

**Extracts from Political Reports Adopted by
Central Committee Meetings From September 2005 to June 2007**

Indo-US Relations

The Defence Minister visited the US as part of the preparations for the Prime Minister's first visit to the USA. He announced before his departure that it was an "exploratory" visit. But the India-US Defence Framework Agreement for the next ten years was signed while he was there. Our Party has viewed this agreement with serious concern as it drags in India further into the US global strategy.

Firstly, it talks of both sides conducting multinational operations by their troops in other countries without mention of United Nations auspices. This would mean that joint operations would be under US command. Secondly, the agreement states that both sides will "expand collaboration relating to missile defence". This is connected with the US effort to get India to be part of its missile defence system. Thirdly, there is a proposal for co-production of defence equipment. This is clearly meant to lure India to buy F16 fighter planes and open the market for US weapons. Fourthly, India has agreed to ensure the security of the sea-lanes in the region. This ties with the US interest in getting the Indian Navy to patrol the Malacca straits and other international seas. Finally, the defence agreement comes at a time when the United States is actively working to prevent China from enhancing its defence potential.

Following this agreement, during the Prime Minister's visit a joint statement has been issued. Our Party has put out a comprehensive statement. We have highlighted the fact that this joint statement is a continuation of the trend of India being accommodated as a strategic ally of the United States.

(September 2 -4, 2005)

The foreign ministry and the UPA government are now seeking to justify their stand on Iran by claiming that India should behave as a "responsible" nuclear power which is against nuclear proliferation. The underlying theme is that India is now prepared to go by the US line on proliferation and is prepared to take a discriminatory stand against other countries which seek to develop nuclear technology.

The United States will continue to extract a price for accepting India as a strategic ally and extending nuclear cooperation. In future, on all issues where America has vital interests, it will expect India to line up with it. The Party must constantly exercise vigilance on how India's foreign policy and strategic security issues are addressed. More and more, the pro-American interests are asserting themselves within the UPA government.

(December 14-16, 2005)

Foreign Policy To The Fore

In the last nine months, one of the main issues between the UPA government and the Left that came to the fore is the Indo-US strategic alliance and India's foreign policy. On the Iran nuclear issue, the government once again voted for reporting the matter to the Security Council in February 4, 2006. The whole situation will be changing with the new Indo-US equation and the strategic tie up. Our Party must understand the serious danger posed by this orientation of the UPA government. It will have serious repercussions for our economic sovereignty, independent foreign policy and lives of the working people.

(March 11-12, 2006)

The nuclear cooperation agreement is being used by America to step up pressure on India to accept terms which would erode its independent capacity to develop nuclear technology. Further, in order to get US approval, India is preparing for a big arms purchase from the US. Various aspects of the military cooperation agreement are being worked out such as the logistics supply agreement and the Maritime Cooperation Framework. India being drawn into a strategic alliance with the United States is an issue of the utmost concern for the Party and the Left and democratic forces. The Party should mobilise all the democratic forces and conduct protests against the Indo-US military exercises wherever they take place. In the coming days all efforts must be made to check this direction of policy and to ensure that the UPA government does not go ahead with a whole host of agreements which harm India's sovereignty and independent foreign policy.

The Central Committee should plan out a big national political campaign by the Party. This campaign should set out the Party's positions on the need for economic policies which address the common people's problems; the danger of the UPA government's strategic alliance with the US and the need for an independent foreign policy and exposure and condemnation of the BJP's communal Hindutva agenda. The Party's Left and democratic platform should be projected. A month-long campaign should be conducted in August 2006.

(June 8-10, 2006)

The stand taken by the Party and its campaign against giving in to US terms and conditions has been appreciated among the scientific community and the intelligentsia. The US senate has to now debate the legislation. The content of the legislation has to be closely watched so that the next step in the campaign to prevent any compromise of India's vital interests can be taken forward.

(September 24-26, 2006)

Indo-US Nuclear Deal – On Hyde Act

During the monsoon session of parliament, the Party had played a leading role in ensuring that the Prime Minister clarify the framework in which the Indo-US nuclear cooperation agreement is being finalized. The last Central Committee report had noted that the content of the US legislation has to be closely watched so that the next step in the campaign to prevent any compromise of India's vital interests is taken forward.

The Party was of the opinion that the terms and conditions set out in the proposed US legislation, would harm the development of India's nuclear technology and compromise its independent foreign policy. The US Congress has finally adopted the legislation which will provide the exemption for the US administration to have a bilateral agreement on civilian nuclear cooperation with India. But the provisions of the US law are violative of the assurances given by the Prime Minister in his August 17 statement in parliament. The final US legislation has modified some of the language and tone of the earlier legislations. But if we assess the entire legislation on the basis of the Prime Minister's statement, it is found that the following areas are still problematic. They concern (i) full civilian nuclear cooperation and what the Prime Minister termed as "removal of all restrictions on all aspects of cooperation and technology transfers". (ii) Annual certification by the US President which is now termed as annual reporting. (iii) Instead of a India-specific additional protocol with the IAEA, the US law calls for a modified additional protocol meant for non-nuclear weapon countries. (iv) There has been a shifting of goalposts in terms of two new provisions concerning (a) in case of the US canceling its obligations, it had promised to help facilitate alternative fuel supplies from friendly countries and the nuclear suppliers group. This is now restricted to conditions of market failure and does not cover deliberate US termination. (b) it was earlier agreed that the US would help build a strategic fuel reserve to help running our reactors for their life term. The final act now explicitly bars any reserve other than normal operating reserves required to run the reactors. The US law continues to harp on India's foreign policy being "congruent to that of the United States". There are numerous references to India's role of cooperation and support to the US efforts to isolate and sanction Iran.

Under these circumstances, the UPA government's argument that the country should wait for the final bilateral agreement to be enacted (the 123 agreement) is unacceptable. It is evident that the US administration is bound by the provisions of the US law while negotiating the bilateral agreement.

In order to meet the growing criticism in India, President Bush has issued a statement spelling out the areas in which the executive can exercise its prerogative without being bound down by the US Congress. This again is a subjective interpretation. If a new President assumes office in 2008, he or she can decide to abide by the provisions of the law. A Democratic President is more likely to be moved by proliferation concerns and demand fulfillment of all the terms set out in the US law.

The debate in both houses of parliament on the US legislation made it clear that the majority in parliament (that is all the parties except the UPA partners) are against proceeding with the bilateral agreement on the terms set out by the United States.

The Party will have to mount a campaign against the dangers inherent in the Indo-US nuclear agreement. The government should be compelled not to proceed with the bilateral agreement without clearing the extraneous terms and foreign policy implications of the agreement. As stated by the Party in July 2005 when the joint statement was first signed, the nuclear agreement should be seen in the context of the wider strategic alliance that the US wants to bind India to.

(January 2-4, 2007)

Nuclear Cooperation Agreement

The negotiations for the bilateral 123 agreement for civilian nuclear cooperation has reached a crucial stage. India has to decide whether it can accept the extraneous terms put in the agreement which amount to no "full civilian nuclear cooperation". These pertain to restrictions on reprocessing of the spent fuel, exclusion of sale of equipment relating to enrichment, reprocessing and heavy water production to India. There is also a binding commitment demanded not to test further.

Strong opposition must be built up so that the UPA government does not succumb to American pressures on these matters. The Party must continue to press for the UPA government adopting a foreign policy course which will strengthen the multipolar trends which underlay the trilateral meetings of the foreign ministers of Russia , India and China.

(March 31-April 2, 2007)

The UPA government is not talking about the other terms and conditions of the Hyde Act which will govern the US side. In this Act there are unacceptable terms set for India's foreign policy. It is the Hyde Act which will set the parameters for future presidents and Congress to act upon. The UPA government has not so far agreed to accept all the US terms and conditions. The danger still remains that in its eagerness to clinch the agreement it will make unjustifiable concessions which go contrary to the statement of the Prime Minister to parliament on August 17, 2006.

The government should not proceed with the 123 bilateral negotiations without getting the United States to change the harmful provisions in the Hyde Act.

(June 24-26, 2007)
