



"The people of Bangla Desh are united in the fight for their just demands."

Here is Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's interview with Ramesh Chandra, Secretary-General, World Peace Council, published on August 30, 1971.

Ramesh Chandra: Madam, the Indo-Soviet Treaty has been acclaimed by the overwhelming majority of the people of India. What would you say could be the reason for this near unanimous welcome?

Indira Gandhi: Friendship between India and the Soviet Union has grown in many directions over the years. In the international arena, we have both worked for peace and have opposed racialism and colonialism. The Soviet Union has helped our programmes for the achievement of self-reliance through developing heavy industry.

International relations have entered an era of rapid change, the range and direction of which is not predictable. Nations are seeking new ties and are cutting across old rigidities. This is a welcome trend. But some countries are taking advantage of these changes to embark upon opportunistic adventures.

We are convinced that the present Treaty will discourage such adventurism on the part of countries which have shown a pathological hostility towards us. Our people look upon the Soviet Union as a friend. That is why the Treaty has received such widespread acclaim in our country.

Ramesh Chandra: What would be its impact on the climate for peace in this part of the world, particularly with reference to the liberation struggle of the people of the Bangla Desh?

Indira Gandhi: To begin with the second part of your question, the struggle in Bangla Desh is between the 75 million people on the one side and the vindictive, cruel and autocratic military regime of Islamabad on the other. The people of Bangla Desh are united in the fight for their just demands. But we know that resentment against military rule is increasing among the people of West Pakistan also, whether they belong to Baluchistan, N.W.F.P. or even the favoured provinces of Sind and



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Punjab. Our people, Parliament and Government have extended full sympathy and support to the people of Bangla Desh. We have no quarrel with the people of West Pakistan. The problem is not an Indo-Pakistan one.

The military regime in Islamabad is isolated from its people and is waging war against them. That is why it seeks to divert the attention of the people of Pakistan, as well as of the rest of the world, from the agony of Bangla Desh by attempting to give an Indo-Pakistan complexion to the problem. The threat of war might be an act of desperation, but how can we fail to take note of it? However, we feel that the Treaty will act as a deterrent against any rash adventurism on the part of Islamabad.

But peace does not mean merely the absence of hostilities, nor can there be

peace while oppression and injustice prevails. Peace must be based on the fulfilment of the just aspirations of the people.

Ramesh Chandra: You have rightly said that the Treaty is not a departure from the concept of non-alignment, but that it actually strengthens the forces of non-alignment all over the world. Would you kindly elaborate this statement?

Indira Gandhi: While staying out of power blocs, we have sought the friendship of governments of different persuasions. Peaceful co-existence and conviction that war should be ruled out as a means of settling issues, have been the basic guiding principles of our policy. Simultaneously, we have also opposed colonialism and racialism. Many other nations of Asia and Africa

have pursued a similar policy. The Soviet Union has extended unreserved respect and support to our policy of non-alignment. This has been incorporated in the Treaty itself.

The word 'non-alignment' has been misinterpreted; that is why such doubts arise. The Treaty does not compromise our non-aligned position.

The national interest of non-aligned countries has to be safeguarded from threats of military adventurism. Security must be achieved in a manner which eschews hegemony or confrontation and ensures lasting peace. This is precisely what the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Peace and Co-operation does.

Ramesh Chandra: What is your estimate of the prospects for peace in South-East Asia and West Asia?

Indira Gandhi: Peace in South-East

Asia depends on the solution of the problem of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. All these three are now interrelated. However, a settlement has to be reached in South Vietnam. There is increasing recognition of the fact that there is no military solution. Recently, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam made certain proposals. The crucial point there is that of the withdrawal of foreign forces, and more specially of American forces. I have no doubt that if this withdrawal is made within a certain fixed time-frame, then South Vietnam could be left to work out its future without military or political interference from outside. Sooner or later, the Vietnam problem will have to be settled along these lines.

There is at present a stalemate in West Asia. However, potentially the situation is dangerous. The greater the delay in finding a solution, the more difficult the problem will become. The directions in which a solution has to be sought are laid down in the U.N. Security Council Resolution of 1967. President Anwar Sadat has made a series of proposals. In our view, they deserve careful consideration.

Ramesh Chandra: The Treaty refers to colonialism, racialism and disarmament. In what way do you think it makes a contribution to the anti-colonialism and anti-racial movement and to progress towards disarmament?

Indira Gandhi: The Treaty reiterates both Governments' desire to continue the struggle against all forms of colonialism and racialism. Similarly, we shall continue to work for disarmament. The reiteration of the solemn determination of the two countries should strengthen the movements for peace and justice.

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

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Troubled Waters

Discussing hydro-diplomacy and water cooperation in South Asia

MD. SHARIFUL ISLAM

The present water crisis in South Asia and long-standing water disputes are due to the lack of knowledge of proper water governance, and ignorance about the positive outcome of water dispute resolution.

In the early 1960s, John F Kennedy said, "Anyone who can solve the problems of water, will be worthy of two Nobel prizes: one for peace and one for sciences" (cited in Likhotal 2013: 86). This statement of Kennedy implies the significance as well as challenges of resolving water problems. In South Asia, water has been constructed as a scarce resource and hence, is considered a source of conflict rather than cooperation.

Therefore, it is seen that although Bangladesh-India shares 54 rivers, there is only one water sharing agreement over the Ganges for a 30-year period. Water is used as a political tool for political purposes by the opposition. For instance, in Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami use water as a trump card with regard to relations with India.

There is less engagement over good water governance. Hence, cooperation over water is a must. Water cooperation and good water governance has also been recognised by the United Nations through dedicating 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation. In this context, hydro-diplomacy will be imperative to promote water cooperation. IUCN defines hydro-diplomacy as "...a critical tool to ensure that shared water resources are managed efficiently, sustainably and equitably..." (IUCN 2012).

Pressure on water is increasing rapidly due to increased pressure of water for agriculture, sanitation and rapid industrialisation. This increased pressure is generating tensions in societies and among countries as well. The World Economic Forum recently ranked water crisis as the top global risk. Moreover, climate change and its impacts on water is a pressing concern now. While water is finite, the demand for it keeps increasing. Water crisis can fuel social tension and escalate regional and global conflicts if water sharing arrangements are inadequate and insufficiently implemented.

Hence, water is an issue which needs to be addressed systemically. Dealing with water is related to conflict prevention and crisis management.

International Commission for the Protection of Rivers, formed in 1994, demonstrates the importance of dealing with water with conflict resolution. In this context, the relevance of hydro-diplomacy comes into the forefront since it is an "innovative and integrative approach to address complex water problems" (Tufts University 2014). Furthermore, Pohl et. al (2014) argue that "preventing conflict over water requires better understanding among the water, climate and foreign policy communities, as does using water as an instrument for greater overall cooperation."

In case of South Asia, Siddharth Chatterjee and Poonam Khetrapal Singh in their study found that 'most of the 1.5 million children that die



each year as a result of unsafe water live in South Asia' (Chatterjee and Poonam 2013). Chatterjee and Poonam also found that 456,000 people in India, 100,000 in Pakistan and 68,000 people in Bangladesh die due to water related diseases. The major reason for water crisis is not the scarcity of water but absence of proper water governance/management. Water is used as a tool by the respective countries' political leaders to uphold their interests.

Lack of political will, engagement of and dialogue by the concerned stakeholders, i.e. political leaders, policy makers and academics, is another principal reason for the water crisis in South Asia. There is a huge gap between practitioners and

academics as well as within political leaders. In addition, due to lack of knowledge over the importance of water, people are polluting waters in South Asia indiscriminately. Tens of thousands of South Asians do not have access to safe drinking water in South Asia. It is ironic that there is poor water governance; cooperation is quite absent in South Asian waters.

Many argue that in the context of South Asia, it is not about water scarcity but lack of proper water governance and knowledge over water cooperation. Thus hydro-diplomacy will be imperative to resolve any water related conflict.

According to Pohl et. al (2014), "The use and allocation of water in trans-boundary basins is both a source of

tension and an opportunity to promote cooperative practices and build collaborative institutions. The extent to which these conflict risks can be managed and the significant cooperative opportunities realised will depend on the level of political engagement demonstrated by both basin countries and the international community."

Developing hydro-diplomacy pedagogy is important since pedagogy plays a pivotal role to shape intellectual ground; appropriate steps must be taken to resolve such problems. Hence, the development of pedagogy on water diplomacy is crucial in South Asian universities since proper water management in South Asia is essential to avert any future water-related conflicting situations. The present water crisis in South Asia and long-standing water disputes are due to the lack of knowledge of proper water governance, and ignorance about the positive outcome of water dispute resolution.

Therefore, developing hydro-diplomacy curricula is crucial since it will educate tomorrow's policy makers - the students, which will be imperative to address future water-related conflicts. Besides, knowledge over water is pertinent to deal with water issues. Since water related problems are linked to conflict prevention and resolution, it is important to promote hydro-diplomacy to diffuse any tensions over water in the GBM basins.

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QUOTABLE Quote

In order to rise from its own ashes, a Phoenix first must burn.

Octavia E. Butler

CROSSWORD by Thomas Joseph

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Lab liquids | 1 Succor |
| 6 "Twilight" heroine | 2 Pigeon call |
| 11 Column style | 3 Lingerie and the like |
| 12 Wise saying | 4 Slimming plan |
| 13 Mothering sort | 5 Winter windshield tool |
| 14 Configuration | 6 Washroom sight |
| 15 Tilted type | 7 Suit |
| 17 Monk's title | 8 Topsy |
| 19 Writing tool | 9 Singer Rawls |
| 20 "This -- test" | 10 Guitar blaster |
| 23 Come to | 16 Photog's cover |
| 25 Burden | 17 Dagwood's dog |
| 26 Major routes | 18 Had title to |
| 28 Spotted | 20 Chants |
| 29 Auto highlights | 21 Dismissive retort |
| 30 Mi. parts | 22 Useful skill |
| 31 Pickle buy | 24 Writer Follett |
| 32 Tennis need | 25 Paddle's cousin |
| 33 Small dome | 27 Don hastily |
| 35 Impressed greatly | 31 Last Supper attendee |
| 38 Bulb rating | 33 Minimal change |
| 41 Game setting | 34 Turner of film |
| 42 Cager Shaquille | 35 Hunk of gum |
| 43 Owed amounts | 36 Bonanza stuff |
| 44 Disagreeable | 37 Attic sight |
| | 39 Skin art, for short |
| | 40 Cunning |

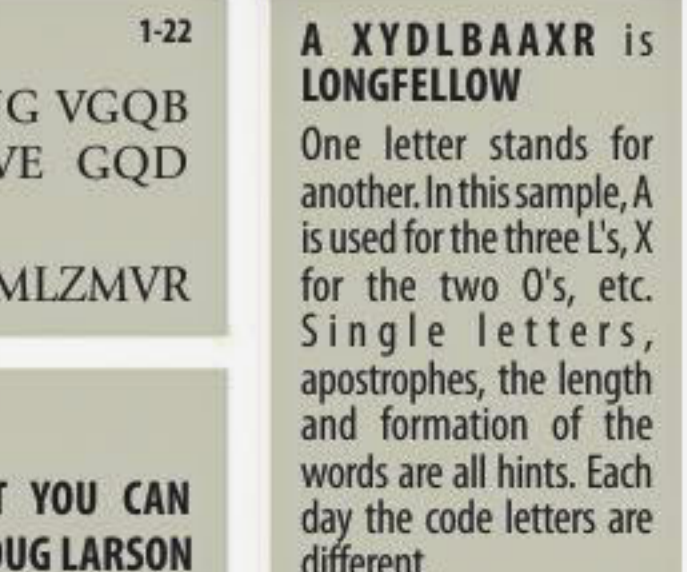
Yesterday's answer

SPRAT BRAD
CLAIR PRADO
RUDDY RATON
IRIS DINERO
MAC SUM SET
PLANTERS
SLAY OINK
GAS ICE BEE
ARTIST PUMP
LEAST CALLA
ANNES AVAIL
SAKE TEENS

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



HENRY by Don Trachte



CRYPTOQUOTE

KMZAADV N SCGMVR QGF VZNF NG VGQB
HP FJD PZMVF SDAD GQ GQVE GD
NHRD.
-- PAZQLGHN RD VZ AGLJDPGMLZMVR

Yesterday's CRYPTOQUOTE:

NEVER PUT OFF UNTIL TOMORROW WHAT YOU CAN
MANAGE TO WRIGGLE OUT OF TODAY. -- DOUG LARSON

A XYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three Ls, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.