

Editorial

Rajiv Gandhi in the U.S.A.

Immediately upon the death of Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the induction of Rajiv Gandhi to succeed her, the Western press began to express its expectation that Mr. Gandhi would be "different" than his mother. Not the least of this kind of greeting for the new prime minister came from Henry A. Kissinger.

All such prognoses totally miss the point. Such people will understand Mr. Gandhi no better than they understood his mother. For the Eastern Establishment of the United States—from Henry Kissinger to Daniel Moynihan—Mrs. Gandhi was a force to be reckoned with, with extreme irritation. She was reviled as a "pro-Soviet puppet." Under the foreign-policy domination of Henry Kissinger, the United States burned its bridges to India, in 1971, as part of Kissinger's "China Card" policy. Under the Carter administration, the anti-Indian policy reached levels of extreme treachery, when the United States cut off promised shipments of fuel to India's nuclear power plant.

As the world's largest democracy, an achievement won after a long struggle against British colonialism, India is the United States' most natural ally in Asia. The combination of a United States and India both committed to progress is a linchpin alliance for Asia, which would have been extremely difficult for Moscow to outflank. That Moscow appeared to win the game, is not because of Moscow, but because of the continuous U.S. withdrawal from India, beginning 1962 and through to the heydays of Soviet agent-of-influence Henry Kissinger and his like-minded successors in the Carter administration.

To believe that somehow Mr. Gandhi is going to be "different"—more pro-Western than his mother—because he wants to modernize India, is the height of stupidity. Washington has understood, no less than Moscow, that at the very bottom, what characterizes Mr. Gandhi, and his mother and grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, is that they are Indian nationalists. They have all wanted to modernize India, and have fought hard and perilously to do so.

It is that commitment to building their nation that Henry Kissinger, along with the Third Rome leadership in Moscow, find so abhorrent. And it is because of the

strength that commitment has given India in the world political arena, that Kissinger and his partners in Moscow and London are determined to destroy India as an independent nation.

Unlike many other underdeveloped countries, in its nearly 38 years of independence, India has not succumbed to the neo-colonialism imposed by the International Monetary Fund. India has maintained a strict control on its foreign debt. Last year, when the IMF threatened to impose harsh conditionalities for new loans, the Indian government simply said, "Thanks, but we will pay off the debt we have. We want no more; we do not accept your conditionalities."

Kissinger and such "friends of India" as the grain cartel's Orville Freeman, or Charles "Mr. Non-Proliferation" Percy, are now trying to use Mr. Gandhi's clear desire to reinvigorate the Indian economy, to get a foot in the door for the international banks, and "hook" India on the debt trap. Meanwhile, the Soviets and the British are pulling the strings on all their long-standing assets to maintain the subcontinent in a state of constant and escalating destabilization.

Within this context, there is really only one item on the agenda in the discussions between President Reagan and Prime Minister Gandhi. That is: Will the United States change its economic policy? Will the United States break with the International Monetary Fund and its murderous policies? Will these two world leaders join together to call for an Indira Gandhi Memorial Summit to End the World Depression? Will they join forces to save *both* of their countries, and the world with it?

Perhaps this issue will not be brought up in this form. But the reality remains that although President Reagan, unlike his recent predecessors, is not an evil man and hence naturally desires to improve relations with this great nation, he will be unable to do this, unless he and Mr. Gandhi put their heads together to bring forth a new world economic order.

And should they do that—they will transform the relations between all sovereign nations, by defeating the oligarchs—in Moscow and Washington—who are seeking to destroy civilization.