



The Goals of Pt. Nehru's Foreign Policy

Dr. Shazia Akhtar,

Dept. of Political Science, K.K.(P.G.) College, Etawah, UP, India

Abstract- This paper reflects upon the goals of Pt. Nehru's foreign policy. He was the maker of modern India and a man of peace. He stood like a rock for seventeen years and played a significant role in nation-building and set a fix goal deal with superpowers and developing countries. The foreign policy of India has come to be identified with his personality. Pt. Nehru, influenced deeply the direction of India's foreign policy. The major objectives of his policy were friendship with every nation. Attachment to no block, sympathy with struggle for freedom and opposition to social discrimination everywhere. He not only made his country strong and self sufficient but wanted to develop good and friendly relation with neighboring countries and super powers of that time.

Keywords- U.S.A., USSR, NAM, Chou En Lai, United Nation, Foreign policy, Diplomacy, Block.

Pt Nehru have India a foreign policy with an attractive baggage of theory, idealism, ideology and practice. As Michael Brecher rightly remarked that Nehru was "The Philosopher, the Architect, The Engineer and the voice of his country's policy towards the outside world. The credit of formations of the foreign policy of free India and even before that of the Indian National Congress goes to him. Nehru said we proposed to look after India's interest in the context of world corporation and world peace in so far as world peach can be preserved."¹

Hence the foreign policy of India has come to be identified with the personality of Nehru himself. Undoubtedly, It is true that the personal complexes and use of Pt. Nehru influenced deeply the direction of Indian foreign policy. But It is also true that the policy as modelled by Nehru was a policy inherent in the circumstances in which India found herself inherent in its past thinking and mental outlook and inherent in the manner in which the freedom struggle conditioned the Indian mind.

The major objectives of India's foreign policy were friendship with every nation, attachment to no block, sympathy with struggle for freedom and opposition to social discrimination everywhere. The difficult position in which India found herself after independence, the necessity of obtaining assistance from abroad to meet her economic needs, the need of peace for social and economic reconstruction of the county, led India to adopt non-alignment and the pursuit of peace as the cardinal features of her foreign policy. Other objectives were the removal of the root causes of war by championing the liberation of the subject people, elimination of racial discrimination, illiteracy, want and disease. In order to fulfill these objectives, India felt it must give support to the United Nations and adopt an independent foreign policy.

The principles which form the basis of India's foreign policy today laid down by Nehru. These principles are: non-alignment on avoiding entanglement in military alliances, promotion of world peace, and maintaining friendly relations with all countries or peaceful co-existence abolition of imperialism, colonialism and racial inequality and faith in the United Nations. An important element of Nehru's overall understanding consisted of the importance, he attached to the international role that independent India would play by setting an example of 'Nationalism' trumping over colonialism to those part of world still under the yoke of foreign rule, working for the world by following a policy of equidistance between contending ideological system and politically and diplomatically interviewing in tension spots and when the occasion demanded.

"Entirely laudable as these aims, Nehru general international orientation was flowed in three essential respect. His ambition for India was not matched by a fresh understanding of the needs of diplomacy of condition under which a new comer (such as India) on the international stage facing numerous problems on the domestic, political and economic front would be compelled to play its part in a world dominated by the military power and strategic interest of ideological titans. Nor did he fully appreciate the especially sensitive position that India occupied in South Asia as a regional power. Surrounded by much smaller and weaker neighbours."²

"India, one of the oldest civilisation and world's second largest democracy has always been enabled to acquire its proper place in international arena. As a matter of fact, domestic problems, lack of unity and cohesion, stability, poor economy, communalism, casteism are not allowing the Indian leaders to play an effective role in the international arena and their inapt handling of the foreign policy issues particularly in the post-cold war era has made India's path quite difficult. The collapse of the two pillars of India's foreign policy in the form of non-alignment and close ties and friendship with the former Soviet Union have added to her problems and in the absence of a good foreign policy strategy, India has been grouping in the dark. The confusion and continued enmity with Pakistan and lack of understanding with the US has enhanced her miseries particularly in the aftermath of the declaration of war on terrorism by the United States of America."³

"The decline of Nehru in his personality cult as well as in the political stature was one of the most marked and perhaps saddest consequences of the border war, China's anti Indian attitude appeared to flow from its general analysis of the international situation and reflected the aims and assumptions understanding its foreign policy as a whole."⁴

On 18th December, 1956, Nehru said, "we endeavour to maintain friendly relations with all countries even though we may disagree with them in their policies or structure of government, we think that by his approach we can serve not only our country but also larger cause of peace and friendship in the world."⁵

Nehru not only made his country strong and self sufficient but wanted to develop good and friendly relations with the neighbouring countries and the superpowers of that time USA and USSR. He knew

well that to build a strong nation required the help of all. It was his blind trust of China and subsequent betrayal that broke him. Nehru was the one who introduced Chou En Lai in Bandung conference, where China was invited as an observer country in NAM. It was again India who supported China's admission to the United Nations. Nehru had full faith in the China fraternity, but it proved hollow when China attacked India in 1962.

Nehru condemned mutual criticism, allegation and accusation and other detrimental factors which could affect mutual relationship. He laid emphasis on tolerance and his policy was based on the motto "Love begets love and hatred begets hatred". Perhaps it was this policy by which he wanted to win over the world- the policy of non-alignment is based upon principles of abolition of imperialism, colonialism and racial inequality. A policy of peace and friendship with all nations. Nehru was a man of peace.

The sad part of his life was the setback he got from the Chinese invasion in 1962 and his policy of non-alignment was criticised because it had failed to save India from war. He accepted his mistake for devoting more attention towards economic growth rather than defence. When the Chinese invaded India and the situation become bad, he appealed to the world for military help. What really pained Nehru most was when people put up the question 'who after Nehru'.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru being the first Prime Minister of free India, stood like a rock for seventeen years and played a signification role in nation-building. He was a man of multi-dimensional qualities. He was undoubtedly the ultimate choice of the Mahatma Gandhi. Nehru a man of vision worked tirelessly for seventeen years to make India with eagle wings to soar high above all nations. A man of peace, the maker of modern India- that was Pt. Nehru. The only red rose which bloomed in India each petal full of sweet scent. The peacemaker of India and world leader with a policy of non-alignment, he was truly a son of India and the maker of 'Modern India'.

References-

1. Tanveer Musharraf, 'Indian Foreign Policy: The Nehru Legacy', Indian Journal of Politics, Vol XXXII (1-2) Jan-June 2003, PP 97-98.
2. M.A. Kishore, 'Nehru: The Architect of India's Foreign Relation' Ibid.,P.17.
3. Annapurna Nautiyal, 'Nehru: The Architect of India's Foreign Relation' Ibid.,PP.91-92.
4. Gopal Sovapati, 'Jawaharlal Nehru-A Biography', Vol.III, 1956-64, Oxford university press, New Delhi, 1998 PP. 232-237.
5. Bakshi, S.R., 'Nehru and his Political Ideology', Criterion Publication, New Delhi, 1988, P.186.