

Oppose Military Treaties with US Imperialism!

With the signing of Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) with the US imperialism in the first week of September, India signed three of the four “fundamental” agreements with US. This means India is now a military partner of US imperialism almost on par with NATO countries. The last of the four military treaties Basic Exchange of Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Cooperation (BECA) would be signed soon. This marks the journey of Indian rulers on the road of subjugation of India to the hegemonic designs of US imperialism.

The India-US Defence framework agreement signed by the UPA-I government in 2005 was the precursor to the nuclear deal. After the advent of the Modi government in 2015, during the Obama visit, India signed up on the Joint Vision Statement for the Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean region. This was a declaration that India is a part of the US strategy in the Asia-Pacific region. In return, in 2016, India was certified to be a Major Defence Partner of the United States – a status given to NATO countries and military allies in Asia, like Japan and South Korea. The Modi government renewed the Defence Framework Agreement for another ten years in 2015. It followed this up with the signing of the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016. This agreement enables US naval ships and air force planes to use Indian naval and air bases for re-fuelling, maintenance and repairs on a regular basis. By this agreement, American warplanes or naval ships can use Indian facilities while conducting operations against third countries.

The first two-plus-two ministerial talks between India and The US were held on September 6. The US Secretary of State , Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence, James Mattis came to New Delhi to hold talks with their Indian counterparts, Sushma Swaraj and Nirmala Sitaraman. This meeting signed COMCASA which is supposed to provide critical defence technology to the Indian armed forces, but for a huge cost. India has to allow US military inspectors to enter Indian bases for continuous inspection of supplied technology. And India should not buy any equivalent technology from third country, meaning Russia.

Under this agreement, the US military personnel will monitor the equipment supply to ensure that its confidentiality is not breached. It will entail opening Indian military bases for US inspectors to check the communication system. It will also enable the United States to monitor communications within the Indian military. Further, it will ensure that sophisticated weaponry brought from countries like Russia will become incompatible with other weapon systems.

India’s succumbing to the US strategic designs in Asia has been more forth coming in the joint statement issued after the 2+2 meeting. It was decided to establish secure hotline communications between the foreign ministers and the defence ministers of the two countries. The US has the largest number of military exercises with India amongst all the other countries in the world. So far, these exercises have been conducted between the three wings – navy, air force and army. Now the 2+2 meeting has decided that there should be trilateral military exercises involving all the three wings together.

Another decision to start exchanges between the US Navy Central Command and the Indian Navy headquarters underscores how India is getting integrated with the US strategy in Asia. The United States Navy has changed the name of its Pacific Command to the Indo-Pacific Command to inveigle India into its military architecture. It was not surprising, therefore, that an Indian naval officer attended the re-naming of the Pacific Command and the handing over of this Command to a new officer in June 2018.

The military and strategic alliance with the United States is going to prove disastrous for the interests of Indian people by making India a part of the US imperialist strategy to dominate Asia and use the Indian soil as its spring board.

The Central Committee of CPI (ML) demands that the Modi government should come out of all these military agreements and calls upon the people to oppose the military tie ups with US imperialism.
