

Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the Lok Sabha

Orevhina and Tibet

8 May 1959 (Lok Sabha)

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, one cannot deny the fact that due to the events in Tibet, a tension has been created in the relations between India and China. But the responsibility for this tension is not India's.

Since the beginning of the communist government in China, India, in spite of a great friendship with Chiang-Kai-Shek, has welcomed the new China and we have tried more than anybody else so that China gets respect in the nations of the world... We have defended China because we thought that, although we differ on communism, if the people of China take to this road, it is their business, and India and China can remain friends in spite of differences in our ways of life.

But the first blow to this friendship was struck when the armies of China "liberated" Tibet. At that time, our Prime Minister had asked: from what is that Tibet is liberated? Tibet was not under any domination of India, its closest neighbour of Tibet. In the history of the past, if we had wanted we could have tried to annex Tibet, but today the leaders of China who accuse India of being expansionist forget that we never tried to annex Tibet. Tibet is a small country. But we respected its distinct existence. We respected its independence of Tibet, and we hoped that China would do the same. But the ways of the Communists are different. Their use of words is different. When they want to enslave people, they say that they are going to liberate them. Today when they want to oppress people, they say that they are going to reform them. If reform is at all necessary, the inclination towards reform should come from those who have to make reforms. Reform can't be imposed from above.

But if China falls upon the independence of Tibet, but China has

Why can't Tibet remain free? People say that it was not free before. Does it mean that a country which was not free before cannot have the right to be free? that where there was servitude before, servitude should remain? If we support the independence of Algeria,

annex Tibet. We have advocated for a place be given to China in UN, we

what they are saying. But this is an in

But when the General Committee of the UN met, the Indian representative asked the Committee to cancel the whole issue and gave assurance that the

France has colonised Algeria but the French Government respect the distinct individuality of Algeria. But it seems that the people of Tibet will have to go the way of inner Mongolia. The exterior Mongolia, although not completely

Now it has been said that China is not a member of the UN, so to bring this affair to this organisation will not serve any purpose. May I say that India was among those countries who declared North Korea the aggressor, although North Korea was not a member of the UN. At that time, we did not say that "North Korea is not in UN, so we will not participate in the

government. Our Prime Minister has objected to calling the border India-China the McMahon line, in fact he has opposed it; he said that that he did not like it because, I think, only the name of McMahon smells of British imperialism. As Shakespeare said, there is nothing in a name. But it shows how deep are our feelings against imperialism. Nevertheless the Chinese communists call us imperialists.

The Chinese make propaganda against In

journalist has estimated that from April 23 to April 30, in seven days, in the governmental newspapers, press-conferences and through the radio, 77 articles commentaries and editorials, in all 44000 words against India, using a very uncontrolled language, have been published, distributed and spread. In Lhasa the police are still there in front of our embassy. The Indian currency has been declared illegal. The attack on an area of 30000 square miles of India by means of maps continues. No answer was given to our letter in which we had objected. Do we think that in the present circumstances China can be persuaded to accept the just rights of the Tibetan people?

The Dalai Lama has clearly stated that he and his followers are not against economic or social reforms in Tibet. But this is not the point anymore and I don't think that there is any other alternative for India but to prepare the world opinion against the Chinese aggression. Although China is not a member of UN, if the Indian Government raises this issue in the UN and we

The Government will gain by knowing the wishes of the House on this matter. I believe that my proposal will get an extensive support, that the Government will accept it and fulfil its moral responsibility towards the people of Tibet.

With these words, I move the motion. Thank you.

4 September 1959 (Lok Sabha)

Mr Speaker, I have carefully considered what has been said in the House about my motion. I thank those who have supported it but while thanking also those who opposed it, I must say th

question of Indians in Africa. Each year South Africa refuses to accept the decisions of the UN, but we raise this qu

Shri Tyagi: Should we leave it to

Vajpayee: Nobody has demanded that secret things be disclosed.

Nehru: I don't say that the Hon'ble member has asked. I am saying that what Shri Tyagi said is everywhere a clear rule, especially in times of danger.

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nobody can say for certain that an air-strip is being built in Aksaichin. We are still trying as much as possible to get information.

26 November 1959 (Lok Sabha)

China stands, a colonialist China stands, an expansionist China. We should realise how much in the last years China has increased her borders.

Manchuria, which till 1911 ruled over China, today does not exist anymore, it has only become a North-Eastern region of China. What was before [Eastern] Turkistan is now Sinkiang. Inner Mongolia has lost its existence. The religion-loving Tibet has fallen prey to the all-devouring hunger of China. The own territory of China is only 14 lakhs square miles, but China has taken possession of the 22 lakhs square miles territory of Manchuria, Inner Mongolia, Kansu, Qinghai, Sinkiang and Tibet. Now her vulture eye is fixed on 48 thousand square miles of India's land.

A refugee lama has disclosed this frightening information that the Chinese proclaim that Tibet is the palm of th

history, he wrote history, he creates history, and the future history will mention his name with pride. But China is expansionist. Is this revelation new? Could we not have discovered this 10 years before? Could we not arrange for the defence of our border? I am sorry to say that we acted with negligence. Instead of having faith in our strength, we believed more in the Chinese friendship, and today we have to face disillusion.

Mr Speaker, today our Defence Minister spoke. The Defence Minister is a man whose history is doubtful, whose present behaviour is objectionable. Neither is he popular, nor does he have credit in the Congress party. By nature he leans on the side of the communists, and I think it is the reason why he cannot implement correctly the non-aligned policy. In the message given on the Territorial Army Day, he said a strange thing. He said that India should not keep a big army because to do so does not agree with our ethics; a big army is not moral for us. If he believes that keeping a big army is immoral, then he must believe that being at the head of a big army is even more immoral. If in the Defence Ministry is a man who finds that to keep a big army is immoral, then I think there is a threat to the security of the country. If really he finds it immoral, he should lead the society of sadhus and take up the task of moral awakening. To keep a big army is not immoral. When the enemy knocks at our frontiers, what is immoral is not to keep a big army in the face of the threat, we believe that is the thing. He en on

force of the country has to be called and if the Prime Minister makes this appeal the country will be wit4eoim, bu

correct. Before the two prime ministers can meet, the preliminary things should be decided, we should decide what will be the basis for agreement. But as far as the preliminary things are concerned, there is no sign in the letter of China that they want an agreement, except that they have evoked PanchSheel, they have sung the refrain of peace.

Shri Jadhav: And they are ready to stab us.

Shri Vajpayee: They say that we are a backward country, that we have to develop economically, but they are not ready to leave the land of India they have grabbed. Our Prime Minister has already said that the northern border

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