



# „Foreign Secretary Subimal Dutt - Anti-communist in the Nehru Government“

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**Abstract:**

When Subimal Dutt was appointed Foreign Secretary in October 1955, he was the most prominent anti-Communist in the Indian Foreign Service. As former officer of the Indian Civil Service, he was to the core realist, cautious and suspicious against any ideological approaches to politics. As part of a government where Prime Minister Nehru and Defence Minister Krishna Menon with strong leftist leanings called the shots, Dutt had a hard stand to keep India on what he considered a balanced course in global affairs, i.e. a foreign policy serving the country's national interest. He won the upper hand from November 1956, after India thanks to Menon had severely damaged its image as morale world power by abstaining from a UN vote against the Soviet intervention in Hungary. Whereas India's Moscow policy was left in hands Dutt considered irresponsible, Nehru put him in charge of the boundary dispute with China and the German question, both crucial for defining India's stand in the global Cold War. After the disaster of the 1962 War, Dutt's approach to foreign affairs set standards for his successors.

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