

Chinese Attack on Indian Borders Causes People To Forget Differences

By PATRICK J. KILLEN
United Press International
New Delhi - The Communist Chinese attack across India's borders accomplished something 15 years of parliamentary debates and hundreds of laws failed to do. It united this vast nation of 440 million people for the first time since independence.

As thousands of young Punjabis, Madrasis and Mahatras, forgetting ancient feuds and regional loyalties, lined up at army recruiting offices, and thousands of women donated their gold bangles and bracelets to the war effort, many Indians found there were other things than this new-found unity to celebrate. One was the dismissal of Defense Minister V. K. Krishna Menon, longtime advocate of friendship with the Communists. Menon's fall from the No. 2 position of power means a probable swing from left to center or moderate right for Indian policy.

Prospect of Closer Ties

Another was the prospect of closer ties with the West and fewer ties with Russia. Menon and his supporters in the Indian bureaucracy were known for their bitter anti-Americanism. When Peiping shattered the "five principles of peaceful co-existence" with its attack, India still counted on Soviet and not Western help. But Russia proved unwilling to support a neutral nation, no matter how friendly, against a Communist state, no matter how unfriendly.

Now India, in a reversal of a long-standing policy, is receiving U.S. and British weapons and probably will come under a regular program of Western arms aid.

The first reaction to the Chinese attack last month was shock and bewilderment. As the Communist "human wave" advance engulfed 2,000 square miles of Indian territory and inflicted thousands of casualties, it appeared India might not recover from the shock.

Unite In Determination

But after a week, what the Hindu nationalists had not been able to accomplish since 1947 began to happen. Indians in 21 states and territories, people who speak more than 400 languages and dialects,

united in their determination to "drive the invaders from the sacred soil of India." Even the Indian Communists turned against the Chinese. They condemned their fellow Communists as aggressors and approved shipments of Western weapons to defeat them. Dissenting Indian Communists, so-called "China lobbyists," were arrested.

The border battlefronts are hundreds of miles from India's major cities, and New Delhi and other population centers do not look like they are on a war footing. There are no troops in the streets and transportation is operating normally.

Excitement In Slums

But there is excitement in the slums of Old Delhi and in the modern apartments in New Delhi's diplomatic enclave. Plodding Indians are suddenly in a hurry to show their patriotism, to give their blood and blankets for the embattled Jawans or soldiers, and to enlist themselves.

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's daughter, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, led the drive to turn in gold jewelry to pay for weapons. She donated all she had - more than \$800 worth, and Indian women with only one anklet or bracelet followed suit.

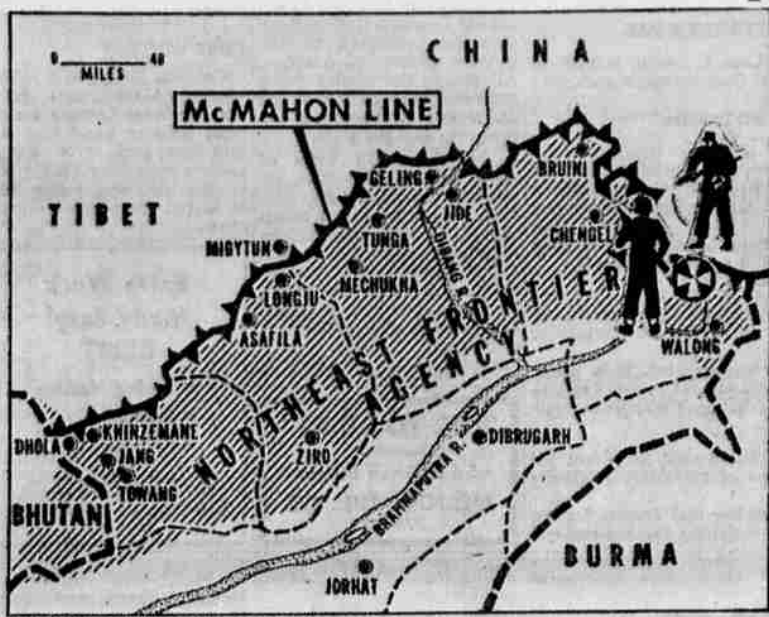
The government radio and press carried countless reports of the man in the street's response to the Chinese threat: "Master Amarnath, age 10, has given all the 110 rupees (\$23) in his piggy bank to the war effort. . . prisoners in the Saurashtra jail offered to give up one meal daily for the duration."

Have Cause To Work

Indians now had a genuine cause to work for. It suddenly seemed unimportant that the 73-year-old Nehru might die tomorrow. If he did, someone else would take over - and it wouldn't be Menon - with the country's full support.

Diplomats and even some realistic Indians tend to look on the Chinese thrust as a blessing in disguise for the Indian economy, provided it can be contained and does not prove too great a drain on defense costs.

In the words of one economist here: "What worried me was that



'STRONG PATROL' LAUNCHED - An Indian government spokesman announced in New Delhi today that Indian troops have launched a "strong patrol" against Communist Chinese positions northwest of Walong in the eastern portion of the Northeast Frontier Agency, shown on the newsmap. It is reportedly the strongest Indian counter-attack made since the Red Chinese invaded the Indian border Oct. 20. (UPI)

so many problems were closing in on the Indian government at a time when there was a reduced capacity to make tough economic decisions. You had an aging Nehru, still weakened from last spring's illness, you had in-

where dramatic economic advancement could take place, or even keep pace with the past."

Now, despite the armaments burden, the state of emergency enables the government to advance financially without worrying about the political implications.

Pork barrel items in the nation's third five-year plan will be eliminated. The emphasis will be on communications, coal production and power development - all essential for the war effort, but at the same time the very projects India's friends have been urging it to push for years.

With Menon gone from the cabinet, another minister who has been astride the Russian tiger is having his troubles. K. D. Malaviya, minister for mines and fuel, is the man who made India dependent on Russia for part of its oil supply, and involved Soviet technicians in the construction of two important refineries.

May Lose His Job

Malaviya may lose his job if Russia definitely takes sides against India.

Indians have been taking a look at some of their other international friendships since the crisis began. President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic comes in for the most criticism.

tion of the United States and other Western powers in supplying arms has won the thanks of the government and the gratitude of the public. "When you're in trouble you know who your real friends are," the official said.

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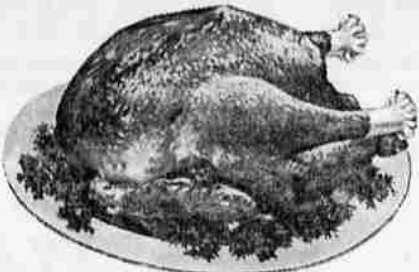
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