

CHAPTER - VII

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India's Foreign Policy of non-alignment, which at present has turned to be a movement has had to pass through various stages of abuse and cavil. Right since the beginning of the era of Independence, Pandit Nehru had tried to assert this role of India in International politics. He was interested that India should play a major role in International relations with a policy of her own identity and not merely as a satellite of another. In this direction various Resolutions passed from time to time both prior to 1947 and later have been examined; and India's desire for having a sound Foreign Policy is established. Various factors which have influenced the making of India's Foreign Policy are examined. It is found that India's Foreign Policy is neither philosophical, nor solely influenced by religion. It can be stated that it is the result of the efforts of Nehru in adjoining the past with the trends of present world and make the future world.

The study has tried to assess the role played by India in Korean Crisis, which went in establishing the principles of India's Foreign Policy. The Korean Issue can be looked from different angles, but for India it provided an opportunity to participate and prove the world at large the meaning of non-alignment. Prior to the Korean Crisis India was

subjected to various criticisms. India's very approach to international politics was looked upon with suspicion. With the Korean Crisis, India could prove her ability in putting her policy of non-alignment, based on the five principles of non-alignment. It was in the Korean Crisis, India participated actively in conducting, the election. India's neutral values got established, which indirectly mean that India's position as a mediator was accepted. A country's reputation depends upon the practice part of her foreign policy. India always kept away from bipolarism, in Korean crisis, and emphasised her own policy. India's contribution in Korean Crisis, laid down a path of peaceful co-existence.

Further it can be asserted that the real test of United Nations Organisation came with the Korean Crisis. It was the 'Uniting for Peace Resolution', which was a historic resolution to overcome the bipolar politics. The resolution was approved by 53, members out of 59, 40 offered aid in one or other form, 16 sent armed forces, and 5 sent medical units. The United States participation was very active, and hence it has been criticised. India participated in this, only with a sole view to eliminate aggression. She was against unification with the help of force. In this direction Nehru declared on 3rd October, that the Korean War contained - seeds of mighty conflict and wanted American Militia not to carry^{it} too far. India always tried to call spade a spade, and did not contribute in any

way to help bipolarism. India even went to the extent of warning both the UN. and U.S.A., the consequences of crossing 38th parallel. At last General MacArthur paying no attention to such warnings, crossed the 38th parallel, which was stopped by China, and the war broke and vanished the dreams of United Korea.

In these crisis, Nehru always had his own approach. Right since 1942, it was the desire of Indian National Congress to see a free and United Korea. During the crisis, India had always aimed to remove the mutual suspicious of the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R., and tried to ensure that the division of Korea was not preferable. It influenced the resolutions of the U.N.. India knew that, Korea might blow up and that might become the beginning of a war in Asia and the world. India used all her possible sources to see that reconciliation of interests were made possible between South Korea and North Korea.

India also played a major role in the ' Prisoners of War Issue '. India alongwith its Afro-Asian group drafted a resolution which was submitted to U.N. and was adopted by the General Assembly on 1st December, 1952 by a vote of 53 to 8. India also upheld the Geneva convention in such^a way which was acceptable to both the blocs. The Indian resolutions had been very evenly worded so that it met all the complaints of the Soviet bloc and also kept Americans happy, and yet

remained within the framework of the International Law. Even in this context, her role of neutrality got both established and recognised.. Even the ' Armistice Agreement ', which solved the ' Gordian Knot ' of Prisoners issue was very much based on the India's draft resolution which was approved by the General Assembly, on 3rd December, 1952. India played a clear role of ' Leader ' of the ' Neutral bloc ' in International politics.

It was because of this; India was selected to lead the commission for the ' Repatriation of the Prisoners of war '. This commission was set-up under the leadership of Mr. R.K. Nehru. India even sent a Custodian Force under the leadership of Major-General S.P.P. Thorat, while Lieutenant General K.S. Thimayya, was the Chairman and Executive Agent of N.N.R.C., and played a role of great risk. India went to the extent of hearing individual explanations by the prisoners which was a very difficult path. India had to tackle a complicated task, as most of the prisoners had been frustrated and mentally broken down. It was a difficult task to restore confidence among the prisoners. It was due to the peaceful persuasion employed by Major General Thorat that the C.F.I. succeeded without using force. In the Korean Crisis, it can be stated that India's patience was literally put to test, and also points of the grim determination of Pandit Nehru in adhering to the principles of International politics. The

functioning of the India's Commission in day to day activities make a very interesting reading. President Eisenhower in his message to Pandit Nehru, pointed, no military unit in recent years has undertaken a more delicate and demarching peace time mission than faced by the Indian forces in Korea.

The work has assessed all these aspects in details, Korean Crisis and it's study is an important aspect for understanding India's Foreign Policy. It was since then, i.e. post-Korean Crisis period, the concept of non-alignment, which was looked upon as a 'Utopia' turned to be a movement in International politics. Besides, Korean Issue was an Asian Issue, which was of a major concern to small countries in Asia. India had much in common to Korean problem. Asia was the ultimate sufferer of bipolarism, which Pandit Nehru constantly wanted to avoid. It was in this crisis India laid a path for many small emerging nations, or likely emerging nations, to follow a policy of non-alignment, because of which it has resulted in a movement. Non-alignment movement, however, weak, or hopeless, it is a movement which has to be considered as 'a force' in International politics today.