out is the project to build a fighter aircraft for the Indian and Egyptian Air Forces with a frame designed in India and an engine designed and fabricated in the United Arab Republic. After some four years of experiment, an engine capable of operating efficiently with the frame

has still to be found.

Meanwhile, the military aviation industry has gone forward considerably, and by the time the engine is ready both it and the frame will probably have to be written off for all practical purposes. Mr C. Subramaniam, who heads the Aeronautics Board, came in for much verbal castigation here last week for reportedly suggesting that the project be scrapped. Mr Subramaniam was only taking a realistic view of the thing. The question is why it was ever undertaken, and no one answer seems plausible except that we wanted to demonstrate our high regard for President Nasser and his brand of Socialism.

False analogy

It should have been obvious that the technology of aeronautics requires a very advanced stage of industrial development, a stage beyond that which India and still further beyond that which the UAR have arrived at. Logically, we should, on this analogy, plan the manufacture of atomic missiles with Lesotho and that of electronic computers with the Maldive Islands.

Best World Press

What is happening in Czechoslovakia is a real revolution. Twenty years ago in Prague a group of Stalinist Communists seized power and overthrew democracy. Today, Czechoslovakia is trying to regain freedom. One can repress the spirit of freedom, Schiller says in "Wallenstein", but it will rise again.

The experiment Czechoslovakia is preparing to make is of the highest interest for the history of Communism and of mankind; it will show if Communism and freedom is possible or if the two terms — Communism and freedom — are absolutely irreconcilable.

CORRIERE DELLA SERA, Milan

The danger in the Cold War mentality as a basis for policy today is that it ignores what is actually happening in the world: it seeks to impose a rigid pattern on what is a fluid situation. For if in Vietnam the American position is being threatened, so is the Russian position. Indeed, the Czechoslovak "domino" is far more important to the Soviet Union than the Vietnamese "domino" is to the US. If the whole of Eastern Europe, this could weaken Russia's defensive military system much

more directly than America's would be weakened if it lost all its allies in Asia. No wonder Russian troops are being moved closer to the Czech border as a

Student protest

The Communist Party has tried and failed to take over the student protests in Italy and the rest of Europe. Student protest does not have political roots. It tends to break through certain social barriers with the brashness of youth that wants to destroy without knowing what to build.

IL MESSAGGERO, Rome

Women in China

The traditional concepts of the role of women in the home still persist despite Chairman Mao's long-announced dictum that they should be emancipated to play their full part in revolution and production.

But the stress on the need for more effective participation in collective labour clearly reflects that the revived equality campaign is motivated by the need for increased production on the economic front — badly disrupted by the cultural revolution — rather than by the noble concern for the place of women in society.

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, Hong Kong

HIMMAT, May 17, 1968

WILL INDIA MAKE THE BOMB?

"We only have to boil up the kettle"

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WILL INDIA make the bomb?

She could, under certain conditions, and fast.

It takes only five kilos of plutonium to make a bomb. The nuclear reactors India is building to generate electricity at Tarapur and Rana Pratap Sagar, as well as the reactors already functioning in Trombay, produce plutonium as a by-product.

Extraction of plutonium

The Tarapur reactor, which begins operations later this year, will generate 400 megawatts of electricity annually (a megawatt is one million watts). Plutonium is produced at the rate of one kilo per two megawatts. Therefore, the Tarapur plant will produce 200 kilos of plutonium — enough for 40 bombs a year.

Plutonium is extracted from the uranium rods that are used as fuel in

a reactor. Once the rods are burnt out, they are removed from the reactor and carried to a reprocessing plant where the plutonium is extracted. One such plant built entirely with Indian components and know-how, has been operating at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Trombay since 1964. A second, much larger plant with the capacity to process 300 kilos of plutonium a year, is under construction beside the Tarapur reactor.

Dr D. H. Quester, writing in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, says that the economic benefits of building nuclear reactors for the production of electricity are so compelling that many nations will soon have large stocks of plutonium on their hands.

"Nations uninterested in nuclear weapons may soon have to go out of their way to avoid coming into de facto possession of such weapons,"

he says. He points out also that research into the assembly of the bomb is almost impossible to detect and monitor.

In 1958 there was only one nuclear reactor plant in existence, producing five megawatts of electricity a year. By the end of 1967, plants together capable of producing 10,000 megawatts had been constructed. By 1970 the capacity will have increased to 30,000 and by 1980 to more than 200,000 megawatts.

Potential bomb-makers

Of the total amount of plutonium that will be produced in 1970 from these plants, one-third will be in the possession of countries that are at the moment non-nuclear in a military sense. The 18 countries who at present do not possess nuclear weapons but by 1970 will have sufficient pluto-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

"THE TREATY IS INADEQUATE"—SARABHAI

India will not sign

DR VIKRAM SARABHAI, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, is most forthright in his views. In an exclusive interview with HIMMAT last week he said, "India will not sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty because it is inadequate."

Unlike much of the public debate in the press and Parliament that has stressed security and the need to retain an option for making the bomb, Dr Sarabhai based the reasons for India's refusal to sign on the substance of the Treaty.

Others' research

The nuclear powers offer to put at the disposal of the signatories the fruits of their extensive research programmes in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, he said. "India could be opportunistic and sign the Treaty. There is a clause in it stating that signatories can withdraw after giving three months' notice. India, and for that matter any other nation, could therefore take advantage of the

assistance offered by the nuclear powers, amass whatever technology she needs, then withdraw from the Treaty's obligations and make a bomb. We will not sign because the Treaty is inadequate.

"What is needed," he continued, "is an agreement for a common system of control and inspection for all countries with a nuclear energy programme, regardless of whether they have nuclear weapons yet or not."

Possession of the bomb he believes is not as water-tight a deterrent as is popularly argued. "If we were convinced of the validity of possessing nuclear weapons we would spend the money needed on them as we are spending at the moment on conventional defence. But we are not.

"Look at Vietnam. It seems to have made no difference there. The Viet Cong were still able to deny President Johnson another term as President despite America's possession of nuclear weapons. India is not making the bomb and

has no plan to do so in the future."

Dr Sarabhai, who is also Chairman of the National Committee for Space Research, has just been appointed Vice-President and Scientific Chairman of an international conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The conference, to meet in Vienna in August, will focus attention on the practical benefits of space science open for non-space powers, and the opportunities available to them for their participation in this type of research.

International co-operation

Dr Sarabhai says that India at the moment enjoys very close working relationships with France, America, Japan, the USSR and Germany in space research programmes. India is uniquely placed for exploration of space phenomena over the equator. Her major interest is in the study of equatorial weather and the force and patterns of the monsoons.

She is also engaged in the construction of a satellite communication station in Ahmedabad, linking up with other such stations around the world.

nium to make these weapons, with the number of bombs they would be able to manufacture each year, are as follows:*

Japan	354	Bulgaria	80
Sweden	316	Finland	60
Spain	267	Italy	54
Canada	250	Norway	40
Switzerland	201	Taiwan	30
Belgium	121	Pakistan	20
India	118	UAR	15
W. Germany	101	Czechoslovakia	15
Hungary	80	Netherlands	5

If India decided to make a bomb what would it cost? A 12-man team of international experts, including Dr Vikram Sarabhai, Chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, recently submitted a report on this subject to the Secretary-General of

* US News and World Report, April 17, 1967.

SO THEY SAY

If resignations could put an end to accidents, all the Ministers are prepared to resign.

PARIMAL GHOSH,
Minister of State for Railways

The activities of the Mao Tse-tung group are a crude manifestation of adventurous leftist distortion of Marxism.

MIKHAIL SUSLOV,
Member of Soviet Politburo

the United Nations. Their estimate is that a programme for the production of nuclear warheads and an adequate delivery system would cost Rs 6750 crores over a 10-year period.

This does not take into consideration the increased cost necessary to produce more sophisticated weapons as the nuclear race progresses. As a nuclear weapons system does not reduce the need for conventional forces, this expenditure would have to be added to crores spent annually on defence at the moment.

Huge outlay needed

To build and deploy 50 medium-range missiles with nuclear warheads, a peak labour force of 19,000, over 5000 of them scientists and engineers, would be needed. This, the report points out, is a major outlay even for a developed nation. It states that "the most highly qualified" of all scientists, engineers and technicians available would have to be allocated to the nuclear programme.

However, when HIMMAT consulted him, Dr Vikram Sarabhai stressed that this report was of a general nature and not related to the costs India would have to bear. It was an estimate of what any nation would have to spend if it embarked on such a programme from the beginning. India's additional costs, if it decided to make the bomb now, would be far less because of the considerable nuclear establishment that has already been set up.

"The argument against building the bomb is not an economic one," Dr Sarabhai declared. "India's Gross

National Product when divided amongst all of our people comes to \$73 a head. To make the bomb would cost the Indian people \$3 per capita. That's peanuts. In a small country such as Israel, to make the bomb might cut into their standard of living by as much as 50 per cent. But not in a nation of India's size," he said.

One major impediment, however, appears to prevent India from making the bomb, at least until 1972. Except for Trombay's miniature experimental reactor, Apsara, which hardly counts, every other reactor in existence in India, or under construction, is covered by international guarantees that state they can be used only for peaceful purposes. In Kalpakkam, Madras, a reactor will be built entirely with indigenous components and technology and will thus be free from international control.

Unfettered capacity

The plutonium produced by this reactor could be used to manufacture nuclear weapons. Target date for the completion of the Kalpakkam reactor is 1972. It would appear therefore that by that date India will possess unfettered capacity to make nuclear weapons.

However, Dr H. N. Sethna, Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, refused to commit himself to this date. While declaring that India was not making the bomb and had no plan to do so in the future, he shrugged off the question of a deadline. "This thing would not take long. All we have to do is to boil up the kettle."

FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

UK immigrant saves Concorde costs

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON Prototypes of the world's first supersonic airliner, the Anglo-French Concorde are due for flight trials soon. One aircraft is being built in France and a second in Britain.

With rising prices and wages the actual costs for the Concorde have sky-rocketed above original estimates, and many feared that the British Government, in their recent budget, were going to cut their commitment to the project. Fortunately they did not do so and Concorde goes ahead. But how can costs be kept from soaring skywards before the aircraft does?

One man's action helps

Clive Smith, Chinese by origin and a 25-year-old immigrant to the UK from South Africa, shows how one man's action can help. He is a physicist in the development and experimental department of a London firm which is preparing the flight recorder tape. When the high temperature magnetic tape is switched on in the cockpit it will record the movements of the aircraft's controls. After flight, analysis of the tape could indicate faulty procedures or, in the

event of an accident, point to what went wrong. The 2000 ft tape is contained in what most people call the "Black Box".

Losses cut by 30 per cent

Of the first 90 tapes produced, 30 were spoiled. At £20 each, this alone meant a loss of £600. As Smith explained, "When the tape is coming off at 5 feet per second, a lot can be ruined in a flash."

Looking at the problem, he decided to do something unusual. "My responsibility was in development and our department does not handle the production side at all. However, I thought I should be in the plant when the next tapes were being made. The machines start at 6 am, an hour of the day I know nothing about!" he said with a laugh. "We made 200 tapes and only five were imperfect. Our losses had been cut

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

The week in ASIA

SAIGON — The Viet Cong continued its attack on Saigon and pushed closer to the centre of the capital than ever before. Heavy fighting rendered over 50,000 people homeless. More than 2500 enemy soldiers were killed in four days, according to a US Command announcement.

TEHERAN — Iran and Czechoslovakia signed a \$200 million agreement under which Iran will sell oil to Czechoslovakia in exchange for industrial machinery.

HONG KONG — Three top Chinese Generals were removed from office for plotting to overthrow Chairman Mao Tse-tung, according to *Chung-shan University Combat News* reaching here.

TOKYO — More than 500 space scientists from 30 countries attended the opening here of the ninth symposium of the Committee on Space Research.

LAHORE — Sardar Mohammed Akbar Khan Bugti, a former Minister of State for Defence, was arrested under the Defence of Pakistan Rules. He was charged with "unlawful activities which threatened the security of the country".

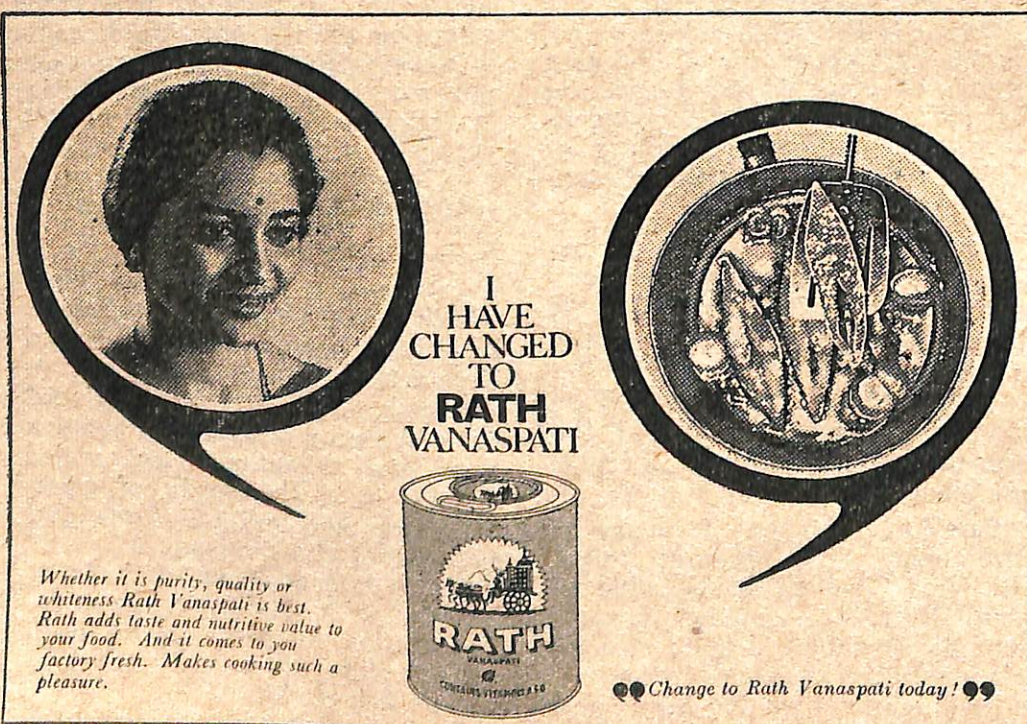
THIMPHU — King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk of Bhutan announced that he would slowly introduce in his country a form of government which would be "something between a monarchy and a democratic government".

COLOMBO — Ceylonese Premier Senanayake told a delegation of the "All-Ceylon Buddhist Congress" that his Government has "accepted in principle the implementation of prohibition in Ceylon in stages".

TOKYO — Four more US aircraft were shot down over North Vietnam bringing the number of lost US aircraft to 2894, according to a dispatch of the official North Vietnam news agency monitored here.

COLOMBO — The Inspector General of Police ordered that all slogans used in public processions be censored. No permits will be granted for public processions until the slogans to be used by processionists are approved by the police.

KARACHI — Nearly 150 have died of a cholera epidemic in the West Pakistan town of Multan since last month. Some 4500 people were hospitalised.



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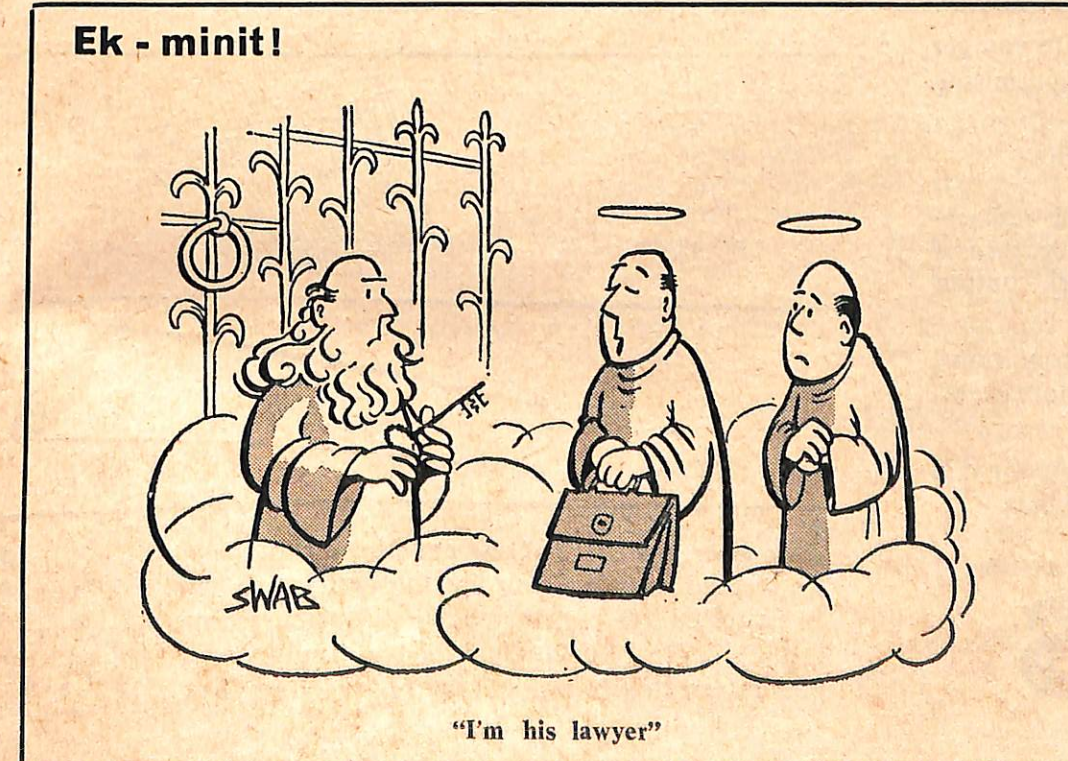
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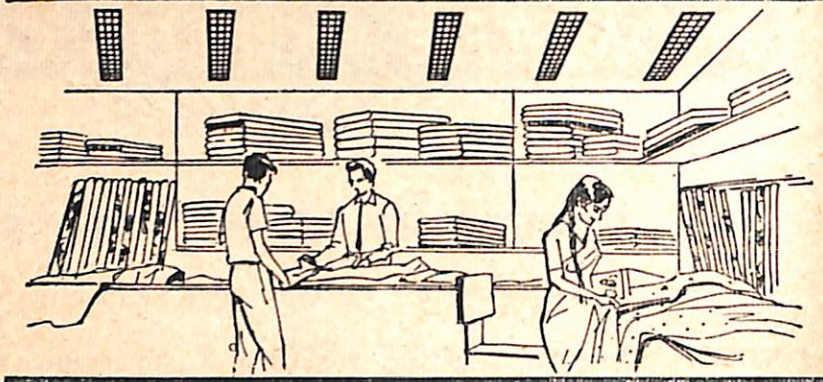
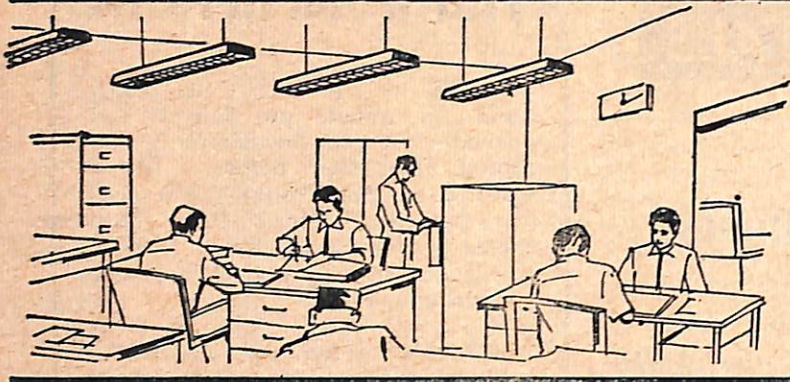
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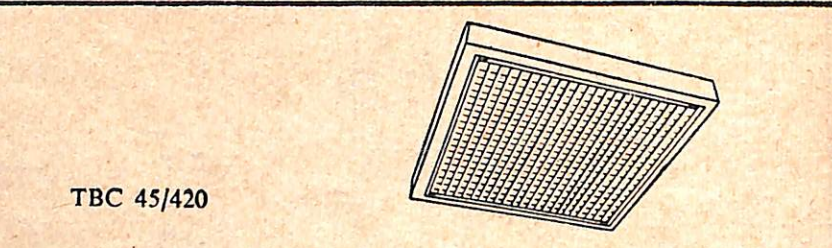


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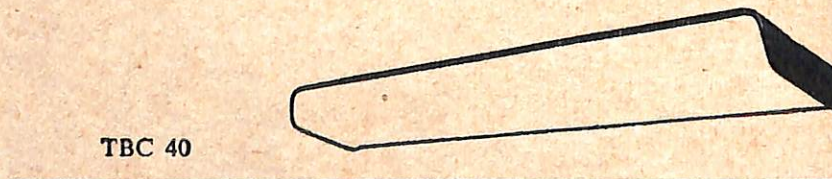
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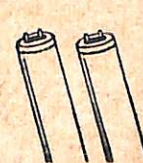


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FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

from nearly 33 per cent to 2½ per cent.”

“God” status for Mao

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

HONG KONG Yesterday the wife and baby of our office caretaker returned home after a week's visit to his family village fifty miles across the border in Communist China. She said that whilst there was food enough and some money available to buy goods it was two years since they had had any cloth ration in that area. Normally the cloth ration has been two yards per person per year.

She also noticed that in the village temple a huge picture of Mao was central, in the place where the gods used to be. The gods are now at the feet of Mao. She also said that in the communal dining halls the people had to recite the thoughts of Mao for forty minutes before they started to eat. Some grace!

This recalls an item published here in last week's *Sunday Star* under the headline, “Mao is Given ‘GOD’ Status”. It claims that detailed instructions have been issued by the Central Committee Cultural Revolution Group for Mao-observance during each day. Thus, all people in China — families, students, workers and even PLA troops — have been ordered to make daily public “confessions” before a bust or portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. At various times during the day they must wish Mao good health and eternal life.

This is most significant because from all over the country comes news of continued strife between the various factions. On the back page of the same *Sunday Star* is the report of seven “counter-revolutionaries” being shot after a public trial in Shanghai's Cultural Revolution Square. In Kiangsi Province, 10,000 people turned out for the trial of the former governor of the province.

In Canton “workers’ security teams” have been formed in the face of increasing anti-Mao activities in the city, whilst in the north, in Peking, “house-to-house fighting” in-

volving hundreds of students, teachers and militants of the two main activist groups of the Peita University was going on.



Mao Tse-tung

In Tientsin, the seaport for Peking, a n t i-Maoists have b e e n undermining the cultural movement in Yenan Middle School which was the first school to act on Mao's recent directive on the “alliance” of teachers and students. T h e directive was apparently an attempt to get the reluctant teachers to return to their teaching jobs after last year's hectic months when student Red Guards ran amok and, in the name of the Cultural Revolution, humiliated, tried and punished their teachers.

A report from Taiwan credits Lt Gen. Yeh Hsiang-chin, Director of the Intelligence Section of the Kuomintang, with saying that the anti-Mao elements within the Chinese Communist Party are joining hands with non-party people opposing Communist rule. He said that this has changed the entire picture on the mainland and has created favourable conditions for the Kuomintang “to develop its anti-Communist movement in the enemy's backyard.”

Queen's awards spur UK industry

FROM GORDON WISE

LONDON Emphasis on exports is kept at a high pitch in Britain by the conferring of annual honours known as The Queen's Award to Industry.

This year, over a thousand firms applied for the award. Eighty-five were selected. They will be entitled to display the modernistic emblem cast in stainless steel, and to use the device on their letterheads and adver-

tisements for five years.

Included in this industrial honours list are famous names. Most people know what they produce. But small-scale industries, often family owned,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The week in INDIA

NEW DELHI — Premier Indira Gandhi decided to revive the Prime Minister's Committee on Planning which has not met since Mr Lal Bahadur Shastri's time. This would enable the leaders of opposition parties to express their views on major issues of policy.

HYDERABAD — Seven railway employees were killed and 39 passengers injured when the Madras-Howrah Janata Express rammmed the rear of a stationary goods train.

NEW DELHI — About 72 per cent of railway accidents are due to human failure and 11 per cent to mechanical failure, according to Mr Parimal Ghosh, Minister of State for Railways.

NELLORE — Over 400,000 people have been affected by drought in three talukas (Kanigiri, Dharsi and Podili) in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. The Government allotted Rs 28 lakhs for relief work according to District Collector Mr S. R. Sankaran.

KOHIMA — Naga rebels informed the Centre there could be no further talks without the “active association” of Mr Phizo, the self-exiled Naga leader, according to sources close to the Underground.

NEW DELHI — Mr B. R. Bhagat, Minister of State for External Affairs, told the Rajya Sabha that India would not talk with Mr Phizo on the settlement of the Naga problem. “He has accepted British nationality and we are not prepared to have talks with anyone who does not belong to India,” he said.

KHAVDA — Nearly 2000 *satyagrahis* courted arrest in a mass defiance of the prohibitory order near the Rann of Kutch on the last day of the 18-day *satyagraha*.

TRIVANDRUM — The Central Government allotted 1,18,500 tonnes of rice to Kerala for May, according to an official spokesman. The State was allotted 80,600 tonnes of rice for April but only 26,000 tonnes reached the State, he said.

ALLEPPEY — Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, Chief Minister of Kerala, asked the people either “to stand up and fight the Centre for getting an inadequate quantity of rice or to lie low and die like dogs”.

The week elsewhere

DE GAULLE GIVES IN

PARIS—President de Gaulle's Government gave in to student demands for the opening of the Sorbonne in an effort to end a week of the worst street fighting seen in France since the end of the Second World War. The Government stated that an appeal court would consider demands for amnesty for students arrested during the disturbances. Unions controlling ten million French workers staged a 24-hour general strike to support student demands.

MAO'S ESCAPE

HONG KONG—It was reported here that Mao Tse-tung narrowly missed being captured twice last summer in the city of Wuhan. Mao had made an unexpected visit to attempt to bring about a peace settlement between the military Commander and the Red Guards. A Red Guard newspaper reported that on the night of July 18 the military Commander surrounded Mao Tse-tung's home. Only diversionary tactics by some of Mao's group enabled the Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party to escape.

PRESSURE ON PRAGUE

PRAGUE—The leaders of Czechoslovakia's Communist Party met in strict secrecy to consider the mounting pressure from the Soviet Union and other East European nations. Soviet troop movements were reported on the border of Poland and Czechoslovakia. Poland has joined

the Soviet Union in voicing its apprehension over liberalisation in Czechoslovakia. Two thirds of Czechoslovakia's foreign trade is with other European Communist countries and about one third directly with the Soviet Union. The reason behind Moscow's hurried conference with Polish, East German, Hungarian and Bulgarian leaders is believed to have been to seek their support for economic sanctions against Czechoslovakia.

NO INDIRECT TALKS

TEL AVIV—Israeli Prime Minister Eshkol denied his country had agreed to any indirect talks with her neighbours. Israel's position remains the same he said. Agreement can only be reached by direct talks. Israeli forces exchanged fire with Jordanian and Lebanese troops, each side blaming the other for the incidents.

RUSSIAN DISPLAY

CAPE KENNEDY—A section of a Russian space vehicle launched on April 21 re-entered the atmosphere causing a brilliant aerial display as the satellite disintegrated. The disintegration was clearly seen from Cape Kennedy, launching site of America's major space probes.

LABOUR ROUT

LONDON—Electorates put the Conservatives into power in many cities of Britain, including London, in a massive anti-Government vote in municipal elections. 1300 Labour

men lost their seats. Prime Minister Harold Wilson's Labour Party suffered one of its worst poll set-backs since the socialists became a major political force after the First World War. Conservative candidates swept even the working class boroughs that have consistently returned Labour men since the 1930s.

INCOMPLETE SUMMIT

NAIROBI—The fourth East and Central African Summit drew thirteen nations into consultations here, though the absence of the heads of state of six of the thirteen countries prevented decisions on major issues which are disturbing the continent.

FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

remain a feature of "the nation of shopkeepers". For nearly half the firms cited for the Queen's Award employ 500 workers or less. One Award-winning firm with 200 workers markets bottled seafood — cockles and mussels.

The diversity of modern British industry is seen at a glance: a sock manufacturer rubs shoulders (or perhaps toes) with a manufacturer of guided missiles; a firm which harvests and processes seaweed proudly shares the limelight with another which produces a new "computer-controlled X-ray diffractometer".

It would seem that in today's economic ocean there is swimming space yet for the minnow and the whale.

"In nuclear research we are not an underdeveloped nation"

It is a far cry from yachts to isotopes. But Bombay's old Yacht Club, standing in the shadow of the Gateway of India, today houses the headquarters of India's most advanced scientific institution — her Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

"In nuclear research we are not an underdeveloped nation," declares Dr H. N. Sethna, Research Director of

taken charge of the reactor, worth crores of rupees, when he was 22. It is obvious that Dr Sethna, the Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, and his colleagues are men undisturbed by risk-taking.

Dr Sethna is unabashed at the possibility that collaboration with the major nuclear powers may be cut off by India's refusal to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty. "We are pretty independent already," he asserts. "In my view it would be a good thing if further assistance was cut off.

"Assistance should only be a catalyst. Once you begin to rely on it you can progress no further. No country can expect to become a major industrial power unless it gets there primarily on its own. You only learn what you do yourself. Then you acquire the discipline and the experience. This business of inviting others in to do the turn-key jobs simply means that our men are robbed of the experience, yes, and the mistakes made and the lessons learned from them.

"India is certainly one of the world's largest reserves of brain power," he continues. "What it needs is harnessing and channelling. What we have done in nuclear research could be done in any other branch of industry or science. If assistance were cut off, we certainly would face a slow-down for a while, but we could recapture the momentum and move forward independent of others."

One of the keys to the amazing growth of the scientific establishment that the DAE represents has been its attitude to the relationship of men to projects.

"We never start a project or a laboratory until we have found or trained the man to run it," Dr Sethna explained. "Last year we wanted to start research on laser beams. We scoured the research departments of the world's universities until we found an Indian working on this project. We made him an offer with good pay and he took it. That has always been our policy. Find the man and leave him to build up the laboratory and a group of men around him."

As Director of the Trombay centre, Sethna is in charge of the entire training programme for the DAE. Trombay has a continual turnover as scientists and engineers trained there are farmed out to pro-



Dr H. N. Sethna

the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), the policy-making body above the DAE.

In fact, India is recognised today as among the most advanced nuclear nations in the world. She is where she is largely because of the foresight of three men: the late Dr Homi Bhabha, the scientist; Mr J. R. D. Tata, the financier; and Jawaharlal Nehru, the patron; as well as the dedication of scores of others among whom Dr Vikram Sarabhai, Chairman of the AEC and Dr Sethna have been foremost.

A visit to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre at Trombay or any one of the numerous other establishments under the wing of the AEC gives one the impression that the MA and PhD students of some eminent university have moved in and taken over operations for the day. The corridors, workshops and laboratories teem with young men.

Here in India, where the young often have to grow old before being entrusted with real responsibility, it was exhilarating to talk with an electrical engineer who at 25 was in charge of a shift operating the CIR reactor at Trombay. He had first

ON THE Spot

HIMMAT meets people

jects around the country. "We have a large concentration of men from many disciplines working together. For this reason you get a great deal of cross-fertilisation of ideas and rapid communication with men in other fields. The very size of our operation gives us a chance to work out a number of problems that other nations cannot handle."

India has collaboration agreements with the major nuclear powers such as America, the USSR, Britain, Canada, France, Japan and Australia. She also exchanges experts and ideas with nations less developed in the nuclear field such as Denmark, the UAR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Thailand and the Philippines.

"The size of our operations also enables us to be very competitive in terms of our costs," Dr Sethna continued. India's construction and operational expenses in nuclear research are among the lowest in the world. "For instance, we allow an experienced BSc to operate a glove box through which isotopes are inserted and removed from a reactor. In Canada this would be the job of a PhD who, of course, is paid considerably more."

More than scientific research

Dr Sethna believes that the DAE is pioneering more than scientific research. It is producing new attitudes applicable to the whole range of India's industry.

"Many companies with whom we deal do not have standards high enough for the work we need. We accept as normal, standards of exactness and perfection which most industry does not attempt to attain. The result is that we have many arguments but our standards are beginning to be accepted."

H.A.R.

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Is universal adult franchise a failure in India?

YES—we need a more foolproof system

First prize to D. R. Mohan Raj, Hyderabad 27

Yes, we must admit, whatever our views on democracy and however different our panaceas.

Universal adult franchise is held sacrosanct on two counts — 1) the right to vote is "inalienable" and "sacred" and 2) political equality is a basic postulate of democracy. Further, a "government by the people" can thus alone be ensured. The people, being the governed, have a right to participate in the law-making and government. But do they really?

Let us realise voting is no mere right any longer. It involves a duty. The duty to vote properly and responsibly. This in turn implies certain conditions like education, enlightenment, a certain level of political consciousness, etc. Do we possess these?

Not yet. Even the educated amongst us have "our ignorance, passions, private and immediate interests" which "are constantly in conflict with the wisdom, the public spirit and regard for the future" that are necessary to fruitful political participation. What then, of the ignorant, uneducated masses? As they are, they certainly cannot be deemed fit to govern well.

Appreciating, however, the high value of democracy and even of Votes for Everybody, we can build a more foolproof and thoroughgoing set-up by recognising the following in the Indian situation:

VIEWPOINT COMPETITION

* The "P" Form should be abolished.

Closing date: May 24

** Should State Governors be elected?

Closing date: June 7

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Send entries of not more than 300 words to Viewpoint, HIMMAT, First Floor, 294, Bazargate St., Bombay-1.

COMPETITORS should note that the maximum length for entries is now 300 words and judges will deduct points for unnecessary wordage, cliches and vague arguments.—Ed.

a) Our social system, into which democratic principles have been injected, has inherited an aristocratic structure. The *zamindars*, landlords, *sahukars* are not without their counterparts in the present order and these retain enormous power.

b) Even though industrial expansion has bettered living conditions for workers, these are coming increasingly under the influence of trade union leaders.

c) The development made so far has stirred a "revolution of rising expectations" which speedy economic

NO—voting restrictions cripple democracy

Second prize to Jayanthi S. Aiyer, Bombay 19

In 1952, when India went to the polls as the biggest democracy of the world, we had grave misgivings. Is this gigantic experiment going to work? Were we right when we gave every person above 21 the right to vote, thus believing implicitly in his enlightenment and discretion?

But four general elections demonstrated that voting does not require a graduate's degree or bookish knowledge. The exercise of this right is an education by itself. To quote Mr Nehru, "I have not discovered any special qualities in a literate or slightly educated person which would entitle his opinion greater respect than that of a sturdy peasant, illiterate, but full of a limited kind of common sense."

If we consider universal adult franchise a failure in India, it only means that we have remained ignorant of the changing face of our country for the past 20 years. Universal adult franchise has fragmented our political parties. Local self government has brought the rural population and the lower strata of our society into the political scene. People have come to distinguish between a movement of diverse interests and heterogeneous elements, and a party with unity of purpose and a single programme.

The end of this mass mania of Congressism itself is a good sign of a promising political future for this country. If we had restricted voting rights by attaching property, educa-

development alone can answer, failing which there may be a violent upsurge.

d) There has recently been a rekindling of casteist, communal and lingual passions arousing strong feelings.

All these, added to their ignorance, leave our masses fatally susceptible to anti-democratic forces. How do we check it?

More and better education, the growth of civic and political consciousness, public-spiritedness and an atmosphere of service and sacrifice are essential. The political machinery has to be adjusted to these requirements. Investing local bodies with more powers would give the citizens a greater chance of participation in government and help in the long run.

tion, and other qualifications, the political growth of our people would have been crippled and the concept of democracy would not have been realised at all.

One need not be a literate to be a nationalist. Though literacy is indeed an asset. But, after our independence, educational reforms had to come slowly, while our oppressed people were dying to breathe the air of freedom and equality.

Our society is a conglomeration of contradictory forces and any further discrimination between them would have only caused new divisions.

Sixty per cent of competitors felt that universal adult suffrage had failed in India. Other interesting points made by readers were:

"Modern elections are depressing spectacles. There are some problems which the common man cannot understand. Foreign policy is at times kept a secret not only from the electors but even from the Parliament. Many cannot judge a fiscal policy. Many of us do not know what is meant by the Gold Standard. In such matters the leaders demand our implicit trust in them; and such a trust, strangely enough, is considered democratic." — K. PURUSHOTHAM.

"The alternate form of choosing legislators by educated people is absurd and runs contrary to the provisions of the Constitution... The present shape of adult franchise should be mended, and not ended." — R. NARAYAN.

WEST BENGAL

Storm ahead in United Front

FROM S. K. MUKHOPADHYAY IN CALCUTTA

NEVER before has the prospect of unity among the constituents of the West Bengal United Front looked so bleak as it does now. The coming meeting of the UF on May 23 is expected to be stormy. But the way things seem to be moving now, much can happen even before the scheduled date.

The first sign of discord came when the central leadership of the Kranti Dal in its Delhi resolution decided not to form any alliance with parties having an "anti-national bias". The West Bengal State unit of the Party was thus directed to sever its connections with the Front.

Objections to Ajoy as leader

The Marxists, particularly, took serious exception to this. Hardly had the echo of dissent died down, when the local unit of the PSP also decided to break away. The Lok Seva Sangha, it might be recalled, had left the Front earlier.

To complicate matters, hints dropped by the Marxist leaders against installing Mr Ajoy Mukherjee as leader of the UF added further fuel to the heated controversy. It was known that the Marxists never liked making him leader of the Front, but they had to put up a show to maintain equilibrium. Most of their leaders, as well as Party workers and sympathisers, felt that being the largest party in the Front the leadership should be vested in them. Their demand became more vocal when Mr Mukherjee exposed the Marxist plot for an armed rebellion in West Bengal, last September.

Self publicity

However, this open advocacy of wresting the leadership from Mr Mukherjee was not liked by other party leaders and they strongly accused the Marxist Party's secretary, Mr Pramode Das Gupta, of indulging in self-publicity for his party.

Besides, to talk of leadership even before the election was held was contrary to the spirit of the Front, a number of officials opined. The Communists (Rightists) and others in the Front also felt that this sort of over-confidence by the Marx-

ists was uncalled for and might spell further disaster for the already tottering organisation.

The situation has become all the more confusing now as the State unit of the Kranti Dal has not declared categorically whether they are to stay in the Front or not. In their latest resolution, it was decided that the responsibility lay with



Mr Ajoy Mukherjee

Mr Ajoy Mukherjee, who would decide whether or not the party would remain in the Front, as long as the party's interests and principles were not violated.

This decision has antagonised the other members who felt that the Kranti Dal should not be allowed to get away with this sort of pre-condition. It has infuriated the Marxists even more. They claim that the party will not go into the issue of allocation of seats unless the Kranti Dal definitely says "yes" or "no" to remaining in the Front. Further, the Marxists have threatened that if the Kranti Dal does not come up with a satisfactory reply, they will not forego any seat for the BKD.

"Third force" rallying

A meeting is being planned now between Mr Ajoy Mukherjee and Mr Pramode Das Gupta to iron out differences between them. All other Front leaders are trying their best to patch up the dispute.

Meanwhile, efforts are also under way to rally a "third force" in the State to fight both the Congress and the Communists. But how far that move will crystallise is hard to say. The political horizon is getting more and more clouded. A storm is likely well ahead of election day in November.

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Harnessing the atom for everyone

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SOME MAY question the recent assertion by India's Minister of Information and Broadcasting that Indians in the Vedic period understood the workings of nuclear physics. But there can be no questioning the extraordinary scale and versatility of India's nuclear research programme in the 1960s.

Other nations possess sophisticated industries capable of bearing much of the load of their nuclear development. "All you have to do in the US or Canada is to pick up a telephone and get half a dozen companies to do your job for you," says the Research Director of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Dr H. N. Sethna. "Here we have to do everything ourselves. You name it; we do it."

Soon self-sufficient

And they have done it. India will be self-sufficient in the very near future in almost every component needed for a nuclear establishment.

The first reactors built at Trombay, 15 miles north of Bombay, with assistance from the Atomic Energy Commission of Canada, were fuelled with enriched uranium imported from the USA, Canada and Britain. It was thought at the time that India did not possess uranium. However, she did possess the largest-known reserves of a second type of fuel, thorium, locked in the monazite sands of Kerala and Madras beaches. One ton of purified thorium in a reactor can produce the equivalent in heat of three million tons of good quality coal. Thorium is used as a fuel in conjunction with plutonium.

To be independent in fuel as rapidly as possible the AEC decided to build a plutonium plant in Bombay, the first in Asia (with the possible exception of China). This plant, constructed entirely with Indian technology and components, went into production in 1964.

Meanwhile, large deposits of low-grade uranium were discovered in Jadaguda in Bihar. A giant fuel complex, capable of producing 125 tonnes of fuel a year, is now under construction in Hyderabad. The products of this plant will save India Rs 4 crores a year in foreign exchange. India no longer imports uranium.

Similarly, heavy water, the mode-

rator in a reactor used to slow down the neutrons and facilitate nuclear reaction, is now being manufactured in Nangal at the rate of 15 tonnes a year. A further plant capable of making 200 tonnes annually is under construction in Rajasthan.

The Electronic Corporation of India in Hyderabad caters to almost all the AEC's requirements in electronics. Giant workshops at Trombay build the plant and equipment used in the many projects under construction around the country.

But the element most vital to all advance in the nuclear programme, the training of scientists and technicians, has, since the AEC's inception under the late Dr Homi Bhabha, been given priority over every other area of development. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) at Trombay, as well as being the primary research centre, trains all the Commission's scientists and technicians. It has arrangements with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India's foremost scientific institution, that allow scholars and trainees in either institution to participate in research being carried on in the other. There are at present 2000 scientists and engineers at work with the AEC.

Power stations using nuclear reactors as fuel occupy the premier position in India's atomic energy programme. The AEC aims to give the Government the capability of building one 600 megawatt power plant every year by the mid-1970s.

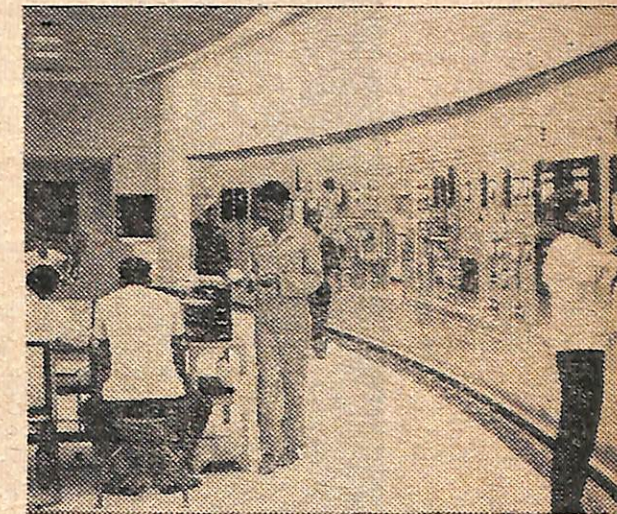
First nuclear power station

The first nuclear generating station goes into operation in Tarapur this year. It will pump 400 megawatts into the electric grid of Maharashtra and Gujarat, one fifth more than the amount now available. Beside it a second plutonium plant 20 times as large as the first Trombay unit is rising. The original Trombay plant cost Rs 3.6 crores. The Tarapur plant will cost Rs 5.64 crores. One can see in these shrinking costs the advance made in Indian technology in less than four years.

The second generating station in Rana Pratap Sagar in Rajasthan will add 400 megawatts to meet the needs of Rajasthan's growing industrial complex. The site for the third station has been chosen in Kalpakkam, Madras. By 1972 these three stations

will be in full operation, providing India with 1140 megawatts, the equivalent of the total installed capacity of electricity produced this year by conventional means.

Kalpakkam's reactor will be the first of what is called the "fast breeder" type and also the first to



Control room of a Trombay reactor

be built entirely with Indian components and know-how. Plutonium acting on thorium produces uranium 233. Uranium 233 used to fuel a "fast breeder" reactor produces more uranium 233 than is consumed. India's thorium reserves will therefore be able to provide almost-unlimited nuclear power.

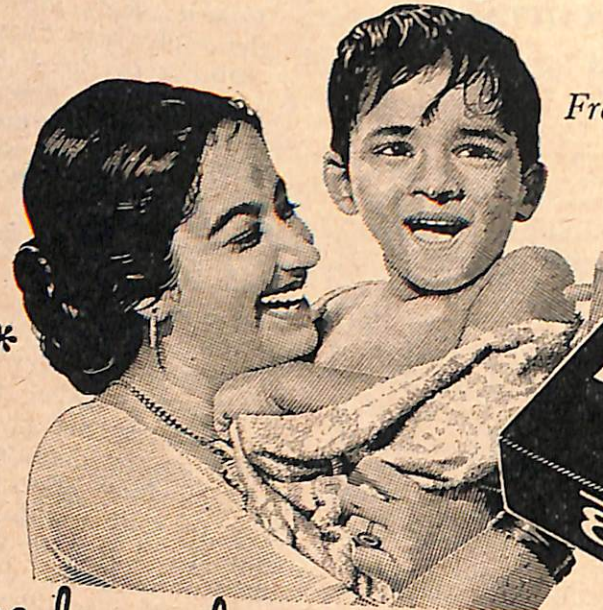
While power generation remains the most important work of the AEC, research is being undertaken in a score of other fields. One of these is the use of radiation in agriculture and the storage of food products. In the so-called "gamma gardens" in Trombay, where different plants are exposed to varying intensities of gamma rays, a mutant variety of rice called TR-1 has been developed. It yields, with normal inputs of water and fertilisers, 21.5 per cent higher harvests than its parent variety. Similar results are being achieved with groundnuts, maize, cotton and other crops.

The Mexican variety of high-yield wheat has been one of the major factors behind India's record harvests this year. When scientists were adapting it to Indian conditions they discovered that its amber colour made it unpopular in the market place. Under normal processes it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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BOOKS

Rare courage

UNKILLED FOR SO LONG, by Sir Arnold Lunn, George Allen and Unwin, 25sh.

AFTER Sir Arnold Lunn had absent-mindedly slalomed through the Zurich traffic, a Swiss friend exclaimed, "I wonder how you've stayed un-killed for so long." Lady Lunn insisted that this was the ideal title for these memoirs, now published on his 80th birthday. How right she was.

Dangerous life

Born in Madras, where his father, later Sir Henry Lunn the travel agent, was a medical missionary at the time, Arnold Lunn has led a dangerous life in every sense of the word. He is best known as the greatest name in world skiing and as a Catholic controversialist who has taken on — and defeated — some of the greatest minds of the day, including Professors Haldane and Joad. His 55 books are equally divided between those on skiing and mountaineering, those on religion and his biographies and novels, including "The Harrovians", the first realistic school story.

As he makes clear in this book, Lunn has never paid much heed to prudent counsels. While ceering in Wales. His first wife's coming round were, "Will this stop me climbing" — for he secretly hoped, one day, to lead an assault on Everest. The surgeon took a risk and saved his leg, but for eleven years Lunn lived with an open wound, through which fragments of bone emerged from time to time.

Skiing competitions

To regain confidence, he proceeded, within two years of his fall, to climb alone some of the major peaks. But he realised that he could now never hope to climb Everest, and so turned his major attention to skiing.

At this time, skiing competitions were conducted on the Scandinavian model — a long distance event. He popularised the downhill race and invented the slalom — a downhill race in which competitors weave their way between flags at great speed. He

fought for ten years to get these races internationally accepted, and his success in winning their inclusion in the Olympic Games is an achievement equivalent to that of some Norwegian who, after inventing a new form of cricket, persuaded the MCC to change its rules to accommodate him.

All this involved lively controversy which has been the other major pleasure of Sir Arnold's long life. When he was debating with a Communist in Pittsburg—Earl Browder, the Communist Presidential candidate, had shammed illness, and sent Louis Budenz instead — the audience became so enraged that some feared the platform would be rushed. A priest in the audience hastily left. Afterwards the priest confided: "I went to get the Holy oils as I thought I might have to anoint you. I dare say we may meet in heaven, but we shall get there by different roads, for I hope to avoid a violent death."

It is his moral, even more than his physical courage, which has most distinguished Sir Arnold. "I cannot understand why people are afraid of

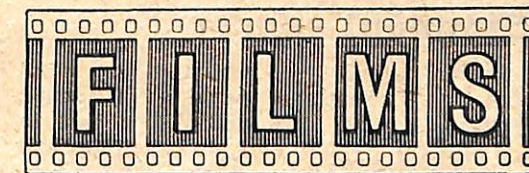
standing up for their beliefs," he once said to me. "I have been banned from six clubs — and most of these clubs have elected me to honorary membership in the end."

His "Unkilled for So Long" is full of the wit, gusto and good humour which he has always brought to controversy and to life. It is packed with good stories of his many friends — George Orwell, Evelyn Waugh, his cousin Montgomery — and a host of others.

Wins his man

"To him," *The Times Literary Supplement* once wrote, "argument is an intellectual joy, a skilled exercise, a sword dance which demands a skilled opponent." Often, unlike most controversialists, he has won his man. Louis Budenz, the American Communist editor with whom he debated, ended up a Catholic, and the redoubtable Professor Joad and Lord Longford are two others who have said they owed their final faith in large measure to him.

G.D.L.



"Counterpoint"

METRO, BOMBAY

UNIVERSAL gives us a film with an intriguing

Lionel Evans (Charlton Heston) is a famous conductor of an American Symphony Orchestra in Belgium, playing to allied troops during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. In a German counter-attack, Evans and his 70-piece orchestra are captured in their American Army double-decker bus and brought before the divisional commander, General Schiller (Maximilian Schell).

Official orders are to take no prisoners and Colonel Arndt (Anton Diffring, a regular Hollywood "Nazi") has his trigger finger twitching with anticipation. He underestimates the General's love of music, however, and the story is allowed to develop with General and Conductor matching wits as the war rages round them. The General demands a final performance from Evans and his orchestra. Evans knows that so long as he can postpone the performance his orchestra have a chance of surviving.



Charlton Heston (orchestra conductor Lionel Evans) is brought before Nazi General Schiller by Colonel Arndt (Anton Diffring)

Able to hold out no longer, Evans agrees to the concert. The graves are dug ready for the grizzly epilogue, and through the snow in their evening dress the musicians make their way past the graves to an improvised concert hall. But even then the drama and tension stays in low key. Everyone knows that the 70 musicians aren't going to be slaughtered and, anyway, by now it is clear that some Belgian partisans are plotting their rescue.

It is a film with anti-climaxes but no climaxes. One would expect more from director Ralph Nelson, who won acclaim for his "Lilies of the Field".

The performance is *andante* and *piu mosso* from start to finish.

SCREENER

HIMMAT, May 17, 1968

HIMMAT, May 17, 1968

19

This India

STRONG MEN NEEDED

I MET the wife of a Ceylonese diplomat who spent a year in China recently. She told me that the women in Mao's China are given great prominence. Many of the key posts of the administration are held by women.

Madame Mao leads the cultural revolution. The Chief of Army Staff has been removed and senior officials purged at her instance. A recent issue of *The Economist* said that Liu Shao-chi's opposition to Madame Mao's marriage to Mao, festering away in her mind for thirty years, is probably the best explanation we have for the cultural revolution.

This Ceylonese lady remarked that Asian women have more of a business and administrative quality than their Western counterparts. How true that is,

I do not know. Of course, the only women ever to be Prime Ministers of their nations have been Asians. Prime Ministers or not, women do wield an extraordinary influence over men. Many tactics are employed to do so. Some do it in a "strangely silent way". Others use moods and tantrums as their weapons to get their way. Martyrdom, I think, comes easily to women. Expressions of "Nobody appreciates me or what I do" are successfully conveyed. Other women are openly domineering.

A Korean army general told his officers one morning as they stood in a group, "Those of you who are run by your wives, move to the right, and those who are not, move to the left." All except one moved to the right.

"How come you have achieved the happy state of being independent?" asked the General. "Sir, this morning my wife told me, 'Kim, today you must do just the opposite of what the others do.'"

In German homes you see ash-trays bearing the inscription: "I am the master

in my house and have my wife's permission to say so." In India it may not be ash-trays but you do occasionally come across men tied to mother's apron strings or subservient to wife's commanding rings. At a reception given by a leading political figure of our country, the wife did all the talking while this "leader" hardly got a word in.

Could there be some connection between the men who do not stand up to their mothers or wives and the men who succumb to money, power and every kind of blackmail? Nations are sold out as a result.

Do we not have the men in this nation who will be real men with a backbone and stand for what they know to be right. Incidentally, their mothers, wives and other women will respect and back them if they do.

Neerja Chowdhury

This was a Life

LEONARDO DA VINCI 1452-1519

HAILED as the world's greatest all-round genius, Leonardo's interests ranged from insects to stars. An artist, architect, scientist, engineer and a gentle humanitarian, Leonardo is considered the supreme example of Renaissance genius.

Born in Anchiano, Italy, he received the best education in Florence, then known as the intellectual centre of Italy. Young Leonardo collected insect specimens and drew sketches of them. His talent as an artist and scientist flourished under the guidance of Andrea del Verocchio, a famous sculptor and painter. During this period of apprenticeship Leonardo began his "Notes" dealing with problems of hydraulics, mechanics, anatomy, geology and botany.

Later he went to Milan, where he acted as general factotum to Duke Lodovico Sforza and devised a system of hydraulic irrigation for the plains of Lombardy. There he wrote "*Tratto della Pittura*", a well-known treatise on painting.

When the Italian city-states of Pisa and Florence fought a fierce battle in 1503 the Signoria of Florence sought the aid of this genius. Leonardo designed a dam which diverted the Arno River from its course into a pair of canals that would empty into the sea at Leghorn, south of Pisa. This deprived Pisa of its water supply and its sea-port. He also designed various new machines for digging the canals.

Through his keen observations of the flights of birds and swimming of fish and the flow of air and water, Leonardo defined the principle of "action and reaction" as applied to aerodynamic phenomena. This was 200 years before Newton propounded his Third Law of Motion.

The "Last Supper", painted in 1498, still remains one of Leonardo's masterpieces. His most famous painting, and probably the world's greatest, was the "Mona Lisa".

From 1506 to 1513 Leonardo worked as a Court Painter to Louis XII of France and continued his activities as a sculptor and teacher. He also served Pope Leo X from 1513 to 1515 in Rome. During this period he did the "Young John the Baptist". Leonardo returned to France in 1516 at the request of Francis I and spent the rest of his life in his studies.

T.P.A.

THE RUN ON KUTCH

I suppose *Freebooter's* article on the Kutch *satyagrahis* (HIMMAT, April 26) was meant to be sarcastic. In fact, these men and women are making fools of themselves. I think the Government authorities would have succeeded better if, instead of arresting the marchers and giving them prominence in the press, they had allowed them to march, unmolested, into the burning sands of the Rann and see how long their slogans sustained them.

P. K. BHATIA, Ahmedabad 1

REVISIONIST TRAFFIC

P. Bagewadekar, (HIMMAT, April 26) writes to ask whether traffic in China keeps to the left or the right. I understand that it keeps to the right which I suppose only goes to show what a strong revisionist influence "China's Khrushchev" still has on the nation.

S. L. SARKAR, Calcutta 16

FR. FERRER'S "CONVERSIONS"

As human beings we all have our own set of human prejudices, which often determine what we see. Instead of seeing what is actually there, we often tend to see what we would like to see there, or what we think is there.

Freud, the great psychoanalyst, was a great antique collector. "When walking through the streets of a strange city," he said, "I read ANTIQUES in every sign that showed the slightest resemblance to the word."

Almost everyone, psychologists contend, has his fair share of "antiques". "One of the reasons people have so many half-cooked ideas," said Dr Donald Laird, "is because their opinions are based on poor or artificial observations."

THE ATOM—FROM PAGE 17

would take 12 years to produce a wheat possessing both the qualities of the Mexican variety and the golden colour Indian consumers are used to. Mexican seed when irradiated produced six mutants in the first generation each satisfying the requirements. The new seeds were in the farmers' fields the next year.

Experiments at the BARC show that vegetables, fruit and meat treated with controlled quantities of radiation remains unspoiled from three to five times longer than normal.

Isotopes important

The production of isotopes (elements that have been treated with radiation so that the natural weight of their atoms is altered) has proved a vital advance for industry and medicine. Over 350 different varieties of isotopes are being produced and used as tracers in well-digging, re-

Letters

Looking at FATHER Ferrer, some critics forget that he is FARMER Ferrer who, instead of converting SOULS has converted SOIL — 10,000 acres of arid land to yield triple crops. He has bored holes in the earth and "converted" them into 1000 wells. He has changed the hearts of men without changing their faith. By releasing thousands of acres of land from mortgage he has gained what was lost. By giving interest-free loans to the farmers, without any bond, he had "converted" them to trust and mutual confidence. By building a hospital he has "converted" sick bodies into healthy ones. By building schools he has "converted" illiterate into literate. "By serving the people in this manner, I serve God," he said.

S. PERRY, Bombay 74

OTHER LANGUAGES?

WHILE congratulating you on your fine weekly, may I suggest that a Hindi edition as well as editions in other languages should be considered so that the fruit of such an enlightening magazine may reach the masses.

ASHOK KUMAR, Ahmedabad

We want to know what our readers really think. HIMMAT will pay Rs 10 and Rs 5 for the two best letters published each week. But remember, the shorter the better. All letters must be exclusive. They must be signed with name and address, even if not for publication.—Ed.

pairing blast furnaces, blocking seepage in dams and water systems, and discovering the movement of silt in the ports. Some 60 of India's hospitals employ them to locate brain tumours and study the functions of various organs. India sells isotopes to many nations, including Japan, France and Australia.

Other fields could improve

Last month the Lok Sabha granted, without a murmur of dissent, the AEC's request of Rs 54 crores for its annual budget. The men in charge of the AEC have obviously gained and hold the confidence of the country.

"I see no reason why we cannot do as well in other fields as we have done in the sophisticated and complex area of atomic science — in fertilisers, steel, oil, petro-chemicals — or for that matter in most sectors of development," says the Chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, Dr Vikram Sarabhai.

Sport

Olympic tour wrangle

The modern Olympic Games are a festival of peace and goodwill. But each time this leap-year meet comes along there is anything but goodwill and peace among the sporting institutions and officials in India. Wrangling for positions in the national contingent, funds and priority have become an obnoxious routine.

In other countries the national Olympic association prepares and finalises the tour subject to the merit of the available talent and the funds at its disposal. In India, unfortunately, the women of the candidates, and exercises little control over its member federations in the matter of selecting worthy candidates.

The officials select themselves first — as tour managers, delegates, umpires and invitees — and then build up a team to justify their trip.

Sub-standard

Selection of participants also gives cause for suspicion. Quite a few sub-standard performers are boosted as potential medalists. The emphasis is on the quantity rather than the quality of the national representatives.

Tour wrangling reaches its climax on the eve of departure. As provider of tour expenses Government wants to be convinced of the bona fides and standard of every participant and official; but this is strongly resented by the Indian Olympic Association as well as the national federations on grounds of "autonomy". Legitimate inquiry is termed interference.

Surely the representatives of the IOA, the Education Ministry and the Finance

Ministry can reach an understanding about the size of the Indian contingent before selections are made. There must be a national policy over sport commitments abroad.

Stagnant soccer

Indian soccer — which once rated high in international rankings (Olympic semi-finalists in 1956 and Asia's best in the 'fifties) — has slid down the ladder and looks like staying there. Our teams have been repeatedly humbled in the international field — unable to qualify for the Olympic Championship and eliminated in the early rounds of Asian competitions.

As the country's most popular game, soccer has had every encouragement. It appears to make the game a profession. Unlike most other games in the country, soccer attracts big money. There is no dearth of talent and opportunity.

Eliminated

The latest setback to Indian soccer is the elimination of India in the preliminary pool leagues of the Asian Youth Championship in Seoul. Of four teams, India finished third — with one win over the weakest of the twelve competing teams, and defeats by Israel and Malaysia.

A drastic change in methods of promotion and technique of Indian soccer is a dire necessity. And if the present administrative framework is incapable of producing improved results, better and younger leadership must be found.

Sports council

Wishful thinking might have been at the bottom of an agency report that the All-India Council of Sports was likely to be wound up after its meeting next week end; but to the average Indian sportsman

it would make little difference whether the AICS was there or not.

The Council has done little for the promotion of sport in the country in the fourteen years of its existence. If it had any powers in the administration of the nation's physical activity they have not been exercised: its responsibilities have been nil.

True, the AICS has functioned as a recommending unit for Government grants to games, organisations and sportsmen; but this could have been done as well, and probably better, by a panel of advisers within the Ministries. As a national sport-promoting or ginger group the AICS has been a miserable failure.

The news of the AICS being wound up has been promptly deplored. But the nation's youth.

Ooty camp

Ootacamund, which resembles closely the height and climatic conditions of Mexico City where the Olympic Games are to be held this October, was to provide acclimatising opportunities for all members of the Indian contingent.

The camp has already started in Ooty, but there are only thirteen athletes there so far! Officials probably outnumber the Olympic candidates — already there are four coaches and a director. The AICS continues to be a helpless watcher; and the IOA is too busy fighting for its big entourage to Mexico and the right to bid for the next Asian Games to bother about preparing its Olympic candidates.

The Ooty pre-Olympic camp can serve as a mirror of the nation's sport discipline, administration and progress.

● **topscorer**

HIMMAT, May 17, 1968

HIMMAT, May 17, 1968

Wind from Prague

by Rajmohan Gandhi



THESE HAVE BEEN anxious days for Messrs Brezhnev and Kosygin. To march or not to march into Czechoslovakia is a question they may still be discussing.

In a broadcast reminiscent of Budapest Radio in 1956, Radio Prague asked Moscow to allow Czechoslovakia to carry out "its democratic revolution without hindrance from its allies".

"For God's sake let us not repeat the tragic experience of Yugoslavia or even the Budapest events... Let us take responsibility for our future," the radio said.

Of course, military suppression will be the last resort of the Kremlin rulers. They will have tried, and will continue to try, other methods of putting down the Czech rebellion.

Economic aid can be cut off — or vastly increased. Individual men of influence can be bought. Different men and groups can be played against one another. The threat of tanks rolling in can do the job of the tanks.

No support from West

But it would be unreal to think that the Russians do not have ready a careful plan to move in as swiftly and silently as possible. It would be equally unreal to imagine that if the Russians felt they ought to march in there would be any military moves by the West in favour of Czechoslovakia.

Fear of nuclear war and the desire to extend and deepen Super-Power co-ordination will rule out any American intervention. The Americans may conceivably have the ability to rush to Czechoslovakia's aid but they are not likely to be in a mood to do so. The other Western powers, as far as one can make out, have neither the will nor the capacity for such a job.

Will the Czechs force the Russians to consider the distasteful final resort? The Czech President, General Ludvig Svoboda, said in Moscow that his "country would never allow its friendship and alliance with the Soviet Union to be disrupted". But the man who may decide the issue is Alexander Dubcek, the leader of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

Brezhnev and Kosygin must be wondering about him. Will he prove to be a Tito, and take Czechoslovakia out of Moscow's orbit while continuing with a Communist regime?

Will he be a Gomulka? A man who uses the rebellion to demand the top post for himself from the Russians, and uses the Russians, their threats and promises, to keep his control?

Will he be a Kadar, who pretended for a few days to support the battle for autonomy and then turned traitor to that cause and helped the Russians to "deal with" the freedom fighters?

Or will he go so far as to try to rid Czechoslovakia of Communism as well as of Russian interference?

The last alternative appears extremely unlikely, and would certainly be dangerous. Yet it is certain that some day, in some Communist country, some people will band themselves together and, with the support of the masses, establish democratic rule. Dubcek may not be the man and Czechoslovakia today may not be the country, but the event is bound to take place. History will compel it.

Brezhnev and Kosygin must feel, in their Kremlin offices and in their dachas, this cold wind of history. They will be concerned about Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia, not to mention Albania and China, with whom their worry is different. They will keep their fingers crossed over Poland and East Germany. Their biggest fear will be Russia itself.

If the Czechs can demand and obtain a new government, a more liberal set-up and even the rehabilitation of Jan Masaryk, will not the Russians one day fight for, and win, similar revolutionary results?

Jan Masaryk, the Foreign Minister, was said to have thrown himself out of his apartment window on the night of March 9, 1948, shortly after the Communist coup. Few believed this story about the son of the founder of modern Czechoslovakia. Yet, until the recent developments, no one in Czechoslovakia dared to ask for an investigation. Now, as a result of a public demand forthwith, supported by leading Communists, the Government has announced that

an official inquiry is under way.

Total power hardly seems to assure eternal respect. Novotny of Czechoslovakia is out, and down. But B and K do not need Czech examples. What has happened to Stalin and Khrushchev must pursue them every day.

The massive tragedy of our times is that, at this moment of daring in thought and action by many in the Communist world, by some who rule and many who are ruled, the so-called democratic world presents such a picture of division and frustration.

One hardly needs to be a poet or playwright to feel the shattered hopes of people who are ready to fight dictatorship, at the risk of everything, but who find the democratic world unable either to help or provide a stirring example.

Let us for a moment imagine that Dubcek wants Czechoslovakia to move beyond Communism. Messrs B and K will, of course, inform him instantly of the consequences if he tries. They will not find it difficult to convince him of the impossibility of Western military assistance reaching him. They will also ask if he really wants the non-Communist world's wars between races and classes, between students and governments and inside families.

Radical revolution

What can Dubcek say in reply? Communist weaknesses and failures do not prove the virtues or strength of democracies.

What men like Dubcek need is the backing and example of a nation that applies, in all its spheres, the revolutionary concepts of Moral Re-Armament.

Then he can say to Messrs B and K, "You certainly can crush me. I may go down but I will do so fighting. But you don't have to crush me, and I don't have to fight you. You and I together can experiment with a revolution more radical than Communism, which can cure the corruptions of the capitalist world and remove the falsehood of our own system. With it we will not have to repeat the story of Stalin, Khrushchev and Novotny."

B and K may sit up.

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Nearest entry wins Rs. 25
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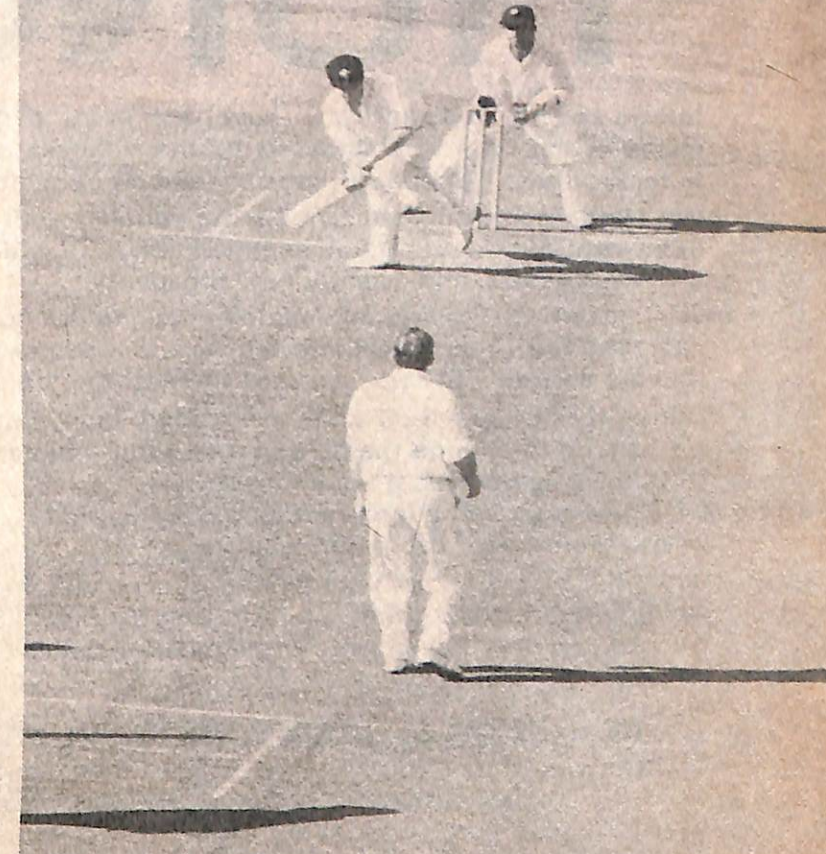
*Each week half the prize of Rs. 50 will be awarded to the nearest entry. The other half will be carried forward to a "Jackpot" to be won by the first competitor who marks EXACTLY the centre of the ball. This Jackpot Prize will accumulate by Rs. 25 per week until it is won.

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Next week's Jackpot: Rs. 75

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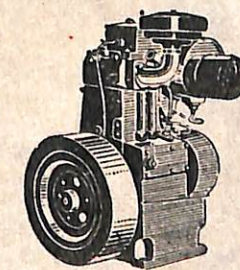
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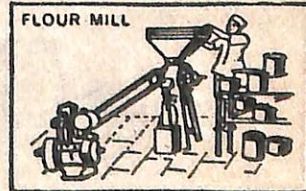
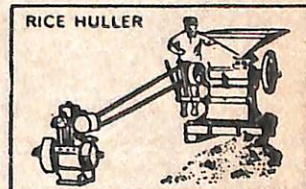
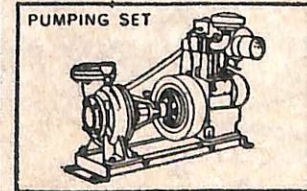
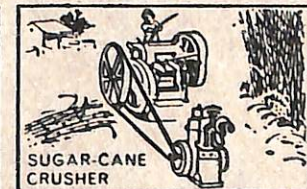
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HUNGER!!!

India's poverty is paradoxical. Here, too many people toil to wrest a living from the earth, but the earth yields far too little. Embarrassed by the richness of resources and the poverty of means to exploit them, India produces not enough food to feed all of its population.

Only large-scale mechanized farming coupled with intensive rural electrification can get the country permanently out of this rut. Rural electrification on a wide scale can bring power to our farmers and help them grow more food, and attain a new prosperity.

GEC have been playing a key role in making the country's rural electrification programme a success. GEC's vast reservoir of technical know-how and resources are directed to improve continually all GEC equipment that are essential to cope with the increasing problems of power distribution and utilisation in rural areas.

During these years, GEC have been called, many times, to participate in the vital nation-building projects that are helping to change the face of rural India—projects that include the Bhakra Nangal and the Hirakud Dams. GEC have also played a leading role in successfully implementing the programme of village electrification. GEC have supplied a large number of transformers, motors, switchgear and pumpsets to help make the 'Grow More Food' campaign a success.

In all these developments one factor remains unchanged—the GEC quality. Installed at India's farms, GEC quality products are helping to bring the country closer to agricultural self-sufficiency and farm prosperity. No wonder, they have become the most trusted weapons in the country's fight against hunger.

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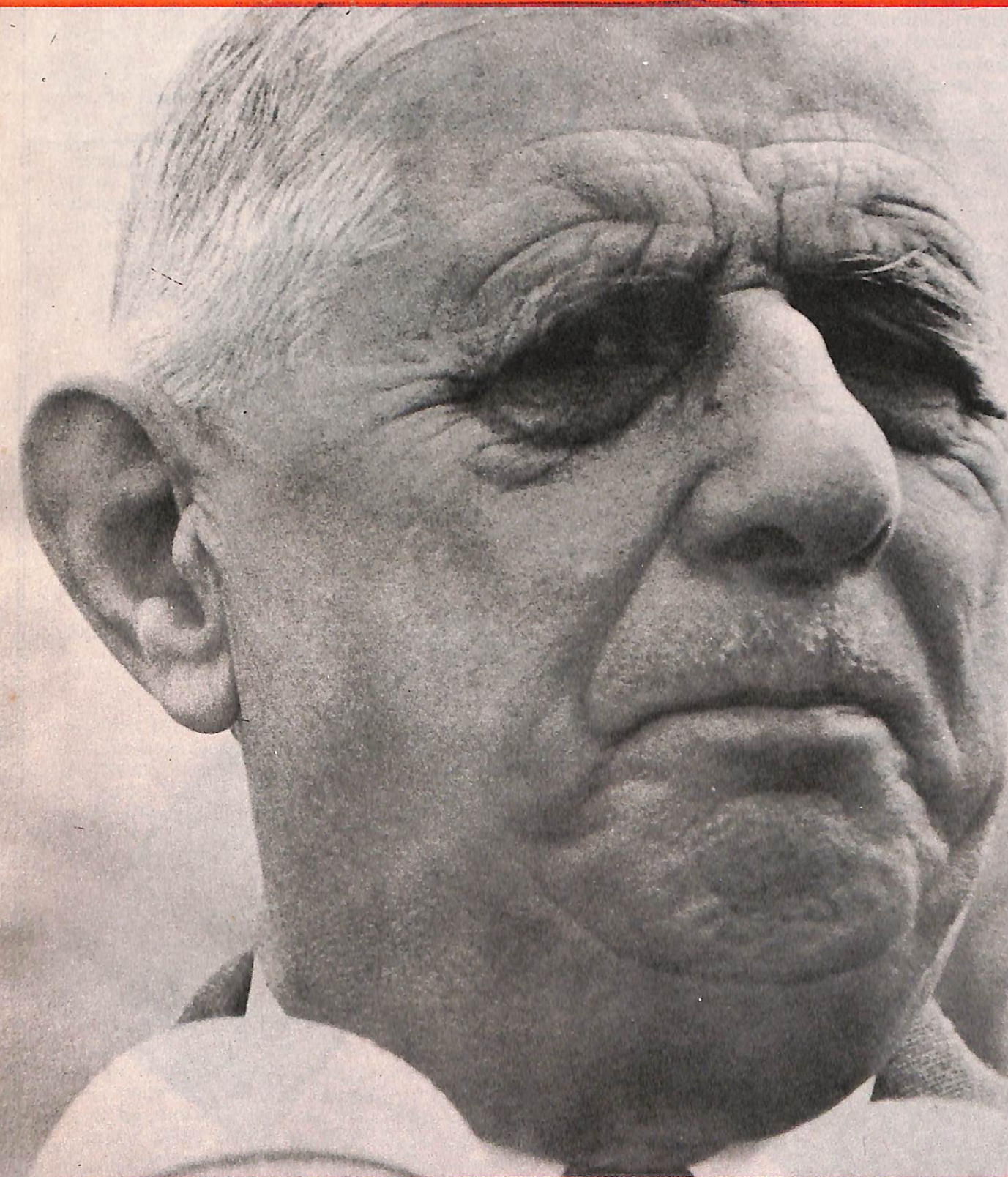
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**While
FRANCE
rocks
...the
world
waits
on DE
GAULLE**

p. 3, 22

Haryana intrigues invite defections