

China, Communist - Nepal

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PROTOCOL

CHINA, COMMUNIST - NEPAL

NEPAL - CHINA BOUNDARY PROTOCOL

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*Signing
Ceremony*



of the Boundary Protocol

PROTOCOL to the Nepal-China Boundary Treaty was signed in Peking on January 20 in the midst of a special ceremony. The signatories on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the Government of the People's Republic of China were the Vice-Chairman and Foreign Minister, Dr. Tulsi Giri, and the Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, Marshal Chen Yi, respectively. Chairman of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Liu Shao-chi was also present in the signing ceremony.

Vice-Chairman, Dr. Giri left Kathmandu on January 16 for Calcutta on the first leg of his journey to Peking at the invitation of the Chinese Foreign Minister, Marshal Chen Yi. He was accompanied by the Foreign and Defence Secretary, Major General Padma Bahadur Khatry. Interviewed by the press-men, Dr. Giri had stated that his present visit to China was to sign the Boundary Protocol.

Dr. Giri arrived in Peking on January 19 according to schedule, where he was given a warm friendly welcome by Foreign Minister Chen Yi and other Chinese leaders along with the Royal Nepalese Ambassador to China, Mr. Keshar Bahadur KC.

In a welcome speech, Marshal Chen Yi expressed his confidence that the present visit of Dr. Giri "will further strengthen the traditional friendship and close co-operation between the two countries."

In his reply speech Dr. Giri said : "I have brought with me the goodwill and cordial felicitations from our beloved sovereign, King Mahendra, and the people of Nepal to Chairman Liu Shao-Chi as well as to the government and the people of China."

Referring to the Protocol, which was to be signed, Dr. Giri said, it "will not only prove a great landmark in the history of our two countries but also inspire confidence for others who have yet to accomplish this much-

desired task."

The Peking airport was tastefully decorated on this occasion. And thousands of the citizens of Peking thronged it, braving the sub-zero temperature. They welcomed the visiting Foreign Minister waving the national flags of the two countries, beating drums and cymbals and shouting slogans like "Long Live Sino-Nepalese Friendship", and "Long Live World Peace."

On the evening of his arrival, Dr. Giri called on Marshal Chen Yi and had a cordial talk with him. At night Marshal Chen Yi gave a dinner at the Great Hall of the People in honour of Dr. Tulsi Giri and his party. Both Dr. Giri and Marshal Chen Yi availed themselves of this opportunity to speak warm words on the lasting friendship between the two countries.

Dr. Giri said, the signing of the Boundary Protocol will put to an end the age-old dispute in a spirit of mutual accommodation, mutual understanding, consultations and reasonableness on the part of Nepal and China. The pillars, which have been erected on the formally delimited boundary line, are not only the markers of a new era in the consolidation of friendship between our two countries but memorials of how countries with different political systems could live together in peace and amity.

Dr. Giri explained that Nepal's policy towards China has been a policy of peace. As a matter of fact, he added, the basic principles of Nepal's foreign policy are peace and friendship with all the countries of the world.

The boundary question between Nepal and China was left over by history. And it had remained unsolved since the days of King Girvana Yuddha Vikram Shah, that is, from the beginning of the 19th century. There was, of course, a traditional customary boundary line, but it was never scientifically delimited and physically demarcated.

With the passage of time it was realised on either side that a final settlement of this question should be arrived at by peaceful negotiations in a spirit of friendship and understanding. With this end in view the Nepal-China Boundary Agreement was signed in Peking on March 21, 1960. The formation of Joint Committee, composed of equal number of persons from each side, was envisaged in the Agreement. By the terms of reference, the Joint Committee was empowered "to discuss and solve the concrete boundary questions concerning the Nepal-China Boundary, conduct survey of the boundary, erect boundary-markers and draft a Nepal-China Boundary Treaty."

Members of the Joint Nepal-China Boundary Committee met in the inaugural session around the horse-shoe table of the Committee Room in Singh Durbar on the morning of August 11, 1960. The Nepalese side was led by the Foreign and Defence Secretary, Major General Padma Bahadur Khatry; and Mr. Chang Shi-chieh, the first resident Chinese Ambassador to Nepal, headed the Chinese side. The fourth session of the Joint Boundary Committee, which opened in Kathmandu on August 24, 1961, prepared a draft Boundary Treaty. The Treaty itself was signed on October 5, 1961 during the State Visit of His Majesty King Mahendra to China. King Mahendra signed the Treaty on behalf of Nepal, while Chairman Liu Shao-chi was the signatory on behalf of the People's Republic of China.

The Boundary Treaty was a landmark in the history of Nepal-China friendship. It settled all outstanding issues through friendly negotiations in a spirit of friendship and understanding. By this Treaty, Nepal gained 300 sq. miles of territory and Mount Everest remained within Nepal as ever.

All that remained to be done following the Treaty, was to dispatch Boundary-Markers Erection Teams to demarcate the boundary in accordance with the line of delineation, which was accomplished last summer. It was

followed by the sixth session of the Joint Boundary Committee which met in Kathmandu and Peking successively from December 9, 1962 to January 19, 1963. During the meeting the two sides jointly drafted the Boundary Protocol and made the detailed maps attached to Boundary Treaty, which were to be submitted to the governments of the two countries for examination, approval and signing.

Main features of the Protocol

The Protocol is divided into five Parts. Part I gives the background of the principles governing the erection of boundary markers and furnishes details about the form and the number of boundary markers and the place where they are erected. There are two kinds of boundary markers, big and small, bearing serial numbers. The number of boundary markers at one place ranges from one to three. In other words, where the boundary line runs along the ground there is only one boundary marker; where it runs through mid-river or through frontier river or confluence of rivers, there are two boundary markers of the same serial number; and where the confluence of a river forms a boundary, there are three boundary markers of the same serial number. The boun-

boundary markers are also carved in rocks, according to need.

Part II gives a comprehensive account of delineation of the boundary line section by section along with the distance between each section.

Part III describes the location of each boundary marker from serial number one to seventy-nine in terms of latitude and longitude. Owing to geographical difficulties boundary markers No. 33, 37 and 38 could not be erected. There are thus only 76 boundary markers of the Serial Nos. between 1 and 76.

Part IV provides for protection of the boundary, the responsibility for which is allotted to each side on the basis of equality. There is also a provision for mutual consultation.

Part V deals with the machinery of inspection and the methods to be adopted, if a boundary river changes its course or if hydro-electric projects or other projects are to be constructed on such rivers.

A map showing in full the boundary line is attached to the Protocol along with six detailed maps of the six sections of the boundary.

Speaking to the pressmen in Hongkong on his way back after signing the Boundary Protocol, Dr. Tulsi Giri said, "So far as the ownership of Sagarmatha (Mt.Everest)

is concerned, it belongs to Nepal."

A clear, direct and unambiguous statement of this sort was necessitated by recurring insinuations appearing in a certain section of the foreign press that the question of the ownership of Sagarmatha was not conclusively defined by the Protocol.

Dr. Giri said that in Peking he had talks with Chinese authorities on matters of mutual interests. He informed that the construction of Kathmandu-Kodari Road is under way but he refused to speculate on the date of its completion. He also reiterated that no thought had at the moment been given to the establishment of air service between Kathmandu and Lhasa.

Dr. Giri, accompanied by the Foreign and Defence Secretary, Major General Padma Bahadur Khatry, was back in Kathmandu on the morning of January 27. He was received at the Gauchar Airport by his Ministerial colleagues and the Charge d'Affairs and Military Secretary of the Chinese Embassy, among others. Dr. Giri told the pressmen that the Boundary Protocol, which was signed in an atmosphere of profound friendship and cordiality, had settled all boundary questions.

In reply to a question Dr. Giri said China was particularly interested in the progress of Nepal and wished to see it advance in its own way. He added, "The People

of China cherish deep love and respect towards His Majesty King Mahendra and the people of Nepal."

Press Round-up

THE GORAKHAPATRA (January 22) welcomes the Boundary Protocol signed between Nepal and China "as a clear example of how successful a policy of settling disputes by peaceful means through mutual negotiations with open heart can be." The paper notes that as the birth-place of Janak and Buddha, Nepal looks on all as her friends and wishes that others also regard her in the same spirit. By the signing of the Protocol relating to boundary between Nepal and China, the peaceful and friendly relations, existing between Nepal and China on the basis of Panchashil, have been further strengthened. Situated between India and China, Nepal is engaged in peaceful development through the Panchayat system and desires treatment of equality from all. She wants to see everlasting peace maintained between her neighbours. Nepal wishes to see the border dispute between China and India settled peacefully without prejudice to the rights of either party. Only this can bring about the welfare of China and India along with that of Nepal.

'Set up in 1961 the Nepal-China Joint Boundary

Committee has been able to fulfil the task within so short a period, for which the officials of both sides serving on the Committee deserve commendation. With the signing of the Protocol, the boundary question between the two countries—a hang-over of the past centuries—has been finally settled."

In this connection the paper traced the history of cultural and religious exchanges that have taken place between the two countries from ancient times as landmarks in the long history. The paper recalled the marriage of Bhrikuti with Tsrong Btsan Sgam Po, the visits of Araniko to China and of Tseun Chang to Nepal.

The NAYA SAMAJ (January 22) noted with satisfaction that with the signing of the Protocol Nepal's northern boundary has been formally and scientifically settled, thus putting an end to a question harking back to the days of Girvana Yuddha Bikram Shah. It went on to thank the Chinese Government for having taken timely steps to arrive at a boundary settlement in order to prevent any possibility of disruption of peace with Nepal, whose policy of self-respecting independence is well-known to her.

The paper points out that the modern version of the ancient friendship between Nepal and China is just eight years old. During these eight years the relations

between the two countries have been deepened day by day. The people of Nepal are grateful towards China for the generous help she has extended to Nepal in her development works. Apart from leather, paper and cement works, the Kathmandu-Kodari Highway is being constructed with the Chinese help. When these projects are completed the economic situation of Nepal will be strengthened.

In conclusion, the paper expresses the hope that the mutual relations subsisting between Nepal and China will prosper and grow with each passing day.

Writing under the caption, "Boundary Protocol is a Symbol of Mutual Goodwill", the NEPALI (January 23) comments editorially that the signing of the Protocol is a matter of joy. It recalled that a Joint Boundary Committee was formed to reach a settlement and it conducted investigation and exchanged views on all questions relating to the scientific delineation and practical demarcation of the boundary on the basis of equality and mutual interests.

The paper points out that the friendship between Nepal and China has been getting more and more intimate, that the sentiment of love and esteem between the two peoples have existed from times immemorial, and that the policy of China towards Nepal has always been amicable... For the settlement of the boundary question,

therefore, the two sides displayed in full the spirit of mutual co-operation and goodwill. That was why the formal settlement of boundary question could be achieved in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality. The spirit of amity with which the boundary question could be settled is a priceless flowering of friendship between the two countries.

The paper adds : "Under the leadership of His Majesty King Mahendra, Nepal is going ahead with her policy of strengthening peaceful relations with all countries, and with her neighbours in particular. The peaceful settlement of Nepal-China boundary question indicates clearly the mutual goodwill subsisting between the two countries, and it should be regarded as the fore-runner of a new era of ever-increasing friendship."

THE NEPAL SAMACHAR (January 24) recalls that the work of demarcating the boundary was taken in hand almost immediately after the conclusion of the Boundary Treaty on October 5, 1961. With the completion of the erection of the boundary-markers, as stated in the Protocol, the boundary question between Nepal and China, which had been outstanding over the centuries, was settled within a miraculously short period of time.

The paper also recalled that the question of Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) was the most acute one. But the

Boundary Treaty recognised the sovereignty of Nepal over it to the lasting credit of Nepal-China friendship. This Treaty has further led to the expansion of the Nepalese territory by three hundred square miles.

Thus, the paper says, the Nepal-China Boundary Treaty has three prominent features, and on this account it must be considered the best one in the history of Nepal. They are : settlement of centuries old boundary question between Nepal and China, the gain of 300 sq. miles of land and the settlement of the question of Sagarmatha.

The paper went on to welcome the Protocol signed in a spirit of friendship and understanding, and pointed out that henceforth all the conceivable possibilities of border disputes between the two countries have been precluded for all times to come. In particular, the paper commended the programme laid down in the Protocol for the protection of the boundary-markers and declared that it would be conducive to a satisfactory atmosphere in future, and strengthen the foundations of the Nepal-China friendship in an enduring fashion.

THE SAMAJ (January 27) notes with satisfaction that although the boundary between the two countries was not scientifically marked out hitherto or physically demarcated, there had been no border disputes in the past. It would be waste of time to search for a more shi-

ning example of Nepal-China friendship than this.

In a reference to the question of Sagarmatha, the paper says that the international press had left no stone unturned to make China take up an adamant position and thus drive a wedge between the two countries. But they held firm to the idea that everything should be brought to the negotiation table and hammered out in an atmosphere of peace and friendship. As a result, China conceded the right of Nepal to the ownership of Sagarmatha. No greater example than this could be found in recent history of how a question can be prevented from assuming false proportions through mutual negotiations. The paper added, "If anyone is interested in finding out how a country should behave towards its neighbour and what is the mode of conduct for the respect of peaceful co-existence, he can find no better example than the Boundary Treaty, and the subsequent Protocol to it, signed between Nepal and China."
