

Zimbabwe, is to head off a much larger effort in Africa, to take back some of this British land that they control, and they took over, essentially, when the British and Cecil Rhodes moved in at the turn of the century.

Dr. Mubako: Absolutely. You're quite right. The land in Zimbabwe, compared to the other interests in South Africa, and in Namibia, is in itself insignificant—what is left now is insignificant to the British. I accept that there are also lives involved.

But clearly, they're worried, that what they call the Zimbabwe contagion might affect South Africa, and Namibia, and, indeed, the Africans there have begun demonstrating in support of the movement in Zimbabwe.

EIR: So, it's possible that there could be a very significant uprising, or movement in southern Africa against these old British landed interests?

Dr. Mubako: If the demands of the Africans in Zimbabwe, and in these countries, are not met, and met urgently and quickly, you can expect that there will be an upheaval inside Africa.

EIR: Just to conclude, Mr. Ambassador. A lot of the questions that we've discussed, relate to the fact that there are certain imperial, colonial interests which want to control the mineral wealth in parts of Africa, that we've identified in Zimbabwe, southern Africa, but other parts of West Africa as well, to maintain their financial system. Mr. LaRouche, who is the founder of *EIR*, has said that the only way out is to provide for a new system, what he calls a New Bretton Woods system, to build upon the positive steps that were made by President Roosevelt, back in 1944, and to have a community of principle of sovereign nations, each dedicated to guaranteeing the general welfare of their citizenry. He has proposed that this new system come into being now, and one of the things he's discussed many, many times, is the need for massive investment in infrastructure: railroads, roads, electrical power, water management, irrigation for agriculture. That Africa would require billions and billions of dollars of investment credits, and that he sees this, through a New Bretton Woods system, as the only way out.

Do you support that kind of effort as a solution to the overall problems of Africa, rather than the piecemeal approaches of each country trying to survive on its own?

Dr. Mubako: Well, we must fight both ways. Each country has to put up its own defenses, to start with, and may be called on by others to help. But, the country itself has got to fight.

But, at the same time, we must explore the global methods which have been suggested, such as the ones you have just mentioned. It would be a very welcome idea, that the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the United Nations, should be reviewed, so that they reflect the needs of the present-day world.

Sino-Indian Relations Get a Big Boost

by Ramtanu Maitra

The May 28-June 3 trip to China by India's President K.R. Narayanan has not resolved all outstanding issues between the two Asian giants, but it has pushed the relationship in the right direction. The Indian President, an unabashed proponent of close Sino-Indian ties, has done well to bring to the fore the reasons that Beijing and New Delhi must create an environment in which both countries can pursue a common purpose and goal. Beijing indicated that it, too, wants to pursue the same objectives, and both countries assured each other that there would be more frequent high-level political exchanges in the near future. Beijing has indicated that Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan and Prime Minister Zhu Rongji will be visiting India in the coming months.

President Narayanan, which is to his advantage, has a personal rapport with most Chinese leaders, and Beijing made that clear as well. The 80-year-old Indian President, a member of the Foreign Service earlier in his career, was sent to Beijing in 1976 as the first ambassador to reestablish diplomatic relations between India and China (following the 1962 border war, the two had severed diplomatic relations). Later, in 1994, he visited China again, this time as Vice President. Throughout the present trip, Chinese leaders referred to him as "an old friend of China."

At the same time, instead of turning this trip into just a "homecoming," President Narayanan carried with him an important agenda, and felt free to talk about it with the Chinese leaders. Echoing the late Deng Xiaoping, builder of modern China, who said that Asia would not realize her destiny unless India and China learn to cooperate and prosper, Narayanan stated: "I hold that in the new century cooperation between India and China is a historical necessity."

The three most important issues which President Narayanan chose to impress upon the Beijing leadership were: enhancing of economic and trade relations between the two countries; seeking China's support for India's permanent membership on the UN Security Council; and expediting the resolution of the thorny issue of the Sino-Indian border delimitation. He spoke on all three issues fervently, and drew Beijing's attention.

It is recognized widely in both New Delhi and Beijing that the economic partnership between India and China must grow, to the financial and political benefit of both nations. China's overall trade amounts to almost \$340 billion—a little more than three times that of India's. But trade between the

two nations has remained at the pitiful level of about \$3 billion. One of the principal reasons why this has been the case, is the lack of a direct trade route between the two countries. Separated by the Himalayas and the Great Taklamakan Desert, India and China sit in isolation from each other, despite their shared border.

Suggested Road-Link

As a remedy, Beijing has suggested to President Narayanan opening up a highway that would connect northeastern India through Myanmar to southern China. At a press conference in New Delhi, India's Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Murli Manohar Joshi, who accompanied the President on the trip, said: "The Chinese want the signing of an agreement for constructing a highway running through China, Myanmar, and India." Beijing pointed out that trade and tourism cannot develop without such a link.

In addition, a memorandum of understanding, for commercial and air services between China and India, signed in 1997 but grounded because of its uncertain commercial viability, was given a push. India-China tourism, which is in the nascent stage, takes place by air through Hong Kong, which was formerly a British colony and has been a part of China only since 1997. What is essential, of course, is to link directly by air China's major cities, such as Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, and Chongqing, with the major Indian cities of New Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, and Chennai. Narayanan has suggested setting up a joint committee to expedite building the highway, and to set up the direct air link. The proposal has met the approval of President Jiang Zemin.

China has also expressed interest in Indian machinery, automobile components, computer software, marine products, and chemicals, among other commodities. India, in turn, would like to import soft coal, pre-fabricated housing, electronic components, silk-processing technology, ceramics, and underground mining equipment.

Utilize the Potential

Throughout his trip, the Indian President reiterated the historic necessity of a friendly border between the two countries. Addressing the students and faculty of Beijing University, President Narayanan returned to the theme. He maintained that India and China "should persevere in our joint efforts to seek a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question within the framework of national interests and sentiments of both our peoples."

The boundary question was featured in Narayanan's talks with President Jiang Zemin, Zhu Rongji, and former Prime Minister Li Peng. Most Chinese analysts believe the Great Himalayas mountain range acts as a natural barrier to any wide-scale conflict between India and China and, hence, the border issue can be settled, slowly, but surely. Jiang told Narayanan that China has resolved most of its border disputes, including those with Russia, the Central Asian republics, and

Vietnam, and there is no reason why the same can't be done with India. Zhu Rongji conveyed a similar thought by saying that rushing the process, would serve no purpose.

Sino-Indian relations, which reached their nadir during 1959-62, resulting in a border conflict, are on the mend. In 1986, a meeting between the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping broke the ice. In 1993, during the visit to Beijing by former Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, an agreement was signed which called for maintaining "peace and tranquility" along the line of actual control between the two countries and committed both sides to delineating the line of actual control as early as possible. Subsequently, 13 meetings of the Joint Working Group have taken place without producing any result so far. The Indian position is that China continues to illegally hold 38,000 square kilometers of Indian territory in disputed Kashmir, besides the 5,180 km² ceded by Pakistan to China. China, for its part, lays claim to 90,000 km² of territory in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, and has yet to recognize Sikkim as an Indian state. It is evident that some give and take would be necessary on both sides to resolve this undefined boundary.

On India's permanent membership on the UN Security Council, where five elite members—the United States, Russia, China, Britain, and France—which also happen to be the five original nuclear-weapons states, enjoy a decided advantage over such populous and effective nations as India, Japan, Germany, Indonesia, and Brazil, Beijing's response was neither positive nor negative. President Jiang made it clear that China will be willing to work with India in carrying out wide-ranging reforms of the UN. It is evident, though, that Beijing is hesitant at this point to support India's candidacy for permanent membership.

A number of issues cloud Sino-Indian relations. To begin with, China considers that India's sheltering of the Dalai Lama, and now the 17th Karmapa of the Kagyu sect, who fled from Tibet to India last year, is a policy which New Delhi adopted to exert political pressure on China. New Delhi maintains that India is firm in its belief that Tibet is an autonomous zone within China, and that the Dalai Lama is not allowed to carry out any political activity inside India, nor is any other Lama. Beijing was also upset in 1998, following the Indian nuclear tests in Pokhran, when India's Defense Minister George Fernandes announced that India's nuclear development is directly related to a Chinese nuclear threat. The statement set back Sino-Indian relations significantly, if temporarily.

China's economic and military support to Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars and continues to have a very difficult relationship, has made a number of people in India suspicious of China's role in the subcontinent. The 1962 border war and other difficulties in the diplomatic relations between the two nations were also highlighted during the Cold War days, when India and China were hesitant adversaries.