

Demand for India A-Bomb Expected As Aftermath of Chinese Explosion

The Washington Post Foreign Service
NEW DELHI, Oct. 16— Demands that India make atomic weapons are expected to grow here in the wake of the formal announcement claiming that a nuclear device has been exploded in China.

The United States warning of an impending Chinese explosion had set off a spate of controversy over the nuclear issue in recent weeks. Inspired stories emanating from the Indian Atomic Energy Commission have suggested that India could make a nuclear device in 18 months.

Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's failure to win support at the Cairo conference of nonaligned countries for his proposal to send a ban-the-bomb mission to China has strengthened advocates of a policy reassessment.

Use by China Feared

"What will happen if our assumption that China will never use nuclear weapons turns out to be as facile and foolish as the earlier belief that a socialist country never commits aggression?" asked an editorial commentator in the New Delhi Statesman.

The commentator argued that India would lose its freedom of action in world affairs "if we become dependent on the U.S. or the U.S.S.R. or both. And too much trust, let us face it, cannot be placed in our good

friends either. Who can say what the international situation will be 10 or 15 years hence?"

He did not urge immediate action to convert India's atomic energy program to military purposes, but suggested that India should "reserve the right" to make the bomb in the future.

Similar View Voiced

A similar view has been expressed in the Hindustan Times. Economist Raj Krishna of the Indian Institute for Economic Growth argued that "for very understandable reasons, the Russians and the Americans will continue to be horrified by the prospect of any serious involvement in any military conflict between Asians and Asians. Western leaders would not want to get large numbers of their white and affluent people drowned in any titanic encounter between alien floods of humanity in Asia."

Defining the main objective of American and Russian diplomacy in Asia as "saving white skins and territories," Krishna went on to say that "they must be expected to remain essentially 'non-aligned' in any major inter-Asian conflict."

Indian spokesmen declined to comment on the announcement today beyond pointing to a recent official statement in Parliament. Home Minister G.L. Nanda said on Oct. 4 that "mere detonation of a first nuclear device does not imply that there is anything like a sot-

ckpile of nuclear weapons or even nuclear bomb capable of delivery upon any target."

Sweden Expresses Concern Over Blast

Special to The Washington Post

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 16

Swedish Premier Tage Erlander issued two statements here tonight, one expressing "deep concern" that the number of atomic nations has been increased by the addition of the Chinese and the other the hope that the new leaders of the Kremlin will follow the same policy of "international relaxation" practiced by Nikita Khrushchev.

What is most important in the view of officials here is what effect the explosion of the Chinese bomb may have on the Russo-Chinese conflict which is regarded as certain to have played a role in the ousting of Khrushchev.

Although most Scandinavian leaders and newspapermen who came into contact with Khrushchev during his visit here last summer remember him as a tired old man, no one is prepared to accept the official Soviet explanation that he retired for reasons of age and health. Most commentators here agree that Khrushchev was the victim of a Kremlin conspiracy similar to several in the past in which he himself participated.