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LECTURE 33 Non-alignment

1. Introduction Non-alignment, both as a foreign policy perspective of most new states of Asia, Africa and Latin America and as well as an international movement is a critical factor of contemporary international relations. Though as a movement it started with the holding of the foreign policy orientation it was pioneered much earlier by India. India is one of the founder member of Nonalignment Movement. Pandit J.L. Nehru along with Marshall Tito of Yugoslavia and Nasser of Egypt were three important leaders of this movement. Though the word 'non-alignment' was first used in 1954, its substance had already adopted by Nehru in his first public statement on India's foreign policy on September 7, 1946. He had then said, " we propose, as far as possible, to keep away from the power blocs of groups, aligned against one another, which have in the past to world wars".² he was first and greatest apostle of NAM. After the end of Second World War, the main problem in front of newly independent countries was how they maintain their independence not communism or anti-communism. These countries were a bloc of poor countries and they want to fight with poverty, food security. They did not want to play in the hand of any blocs. That was why Nehru favored Non-alignment policy. Nehru believed that the developing countries should be concerned on development and progress than power politics. In April-July 1945, while the constituent conference of the United Nations was in session in San Francisco, a number of representatives of Asia and Africa put forward the idea of amplification the unity of two continents and turned to Jawaharlal Nehru for the right initiative. It was in the response of this Nehru made a trip to South-East Asia in 1945. He received a hero's welcome. He made links with many Asian leaders, Aung San of Burma (Myanmar), Sukarno of Indonesia, Solomon Bandaranaike of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and others.³ He also had taken many essential efforts to establish Non-alignment as an international movement. Nehru had played a big role to mobilize developing as well as developing countries for NAM. That was the spirit of Non-alignment. Alongside many countries used NAM for setting scores with their rivals. The representatives of the 25 Asian and African countries met in Bandung

(Indonesia) on April 18, 1955 on the eve of Afro-Asian Conference in at the initiative of India, Indonesia, Burma, Sri Lanka and Pakistan discussed the common tribulations of the two continents and outlined the ways and means by which the newly liberalized nations wanting to promote economic, cultural and political co-operation and defend their right to sovereign independence.⁴ The NAM was an international organization of states taking into account themselves not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. There were two power bloc led by US and USSR in Cold War era. The 1955 conference led by Indonesia's independence hero Sukarno galvanized global stalwarts like Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, whose famous 'Panchsheel' doctrine was incorporated in 10 principles of international peace and cooperation in declaration.⁵ The Asian-African conference declared its aims and objectives of fully commitment to establishment of international peace and stability. The Non-alignment Movement places equal emphasis on disarmament since its origin. NAM's commitment to peace predates its formal institutionalization in 1961. Belgrade Declaration(1961) also drew the attention towards the stabilization of peace which demanded that "attempts at domination and interference in the internal

development of other peoples and nations is ruled out'' and it insisted that the great powers take more determined action for solving various problems by means of negotiations, displaying at the same time ''the necessary constructive approach and readiness for reaching solution which will be mutually acceptable and useful for world peace.⁶ India also participated in the 1961 Belgrade conference that officially established the Nonaligned Movement, but Nehru's declining prestige limited his influence. The Belgrade conference had against the background of mounting international tensions, worsening relations between the United States and Soviet Union and the continuing struggles of nations for liberation and racial equality in a number of countries. It addressed itself to all these problems, extending its sympathy to the peoples of several countries which were still struggling for their freedom, condemned the policy of apartheid, called for general and complete disarmament, the abolition of foreign military bases. It had appealed to the Heads of governments in United States and the Soviet Union to start a dialogue among themselves with a view to reducing international tension and safeguarding world peace.⁷ India concentrated on internal problems and bilateral relations, while retained membership in an increasingly factionalized and radicalized movement. During Havana Summit 1979, New Delhi worked with moderate nations and reject Cuban President Fidel Castro's proposal of 'socialism' (USSR) was the natural ally of Non-alignment Movement. New Delhi also organized NAM conference in 1983 under Indira Gandhi she was first women Prime Minister of India. During 1983-86, India continued to be active and vigorous advocate of non-alignment Movement. As the Chairman of the Movement, New Delhi remained actively engaged in consolidating and strengthening the unity of NAM. It was focused to support enthusiastically Nuclear Disarmament, NIEO, Stability and Peace for all. India was largely successful its efforts to keeping NAM united and dynamic.