

Commendable Stand

India has one of the biggest defence forces in the world. But it has never asserted its defence supremacy on any other country, which goes to prove beyond doubt India's commitment towards global peace and peaceful co-existence. Post Independence era has seen only two occasions when India had to indulge in minor skirmishes with its neighbors Pakistan and China only to save its borders. In contrast, it has sent its forces to Sri Lanka and Maldives to maintain peace in the subcontinent. India's concern for global peace is nothing new. It was India which initiated the Non-aligned movement that was largely instrumental in defusing the Cold war situation in the world.

So, if a country like India, committed to international peace and tranquility opposes nuclear disarmament treaty, it should be having valid reasons to do so. The Comprehensive nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) which is mooted by the United States as an alternative to Nuclear non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is as harmful as the latter. In fact CTBT is potentially more dangerous than NPT. It is no longer required for a country to carry out a public nuclear test to prove its nuclear capabilities. They can as well be simulated in secrecy to get the desired results. This is being adopted by all developed countries especially US and it is a known fact. The present form of CTBT agreement will only pressurize countries like India and Israel to stop any nuclear activity at once without ensuring the same from already proven nuclear powers.

Hence, the conference on disarmament held recently at the behest of United Nations at Geneva was a failure of sorts. The conference which intended to persuade the three threshold countries - India, Pakistan and Israel along with five proven nuclear powers - the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain to sign the CTBT, couldn't evoke any positive response from especially India.

India certainly has the capability to be a nuclear force, but only if it intends to. That our country detonated a nuclear device in 1974 is ample proof to this. It is good to see all political parties cutting across party lines, supporting India's stand on CTBT. It is high time India stopped kow towing to the self proclaimed super power United States on matters of national security and defence.

If Indian government is battling it out to drive home its viewpoint on disarmament, a battle of a different kind is being waged against its own sports system. It is unfortunate that a country of India's size is pinning hopes on only a single sport to win a medal in the Atlanta Olympics. The solution lies in adopting a scientific method in training sportsmen, which is dealt with in the article "HOSMAT - The Hotspot healers."

G. P. VINAY BABU

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