

SECRET

India-China Boundary: Western and Middle Sectors

The detailed description of the India-China boundary as claimed by us and by the Chinese in the Western and Middle Sectors is given in the Report of the Officials on the Boundary Question (pp.1.31). Briefly, the boundary claimed by us runs through the Karakoram and Karatagh Passes and along the Kuen-lun in the north, and through Lanak La, Kone Pass, Kepsang Pass and across the Western Pangong Lake and then along the ridge parallel to the Indus whereafter it crosses the Indus five miles south-east of Demchok. In the middle sector it lies across the Pare river (a mile south of Kaurik), and then through the Shipki pass and along the main watershed between the Sutlej and the Ganges.

The line claimed by the Chinese since 1960 runs south-east from the Karakoram Pass and lies across the Chip Chap and the Galwan rivers upto the Kongka Pass. In the Pangong, Spanggur and Demchok areas also it lies further west of the boundary claimed by us. In the Middle Sector they have claimed the Kaurik area, the Shipki Pass, Nelang and Jadhag area and the Barahoti, Sangcha and Laphthal areas. Details of these are available in the Report of the officials. The 1956 map of the Chinese which they have now practically repudiated had shown an alignment somewhat more favourable to us than their 1960 map.

While claiming the above line the Chinese have held since November 21, 1962 that the "line of actual control" which has existed as of November 7, 1959 should be respected pending final settlement. This line is slightly different from the claim line. In the Western Sector it differs from the claim line only in the Demchok area where the Chinese concede that Western Demchok which they call Parigas is in our possession. In this Middle Sector they concede that almost the entire area claimed by us including the Kaurik,

Shipki Pass, Nelang-Jadhang and Sangcha and Lapthal areas have been in our possession. But they have contended that the Wuje (Barahoti) area lies on their side of the line of control. In 1958 an agreement had been reached not to send armed personnel to the area. Since the Chinese had given no reply to our proposal that neither side should send administrative personnel, we had continued sending such personnel.

No detailed description of this "line of control" has ever been given to us by the Chinese. Nor have they given us detailed maps showing the alignment. A rough sketch of the line was published by them in the Peking Review of 30 November 1962, from which it appears that their line of control in the Western Sector is the same as their claim line except in the Demchok area.

On the basis of the description they gave of their claim line in 1960 and the maps published by them it has been possible to transcribe their alignments approximately on our quarter-inch sheets (vide Survey of India letter No. TB-6982-S/44 B-1(T.S.) of 8.11.1962). In the Depsang Area (south of Chip-Chap) there was some difficulty in such transcription. Since their claim line (as also line of control) followed no natural features we had tried to interpret it scientifically along the nearest natural feature which was the ridge lying east of the tributary of the Shyok. However, later exchanges with the Chinese showed that they were interpreting the line literally and that it cut across natural features lying south of the Chip Chap river. In the Track-junction area they have continued to intrude occasionally west of the "line of actual control."

The Colombo proposals of December 1962 had proposed. (1) demilitarization of a 20 kilometre zone to the east of the "line of actual control"; and (2) joint administration of this zone by Indian and Chinese civil authorities. The Chinese refused to accept these proposals, but offered to

vacate the so-called disputed areas all along the border where India had either established check-posts or sent civil or military personnel. A sketch showing these so-called "disputed areas" was published by them after the Colombo Conference (vide Peking Review, March 15, 1963, p.72).

India has not accepted the Chinese unilateral declaration of 21st November 1962. She is not, therefore, bound to respect the "line of actual control". However, in deference to the proposals of the Colombo Powers she has refrained from crossing the "line of actual control".