

# Talks between Mao and Nehru

October 1954

## 1. Foreign Policy and Fear Complex<sup>1</sup>

Chairman Mao Tse-tung enquired after Nehru's health and after the usual courtesies he said that he was very glad to meet the Prime Minister and had been looking forward to his visit. He dwelt on the age-old associations and the new friendship between China and India. He said that today both India and China were struggling for peace. He had read with great interest the Prime Minister's speech of the 29th September, 1954, and appreciated what he had said then.<sup>2</sup> China and India had more or less common history in recent times. India had suffered from the effects of colonialism for the last 200 or 300 years; so also had China, for more than a hundred years. There were many common features. Both suffered from colonial exploitation and after both the countries became free, it was important for both the countries to have peace in order to carry on peaceful reconstruction of their economies. Both countries were backward industrially. India, he understood, was more advanced, but all the same with their large populations, industrial reconstruction had to proceed with quickness in both countries. Given peace it might take about twenty years for China to be an industrial nation. China wanted peace. Some other nations, however, did not like to leave China alone. Obstructions were placed in the way of her trade and her reconstruction. Trade even through the Chinese waters was being interfered with. Just a few yards away from the Chinese mainland, islands which belonged to China were under occupation. US was carrying on a policy of increasing tension right around China. Part of China, viz., Formosa, US had virtually occupied and was extending all assistance and encouragement to it. Taiwan had to be liberated. She was a standing threat to the Chinese mainland. From Taiwan and other territory air raids were made on China<sup>3</sup> and US had been air-dropping Chinese agents in groups of seven and ten with wireless transmitters and other equipments. Various such groups had been rounded up and caught.<sup>4</sup> China was

---

<sup>1</sup> Summary of talks with Mao Tse-tung, Beijing, 19 October 1954. Also present were the Indian Ambassador to China, N. Raghavan; Premier, Chou En-lai; Vice-Chairman C'hu Teh; Chairman of the Congress of Standing Committee, Liu Shao-chi; Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee, Sung Ching-ling; Vice-Premier, Chen Yun; Chinese Ambassador to India, Yuan Chung-hsien; V.V. Paranjpe and Pu Shou-chang acted as interpreters. Jawaharlal Nehru Collection. Also available in India-China Relations 1947-1964, Historical Division, MEA, File No. 12/86/NGO/54 & 12/88/NGO/54.

<sup>2</sup> Selected Works, (second series), Vol. 26, pp. 318-332.

<sup>3</sup> On 3 September 1954 an artillery duel broke out between Communist China and Nationalist China over Quemoy island. Air raids by both parties were started on 5 September. On 6 September the US Seventh Fleet patrol was strengthened over 30 islands in possession of the Nationalists. The US Government reiterated its stand on defending the Nationalist hold from communist attack "at all cost."

<sup>4</sup> According to a communiqué of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security. 230 KMT and US agents had been captured since 1951, of whom 106 were killed while being rounded up. The

not a threat to anyone and wished to live in peace with other countries. US, however, did not permit her to do so.

In this matter even countries like England and France were being forced and intimidated by US to follow their line. Even with regard to Chinese admission to the United Nations and the recognition of her status, these nations under pressure from the United States had, unlike India and other Asian countries and also some north west European countries, been supporting US in her attitude. The Chairman then referred to the Manila Conference and SEATO, in which countries like UK supported the American Government.<sup>5</sup>

Nehru began by expressing his appreciation of the very warm welcome that he had received that morning from the people of Peking.<sup>6</sup> He said he was overwhelmed by the demonstration that he had received and thanked the Chairman, the Premier and members of his Government. He said it was true that both India and China had a tradition of close and friendly association dating back from the early ages. This association continued more or less till India lost her freedom about 150 or 200 years ago and when China also became subjected to similar forces as those to which India had been subjected. Another link between India and China was common or similar experiences resulting from such colonialism. Both India and China were great countries with vast populations. Both had similar problems and need for reconstruction. There was, therefore, much common ground between the two countries and there was a closeness of association, though they might differ in ideology. There might be differences in outlook or ideology, but there was great goodwill and friendship between our two countries and peoples. This was an important feature in a world full of strife. The great need of the world today was peace and the people of India as well as the people of China were devoted to the cause of peace.

However, Nehru said he wanted to mention that there was a certain amount of fear in the minds of smaller nations in Asia, fear of these two big and Great countries, China and India. This might be baseless fear. The fact remained that there was such fear. The very strength of these two countries might be the reason for such fear and there might be other reasons also. Nevertheless, the fact had to be faced that there was fear of China and...

Mao Tse-tung: Of communism?

Jawaharlal Nehru: We cannot analyze this fear and find out what exactly causes it, but it is important that we should remove this fear from the minds of smaller countries. It cannot be completely explained, but there is no doubt that the fear complex has affected many countries and has influenced their policies.

---

most controversial of these were the cases pertaining to thirteen American secret agents involved in air-dropping agents, maintaining contacts with agents and conducting reconnaissance etc. See post. pp. 46. 213-215.

<sup>5</sup> Despite the commitment at Geneva regarding non-precipitation of war or warlike situation, Anthony Eden, the British Foreign Minister, had reasoned that "mutual defence arrangements cannot really be considered harmful for any nation, least of all for those who practice it themselves."

<sup>6</sup> Over a million people lined the twelve mile long route from the airport and for the first time the Chinese dispensed with the bullet proof cars and Nehru rode in an open car. Desmond Donnelly of the Daily Mail described the reception as 'a Roman triumph'.

Mao: But US cannot be afraid? On the other hand, US is intimidating others.

Jawaharlal Nehru: Even in US some observers have seen that there was fear and policies were influenced by fear.

Mao: What are they afraid of?

Jawaharlal Nehru: It might be that they are afraid of losing their vested interests. US is a very powerful nation today and perhaps they are afraid of losing their power. After the last World War, European nations had become weak and European colonialism became a diminishing quantity, which would ultimately disappear. Some European countries have already realised this though not sufficiently enough. America, on the other hand, has emerged out of the War as a very strong power and she is anxious that this power may not be affected or diminished by other powerful nations. It is this fear complex that is affecting them.

Mao: How can America be afraid? On the other hand, she is frightening others through her activities. We cannot have even good sleep, you know. She is intimidating Britain, France and other nations to follow her policy. She does not care for the opinion of others, but she wants others to follow her opinion. Even for the SEATO she did not care for the opinions of India, Burma or Indonesia and intimidated or brought pressure on countries like Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan and others to fall in with her policy.

Nehru said as far as he could see SEATO was American reaction against the Geneva Conference. The Americans did not like the settlement arrived at Geneva and wanted to show that their views still counted and that their strength and influence in Asia had not become less.<sup>7</sup>

Mao said that he agreed that it was a sort of demonstration against the decisions at the Geneva Conference and American inability there to make their presence felt.

Nehru explained that all the same there was the fear complex in America. Perhaps she was afraid of the Soviet Union and countries like Britain and France, who left to themselves might follow a different policy and were following American policy for fear that they might not be able to stand by themselves in the case of another war. They think that if they do not follow US, US might leave them to their own fate in case of another conflict. That is one explanation of British support to the United States. Otherwise the interests of European colonial nations and those of America conflict in the East and in many countries European colonial nations are losing ground to Americans. Yet, we find them supporting American policy.

---

<sup>7</sup> The decision for cessation of hostilities in Indo-China, arrived at Geneva went directly against the foreign policy priorities of the US. The Spectator commented: "1-he star of Peking has caused the star of Washington to pale in an area where only a few years ago General McArthur was usurping the functions of God. With care and skilled determination the SEATO could serve in some measures to rebuild this vanishing authority."

Mao enquired why countries like India did not then follow the American policy?

Nehru answered that India was not afraid of any country in the world. The one thing that India's great leader Mahatma Gandhi had taught Indians was not to be afraid and it was this fearlessness that enabled Indians to win their freedom from British imperialism. Yes, said the Prime Minister, India was not afraid and followed her own policy, what she considered right and just.

Mao said that America had so much of strength and wealth etc.

Nehru said that slowly Western nations had to realise that it was not so much money that counted. Both India and China put together had about 1000 million people of the world and human beings counted.

Mao agreed that human beings counted the most.

Nehru continued that ultimately US and other nations would realise that it was not possible to set at nought such a great country with such vast populations as China and in the end Chinese legitimate rights would have to be conceded.

Nehru then again referred to the fear of isolation in the minds of West European nations in the event of any armed conflict with Russia. All that they could do now was to try and influence American opinion without leaving the American camp.

Mao said that Eden while at Geneva was in favour of Eastern Locarno. All the same the British supported US at the Manila Conference.<sup>8</sup>

Nehru said that according to his information the British were not happy about it. Nehru referred to the joint declaration made by Prime Minister Chou En-lai and himself while the former was in India.<sup>9</sup> If the principles which were embodied in this declaration were given effect to and if other countries in Asia were made to feel that those principles would be effectively implemented, a good deal could be achieved in removing suspicion and fear. If those principles of non-interference, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity etc. are acted upon, many of the troubles that afflicted nations would be removed. The nations in Asia would have, however, to be convinced that the principles would be effectively implemented.

Mao agreed that the principles had been stated in the declaration and they

---

<sup>8</sup> During the Geneva Conference, Anthony Eden had proposed that an arrangement could be arrived at for the defence of South East Asia-in line of the Locarno Treaty-in which both the superpowers stood guarantee for its working. At the Manila conference, Lord Reading, the British delegate, argued that while the Geneva Conference had put an end to war, Manila was to ensure that "sacrifices were not exacted a second time."

<sup>9</sup> Issued on 28 June 1954 in New Delhi, the statement laid down the mutually agreed principles-Panch Shila-governing the relationship between the two countries. See Selected Works, (second series), Vol. 26, pp. 410-412.

could watch and see that they would be implemented. However, he thought that it would be wrong to make war as an instrument of policy. He had a good deal to say about it and that he would like to continue the conversation with Prime Minister later.

## 2. War and Peace<sup>10</sup>

Mao Tse-tung: How the talks between the two Prime Ministers are proceeding?

Jawaharlal Nehru: We have discussed a great variety of questions and the talks were very satisfactory.

Mao: It is but natural. We have no quarrels between us. We had some quarrels with the Labour Party Delegation.<sup>11</sup> We spent three and a half hours in talks with the Labour Party Delegation, out of which two hours were spent in quarrels. But we quarrelled happily. They then talked about a great variety of topics and they spoke of doubts and disagreements and we did likewise. They asked us whether we wanted to destroy or undermine Labour Party. I said we would not and we could not do so. If British Labour Party is to be destroyed, that is to say, if that is to happen then British working class should do it. According to their observation their course was better. They think they are socialists and we are communists and their road is better and effective. I said the question of your effectiveness may better not be talked. However, if you insist then we would express our views. Your policy, I said, would not reach the goal of socialism. You are still an imperialist country. They denied it. They asked whether we could cooperate with such sort of people. And I said entirely so. We said cooperation between two countries of different ideologies is entirely possible. Not only the British Labour Party but even if Churchill's Party wishes to cooperate we will also cooperate. We are also willing to cooperate with America if they want it. And there were some other matters of dispute. This was the Attlee Delegation.

They were further worried (concerned) about our population being too large. They seem to have the idea that greater population would mean aggression. In our view our population problem would be solved under the new social system. It could be solved within the country. Does any of the South East Asian countries have the same doubts regarding our population?

Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes. I mentioned last time that some of the South East Asian countries have apprehensions. Even in the past the Chinese and Indian populations spread out to these countries and so there is not only the fear of population, but in addition, of the strong nation behind it. But their apprehensions are not the same as of some European countries. This applies to India also. In Africa, European settlers are carrying on an anti-India campaign where they are describing India as "Indian imperialism" while actually it is they

---

<sup>10</sup> Minutes of talks with Mao Tse-tung, Beijing, 23 October 1954. Jawaharlal Nehru Collection. Extracts.

<sup>11</sup> The delegation from UK visited China from 15 to 31 August and met Mao on 24 August 1954.

who are imperialists.

I might mention that I met one or two members of the British Delegation who gave me a brief account of their talks held here.

Mao: Yes. We must talk out differences if any. That is good. Whatever places Labour Delegates wanted to see we allowed them to see. We do not favour Hitler's assertion, also made by the Japanese before, regarding 'have not' countries.

Jawaharlal Nehru: Even before Hitler, Kaiser Wilhem talked the same way in Europe. About fifty years ago he had drawn a cartoon entitled "Yellow peril" in which he showed herds from Asia marching against Europe and he himself defending it. And by that probably he referred to Japanese.

Mao: Yes; ten years ago Japan was just this "yellow peril". Now we need at least scores of years of peace to develop our country and to raise the livelihood of our people. We do not want war. If we can create these conditions it will be good. We will cooperate with anyone who is in favour of this objective. India is undoubtedly in favour of this. So also Burma and Indonesia. Even countries like Thailand, we do not think, are contemplating aggression. We want to improve our relationship with the Thai Government, but Thai Government is peculiar. They do not want to pay any attention to us. Another case is that of Philippines. They all the same say that we want aggression, but they do not say anything when we say we want to establish and improve relations.

On the one hand, they say, they are afraid but when we want to issue something~ like a statement issued by India and China, about non-aggression, etc., they do not do it. We cannot find any reasons for it. They are depending on America and follow the same track.

Speaking of the United States, in the last conversation there was one question we did not finish, viz. the question of war. Do you think that US wants war and would use war to achieve her interests?

Jawaharlal Nehru: The Chairman has made many observations and I refer to some of them. Countries like Burma, Indonesia, and India not only support peace but they entirely favour peace. It is not only because peace is good, but out of selfish reasons. It is an absolute necessity. Otherwise all these countries face danger and destruction and it is an urgent necessity. There is no European country which is not desirous of peace and actively afraid of war. So is Asia too.

As regards US, the question is too difficult to have a simple answer. Because there are many elements in the US policy. I believe the majority of people in the United States want peace and there are many even in the Government who want peace. However, in the last few years there has been a growing tendency in US towards war, especially in the Defence Department and the military officials who have gained far greater strength in their foreign policy. Many of these high military officers think in terms of war but many in the civilian administration do not. Thus there is a conflict between civil and military administration's and many military generals openly talk of war.

Eisenhower does not want war but he may be driven into it. He is weak and he

does not understand politics.

I happened to meet Dulles in Paris six years ago.<sup>12</sup> Then the elections were to take place and he hoped to become the Secretary of State. However, in the elections Truman won and Dulles did not then become the Secretary of State. He then said that of course they did not want war but he thought war would come because of the aggressive activities of the communist countries. He said war will not solve any question or questions. It is ultimately the system which pays greatest dividends that will win. Of course, he was speaking in business language. What he meant was the system which will show greater results.

Mao: Indeed, Dulles talked quite well!

Jawaharlal Nehru: A man like Dulles is a great menace. He is a Methodist or a Baptist preacher who religiously goes to Church and he is narrow-minded and bigoted. He thinks every one must agree with him and a man like him might take any move.

I had a long talk with Eisenhower when he was the President of the Columbia University.<sup>13</sup> He then said to me that he had seen much of war and he no more wanted war. And it did seem to me that he meant it. But unfortunately he is so completely in the hands of third rate advisers that he moves from one opinion to another. In about one month's time elections will be held in America and I think Democrats will get majority in the Congress. It will mean a lessening of tensions and from the point of view of war it will be better.

The only persons who think that they will really profit by war are, perhaps, Chiang Kai-shek and Syngman Rhee.

Mao: We must study the questions of the advantages of war. We have seen two Wars and we must study who profited from them. The last two Wars benefited three kinds of countries while all other countries suffered. We might perhaps classify them into three categories:

1. US imperialism: They profited by both Wars and made profits;
2. Countries led by communist parties or the working class; and
3. Oppressed people led by patriotic groups and parties who are still not communists like India, Indonesia, Syria and even Egypt.

If war comes people have to be mobilised and kept under constant tension but then organisation of the people gives rise to revolution as in China and India.

By the way, do you call your struggle a revolution?

Jawaharlal Nehru: Most certainly we do.

Mao: Our countries, China and India, achieved independence as a result of the Second World War. As a consequence of War another group of countries like Japan, Germany and Italy became weak. But some of the other countries who won the War also became weak. Thus, Chiang Kai-shek weakened and we stood up; Britain weakened and India, Burma, Egypt, etc., stood up; France weakened and Ho Chi Minh rose. I do not know what the American military

---

<sup>12</sup> Nehru was in Paris in October-November 1948 to attend UN General Assembly session and met Dulles.

<sup>13</sup> See Selected Works, (second series), Vol. 13, pp. 314-320.

groups have in mind. They are probably benefited and advanced by the two Wars and they think they will profit in a third world war. But as a result of the third world war it is not certain that America will be benefited and on the other hand she may find herself in trouble. Majority of Islamic countries like Syria in Western Asia and countries in Latin America and even perhaps America proper may possibly shake off the yoke of American imperialists. Revolutionary force of the people always needs a chance to come up. For example, the Bolsheviks. If they had no chance of the First World War, revolution would have been difficult. So also in China. We got a chance because of the Japanese War and we came up. This is also true of patriotic parties in the South East and West Asia. The real result of the Two World Wars is like this and in our view if a third world war is started, it will be to America's disadvantage. If a third world war starts, major portion of the world will be in a revolutionary stage. I am not saying it to make the people afraid but because it is really so as shown by the Second War.

Coming to the weapons, US depends on artillery, navy and bomb. They think they are strong, but there is no basic change except that more people would be killed. In olden days they used "cold weapons" (i.e., knives, swords etc). Now hot weapons (rifles, guns etc.) are used. Cold ones kill less people and hot ones kill more people; atomic weapons will kill still more people. But besides increasing the rate of mortality they make no difference. In a third world war many more people would be killed.

We have no atom bomb. I do not know whether you have it. We have just started scientific research and we have no money. We cannot possibly undertake it now. But atom bomb is possessed by both America and USSR. So, regarding arms, both sides are equal. The deciding factor is the people, the people who handle these weapons. Most important thing is as to what the soldiers think is to their best advantage. Communist Party like your Congress Party had no weapons to start with, but now we have. Another experience in both the World Wars is that countries on the defensive won and who started the War were defeated. In the First War, Germany marched as far as Paris to the west and Petrograd to the east. In the Second War also the defensive side won though Britain and France were a bit weakened; i.e., to say wars have not been advantageous to the aggressor. Therefore, our conclusion is that there should not be another war. We should have long-term peace.

Jawaharlal Nehru: Chairman has been good enough to give analysis of wars and their effects. Chairman is an expert and his views deserve to be respected. I should say that there is a large measure of agreement between us on many points but with reservations on some.

(1) Even without war, India would have attained freedom. Actually war provided a pick-axe in the hands of the British to hold on for a long time in India.

(2) The US gained by War yet the position after War was not to her liking. USSR also had gained and America was facing many problems and although she had won, she was unhappy.

Chairman's arguments would lead to the conclusion that war though bad and therefore, should be avoided, still if it comes, should be welcomed.

I venture to disagree about weapons. It is not a matter of quantity but of

quality. It is not mere greater killing but more than that. For, the killing is on such a vast scale that America will not profit and no other counter will profit also.

I am not an expert but I have studied science and I am in charge of the work on atomic research in my country. I have studied a little about some of the new developments in European countries. If a war starts it will result in the destruction of military and industrial centres of both sides.

America thinks that they can destroy every administrative (governmental), industrial, productive and army centres of the USSR. Of course, Soviets also will not keep quiet. They too will destroy American centres. But the hydrogen bomb releases a chain reaction which is uncontrollable. The mere process of that energy creates another energy which will kill and none will be able to control them. The nature of war will be quite different and it will essentially destroy the industrialised countries.

I agree with Chairman's viewpoint that in final analysis human beings count. But third world war may bring in accompanying changes and enormous destruction and there might well be chaos. Again, if all highly trained persons were destroyed we cannot easily start again. I am saying from a purely practical viewpoint third world war will be quite different from the ones before. We cannot measure now its results. May be, there is no peace at all because there is no one (i.e., to say no organised machinery or government) to make peace. Of course, this is all guess work. China perhaps might suffer less because it is the industrialised nations which will suffer most, since there are nerve centres which can be destroyed easily.

There is another aspect to be considered and that is the brutalising effect of war on humanity. War may result in degradation of large number of human beings. Therefore, on every count war has to be avoided.

Chairman is right when he says that in the two Wars the aggressor was defeated and yet a little twist, speaking from a purely practical viewpoint, may have given advantage to the aggressor. Hitler was a foolish person and he lost many opportunities. It would have been better for him if he had been more patient and wise. In the First World War Germany was defeated but it was - just touch and go. It was not so sure.

There are many forces at work in the world and some are exaggerated by war, but some are exaggerated even without War. Even today British and French imperialism exist. Of course, European imperialism today is a dying thing. The French imperialism ceased after the First World War, while the British imperialism ceased after the Second War. It was hastened by war. There is no doubt about it. I do not think European countries are likely to continue as imperialist powers, because there is no strength left in them to do so. Their source of strength has dried up. American imperialism, however, is of a different type.

Mao: They (Britain and France) are not strong. But still they have colonies and semi-colonies.

Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, but they are weakened and there is no strength left in them. Only place they can hold on to is Africa.

Mao: Is Egypt still under British direction?

Jawaharlal Nehru: No. The American influence is more than the British influence.

Mao: Our conclusions are equal (the same). Regarding analysis, we agree on some and do not agree on others. Prime Minister Nehru's analysis of facts regarding US, viz., that US profited on one side and is facing difficulties on the other, is very good.

And also his analysis of weapons being qualitatively different-if we see the development of weapons there is the arrow stage, the cannon stage and the atom stage-this is also correct.

But when I talked of war-about the result of weapons of war, whatever weapons are used-cold, hot or atomic and how large the scale of war may be-the result is destruction of the other side. But truce was arranged on the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. Here, truce was arranged without any power being totally destroyed. If you look back on past wars, in most cases the defeated suffered most destruction; the losing side lost not only men but also in material. So victory or defeat hinges on the scope of destruction suffered.

Jawaharlal Nehru: May I venture to ask you a question? I should have thought that the scope of destruction suffered by the USSR in the Second World War was far greater than any other country, but because of perseverance it still won.

Mao: I was talking about final result when I said so. The German armies were totally destroyed, but the Soviet Armies were not.

Again the Prime Minister's estimate that as a possible result of the third world war one may find oneself in a chaotic situation, this may be correct. It is also true that energy released by atom will destroy not only men but material, agriculture, and human beings in tens of millions. But if one government goes away there will be another and as long as there are people men will always find a way out. The surviving people will also find a way to keep themselves alive. However, people at present are different from those in the past. There is a high degree of consciousness and aspirations for liberation and independence. This is so even in the US. So, in the final analysis it is better not to fight. If we act as Chief of Staff to Eisenhower, we would advise him not to go to war. (All smile): This work, however, can be more easily done by the Prime Minister (i.e., Nehru) rather than us. If we do it, he will think we are intimidating him with revolution and he will say: "I am not afraid of revolution."

Jawaharlal Nehru: We cannot directly influence America. But we may be able to influence her indirectly through countries like Britain, France or Canada. I recently received a message from Churchill which in brief said that he was anxious over the tendencies towards war and he was trying to curb such tendencies in America. He said he was also thinking about the final admission of China to the United Nations.

Mao: Not only war but tensions also may seem to be to the advantage of those responsible for them, but they are disadvantageous to them. Is it after all better to let people have peace or to allow them to stay in tense situation every day? Tense situation every, where will awaken people and will be helpful to revolution.

Between India and China there is no tension, there is no psychological war. We do not spread psychological war among the people. We do not guard against each other as US and USSR do.

Jawaharlal Nehru: In the United States the argument is advanced that they do not want war but they must keep up the tension so that the Congress will sanction money for the armies.

Mao: That is only one advantage they are considering but they are also making countries follow them by intimidation, building military bases, etc. It is not merely a question of appropriations.

What do you think about convening a World Peace Congress? Do you think it is possible? Over a hundred nations all over the world can participate and there should be a sort of treaty for peace and non-aggression.

Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, I cannot say. But with every passing year the possibility of war is getting less and if fifteen years pass without a war the possibility will be very remote indeed. Not that it is the people who will have changed but nobody would dare use such destructive weapons and a time may come when war would be avoided by a world agreement and mutual adjustment.

Mao: Is there any hope within ten years?

Jawaharlal Nehru: Fears of consequences of war are growing and they will grow as the people know more about the weapons and after fifteen years the weapons will be such that no one dare use them for war. It would mean destruction of both sides. Of course, I am giving my assurances.

Mao: Naturally we cannot stand guarantee for what they are doing.

Jawaharlal Nehru: If, for example death rays are invented, not to speak of nations, any group of people can destroy the world.

Mao: One thing is there that is fear of weapons, but there is fear of revolutions also.

Jawaharlal Nehru: Of course. But weapons may be in hands of even certain groups. And as the science of communications advances there may be more types of guided missiles. There is, for example, a machine which plays chess. There might be created a machine which can fight and of course a machine would do it more efficiently. As science advances rapidly it may give enormous power to a group or a small number of anti-social persons.

Mao: Finally we must work together for preventing war and for a lasting peace.

Jawaharlal Nehru: Undoubtedly so.

Mao: We have just started our Five Year Plan. If there be a war, all our plans will be destroyed. We have spent all money on construction. If war should come we have to gather everything to wage the war and all construction will be stopped and war plan will have to come and it would postpone industrialization of China. Of course, it is difficult to sink entire China into the sea and so too India, no matter how many people are killed.<sup>14</sup>

*Source : Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru, Volume 27*

---

<sup>14</sup> At the end of the minutes Paranjpe recorded that the discussions went on to subjects like evolution of humanity. geological past of India and China till dinner.