

## INDIA AND THE ATOM BOMB

The Moscow Test Ban Treaty registered a significant advance for the forces of world peace and opened up new possibilities for advancing towards the complete stoppage of all tests of nuclear weapons and for their banning and destruction. The explosion of an atom bomb by the government of the Peoples' Republic of China in the face of world opinion has damaged these prospects. It has encouraged the US imperialists to press ahead with their plans for a NATO multilateral nuclear force, which would put atomic weapons in the hands of the West German neo-Nazis. In our country it has encouraged the right-reactionary forces who have launched an offensive calling, on the one hand for India also to go in for making her own atom

bombs and, on the other, to appeal to the western imperialist powers to take over India's defence through a so-called "nuclear umbrella". The Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of India appeals to the people of India to rally in their millions to defend India against this new reactionary campaign. The making of atomic weapons would not only place further crippling burdens on our national economy but would also weaken India's role in the preservation and consolidation of world peace. The so-called "nuclear umbrella" would mean the virtual handing over of the defence of our country to the imperialists. It is significant that the Swatantra spokesman in Parliament said that since India would find it difficult to make an atomic bomb quickly it should ask for a nuclear "shield".

The Seventh Congress of the CPI notes with satisfaction the declarations of the Government of India that it would not change its policy in this regard and would not go in for either the making of atomic bombs or any nuclear shield. It welcomes the policy statement on this issue made by Prime Minister Shastri at the recent World Conference for Peace & International Cooperation held at New Delhi. This stand has added to India's stature and won the acclaim of peacelovers throughout the world. On its basis the now well-known New Delhi Appeal was adopted, which is helping to rally millions in all countries in common action against the nuclear menace and for complete and general disarmament.

The Seventh Congress regrets to note however that in his speeches in the Lok Sabha and his statements in London, Prime Minister Shastri has shown a certain weakness and made certain proposals which would bring in the imperialist "nuclear shield" through the back door. It draws the attention of the people of India to these vacillations and calls upon them to exercise their vigilance and to see to it that the Government of India stands firm on the wise national policy of using nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes and not to deviate from it.

Despite the Prime Minister's reported explanations on his return from London that his proposal for a "guarantee" from the nuclear powers is not a demand for an imperialist nuclear "shield", the reaction of the British and US governments to the

Shastri proposal clearly shows that the proposal is fraught with the greatest danger.

The Seventh Congress of the CPI demands that the Prime Minister clearly and categorically repudiate the so-called nuclear shield proposal without further delay.

The Seventh Congress of the CPI urges the Government of India to display still greater initiative in the matter of rousing world public opinion and acting in concert with other peace-loving states to prevent the further proliferation of atomic weapons, to bring about nuclear-free zones in Asia, Africa and Europe and to move rapidly towards the destruction of all nuclear stockpiles and the complete banning of nuclear weapons. Such an active policy for the prohibition of nuclear weapons and for complete and general disarmament alone can be an effective defence of our country against nuclear threats from whichever quarter they may emanate.

#### NATIONAL INTEGRATION

Although several years have passed since the liberation of the former French and Portuguese enclaves in India, these enclaves have been kept as separate union territories directly under the central administration of the Government of India.

It is obvious that the aspirations of the peoples who freed themselves from imperialist rule after heroic struggles was to reunite with their linguistic states and wipe out the backwardness of these territories and enjoy full democratic rights and growth with these states.

This Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of India is of the opinion that these former foreign pockets be integrated with the neighbouring states on the basis of language in the interest of fuller national integration and democratisation. On the basis of this principle, this Congress asks for the integration of Pondicherry and Karikal with Tamilnad, Mahe with Kerala, Yanam with Andhra, Goa with Maharashtra and Diu and Daman with Gujarat.