

No Capitulation

CAPITULATION?

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It would be a serious mistake to assume that the Colombo proposals are good enough and that the only question is whether the Peking Government has definitely agreed to them. Neither do people quite comprehend what they are, nor do we know what Mr. Nehru, knowing what they are, thinks about them. "A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry stated today (Jan. 15) that the final views of the Chinese Government on the Colombo proposals are yet to be ascertained," says one leading newspaper's special Delhi correspondent. But do we know at least whether *our* Government has found them acceptable? No doubt, we may have reasons to infer that Mr. Nehru has indicated his acceptance, but one has no right to assert it or act on that basis.

The position is made trebly obscure by nobody being able to tell us definitely what the proposals are, whether our Government has found them good enough, and whether the Chinese Government has accepted them. While the thing is kept in this state of triple obscurity, we are informed the matter will be placed presently before Parliament, the Prime Minister not, as far as we are told, having definitely made up his mind yet on the question. It is, to put it mildly, a most unsatisfactory position. The leaders who met at the Colombo Conference of six nations are obviously anxious to maintain what is called Afro-Asian solidarity. This was and is their main concern. We have no objection to Afro-Asian or any other solidarity, but we are more concerned about India, her honour and her security. We cannot agree to save Afro-Asian solidarity at the cost of India's territory or honour.

China is one of the nations involved in the so-called Afro-Asian solidarity, but what China has done to India has broken that solidarity. Unless that outrage is revoked, and righted, there can be no sweet meaning for us in the slogan of 'Afro-Asian solidarity'.

If the Colombo proposals, about which we have to keep guessing, are in the main intended for preserving Afro-Asian solidarity, or Peace in the abstract, and not for undoing the wrong that China has done to India, those proposals cannot serve our purpose. It does not matter whether the Peking Government has agreed to them ambiguously or unambiguously.

Now that the colonialism of the Western Powers has ended or is ending and all the exploited nations are free or about to be free, what substance is there in the slogan of

Afro-Asian solidarity, which the emancipated nations who met at Colombo and their sympathisers raise? It is nothing more than a cold war of an ancient grudge maintained against those who were once masters. It is, if plainly put, a hatred slogan that is of no use to those who raise it and has become a handy instrument for the communist camp and has no content of territorial or economic or other unsettled dispute. It is a cold war of pure passion arising out of the experience and memory of a domination that has disappeared. It is no better than an anti-semitic or other racial cry. At best, it is a grouse-slogan arising out of a sense of weakness against more powerful countries from whom assistance is expected and asked for, as an act of penitence on their part for past offences. Let us be clear in our mind that India, at the present juncture, is interested in her own independence, honour and status, not in an Afro-Asian solidarity which the Chinese have without compunction broken by their aggression and invasion on our territory.

If we are induced for the sake of Afro-Asian solidarity to agree now to negotiate on China's terms or what amounts to it, we shall for ever be satellites of China, isolated from those nations of the world who were willing to help us against communist aggression. We shall never be free from the menace that has descended upon us. We shall be in exactly the same position as Poland or Hungary, or the other Eastern nations of Europe *vis-a-vis* Russia. And this will be our permanent pass, there being no hope of winning an isolated race with China in military or industrial power. The key to save ourselves from this threatened status of satellitism under China is now to resist her with the support of the anti-communist Powers of the West, and to await peace and neighbourliness to grow out of mutual and balanced respect. To be afraid of seeking or accepting Western co-operation now and to accept any terms of peace under the advice of the Colombo nations, when China is flushed with victory, is to surrender our honour and sacrifice our future and accept communist China's hegemony in Asia.