

**CAN DRAGON SWALLOW WHATEVER COMES ITS WAY
PLAY CHESS : DO NOT PROVOKE**

BY

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Dragon is widening its mouth. Will it swallow whatever comes its way? Dragon swallowed Tibet in 1959. She engulfed Arunachal in 1962, humiliated an important democratic nation and threw us a gauntlet. We have not been able to catch the bull by the horns during the last 47 years. It is never too late. In fact this is right time to slit the Dragon's throat a little but tactfully so that she can't swallow any thing in future despite the bigger mouth. She does not recognise the McMahon line & does not respect the line of control. One misses a heart beat or two when he sees display of its military might on its 60th independence day & hears about Chinese strong objections to Prime Minister's and spiritual Tibetan leader Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang Monastery in Arunachal Pradesh.

China calls Arunachal Pradesh as its Southern Tibet. Last year she objected to Prime Minister's visit to Arunachal and does the same again when he goes for election campaign recently. She tried her best to block sanction of World Bank loan to Arunachal for development and we do not know the outcome. China's endeavors to block India's claim to a permanent seat in the Security Council is well known. She does not grant visas to the residents of Arunachal and surprisingly starts a new trend of assigning loose sheet visas to the residents of J&K. Frequent violations of air space and line of control continue unabated. Recent 1.5 Km ingress in Ladakh and painting the rocks/boulders red & writing China on them in English and Chinese is no less than provocation. It is a cause of concern for India because apart from making a big exciting news it creates a strong public apprehension about her intentions. By deliberately luring us into reaction, China appears to be putting our patience to test.

Significant events of the past have eclipsed the relations between two neighbours. Dalai Lama's arrival and welcome in India in 1959 avenged by invasion of 1962 are major legacies of the past. Persistent uprisings and troubles in Tibet are associated with its origin in India. Both these unfortunate events will continue to lock both sides in the dilemma of distrust & suspicion. Other irritants are illegal occupation of Aksai Chin, the territory of erstwhile princely rulers of J&K, continuous military and nuclear supplies to Pakistan. Separatist, insurgent & militant organizations of North East are having their safe heaven in China & enjoy its patronage. China is

entering Indian Ocean, Pakistan, Myanmar & Sri Lanka in a big way which imbalances the security set up of the region & threatens India's sovereignty.

After the 1962 misadventure China seems to have become bolder in its anti India tirades. With this background in front of us it is obvious that China has no respect for international treaties. It has killed the spirit of existing bilateral accord which sought peaceful resolution of disputes. It has swallowed Tibet and is trying to engulf many areas in South Asia. This could partially be due to lack of political will on our part to exert against neighbours. Examples are many and the most glaring was Pt. Jawhar Lal Nehru's loss of nerves during 1962 invasion. He became shaky and could not take stand like Lal Bahadur Shastri did in 1965. (When Pakistan declared war against us in 1965, Lal Bahadur Shastri stood like a rock in the face of great national crises, carried the entire nation with him. On his call countrymen displayed unity & solidarity and sincerely observed fast on each Monday). Contrary to Pt Nehru; Winston Churchill challenged the might of Germany when it had almost conquered Europe and was all set to overrun tiny England. The nation stood with him while he had no allies and was threatened to extinction. Nehru undermined the strength of the nation. Even military leadership gave up in the face of odds & led down the nation. And similar looks the picture now so far as the political will so far as the security is concerned. Our Prime Minister surrendered in Sharmel e Sheikh with respect to Balochistan. He downplays Chinese provocations. It is a glaring example of weak leadership likely to succumb under pressure. We have to counter its each and every cunning move cunningly like a chess game ensuring that we do not provoke the dragon into hostile action till the time of our choosing ie till we slit its throat. The emphasis can be on the economic and cultural ties but without ignoring security misadventures. Pt Nehru made similar mistakes prior 1962. While India should continue to engage China in a dialogue in respect of all domestic and international issues but the provocations threatening our security should be taken up cunningly like the Chess moves and followed to the logical conclusion. Following issues must be pursued vigorously:-

- (i) Vacation of Aksai Chin to check mate claim on Arunachal.
- (ii) Dislodgement from infrastructure development in POK; it being part of India in illegal occupation of Pakistan.
- (iii) Prevent construction of a Dam on Brahmaputra on ecological, environmental and humanitarian grounds.

- (iv) Oppose military & nuclear support to Pakistan hyping its diversion to Al-Qaeda.
- (vi) Raise the pitch of Human Rights violation in Tibet to counter interference in J&K.
- (vii) Upgrade security and infrastructure as much forward as possible to counter their upgradation.
- (viii) Introduce national debate on security scenario to create national awareness and involvement.
- (ix) Compulsory NCC/Military training in schools & colleges and introduction of National Security as subject in higher curriculum.

While we do not allow any anti China activity by exiled Tibetans, there is no reason for us to accept anti India activity from Chinese soil. Dispute if any should be settled at the negotiating table. North Korea & Iran have not succumbed to pressure tactics of mighty opponents. By posturing strong, we will become stronger which is the need of the hour. Time to tell that power flows from the barrel of the Indian guns also.