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Date: Jan 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

AFRICA FUND

Inaugural Address by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

The following is the text of the inaugural address by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and Chairman of the AFRICA Fund Committee in New Delhi on Jan 24, 1987:

Chairman Mugabe, Presidents, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you to Delhi. This city is a symbol of the struggle against colonialism. Delhi is closely associate with the genesis of the Non-aligned Movement. You have travelled long distances for this gathering - in the cause of man's right to be human.

It was just four months ago that we met at Harare under the distinguished chairmanship of Prime Minister Mugabe. Since that meeting, we have lost our dear comrade, Samora Machel, a fearless fighter who inspired his people. He lived and died battling against the sinister forces of foreign rule and racism. I offer the brave, bereaved people of Mozambique our sympathy. Samora Machel's fight is our fight. It must continue.

HATEFUL PHENOMENON

Africa is a continent rich in history, rich in resources, rich in

cultural achievements. But its people have been subjected to terrible punishment - enslaved, exploited and humiliated. One by one its Peoples have wrested their independence. Yet, shamefully, the old order persists in the southern reaches of the continent. There the hateful phenomenon called Apartheid flaunts its brazenness.

Men are born free; yet Pretoria treats the Blacks as slaves. All men are born equal; still the racists practise unabashed discrimination against all those who are not white. The only gift it holds out to them is the chain of oppression.

It was almost a hundred years ago that Mahatma Gandhi, then a young man in his twenties, was pushed out of a train by Whites in South Africa. The century from Mahatma Gandhi to Nelson Mandela has seen brutality in South Africa degenerate into barbarism. But, like the Mahatma Mandela will emerge victorious.

Pretoria's depredations are not confined to South Africa - the evil overflows its boundaries.

PERNICIOUS SWAY OF PRETORIA

Nine years ago the Security Council decided that Namibia should achieve its independence forthwith. Attempts have been made to link Namibia's freedom with irrelevant considerations. We repudiate and denounce this linkage. The pernicious sway of Pretoria over the Namibian people is a continuing affront to the conscience of the world. Several countries have been conniving with the brigand. We stand with the Namibian people in their struggle. We salute and support SWAPO.

Pretoria intimidates and destabilizes the Front-line States. Brigands are financed and armed. Railways, ports, Pipelines, power plants, bridges and factories are blown up or crippled. Exorbitant tariffs are imposed. Unconscionable delays are encouraged. Neighbouring States are threatened with border closures. All this is done to keep them in a trap of dependence.

The Pretoria regime constitutes a clear threat to international peace. It must be removed -- and removed now. We must continue to press for comprehensive mandatory sanctions. There is already a welcome shift in the position of some countries. Deaf ears have begun to hear. Those who support Apartheid are accessories to the impending bloodshed.

Let not the racists of South Africa imagine that their powerful friends can sustain them for ever. Weak though we were, we. have brought down empires. We shall compel Pretoria to submit.

FUND TO FINISH APARTHEID

The AFRICA Fund was established at Harare to go to the help of all those who are victims of the Apartheid regime - the people of South Africa, the people of Namibia and the people of the Frontline States. It is a Fund meant to assist those whose struggle is our struggle. It is a Fund to finish Apartheid. It is a Fund to forestall bloodshed. It is a Fund for Peace. It is a Fund for the triumph of the human spirit.

I welcome you in the name of human freedom.

DIA USA ZIMBABWE MOZAMBIQUE SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA LATVIA

Date: Jan 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

AFRICA FUND

Closing Address by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

The following is the closing address by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and Chairman of the AFRICA Fund Committee in New Delhi on Jan 25, 1987:

Chairman Mugabe, Presidents, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we thank you for having joined us in New Delhi. It is a signal honour for India to have together so many distinguished leaders from four continents spanning the world. What makes the honour so distinctive is the mission for which you have come.

We belong to one human family. That part of our family which lives in Southern Africa is suffering the consequences of invasion, colonialism and Apartheid. We wish to go to the aid of our kith and kin.

It is this spirit of unified action which has inspired our discussions. In a few short months, we have translated an idea into a specific plan of action. The schemes and projects we have identified will channel urgently needed additional assistance to Liberation Movements in South Africa and Namibia, and to the Front-line States. The AFRICA Fund is an earnest of our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Southern Africa.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY

The ending of Apartheid is not merely the restoration of human rights and human dignity to the people of South Africa but is, in fact, the restoration of human rights and human dignity to all of humanity. To temporize with Apartheid is to compromise with human decency. There is a significant corelation between the reluctance to take decisive action and vested economic interests. Many speak about human rights. Few have suffered as much as the Front-line States for standing up for human rights. They have done so with courage and out of principle. They are paying a heavy price for resisting Apartheid and aggression.

The racist clique is increasing its oppression. Not from strength but from fear. Fear that Apartheid is about to crumble. Fear that its overthrow is imminent and inevitable. Fear that the whites of South Africa will learn to live in amity with the other races. Fear that South Africa will have a society based on human rights and the dignity of the individual.

MOMENT TO STRIKE

Now is the moment to strike - and strike hard. The superstructure of Apar-

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theid is built on the foundations of military relationships and economic sustenance from abroad. Sanctions will undermine the foundations of Apartheid. Sanctions are the only non-violent means left to counter the violence of Apartheid.

The campaign we are launching today is a campaign to sensitise world public opinion to the need for immediate action. A regime without shame will not respond to blandishment and cajoling. It will have to be brought to its knees. Without the moral and material support which Pretoria receives from a handful of countries, Apartheid would collapse, ending also the illegal occupation of Namibia and persistent destabilization of the Front-line States. The people of Southern Africa are more than willing to bear the burden of sanctions. Many of us have not only imposed sanctions ourselves but have also pledged our support to those on the firing line.

BASIC TASK

Our basic task is to persuade the economically and militarily powerful nations to not bolster Apartheid but throw their might on the side of human good. The powerful must agree to comprehensive, mandatory sanctions.

Our appeal is as much to the leadership as it is to the people of these countries. Vast sections of public opinion are already with us. Many more would wish to see their Governments adhere to programmes of demonstrable solidarity with all those in Southern Africa who are suffering the depredations of Pretoria. The AFRICA Fund is a practical programme of action for all.

The AFRICA Fund provides the opportunity for all of us, in every part of the world, to join in the struggle against Apartheid, to place ourselves in the frontline. The AFRICA Fund will provide emergency assistance to the Liberation Movements in South Africa and Namibia. It will strengthen the economic infrastructure of the Front-line States. It will help them resist the blackmail of the racist regime. The AFRICA Fund will supplement the activities of SADCC and other organisations engaged in promoting the long-term development of southern Africa. The Fund will also promote political and diplomatic initiatives in support of the struggle for dismantling Apartheid and establishing a truly multi-racial democratic government in South Africa.

FIRST CONTRIBUTION

The first contribution to the AFRICA Fund has come from a young schoolboy, in southern India, Hemanth Shameen of Vellore, who has collected a hunderd and fifty rupees from his friends and neighbours. To that, I, on behalf of the Government of India, have the honour to add half a billion rupees.

The appeal of the AFRICA Fund is as much to Governments and the world conscience as it is to people and their individual conscience. The AFRICA Fund, inspired by the Non-aligned Movement, reflects the worldwide urge for action against Apartheid. Apartheid is a crime against humanity. The struggle against Apartheid is a global struggle. It calls for the solidarity of governments and peoples the world over.

Thank you

DIA USA NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Jan 25, 1987

Volume No

1995

AFRICA FUND

Shri N. D. Tiwari's Speech

The following is the opening address by Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs of India on January 21 at the preparatory Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Jan 21-22, 1987, in New Delhi:

Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, many

the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed Apartheid to be a crime against humanity. Today, many years later, that crime persists, and the criminal remains a fugitive from justice. Humanity continues to be the victim of that crime - the victim of untold savagery, of humiliation and indignity. Apartheid has, at every step, by deceit as well as defiance, and with help from powerful quarters, frustrated the sustained international onslaught against it.

How has one country for so long defied the world. How have the forces of obscurantism persistently staved off those of change? How has the tide of history been so checked, even stemmed, thus far? These are questions to ponder. These are reasons to make all of civilised mankind hang its head in shame. However, fortunately, the tide is turning. Never has the international community been so acutely aware of the evils and perils of Apartheid, or so intensely aroused against it. The world-wide campaign against this obnoxious system increasingly draws into its embrace people of countries whose Governments have been known to drag their feet. There is an increasing realisation that there is no alternative to sanctions against South Africa - the only alternative is a bloodbath of unimaginable proportions.

FIRE OF FREEDOM

Dear Colleagues, Apartheid requires no introduction in this forum. Some of you live at its very doorstep. Others are familiar with the infamy and ignominy that it represents. It is the price that millions of South Africans pay for the fact that the colour of their skin is not white. The pain, the anguish, the humiliation that Apartheid represents is writ large on their faces. But the fire of human dignity and freedom that burns in their hearts cannot be eclipsed. Apartheid cries out from the graves of Soweto and Sharpeville. It keeps Namibia in cruel bondage, in defiance of the United Nations Plan for its independence. It strikes with impunity at Angola, at Mozambique, at Botswana and Lesotho - at neighbouring states; indeed, at anyone who dares to oppose it. It has powerful backers who, at best, perennially take refuge behind the argument that persuasion is more effective than compulsion and, at worst, collaborate in sustaining Apartheid. It is synonymous with repression and violence within South Africa and aggression and terrorism across the borders - the litany of its crimes is truly horrendous and endless.

At Harare, the Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries decided boldly to move forward in this context, from the stage of rhetoric and exhortation to that of action. We constituted the Action For Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid Fund, better known simply as the AFRICA Fund. In doing so, we served notice upon South Africa - and upon all those who bear sympathy for Apartheid - that we mean business, that the Non-aligned Movement is not the powerless organisation that some see us to be, that we are prepared to match our words by deeds. We decided to pool our resolve, our ingenuity and expertise, our resources and our resourcefulness, to buttress the Front-line States of Southern Africa and the Liberation Movements in South Africa and Namibia, so that the process of severing the historical, geopolitical and economic umblical cord that connects them with South Africa is rendered less painful.

OUR DEPTH OF GRATITUDE

We look upon this as our due to the Front-line States and the Liberation Movements - as our debt of gratitude - for it is they who have shouldered the burden of having South Africa as a neighbour. Their pain, their agony, their wounds have been far sharper, and far more palpable than for the rest of us. We know that the task is no easy one and that we have an arduous journey ahead; we are under no illusions in that regard. The problem will remain as long as Apartheid itself remains. It will be resolved finally only when Apartheid itself is exterminated. That is what we seek to

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do and the Africa Fund is to be a vital instrument in that exercise.

Distinguished Ministers, for us in India, even though we are physically far removed from the scene, Apartheid has always been our cause. We have been among the pioneers in raising the banner of revolt against Apartheid among the international community. We went with it to the United Nations in 1946. We imposed comprehensive sanctions against South Africa voluntarily that same year. We have been proud to be one of the founder members of the Special Committee of the UN General Assembly against Apartheid. It was in South Africa that Mahatma Gandhi embarked on his crusade against injustice and tyranny, which he then carried across the ocean to the shores of his own country, already in the throes of its struggle for independence. The vision of an Africa awakened and free continued to inspire the leaders of independent India - Jawaharlal Nehru espoused the cause passionately; so did Indira Gandhi; so does Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi now. For it has been one of the cardinal tenets of our foreign policy that we cannot consider ourselves free until freedom has come to all others in bondage.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Distinguished colleagues, the Lusaka meeting of the AFRICA Fund Committee last November admirably set the stage for our current meetings in Delhi. It made a useful and detailed analysis of the requirements of the Southern African States and Liberation Movements. It identified the potential areas of cooperation and development. It proposed specific projects for emphasis. It sought to set out clearly the rules for the Fund,

Following further consultations, study and research, our senior officials have, over the past two days, put together a draft Plan of Action which we must examine and approve before presenting it to our leaders. In my view, this is an excellent basis for our discussions. The Plan of Action must, to state the obvious, be action-oriented; it must be practical and purposeful; it must concentrate on vital sectors, dsigned to help the Frontline States to stand fully on their own legs and the Liberation Movements to fortify themselves.

WORLD OPINION GALVANISED

Above all, it must help galvanise world opinion into stronger action against South Africa. We should not forget that the ultimate goal is the total eradication of Apartheid. Let us approach our task with that purpose in mind.

We have also to work on an Appeal, to be issued by our Heads of State or Government, for contributions to the AFRICA Fund. Again, our colleagues, the officials, have rendered our task easier by presenting a text for our consideration.

For us in the Non-aligned Movement, it is an obligation, a matter of duty, to contribute our mite to the AFRICA Fund, and I hope that, in the coming weeks, members of the Movement shall take the initiative in this regard. But we hope that others too shall help support the Fund - other countries, international organisations, Non-Governmental bodies, and individuals. We trust that they will do so because this is not our cause alone; it is the cause of all mankind, it is the cause of freedom and justice. The Appeal by our Heads of State or Government, therefore, must be persuasive and judicious. It must move the universal conscience.

CAULDRON COMING TO THE BOIL

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Over the next two days, we will be deliberating in this chamber. I would urge you, esteemed colleagues, that we work together, so that what emerges from this meeting, and from the Summit to follow, can be made as momentous as we would want it to be. There can be no let-up in the pressure. For Apartheid is now in a corner, with its back to the wall. As Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said at

Harare last September, "South Africa is a cauldron coming to the boil Racism cannot last. A people's aspirations cannot be encaged in a prison. Nelson Mandela and his people will be free Sanctions can yet secure a relatively peaceful transition to racial equality and majority rule. Else, unprecedented

violence will mow down a multitude of the finest flowers of South Africa."

Distinguished Ministers, I welcome you all to Delhi. I wish you all a pleasant and rewarding stay here. I have great pleasure in declaring this meeting open.

Thank you.

DIA USA SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA ANGOLA MOZAMBIQUE BOTSWANA LESOTHO ZIMBABWE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ZAMBIA

Date: Jan 21, 1987

Volume No

1995

AFRICA FUND

Shri Faleiro's Speech at Senior Officials' Meeting

The following is the inaugural statement by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, at the preparatory meeting of senior officials of the AFRICA Fund in New Delhi on Jan 19, 1987:

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Heads of Delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to New Delhi. We are once again honoured to be playing host to our friends and colleagues in the Movement of Non-aligned Countries, who have travelled to our shores from far and wide. We do hope that your deliberations here are fruitful and that you will carry back pleasant memories of your stay with us.

The eighth conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned countries held at Harare in September, 1986, in its "Special Declaration on Southern Africa", recognised more than ever before, the urgent need for concerted international action to provide assistance to the Frontline States to enable them to withstand the effects of retaliatory sanctions by the racist Pretoria regime. In this context, the Summit decided to establish the AFRICA Fund. The Committee of nine member-States established to administer the Fund subsequently met at Lusaka, Zambia, from November 24 to 26, 1986, at the level of senior officials to draw up a draft Plan of Action for the Fund. Among the recommendations made at Lusaka was the convening of a Summit meeting of the Fund Committee in New Delhi not later than the end of January, 1987. That Summit opens five days from today. Your deliberations,

distinguished delegates, and those of the Ministers to follow, are designed to set the stage for that Summit.

ABOMINATION CALLED APARTHEID

Mr. Chairman, I shall not dwell upon the abomination called Apartheid, a byword in the lexicon of contemporary history which, for civilised humanity, evokes feelings of disgust, outrage, horror and profound indignation. It is a system which is demeaning and degrading to the extreme. It is the root cause of all instability and conflict in Southern Africa. It is what keeps freedom out of the grasp of the people of South Africa and Namibia. Apartheid is as shameful as slavery was.

In India, Apartheid evokes special sentiment. Thousands of our countrymen who left these shores decades ago came to be among its victims. It was in the Phoenix settlement of Durban that the young lawyer, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, forged the powerful political weapon of 'Satyagraha', which would later propel him to return to his motherland and steer its own unique struggle for freedom.

In the years following our Independence, we have remained steadfast in our support to the cause of freedom in Africa. India was convinced that its independence was not complete unless all other countries struggling under the colonial yoke, especially in Africa, also achieved their independence.

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In 1946, India was proud to be the first country to raise, at the United Nations, the question of racial discrimination in South Africa; that very year, we led the way in voluntarily imposing unilateral sanctions against South Africa.

VISION OF TOTAL EMANCIPATION

Free India's first Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, was inspired by the vision of the potential of a totally emancipated Africa. The firm commitment of the late Smt. Indira Gandhi and now of Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to the cause of Africa follows in the same tradition.

It is, for us, a matter of special significance and honour, therefore, that the first Summit meeting of the AFRICA Fund Committee should take place on our soil.

PATHBREAKING ENDEAVOUR

The Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid Fund, known by the more familiar acronym of AFRICA Fund, is a pathbreaking and unique endeavour. It is an attempt - perhaps for the first time within the Non-aligned Movement - to translate resolve into concrete action in a systematic manner. The Movement

of Non-aligned Countries is developing from a forum for consultation on political action and is moving to the operational level.

The Front-line States of Southern Africa, and the Liberation Movements of South Africa and Namibia have, for decades now, borne the brunt of the violence of Apartheid. They have been the vanguard of mankind's struggle to rid itself of the evil of Pretoria's institutionalised racial discrimination. South Africa has systematically sought to emasculate them, to hold them to ransom, to destroy them. Freedom fighters in South Africa and Namibia have suffered torture, kidnapping, rape and murder. Nelson Mandela has remained in prison for the better part of his adult life; so did Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo, now freed because of world pressure. Many other brave persons still languish behind bars. Soweto, Sharpeville, Kassinga, Uitenhage and Crossroads are names that recall the chilling horror of innocent men, women and children murdered in cold blood. Independent African States like Angola, Mozambique, Botswana and others have, time and again, had their borders transgressed by South Africa in blatant acts of aggression, apart from attempts by it to subvert their legitimately constituted governments.

I was asked by Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to go on a special mission to the Front-line States in October last year. I had the privilege of meeting with the great leaders in these States and the Liberation Movements. Witnessing at first hand the havoc and suffering caused by the racist regime was a memorable experience. I have returned full of admiration for the courage and determination of the people and the conviction that what we do to help them must be done urgently.

GREATER CO-ORDINATION

The Non-aligned Movement, indeed the entire international community, has not been lacking in solidarity and support for the Front-line States and Liberation Movements. Many of us have tried, in our modest way, to assist SADCC as also to extend assistance and cooperation at the bilateral level. However, the Harare Summit, in setting up the AFRICA Fund, paved the way for the Movement to do much more and with greater coordination not only to repay, in some measure, its debt of gratitude to its members from Southern Africa, but to throw the gauntlet at South Africa. The Fund embodies our resolve to share the burden imposed by history and geo-politics on the independent States in Southern Africa and the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia, and to reinforce their capacity to withstand Pretoria's depredations.

We were reminded at Lusaka by His Excellency Hon. L. J. Mwanashiku, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zambia, that "disengagement from such old links with racist South Africa will obviously take time. South Africa, by engaging in a deliberate

programme to destroy our vital infrastructure, is ensuring that such disengagement takes even longer". This is a chastening thought. It is also a pointer to the fact that, notwithstanding all that we do to buttress the Front-line States and the African Liberation Movements, the problems will remain as long as Apartheid itself survives. It is only when that monster is destroyed that we can all breathe easy.

PRIORITY AREAS

Distinguished delegates, the Lusaka Meeting did commendable work. It identified the priority areas of assistance, including some specific projects, apart from addressing itself to questions such as the draft rules of procedure of the Fund, the mobilisation of resources and the mobilisation of public opinion. It also recommended a programme of further action. Much, therefore, has already been accomplished in terms of drawing up the blueprints. It is your task now to refine them, and expand and elaborate them as necessary, for presentation to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and eventual submission to the Summit.

I understand that you will also draft an Appeal for consideration by our leaders, an Appeal for support and contributions to the AFRICA Fund by the world at large, including international organisations and institutions, Non-Governmental bodies and individuals. Such an Appeal must be forthright and emotive. Together with the Plan of Action of the Fund, it will, I am confident, compel a sympathetic response.

Excellencies, Distinguished Heads of Delegations, ladies and gentlemen. Apartheid cannot last. It must and shall go. But, as Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi put it in his inaugural address at the Harare Summit - "The question starkly is: liberty now, with innocent lives saved, or liberty later, in a welter of blood".

It is my pleasure to inaugurate this preparatory meeting of senior officials. I once again wish you all success in your deliberations.

Thank you.

NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA ZAMBIA INDIA NAMIBIA ANGOLA BOTSWANA MOZAMBIQUE

Date: Jan 19, 1987

Volume No

BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Talks on Inland Water Transit and Trade

The following is a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 28, 1987 on the Indo-Bangladesh talks on inland water transport and trade:

Talks were held here this morning between India and Bangladesh to renew the protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between the two countries. The tenure of the last protocol had been for a period of two years i.e. October 4, 1984 to October 3, 1986. The protocol is a follow up of the trade agreement between India and Bangladesh. As from October 4, 1986, pending the renewal, by mutual consent, the protocol has been extended on month to month basis.

The Indian delegation to the talks is led by Shri P. P. Nayyar, Secretary,

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Ministry of Surface Transport. The Bangladesh delegation is led by Dr. Ekram Hussain, Secretary to the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Inland Waterways Transport.

In his opening remarks, Shri P. P. Nayyar, Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport said that the protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade signed in 1984, had marked a positive step in the promotion of understanding and cooperation between India and Bangladesh. The arrangements envisaged under the protocol have been found to be extremely satisfactory to both sides. The Secretary said that the major protocol routes were being utilised to the mutual benefit of our countries and in this context, what was more important, was the shared responsibility that the two countries had taken upon themselves for the development and maintenance of the inland waterways. "This by itself is an evidence of increasing cooperation between India and Bangladesh", he added.

The visiting dignitary reciprocated these sentiments and was confident that the protocol would further strengthen relationship and understanding between India and Bangladesh.

NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date: Jan 28, 1987

Volume No

DENMARK

Banquet in Honour of the Danish Premier - Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Speech

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's speech at the banquet hosted by him in honour of Mr. Poul Schuleter, Prime Minister of Denmark in New Delhi on Jan 13, 1987:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you on your first visit to India. You come as the leader of a country with whom India has enjoyed a warm and friendly relationship. You, Prime Minister, have evinced a personal interest in India. And Denmark has traditionally demonstrated a sympathy and understanding of our development concerns. We hope to show you something of the rich diversity of our land. We would also like to share with you something of the excitement of taking this ancient land forward to new horizons.

STRONG AFFINITIES

India and Denmark belong to two different cultural and historical traditions. We are at vastly different stages of economic development. And yet there are strong affinities in our common belief in freedom, democracy and human dignity. These shared convictions make the interaction between our two countries mutually enriching and rewarding.

India is engaged in the pioneering endeavour of pursuing development without compromising on the basic values of democratic pluralism. We want India to emerge economically strong while celebrating our cultural heritage and retaining the values which have built our nationhood over the last 5000 years.

HUMAN WELFARE

Denmark has not allowed itself to be mesmerized by the yardstick of the Gross National Product. The remarkable measure of human welfare which you have built into your system demonstrates your recognition that the gross national product alone does not equal gross national happi-

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ness. In too many of the developed countries, dissatisfaction has been the engine of economic development. It is dissatisfaction with the quality of goods which has acted as the spur to better goods; dissatisfaction with the level of technology which has acted as the incentive for superior technology; dissatisfaction with the level of income that has engendered the effort to higher

income. Economic progress and dissatisfaction have, thus, become intertwined. We in India are trying to avoid the pitfall of neglecting the non-economic factors in overall human development. The Danish example will stand us in good stead.

The world today is at the cross-roads of two alternative paths. One is the path of seeking security through ever-new refinements in the means of mass destruction. This path leads - literally to a dead end. The other is the path of nuclear disarmament and global cooperation. It holds the promise of the future. Reykjavik has shown that this path can be taken - and the goal reached within a reasonable time-frame. It is for us to ensure that the right path is chosen. It is our future which is at stake. We cannot leave the determination of our destiny to the nuclear weapon powers. Nor can we lapse into despair or indifference. Last week, the leaders of the Six-Nation Five-Continent Peace Initiative appealed to the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union to build upon the historic advances made at Reykjavik. The people of the world expect the two leaders to realise, in practice and on the ground, their declared objective of preventing an arms race in space and eliminating it on earth.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The global economic environment today is also a cause for concern. The dialogue for restructuring the world economy has been stalemated. A sort of weary cynicism prevails. We must not allow the present drift to continue. The growing problems of protectionism, indebtedness, huge budget deficits, and dwindling aid afflict both the developing and the developed. The impact is perhaps felt more acutely by the developing countries. But it is by no means confined to them. The developed countries are as much in need as we are of a concerted and cooperative global effort to effect global recovery on a sustained basis. That can only come through growth in the South stimulating the regeneration of the North even as stability in the North promotes the development of the South. During the dark night of the global economic crisis we went to the United Nations to talk to the North about the restructuring of the international economic order. But as soon as there was a glimmer of dawn in the economic prospects of the North we were left stranded with our hopes, like the Mermaid of Copenhagen! We need to think again in terms of bold, imaginative initiatives to harness the complementarities of the North and South to the global interests of our common planet Earth.

CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE OF NORDIC COUNTRIES

We appreciate the constructive role which the Nordic countries have been playing on North-South issues. Denmark has a special responsibility in shaping the views of the North as it is the only Nordic country in the European Economic Community. We look to you to help model the consensus in the Community on your own enlightened views.

The eyes of the world are today focussed on South Africa. The struggle against Apartheid has acquired an irresistible momentum. Pretoria seeks to stave off the inevitable by greater repression and recourse to State-sponsored terrorism. The Draconian emergency regulations imposed last year continue. There is stringent press censorship. About 25,000 people are under detention, of whom more than five thousand are mere children, many below the age of eleven. But the people of South Africa remain undaunted. Their struggle for the removal of the inhumanity and barbarism of apartheid will be crowned with victory. Some important steps were taken last year to isolate the Pretoria re-

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gime and raise the cost of apartheid. These included the imposition of economic sanctions by some countries. But this is not enough. Much more remains to be done. It must be done without further delay. The major economic partners of the racist regime are still deeply involved in the sustenance of apartheid. Every day of delay in imposing sanctions prolongs the agony of apartheid and increases the probability of terrible bloodshed. We congratulate Denmark on deciding to sever its economic links with South Africa. I hope the other countries of the European Community will follow your example.

Closer to our area, a development of considerable significance has been the formation of the South Asian Association for regional Cooperation. The countries of South Asia are faced with similar problems of underdevelopment and poverty. We all stand to gain from a peaceful environment so as to concentrate our energies on tackling common problems through collective endeavour. A number of useful initiatives were considered at the second SAARC Summit recently held in Bangalore. We hope to slowly but surely build a firm and comprehensive framework for cooperation in South Asia.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Mr. Prime Minister, bilateral relations between Denmark and India have always been cordial and mutually beneficial. We appreciate the generous assistance your country has given us, especially in the fields of social and human welfare. We both recognise the potential for expanding our cooperation further in the commercial, economic, technological and other areas.

Ladies and gentlemen may I request you to join me in proposing a toast to the health of Prime Minister and Madam Schuleter, to the well-being of the friendly people of Denmark, and to continued friendship between Denmark and India.

NMARK INDIA USA ICELAND SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Jan 13, 1987

Volume No

1995

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

India and EEC Agree on Steps to Reduce Trade Deficit

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 09, 1987 on the Indo-EEC Joint Commission meeting:

India and the European Economic Community (EEC) have agreed on several steps to reduce the trade gap and enhance cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, energy, science and technology between India and the EEC member countries.

The EEC Commission has agreed to consider further improvements in access for Indian goods in the EEC markets, in particular under the Generalised System of Preferences, in the context of the increasing trade deficit which India has been sustaining vis-a-vis the European Community. The EEC today accounts for over 40 per cent of India's global trade deficit. The Commission of the European Communities has acknowledged the seriousness of India's persistent trade deficit at the fourth session of the three-day Indo-EEC Joint Commission which concluded in Brussels yesterday.

Reviewing the deliberations of the Joint Commission Meeting, Shri P. Shiv Shanker, Commerce Minister, once again -11>

emphasised the need for some bold initiatives to be taken by the EEC for further strengthening the bilateral relations and helping redress the widening trade gap between India and the Community. Mr. Claude Cheysson, Member of the EEC Commission , maintained that the EEC Commission shared India's concern at the substantial imbalance in bilateral trade which, Mr. Cheysson described, was not a healthy state.

TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAMMES

The European Community has agreed to intensify its trade promotion programmes for Indian products. The EEC Commission is expected to assist India in respect of several trade promotion programmes during the year 1987, for which an allocation of about ECUs 1.3 million (over Rs. 1.5 crores) would be allocated by the Commission. Integrated trade promotion measures would make an important contribution to the diversification and improvement in

the structure of India's exports to the Community in the medium and long term. At the inaugural session of the Joint Commission Meeting on Tuesday, the 6th of January, Shri Shiv Shanker had drawn attention of the EEC Commission that there was need for increasing the scope of trade promotion programmes and activities executed with EEC assistance for promotion of Indian products, especially on the basis of integrated export market development projects in a long term perspective.

The Indian and EEC delegations have also decided to strengthen the basis of their economic relations by enhancing their industrial and technological cooperation. They have agreed to establish a working group on industrial cooperation. The Group is expected to hold its first meeting in India during March, 1987, in order to identify priority sectors and draw up an action programme.

UPGRADATION AND MODERNISATION

The Indian delegation pointed out some of the priority sectors in which India and EEC could cooperate. EEC could assist India in technological upgradation and modernisation of quality testing laboratories in order that the testing and certification of Indian exports could receive automatic recognition of the buyers in the Community countries. This project would also entail training facilities for the personnel to be suitably upgraded. Another project remitted by the Indian delegation for EEC assistance related to the establishment of Industrial Technology Data Bank in the Directorate General of Technical Development (DGTD) for obtaining relevant data in respect of industrial technology, analysing it, and disseminating it among entrepreneurs, industries, Government and other users in India. It was suggested that this Data Bank in India should be appropriately linked with the EEC data for productive exchange of information. The Indian side also looked for joint exploration of energy conservation measures in industrial enterprises and industrial exploitation of the non-conventional energy systems by Indian firms besides the EEC assistance for effluent treatment technology and wherewithal for leather tanneries located in clusters in areas like Calcutta, Kanpur, Agra and Madras.

LINK BETWEEN SCIENTISTS

The Indo-EEC Joint Commission has agreed also to reinforce links between scientists in the EEC and India by implementing joint research projects. The scope of joint research would cover fundamental and applied research and possible areas for future cooperation in this sector includes bio-technology, health, environment, material science, energy, agriculture and food technology. It has been decided that the air pollution monitoring project, under which five centres for this purpose are being installed in the cities of Delhi and Calcutta, would be completed during 1987 itself. These centres are being set up with the

assistance of EEC.

A decision was also taken that EEC reconsider the possibility of launching a Joint Research Project on Leprosy.
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Similarly, in the energy cooperation, a decentralised energy systems' development and commercialisation project would be implemented and new initiatives put forward in the areas of energy programming conservation and conventional energy sources. The EEC Commission suggested that cooperation between business management institutes in the EEC and India could be initiated as a part of Human Resource Development Cooperation Programme. It was decided that precise areas and institutions would be identified in India as well as in Europe.

TRILATERAL COOPERATION

The Indian delegation stressed the need for trilateral cooperation between the Community, India and other developing countries needed to be pursued and extended to include such areas as rural development, tropical agriculture and small scale industry. The community Commission responded positively to the Indian suggestion that content of the training programmes in some of the technical training institutions in India could be suitably adopted for the trainees from other developing countries, while some fellowships could also be earmarked specifically for training being conducted in specified sectors and institutions developed over the last many years in India. Some of the programmes for technical and economic assistance offered by the EEC to some of the developing countries, particularly in Africa, could be made available to India for being followed up during bilateral discussions with the recipient countries.

NEW FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

The Joint Commission broadly reviewed the on-going Community programmes for financial and technical assistance as well as food and expressed satisfaction at the way these projects were being executed by India. A number of new projects were proposed by the Indian delegation for consideration at the next Joint Programming Committee meeting in which the representatives of the Department of Economic Affairs would discuss with their counterparts from the Community. The Indian delegation put up a plea to increase the quantum of EEC development cooperation assistance as well as food aid, also to cover some of the new projects like the development of post-harvest infrastructure for deep sea fishing, extension of trout culture, cage culture for fisheries in manmade reservoirs, solar panel operated ice-making plants in coastal areas, processing of low-value fish, supply of sunflower seeds for experimentation and commercial production of cutflowers through transfer of technology through floriculture and the establishment of a tissuculture laboratory for foliage plants.

EEC assistance was also sought for demonstration farms for production of orchids, construction of cyclone shelters, coconut development programme in Kerala and sheep and goat farms in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The successful contribution of operation flood to the development of India's dairy sector was noted by the Community. The Indian delegation requested for continuance of food aid for Operation Flood-III, emphasising that India was far from self-sufficient in the production of milk, the per capita consumption being only 147 grams per capita per day during the year 1985-86. The quantum of food aid assistance for this project would necessitate supply of milk powder to the extent of 15,000 tonnes and another 5,000 tonnes of butter oil.

Pointing out that a special cooperation agreement as proposed by the EEC for development of fisheries in India was not permissible, the Indian delegation enumerated some of the salient features of the new policy on deep sea fishing. The policy had been significantly liberalised of late and the Community member countries would find it productive.

The Indian delegation, led by Commerce Minister Shiv Shanker, included Shri Prem Kumar, Commerce Secretary, Shri Raghu Dayal, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Shri S. K. Lal, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of In--13>

dustry, Smt. Usha Vohra, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. U Trivedi, Director in the Department of Science and Technology. Shri J. L. Bajaj, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Shri R. S. Ratohre, Director in the Ministry of External Affairs, besides Shri N. P. Jain, Indian Ambassador to the EEC and Shri R. Badrinath, Minister (Economic) in the Indian Embassy at Brussels.

DIA USA BELGIUM

Date: Jan 09, 1987

Volume No

1995

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Indo-GDR Agreement on TV

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi

on Jan 29, 1987 on the Indo-GDR agreement on TV:

India and the German Democratic Republic signed in Berlin today an agreement on co-operation in the field of television. It was signed by the Indian Ambassador, Shri Prem Kumar Budhwar, and Mr. Heinz Adameck, Chairman of the State Committee for Television of the Council of Ministers of GDR.

In order to develop and consolidate the cooperation between the TV organisations of both the countries, the agreement provides for exchange of TV programmes reflecting the social, economic, cultural and sports activities of both the countries, and educational, light entertainment, children's and youth programmes. The agreement provides for both non-commercial and commercial exchanges.

Both countries will exchange senior staff members for studying the experience gained in different fields of TV.

The agreement which comes into force on the date of signature will be initially valid for a period of five years after which it can be automatically extended by mutual agreement.

It may be recalled that India and GDR signed in Berlin an agreement in the field of Radio a few days ago.

DIA GERMANY

Date: Jan 29, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Conference in Memory of Smt. Indira Gandhi - Prime Minister'sInaugural Address

The following is the iuaugural address by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the Conference "Towards New Beginnings" organised by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in memory of Smt. Indira Gandhi in New Delhi on Jan 12, 1987:

Indira Gandhi would have been very happy amidst this impressive galaxy of intellectuals from so many countries. This Conference is a tribute she would have been proud of, for she recognised how ideals and values shaped the new beginnings that we are searching for.

In her formative years and in my early years, we spent a lot of time with the most unusual person, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Jawaharlal Nehru loved humanity, he was curious about the world, he

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was full of reverence for life; he believed in science as a vehicle for deliverance from the miseries that humanity faced. Yet he knew that science had no answers to some questions of the soul.

On being called wise, he remarked, "wise men often behave in a very foolish manner". He went on to say at the United Nations, "That thought makes me often doubt my own wisdom. I question myself 'Am I right?' He confessed to many doubts; yet he had no doubts about what Mahatma Gandhi had told us - that hatred and violence are essentially bad and evil and that anything which promotes hatred is bad. Gandhiji's truth is a basic truth. It is the basic issue before humankind today.

Many things which are wrong can be corrected by science, by socially directed technology - such as hunger, disease, illiteracy, the pollution of the environment. Yet with the development of technology and communications, which could have given reality and substance to a concept of one planet and one human family, we find that we have not taken adequate steps to move in that direction.

LOYALTY TO HUMANITY

The challenge of new beginnings is how to combat the fractionalising loyalties, sympathies, understanding, and replace loyalty to a part of humanity by loyalty to the whole of humanity. We should take the help of two great Indian traditions, - first, the tradition of absorbing, assimilating and synthesising all that has been best in every culture, while not losing one's own identity and one's own culture, evolving a unity out of a diversity; secondly, the basic philosophy of nonalignment, whether one keeps the terminology of Non-alignment or replaces that with some new term. The basic concept is what is important: not aligned to a part, or to a section, or to a group, or a bloc, but to the whole of the world. As taught by Gandhiji and Panditji, this translates into a very basic humanism.

Over the years, we have developed tremendous knowledge and capacity to kill each other, to destroy each other. Will we be able to develop a wisdom to save ourselves and to save humanity? Has civilisation really progressed? Are we really better than the generations that have gone by? Are we really more evolved? Sometimes, when I visit the less developed parts of India, and meet our tribal people, I wonder who is more civilised. Are we deceiving ourselves by covering the same basic animal instinct in very sophisticated words? Are we really dealing with violence

which today is represented by terrorism, whether by individuals or by States. In a sense the very concept of power - blocs is a concept of violence. Spheres of influence, strategic interests, the arms race, even Apartheid, are all representing violence, the same basic animal instinct.

We have exchanged the club for a nuclear missile. But we have not changed our ways of thinking and our ways of action. Science cannot remedy violence, perhaps it even aggravates the problems by making violence more pervasive, more portable, more peremptory. The key question is how to train people of a particular religion, of a particular nation, of a particular 'ism' to recognise, that they are not very different from other religions, other nations, and other 'isms'.

NEED FOR COMPASSION

If the roots of violence are in hatred, then surely the remedy must come from compassion; compassion grows through a sense of affinity, a sense of kinship, a sense of knowing each other better. The conundrum of our age is why the human mind, which has devised incredibly complicated mechanisms to harnes nature to man's needs, finds it impossible to deal with simple, self-evident truths? Is it not self-evident and beyond dispute that a nuclear armoury will spell destruction in minutes, perhaps seconds, of everything which has made life pleasant and fulfilling? Why then the bomb? Why then the nuclear arms race? In the 19th century, Hegel

and Marx and many others said that ideas, thoughts and concepts would prevail over contending forces. Yet in the 20th century, we find machines having a logic of their own which inexorably prevent the prevailing of ideas and thought and wisdom. Pragmatism has become the call of the day, a sell-out to short-term interests. If we are to have new beginnings at all shall we not first have to foreclose an imminent end?

Assuming human survival, our challenge is that of overcoming the stagnation and degradation of poverty for a life of hope and progress. That should be not only our priority, but a world priority, since resources and money exist to transform the world from a world of extreme deprivation and obscene surpluses to a world of assured necessities and equitable opportunities. But human imagination is wasted on bizarre scenarios of war, not prosperity at all. Can new beginnings become new as long as scientific talent focusses on the war machine? Can new beginnings be made till we refocus ourselves on the task of building humanity?

NEW CHALLENGES - NEW RESPONSES

In our development process two questions have arisen. First, how

to overcome the inertia of the past ideals, which have had past success. Development is flux. It is the process of changing circumstances. Ideals are the key to that change. But all solutions are treated as permanently valid, even sacrosanct. After the circumstances have changed, development just becomes hostage to earlier insights and to earlier wisdoms that in the current circumstances are often obsolescent. In moving to new beginnings, we must make continuous, adaptations to continuous change. We need a firm policy framework of fundamental values, basic perceptions and ultimate goals, but within that framework, we need bold, revolutionary and innovative thinking. Alas! success sometimes breeds temerity. The attitude of, "If a formula has worked, why not carry on with that formula, why not keep it as it is?" still pervades. We cannot leave this as it is. Development is the pressure for more change. Resting our oars is drifting backwards. New beginnings need new ideas. New challenges need new responses. A mountainside scaled is a precusor only to the next mountainside.

The second question is that economic development does not necessarily lead to greater human fulfilment and satisfaction. We have seen from the experience of many developed countries that dissatisfaction seems to be the engine of development. Dissatisfaction with what one has, with the quality of goods, with the levels of technology, with the levels of income, with services, becomes an incentive for better quality goods, for better technology, for better income, for better services. In a mechanical sense, the negative approach of dissatisfaction gives a tremendous spur to development and to the process of success. But if dissatisfaction is the motor, the thrust, behind our development, it cannot by definition lead to fulfilment and satisfaction of the human being. Should we not be looking for something deeper, something more, as the engine behind our development process? In India we have no doubt that economic development is absolutely necessary and it is our highest priority to overcome the consequences of poverty. But we feel that we must avoid the trap of making dissatisfaction the motor of our development.

We must develop more positive thinking to channel our energies, to base economic development on the moral and ethical structures of a traditional civilisation. The Bhagavad Gita says that there is no contradiction between perfect equanimity and the relentless call to duty and action because a call to action is delinked from the fruit of that action. It says: "Action is thy duty, the fruit is not thy concern."

PRESERVING THE BEST OF OUR PAST

In making new beginnings in the closing years of the 20th century, we must renew ourselves through the umblical -16>

cord stretching back 5000 years into our civilisation. Economic development and nation building generate their own stresses, strains and tensions. Economic progress cannot be purchased by sacrificing ethical values. It will leave us stranded in a moral desert. Through 5000 years, India has seen great successes, great despair, famous victories, massive defeats, high achievements, and utter failures. Yet our traditions have shored us up. They have maintained us as a nation. Those traditions need even more strengthening today in the face of new beginnings. The key question is how to preserve the best in our past, as we forge ahead to new great calls for the future.

I have asked many questions. Every question contains the seeds of an answer. Yet every answer germinates seeds of another question. The search continues. We are always poised between old ends and new beginnings. Indira Gandhi would have been deeply moved that in her name and her memory, so many distinguished persons have gathered to gaze with their minds and imagination into the future, with their feet planted firmly in the foundations of the past.

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate this Conference.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 12, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

President's Republic Day Message

The following is the text of the president, Giani Zail Singh's message to the Nation on the eve of the Republic Day:

On the eve of our 38th Republic Day tomorrow, I extend to you all, my countrymen, my most cordial greetings and warm wishes.

Republic Day reminds us of the lofty ideals of socialism, secularism and democracy we set for ourselves. It is also an occasion to rededicate ourselves to the high values of justice, liberty and equality, we solemnly resolved to secure to all the citizens of the Republic.

On this sacred day, my thoughts go to those men and women who went through untold sufferings and made tremendous sacrifices to

liberate the country from foreign domination. I pay my respectful homage to their hallowed memory.

UNITY AND INTEGRITY

It is the foremost duty of every citizen to maintain the unity and defend the integrity of the nation. Our hard won freedom has to be protected at all costs and the forces of disunity and disruption have to be defeated in their designs. Since I spoke to you on this occasion last year, there has been an escalation in violence in some parts of the country. Communal and divisive forces are threatening to weaken the fabric of our secular society. Our democratic system and federal structure provide the necessary mechanism for people to voice their genuine grievances and seek peaceful solutions. Timely action should be taken to look into the grievances and take remedial action. We should not allow an atmosphere of distrust to develop.

On an occasion like this we should dispassionately take stock of our successes and failures and move forward with hope and determination. Over the past six years, the economy has grown at five per cent or higher. Despite persistent drought, our agriculture has demonstrated a remarkable resilience, and foodgrain production has crossed the 150 million tonnes mark. The country has large stocks of foodgrains which ensure food security. Industrial growth has been buoyant thanks to the dynamism of the new industries. But at the same time there are certain areas of concern which require our attention like population growth, unemploy--17>

ment, prices, and some persisting social evils. It is not the Government alone nor the people alone who can effectively deal with these problems. It requires the combined efforts of the Government and the people to bring these problems under control.

FAMILY WELFARE

The real benefits of development can be had in the long run only if we tackle our population growth effectively. In this task the active participation and cooperation of the people have to be enlisted. Family welfare should be developed into a mass movement. Social and attitudinal changes have to be brought about through sustained endeavours. Voluntary organisations have to supplement the efforts of the Government in this regard.

The country is facing a gigantic unemployment problem. The government has taken several measures to generate more employment opportunities both in the urban and rural areas. But the task is so stupendous that some more innovative steps will be needed in the coming years.

Since Independence, we have reversed the ratio of those living

above and below the poverty line. Instead of two-thirds, now about 36 per cent of our rural population is living below the poverty line. The programmes for the poor have been substantially stepped up in the recent years. The structure of the society in rural areas is such that the poor are in a highly vulnerable position. They have to be saved from exploitation. It is, therefore, necessary to have massive programmes for the alleviation of poverty and ensure that every rupee that is provided for these programmes confers the intended benefits on the beneficiaries. It is of utmost importance to simultaneously keep a check on the prices.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Acceleration of industrial growth is essential for our economic development.

The balanced growth of agriculture and industry and the production of mass consumption goods of high quality at reasonable prices must remain a central theme of our policies. We should take note of the rise in trade deficit from Rupees 5318 crores during the previous year to Rupees 8616 crores in 1985-86. The exports have started showing a rising trend. We should make sustained efforts to wipe out the trade deficit. I hope our industry will show the necessary dynamism to respond to the needs of the economy.

The Directive Principles of State Policy enjoin upon every Government the obligation to secure a system which may provide children with opportunities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity. Children and youth are to be protected against exploitation and moral and material abandonment. In this area, though the country has made commendable progress, there is still great scope for accelerating our efforts to reach the desired goal. Children and youth should be safeguarded from the evil influences of casteism and communalism. They should be enabled to develop an egalitarian outlook and contribute to orderly social change and national reconstruction. We should also keep in focus our obligation to promote the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people including the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes.

Women have always been given a highly respectable place in our society. Though during the last four decades a great deal has been done to curb the social evils like dowry women are subjected to, there is still much more to be done to secure for them their rightful place in our society as equal partners in our progress and prosperity.

HIGH SPIRITUAL AND MORAL VALUES

In a country where for centuries the people have set for

themselves high spiritual and moral values, it is unfortunate -18>

that with the advent of economic progress some people have found it convenient to abandon these values. Adulteration of food and drugs, blackmarketing, tax evasion and corruption have become serious problems in our society. We must tackle them with determination so that the fruits of progress will be available to one and all equitably.

India is the largest democracy in the world. We have a significant role to play in international affairs. We have consistently taken a bold stand on international issues and raise our voice in favour of the weak, the oppressed and the exploited. We have tried to focus world attention on the need for nuclear disarmament as also for imposing mandatory sanctions against the racist regime of South Africa.

The recent visit of the Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev has reaffirmed our friendship with USSR. We appreciate the sincerity and steadfastness of the Soviet Union. Ours is, perhaps the best example of bilateral relationship and enduring cooperation. In the true spirit of Non-alignment, India seeks close and friendly relations with all nations, irrespective of blocs and political systems. We shall continue to work for greater cohesion in the Non-aligned Movement and for greater understanding with our immediate neighbours.

The security of the nation is our foremost concern. Our Armed Forces have been maintaining constant vigil on our borders, along our long coastline and in our national air space. They have been keeping in step with modern defence technology and have been upgrading their skills to face any challenge. They have also assisted civil authorities in natural calamities and in our hours of needs. They are a symbol of national unity. They deserve the nation's deep appreciation for their high morale, discipline and dedicated service.

CONSTITUTION AND LAW

To conclude, I would like to say, my brothers and sisters, that the Constitution has enjoined upon me as President the duty to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the Law. I have at all times done my best to discharge this duty with devotion. I have endeavoured my utmost to maintain and strengthen the unity of India.

Let all religions flourish, all cultures blossom and all regions thrive. But it is of paramount importance for us to remember that we are one country, one nation, one people. To survive as such, we have to rise above all narrow considerations and take pride in our common identity and single entity as Indians. We share a common destiny and must strive to build a brighter future for

A INDIA SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Jan 12, 1987

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Banquet in Honour of Malaysian Premier - Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Speech

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's speech at the banquet hosted by him in honour of Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, in New Delhi on Jan 29, 1987:

Prime Minister, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to -19>

welcome you and the distinguished members of your delegation. We meet as good friends. Our two peoples have close historical ties. Today we are together in the great endeavours of peace and development.

Both our nations have shaped a unity out of vibrant diversity. We have both adopted the path of parliamentary democracy. We are engaged in bringing about the economic transformation of our societies through participation and consent. As Non-aligned nations we want the same spirit of democracy, the same ideal of diversity-in-unity, the same concept of participation, to permeate international relations. It is the absence of this that leads to tension, economic injustice and attempts to impose partisan relationships. The problems caused by domination, distrust and disparity can be resolved only on the basis of coexistence and equality among nations.

We live in an age of anxiety and tension, conflict and rivalry. The dominant fact of our time is the confrontation between nuclear -weapon powers. The only right response on our part is to strengthen the forces of peace and security through persistently enlarging the areas of cooperation.

EVENTFUL HISTORIES

Malaysia and India have old and eventful histories. We are young

as sovereign nations. Our first concern, naturally, is to defend and consolidate our freedom and make it meaningful for our millions. We are deepening the roots of unity in the hearts of our people and endowing our independence with economic content. We are transforming our once exploited economies into self-reliant, technologically modern economies meeting the immediate and ultimate needs of our peoples. We have laid stress on building a national base of science and technology and on new methods of raising productivity.

INDIGENOUS STRENGTH

Economic progress demands greater reliance on indigenous strength and, in an inter-dependent world, greater cooperation amongst nations. In various parts of the world there is growing emphasis on a regional approach to common economic problems. You in ASEAN and we in SAARC are attempting this in our own ways. Regional cooperation must lead to a new international order.

There is a good and growing economic cooperation between Malaysia and India. Malaysia, under your dynamic leadership, is striving for excellence in several fields. We are glad that Indian enterprise and technology are playing some part in these efforts. This collaboration has to be developed to its full potential in the spirit of South-South cooperation.

COMMENDABLE INITIATIVE

Prime Minister, you took a commendable initiative in the establishment of the South Commission. You have our support. We have just had a visit from Dr. Julius Nyerere, the distinguished world statesman who heads the Commission. The South must develop greater strength and cohesion in order to have a beneficial dialogue with the North.

The bright future we seek is contingent on peace-peace in our part of the world and peace throughout the globe. Malaysia and India are littoral States of the Indian Ocean. Fifteen years ago, the United Nations declared that the Indian Ocean should be a Zone of peace. But it continues to be an arena of increasing military rivalry. We have a joint responsibility to resist and reverse this trend.

SIX-NATION INITIATIVE

Peace is indivisible. The concepts of power blocs and spheres of influence have multiplied conflicts and tensions. The Non-aligned Movement has from the outset recognised this. We have striven to enlarge the area of peace by staying out of military alliances. We are active in pointing out the terrible implications of the growth in nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament occupies a high place in our agenda of

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action. In this, the Non-aligned Movement is being supported by a growing sentiment for peace and nuclear disarmament even within countries belonging to military alliances. The response to the Six-Nation Initiative for Peace bears this out.

DELHI DECLARATION

India's struggle for freedom and its adoption of Non-alignment were guided by allegiance to non-violence and the ideal of human equality. The principles that we have been advocating over the years have found new expression in the Delhi Declaration signed during the recent visit to India by General Secretary Gorbachev. We hope that this document will find universal acceptance.

While new scourges like the bomb loom, old scourges linger. The most odious of them is racism, so shamelessly practised in South Africa. We have just had a meeting in New Delhi of the AFRICA Fund which was established at Harare to support the victims of racism. I remember your strong stand on Apartheid at Nassau, Lyford Cay and Harare.

The question of Kampuchea is of concern to us. The people of that country have been subjected to a mass genocide by the vicious Pol Pot regime. The problems of the region should be resolved through dialogue. The Kampuchean people have a right to determine their destiny free from coercion and interference.

Prime Minister, it is always a privilege to exchange views with you. The understanding between us and our countries stems from our shared perspectives. Fortified by our ancient cultural ties, we are seeking to carry forward the process of development within a framework of a new international awareness.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I invite you to join me in wishing long life and happiness to His Excellency the Prime Minister of Malaysia, prosperity and well being to the friendly people of Malaysia, and increasing friendship and cooperation between our two peoples.

LAYSIA INDIA USA ZIMBABWE BAHAMAS CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 29, 1987

Volume No

1995

NORWAY

India and Norway Sign Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 16, 1987 on the signing of a cultural exchange programme between India and Norway:

A programme of cultural, educational and scientific co-operation between India and Norway was signed here today. The programme, in implementation of the Cultural Agreement signed between the two Governments at Oslo in 1961, is for the period 1987-89. While Shri Man Mohan Singh, Joint Secretary (Culture) in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, signed the programme on behalf of India, Mr. Knut Sverre, Director-General in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signed it on behalf of the Kingdom of Norway. The signing of the programme followed the second meeting of the Permanent Joint Committee set up under the Cultural Agreement here on January 12 last.

The programme envisages continued co-operation between the two countries in the fields of education, science, art and culture, health, television, radio and -21>

cinema, sports and youth, particularly through exchange of scholars, writers, artists, museologists and specialists in various fields, like archaeology and theatre. The programme also provides for the development of institutional links between universities and institutions of higher learning in specific fields, specially Indian and Norwegian studies, and between libraries and archives. The two countries will participate in each other's film festivals and book fairs. Exchange of youth delegations, materials and publications on various programmes also forms part of the programme. The two countries will also cooperate in the field of public health.

RWAY INDIA USA **Date**: Jan 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bhutan Foreign Minister's Visit

The following is the statement made by the official spokesman of

the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 01, 1987:

The Foreign Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Dawa Tshering is presently on a four-day official visit to India. During his stay in Delhi he will be calling on Shri N. D. Tiwari, the External Affairs Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister for Human Resources Development and Shri K. C. Pant, Minister for Steel and Mines.

This afternoon he had a meeting with the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh when a widerange of bilateral regional items were discussed.

During his stay in Delhi the Foreign Minister of Bhutan will also attend the 23rd Board Meeting of the Chuka hydel project. The Chuka hydel project is the largest Indo-Bhutanese project and on its completion will generate 336 MW of power.

UTAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Jan 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Reports of Naval Exercises Denied

The following is the statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 02, 1987:

There have been a number of reports in the Pakistan Press suggesting that Indian Navy ships conducting exercises near Pakistani territorial waters had seized 46 Pakistani fishing trawlers alongwith over 900 crew members since November 1986. These reports are totally unfounded. The facts of the case are that no naval exercises have been conducted by India near Pakistani territorial waters and no seizures of Pakistani fishing trawlers have been effectuated by Indian naval units. However, in recent weeks 16 Pakistani trawlers were captured by Indian coastal authorities whilst the trawlers were illegally fishing in Indian waters. Particulars of the captured vessels alongwith the list of crew members have been furnished to the Pakistan Government.

All Pakistani crew members will be dealt with under the law and thereafter repatriated after serving their sentences, -22>

if any. In fact of these 227 captured persons, 12 members of the crew taken into custody in the initial incident in October'86 have already been returned to Pakistan.

It is hoped that such unfounded allegations will not be made in future since it is our sincere endeavour to improve bilateral relations in the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date: Jan 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Minister's Visit to Moscow

The following is the statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 15, 1987:

As a follow up to the visit of Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary CPSU, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh, will be proceeding to Moscow for official discussions from the 18th to 20th January, 1987. He will be accompanied by Shri G. K. Arora, Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's office.

The former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri V. N. Gadgil, will represent India at the Martin Luther King birthday celebrations at Atlanta in USA on January 19, 1987.

SSIA INDIA USA

Date: Jan 15, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Negotiations on Afghanistan

The following is the statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 16, 1987:

India has all along stood for a negotiated political settlement of the Afghan problem and has been supportive of the initiative taken by the UN Secretary-General in that regard. The Government of India have noted the recent decision of the Afghanistan Government to initiate a process of national reconciliation and the announcement of a unilateral ceasefire. We regard these steps as positive developments. It is our earnest hope that these developments will help in finding an early political settlement.

GHANISTAN INDIA

Date: Jan 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Serious Concern Over Pakistan Army Movements

The following is the statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 24, 1987:

The spokesman of the Ministry of Defence drew attention yesterday to our serious concern following the considerable forward movement of formations of the Pakistan army from normal locations to near battle positions in different sectors of the Indo-Pakistan border. These moves have compelled us to take corresponding defensive measures we consider necessary.

The Government of India remains committed to the normalisation and improvement of relations with Pakistan in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla agreement. We firmly believe that all issues between the two countries should be resolved peacefully through dialogue and discussion. It was in keeping -23>

with this spirit that the Prime Minister had already yesterday informed the Pakistani Ambassador that India would like to see

the situation on the borders de-escalated expeditiously.

In consonance with our general approach we are ready to hold talks with Pakistan to de-escalate the situation with the level, venue and timing of such talks to be settled through diplomatic channels.

KISTAN USA INDIA MALI

Date: Jan 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

SINGAPORE

India-Singapore Air Talks

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 27, 1887 on the India-Singapore air talks:

India and Singapore have agreed for operation of Indian Airlines between the two countries without any intermediate stop. These services are to be operated within the existing entitlement and have been agreed to for a period of six months.

This follows discussions held here recently between the two countries. The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Shri Vivek Patnaik, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Singapore delegation was led by Mr. Pek, Director.

Under the agreement, likewise, Singapore Airlines can route its services beyond Bombay to Karachi and Dhahran without exercising traffic rights. This arrangement will also be for a period of six months only.

PUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date: Jan 27, 1887

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Inauguration of Indo-Soviet Investment Centre - Shri VengalaRao's Address

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 27, 1987 on the Indo-Soviet Investment Centre:

Inaugurating the Indo-Soviet Investment Centre in New Delhi today, the Industry Minister, Shri J. Vengala Rao expressed the hope that the Centre will help towards establishment of enterprises with Indo-Soviet cooperation involving transfer of technology.

The Minister observed: "Shri Jawaharlal Ji, the architect of modern India had a glorious dream of bringing together the world in oneness of friendly cooperation among all the countries. He planted the seed of Indo-Soviet cooperation and nurtured it. After him Smt. Indira Gandhi carried out that mission for cooperation. During her tenure she established several infrastructural projects with Indo-Soviet collaboration. Recently, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, -24>

our esteemed, young and dynamic Prime Minister, has strengthened the bond of cooperation between India and USSR through the signing of agreements between the two countries.

MONUMENT OF PROGRESS

Looking into the fields of Indo-Soviet cooperation the scintillating saga of BHEL, is known to everybody today. Technological help from USSR made possible the coming of BHEL Haridwar plant, a monument of cooperation and progress. Another field is exploration with Soviet increasing friendship by way of know how, the ONGC oil rig.

The foundation of Indo-Soviet cooperation was laid in the setting up of the Bhilai steel plant many years ago. The Mathura refinery today ranks as one of the sophisticated among the refineries of India which is an achievement of Indo-USSR cooperation. Yet another example is the Vindyachal super thermal power station in collaboration with USSR.

VISIT OF GORBACHEV

Our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had said at the time of Mikhail Gorbachev's visit during November 1986 that the visit showed the importance that the Soviet Union attached to India. The two countries were determined to stretch to the full the vast potential for mutual beneficial cooperation and the new chapter in our long story of cooperation, the chapter that will bring happiness and fulfilment to millions, the Prime Minister stated.

The establishment of Indo-Soviet Investment Centre is yet another landmark in this direction.

During the last 4-5 years the Government has approved foreign collaboration proposals - as many as 4000 - averaging about 1000 proposals a year, in fields like electronics, industrial machinery, process control instruments, oil exploration, drilling, drugs and pharmaceuticals and other petro-chemical fields. The Government is also encouraging upgradation of technology in coal, mining, underground gassification and other fields. The above will reflect the technology transfer in various fields, and such technology transfer includes public sector agencies, private sector and there may be many more areas in which the transfer of technology including modernisation, upgradation will be encouraged by the Government in the years to come.

I am aware that India-USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry has got more than 1200 members representing largescale industries, public sector enterprises and a very large number of medium and small scale industries and business houses. You have also organised some seminars and some conferences in which the Governmental agencies in Moscow and the Soviet Embassy had extended their full cooperation and support. I am given to understand that the Soviet authorities have supplied Indo-USSR Chamber of Commerce with as many as 500-600 joint ventures and technology transfers. There is scope for private sector, small scale sector and medium scale sector in which there will be technology transfers.

GUIDANCE AND SERVICE

The Indo-Soviet Investment Centre in this Chamber will have Soviet experts and Indian consultants for rendering guidance and exchange of information with Indian entrepreneurs. The Centre is expected to render advice to prospective entrepreneurs and setting up of joint ventures in India and with Soviet cooperation, in third world countries. Our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, referring to the visit of Mikhail Gorbachev as a major landmark in bilateral relations, stated that he has reaffirmed the strong friendship between the two countries. The Prime Minister had further stated that the outcome of Mikhail Gorbachev's visit would be significant for bilateral ties. The opening of the Investment Centre is in furtherance of the agreement signed by the Prime Minister towards strengthening Indo-soviet friendship."

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TRADE TURNOVER

The trade turnover between India and the Soviet Union is expected to be two and a half times more than current levels by 1992. In pursuance of the agreement to this effect between India and the

USSR during the visit of General Secretary Mr. Gorbachev, efforts are being made by both sides to achieve this goal. The setting up of an Indo-Soviet Investment Centre is an important step in the process of diversifying and strengthening trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Presiding over the opening of the Centre here today, Shri P. R. Dasmunshi, Minister of State for Commerce, said the launching of the Centre, inaugurated by the Industry Minister, was a milestone in Indo-Soviet relations.

Shri Dasmunshi said the Centre would play an important role in supplementing trade exchanges with other forms of cooperation including joint ventures, collaboration and investment in production and cooperation in services between the two countries.

There is growing awareness of the need for disseminating information about capabilities on each side so that industries in India and the Soviet Union could interact and the complementarities of the two economies could be exploited effectively.

FOLLOW-UP OF AGREEMENTS

Shri Dasmunshi said production cooperation between India and the USSR was being discussed in detail as a followup of the agreements on trade and industrial cooperation. This could take the form of technology transfer, production sharing, supply and purchase of various components and third country marketing. Similarly, there was tremendous scope for setting up of 100 per cent export-oriented units in India as also for establishment of joint ventures in a number of fields.

Referring to the Indo-Soviet Trade Plan for 1987, Shri Dasmunshi said efforts were on to diversify exports to the USSR and also to maximise both imports and exports of machinery. Under the trade protocol for 1987 signed in November last, several new items have been added to the list of India's imports from the Soviet Union, including cooking coal, soda ash, PVC, antimony, Kraft paper, raw hides, synthetic textile fibres and wood pulp. Provisions for imports of oil, fertilisers, steel products and non-ferrous metals from the Soviet Union have also been increased. As a measure of liberalisation, the Minister pointed out that more than 110 machines meant for garment and hosiery industry had been placed on Open General Licence for imports and duty concessions were being allowed for import of project-type capital machinery.

Shri Dasmunshi said that India in turn was in a position to offer technology and equipment relating to textiles, leather goods, automobile components, metallurgy, machine tools, chemicals and petro-chemicals, pharmaceuticals, agricultural and mining machinery, electronics and computer software. In the services sector, Indian firms had the capability to undertake on a turnkey

basis projects relating to hotels, cement plants and civil construction.

Shri Dasmunshi expressed the hope that the newly-launched Centre would promote awareness of possibilities and prospects on both sides by disseminating information on rules governing investment and repatriation of profits in both countries. He said the Centre could also identify existing investment opportunities.

The Minister observed that in 1985 there was tremendous growth in Indo-Soviet bilateral trade turnover which crossed Rs. 4400 crores. Last year, despite lower rupee resource generation in the USSR due to fall in oil prices, the final turnover was satisfactory. Every effort was being made to enhance trade and economic cooperation and there was -26>

growing realisation that the structure of trade would have to be diversified to avoid excessive dependence on a few individual items

The Minister complimented the Indo-USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its role in furthering Indo-Soviet ties.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date: Jan 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

India and USSR Sign Protocol on Machine Building and Production

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 28, 1987 on the signing of a protocol between India and USSR on machine building and production:

A protocol was signed today in New Delhi between the Governments of USSR and India at the conclusion of the second session of Indo-Soviet Working Group on Machine Building and Production Cooperation.

This session was held from 24 to 28 January. The Indian side was led by Shri A. Prasad, Joint Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Industry while the Soviet side was headed by Mr. Y. K. Diakanov, Head of the Department of USSR

State Planning Committee.

The protocol outlines areas of longterm production cooperation together with induction of new technologies and manufacture of a new generation of a variety of equipment by heavy machine builders in India like Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited. These areas include various industrial sectors like metallurgical, mining, power generation, chemical and automotive sectors.

The working group reviewed the progress achieved in various fields of production cooperation between the two countries and noted with satisfaction that out of more than 177 fields/items identified tentatively for production cooperation, considerable progress has been achieved in respect of a number of them within a short period of about six months.

DIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Jan 28, 1987

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Textile Exports to Go Up by 40 Per Cent

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 19, 1987 on the Indo-Swedish textile agreement:

India and Sweden have signed a bilateral textile agreement which is expected to increase India's exports of textiles and clothing to Sweden by about 40 per cent during the current year over the 1986 levels. As a result of increased access provided in the agreement, estimated exports of textiles to Sweden in 1987 will be of the order of Rs. 45 crores against exports of Rs. 32 crores last year.

The agreement was signed on Sunday evening at the end of five-day negotiations by Dr. J. K. Bagchi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, who led the Indian delegation and Ambassador Lennart Watz, who led the Swedish delegation.

Under the new agreement, Indian items i.e. (traditional folklore textile items) Will continue to be exempt from restraints, while

for the first time handloom made-up products have been freed from quantitative restrictions. For handloom garments, additional quotas have been provided over and above the quotas available for corresponding mill-made garments.

PRODUCT COVERAGE

The agreement envisages reduction in product coverage under trade restrictions on a progressive pattern. As against 10 product-groups subject to restraints in the earlier agreement, only six groups will be subject to restrictions by January 1, 1990. The products that are to be phased out of trade restraints during the life of the agreement are items like shirts, table linen, curtains, bedspreads, furnishings and omnibus products classified under broad groups.

Better flexibilities have been provided as also increased growth rates on an escalating basis. The agreement also incorporates safeguard provisions in regard to protection of historical access as well as protection in the case of any additional restrictive trade measures.

The agreement is valid for a period of five years from January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1991 with a provision for extension for one more year subject to consent by both sides.

Since the earlier agreement had expired in December, 1986, it has been provided that the earlier agreement may be extended from January 1, 1987 to June 30, 1987 for operational convenience, with the levels to be adjusted later.

It may be mentioned that textile agreements between Sweden and developing countries including India had contained many restrictive features and Sweden had been justifying it under the Minimum Viable Production or the Nordic Clause of the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) to restrict the access of developing countries to the market in textiles and clothing.

The earlier term of the textile agreement between India and Sweden expired on December 31, 1986 and the first round of negotiations held in Stockholm in December 1986 to renegotiate a new agreement proved inconclusive as Sweden was not prepared to bring about improvements in the sector of handlooms. India, however, has been insistent that the new textile agreement should embody improved terms including liberalisation in handloom textiles. India justified this insistence on three main grounds. First, India has a special relationship with Sweden and India has been having a widening adverse balance of trade with that country; second, the renewed Multifibre Arrangement enjoins on the importing country members of the MFA an obligation to bring about positive improvements in the access terms of the new bilateral agreement and third, all the new bilateral textile agreements concluded during the past three months with major

importing countries embody improved terms as compared to the earlier ones. Because of the insistence of India for bringing about improvements in the agreement with Sweden which happened to be the last in the series of agreements negotiated by India, the renewal agreement contains improved terms of access in many areas and makes for enlarged access to Swedish markets during the coming five years.

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EDEN INDIA USA

Date: Jan 19, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Agreement Signed to Set up U.S.-India Rupee Fund

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 07, 1987 on the agreement signed by India and the USA to set up a rupee fund:

An agreement was signed here today between India and the USA for the setting up of a US-India rupee fund for educational, cultural and scientific cooperation. The agreement was signed by Shri S. Venkitaramanan, Finance Secretary and the U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean on behalf of their respective Governments.

The initial capital of this fund is approximately Rs. 127.5 crores. This amount has been provided from the interest bearing rupee holdings of the US Government presently with certain commercial banks in India. This fund is intended to be utilised for financing collaborative activities in cultural, educational, scientific and other fields as agreed to by the two Governments. The life of the fund is 10 years. During this period the entire corpus of the fund and the interest earned on it is expected to be fully committed for mutually agreed collaborative activities.

A INDIA

Date: Jan 07, 1987

Volume No

VIET NAM

Foreign Minister of Viet Nam Hosts Dinner in Honour of ShriTiwari

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1987 on the banquet by the Foreign Minister of Viet Nam to the visiting Indian Minister of External Affairs, Shri N. D. Tiwari:

Speaking at a banquet hosted by the Vietnamese Foreign Minister Mr. Nguyen Co Thach in Hanoi yesterday, the External Affairs Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari called upon his Vietnamese hosts to strive together with India to further consolidate mutual relations in all fields with long term perspective and in a spirit of South-South cooperation for mutual benefit. Recalling the contribution of the late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Ho Chi Minh towards building up the time-tested friendship between the two countries, Shri Tiwari stressed that as both nations have suffered from past ravages of colonialism both have great responsibility to liquidate the sorry colonial inheritance of mutual rivalry, violence and conflict in Asia. This can be done only through adherence to the principles of Non-alignment, he added.

Speaking about Kampuchea, Shri Tiwari stressed that the genocide perpetrated by Pol Pot and his associates deserved the severest condemnation by all civilised sections of world opinion. He added that the problem of Kampuchea can only be solved by peaceful negotiations which will ensure that Pol Pot and his associates are never in a position to inflict injury on the people of Kampuchea again. In a spirit of national reconciliation all shades of opinion can be brought together which would give the Kampuchean people an environment of peace and stability, he added.

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Earlier in his welcome speech Foreign Minister Mr. Ngueyen Co Thach greeted Shri Tiwari and his delegation as messengers from the great land of India whose visit bore a major significance reaching beyond Indo-Vietnamese relations to the question of peace and stability in South East Asia and in Asia as a whole. Pointing out that the visit coincided with the year of the 40th anniversary of Indian independence, Mr. Co Thach expressed his admiration for the achievements of India during the past four decades. Recalling Pandit Nehru's remarks at the Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi four decades ago that "there can be no peace unless Asia played her part there could be no peace in the world," Mr. Co Thach added that India has played and is playing a

major role for this lofty goal. He "totally endorsed" the recent New Delhi Declaration of Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Secretary General, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev adding that it embodied the aspiration of resolve of the whole mankind. Pointing out that India has invariably stood by the side of Viet Nam, Mr. Co Thach expressed strong hope for strengthening the solidarity and cooperation between India and Viet Nam further.

DIA VIETNAM

Date: Jan 11, 1987

Volume No

1995

VIET NAM

Shri N. D. Tiwari's Talks in Hanoi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1987 on Shri N. D. Tiwari's talks in Hanoi:

Speaking at the official talks between India and Viet Nam yesterday in Hanoi the visiting External Affairs Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, said that he and his delegation had come to Viet Nam with open arms of friendship and solidarity. Recalling India's steadfast and resolute support to Viet Nam throughout the period of their struggle for independence and dignity as a people and as a symbol of all the oppressed people, Shri Tiwari reminded the hosts of the relationship of late leaders Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Ho Chi Minh

He pointed out that long before the two leaders were able to meet during Nehru's visit to Viet Nam in 1954. Mr. Ho Chi Minh had written a poem addressed to Nehru while they were in prison (they were both serving prison sentences in 1942) saying that even though unable to meet, 'shared ideals link you and me together'. From this foundation mutual friendship was nurtured further through tremendous love and affection between Indira Gandhi and the Vietnamese leaders. Shri Tiwari recalled the visit of Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi to Hanoi in November 1985 which added new depth and dimensions to mutual relations.

Conveying warm felicitations from the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to Viet Nam for the success of the recent sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, Shri Tiwari expressed full confidence that Vietnamese people will be successful in their efforts at rehabilitation and reconstruction of their national

economy according to the directives of the Congress. He also lauded Vietnamese efforts to develop friendly relations with all the neighbouring countries and their endeavour to establish an environment of peace and stability in the region. He added that as two sister developing countries sharing the ideals of peace, disarmament and, adherence to Non-aligned principles, India highly valued her relationship with Viet Nam and will continue to strive to consolidate them with a long term perspective.

Shri Tiwari stressed that Indo-Vietnamese relations are neither based on temporary and narrow considerations of self-interest nor are directed against any other nation but derive their inspiration and sustenance from the deep-rooted and abiding friendship of the peoples of the two countries.

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Speaking earlier, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister Mr. Nguyen Co Thach warmly welcomed the Minister and his delegation which includes the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Natwar Singh, the Minister of State for Petroleum, Shri Brahm Dutt, and the Minister of State for Finance, Shri B. K. Gadhvi apart from senior officials from several Ministries. He expressed confidence that the visit of Shri Tiwari will be of great significance for Indo-Vietnamese bilateral relations as well as for peace and stability in South East Asia. Describing the internal Vietnamese situation as very difficult economically, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Co Thach added that the successful conclusion of the Party Congress in December last had opened promising prospects for the future. In spite of the present difficulties, the leadership has emerged with enhanced unity and cohesion which underscores the vitality, strength and resilience of Viet Nam. He characterised Indo-Viet Nam relations as very fine and pure from time immemorial and emphasised that Viet Nam considers the Indian role in Asia particularly and in the whole world indeed as very significant.

Further discussions involving comprehensive exchange of views on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest continued.

Meanwhile an in-depth review of bilateral cooperation in all areas has started under the leadership of Ministers of State Shri Brahm Dutt and Shri B. K. Gadhvi with their Vietnamese counterparts. Earlier yesterday morning the Indian delegation paid homage at the mausoleum of the late Ho Chi Minh where Shri Tiwari laid a wreath. The delegation also had a tour of the modest and small hut which served as a residence of 'Uncle Ho'.

Shri Tiwari described his visit as a greatly inspiring experience and stressed the great simplicity and humility of the father of the Vietnamese nation who nevertheless led the country with dogged tenacity and perseverence to freedom. He added that this reminded him of our own struggle for independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru and the common

bond it inspired between the peoples of the two countries.

ETNAM INDIA USA **Date**: Jan 11, 1987

Volume No

1995

VIET NAM

Petroleum Exploration Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued on Jan 12, 1987 on the signing of a petroleum exploration agreement between India and Viet Nam:

In a ceremony at Ngo Quyen Guest House on January 12, 1987, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, Mr. Nguyen Co Thach and the visiting Indian Minister of External Affairs, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, signed an agreement between the two Governments on the exploration and development of petroleum in the off shore areas off the coast of Southern Viet Nam in specified locations. The Prime Minister of Viet Nam, Mr. Pham Van Dong, was present at the signing ceremony in addition to many Vietnamese dignitaries and the three Ministers of State from Indian Ministries of External Affairs, Petroleum and Finance.

The agreement provides that the Hydrocarbons India Limited (HIL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and a Vietnamese agency to be specified by the Vietnamese Government will undertake exploration operations in the southern Viet Nam continental shelf, and for this -31>

purpose, a commercial agreement between the two agencies will be concluded in the near future. Prime Minister Pham Van Dong's presence at the signing ceremony underlined the importance of this agreement which is expected to make a significant contribution towards further deepening and consolidating our bilateral ties by adding this important dimension to other areas of the multifaceted cooperation. Commenting upon the significance of the occasion Prime Minister Pham Van Dong said that cooperation in this vital field for Viet Nam is yet another manifestation of the strong desire of both countries to expand bilateral economic ties in the spirit of South-South cooperation. He asked Shri Tiwari to convey his sincere gratitude to Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Government and people of

India for their resolve to strengthen their friendship with Viet Nam. He recalled the visit of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Viet Nam in November, 1985 and added that the agreement was yet another concrete decision under the guidelines of mutual cooperation between the two nations agreed upon by the two Prime Ministers at that time.

At the same ceremony, an agreement of a line of credit of Rs. 15 crores from the Government of India to the Government of Viet Nam was signed by Shri B. K. Gadhvi, Minister of State for Finance, and Mr. Lu Minh Chau, Director General of the State Bank of Viet Nam. The credit will be utilised for import of capital goods and other items from India to Viet Nam. In addition, the Indian side announced another Government of India credit of Rs. 10 crores to make similar imports in the near future. Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari also announced a grant of Rs. one crore to the Government of Viet Nam for import of essential commodities required urgently from India. Prime Minister Pham Van Dong highly appreciated this gesture and requested the Indian delegation to convey his heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi for this. He also expressed his happiness regarding lines of credit made available by the Government of India on the occasion.

Shri Tiwari described the petroleum cooperation agreement signed by him and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach as a major highlight of his visit to Viet Nam. He also expressed confidence that this agreement as well as the credit lines made available by the Indian Government will contribute significantly to intensification of bilateral relations. He specifically pointed out that the decision taken by him and Foreign Minister Thach to have bilateral Joint Commission meetings annually henceforth instead of once every two years will facilitate more frequent consultations for formulation, implementation and monitoring of bilateral cooperation programmes. Another decision to hold consultations between the Planning Commissions of the two countries will provide opportunity for making longer term projections concerning areas of mutual cooperation.

Shri Tiwari also extended an invitation to the Vietnamese Foreign Minister to visit India at a mutually convenient time. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

DIA USA VIETNAM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 12, 1987

Volume No

Text of Joint Press Statement

The following is the text of the Joint Press statement issued at the conclusion of the visit of the goodwill delegation led by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri N. D. Tiwari to Viet Nam on Jan 12, 1987:

At the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, the Minister of External Affairs to India, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, paid a friendly official visit to Viet Nam from January 9 to 12, 1987.

The Indian delegation included the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Natwar Singh, Minister of State for -32>

Petroleum, Shri Brahm Dutt and the Minister of State for Finance Shri B. K. Gadhvi.

During the visit the Minister of External Affairs, Shri N. D. Tiwari, paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh and laid a wreath at his mausoleum and visited his dwelling place. The delegation visited a number of economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi. On January 11, 1987, Minister Tiwari and his party called on His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Van Minh, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV) to whom he conveyed Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's warm felicitations on his assumption of the top post of the CPV at the recently concluded Sixth Party Congress. Minister Tiwari also conveyed an invitation from the Indian Prime Minister to His Excellency, Mr. Linh, to pay a visit to India at a mutually convenient time. The invitation from the Indian Prime Minister was accepted with pleasure. On the same day the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Pham Van Dong, received the Indian guests and exchanged views with them.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, and the Minister for External Affairs, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, held talks on bilateral, regional and international questions of mutual interest. The talks took place in an atmosphere of sincere friendship, trust and full understanding.

The Indian side warmly greeted the success of the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and was confident that on the basis of the decisions adopted by that historic Congress, the Vietnamese people would successfully overcome their present difficulties, score many new achievements in economic construction and development and defend the security of their country. The Vietnamese side expressed its admiration for the major all round achievements scored by the Indian people in the course of the last two years under the dynamic and clear sighted

leadership of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. These achievements have evinced the vitality of a talented people determined to weather all trials so as to consolidate their country's independence and territorial integrity, to rapidly build up India and make a worthy contribution to peace, independence and social progress in Asia and the world.

The two sides shared common views on major international issues and discussed measures towards further reinforcing the cooperation between Viet Nam and India in the common struggle of the Nonaligned countries and of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, development and for a new international economic order.

Recalling Jawaharlal Nehru's great foresight forty years ago concerning Asia's role in maintaining world peace in the nuclear age, the Vietnamese side evaluated highly India's important contribution to this lofty cause and wholly backed her tireless efforts for peace, national independence and development. The Vietnamese side reiterated its total support for the New Delhi Declaration by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Secretary General Mikkail S. Gorbachev, a political document of historic significance embodying the aspirations of mankind in its struggle for a world free from nuclear weapons and from the use of force in international relations.

The two sides considered the broad issues of peace and stability in Asia Pacific region and in this context took note of the significant contribution made through the address of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at Vladivostok. They held that although there remained many difficulties and obstacles today, there existed actual possibilities to enlarge the area of cooperation and friendship and to lessen the areas of tension and conflict. They recognised that progress in the direction of promoting peace and stability was bound to take time, but expressed their total commitment to the cause.

The two sides discussed the situation in the region and expressed the hope that

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the complex and delicate issues of peace and stability will be resolved through peaceful negotiations in a spirit of mutual goodwill and understanding. The two sides reiterated their support to the resolution on South East Asia by the VII and VIII Summit Conferences of the Non-aligned Movement. It was recognised that for a solution of the Kampuchean question it was essential to prevent the return of Pol Pot and his associates who had pursued a policy of genocide. A policy of national reconciliation and cessasion of all outside interference were pre-requisites for a durable settlement.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the steady growth of the relations of cooperation and deep friendship between the two countries fostered by President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and carried forward by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The visits paid to India in September 1984 by the late General Secretary Le Duan, and to Viet Nam in November 1985 by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi mark a new development in the cooperation between the two peoples in the political, economic, scientific and technical, cultural and educational fields. The two sides were resolved to strengthen further cooperation in the economic, scientific and technical and other fields and to build relations between the two countries into a model of South-South cooperation. In this spirit, the two sides signed an agreement concerning cooperation in oil and natural gas and an agreement on a line of credit of Rs. 150 million from India to Viet Nam.

Another line of credit of Rs. 100 million from India to Viet Nam was also announced. It was decided that henceforth regular meetings of the bilateral Joint Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation will be held annually instead of once every two years. Regular consultation will be held between the respective Planning Commissions of the two countries.

The Indian side showed understanding for the immediate difficulties faced by Viet Nam and conveyed Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's decision of a grant of 10 million rupees to Viet Nam for the purchase of urgently needed commodities. The Vietnamese side expressed sincere thanks and viewed this gesture as a token of the friendship binding the two peoples. The Vietnamese people appreciate the strong support and whole-hearted assistance rendered by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the Government and the people of India in their tasks of nation building. The two sides expressed their satisfaction over this very fruitful visit that contributed significantly to the strengthening of the friendly relations between Viet Nam and India as well as to the cause of peace and stability in South East Asia and Asia. The Indian side also expressed to the hosts its deep satisfaction and appreciation for the extremely warm and friendly hospitality extended to the Indian delegation during their visit to Viet Nam.

His Excellency, Mr. Tiwari, extended an invitation to His Excellency, Mr. Nguyen Co Thach to pay a visit to India at a mutually convenient time. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

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A INDIA VIETNAM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 12, 1987

Volume No

1995

YUGOSLAVIA

Indo-Yugoslav Trade to Go Up by 50 Per Cent

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on the signing of a protocol between. India and Yugoslavia on bilateral trade:

Bilateral trade between India and Yugoslavia is expected to go up by about 50 per cent during the current year com-pared to the trade turnover in 1986.

A protocol to this effect was signed by the Commerce Minister, Shri P. Shiv Shanker and Dr. Radoje Kontic, Federal Secretary of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on January 30, 1987 at the end of the 16th session of the Indo-Yugoslav Joint Committee in Belgrade.

Trade between India and Yugoslavia has increased rapidly in the last two years from 36 million dollars in 1984 to 132 million dollars in 1986

The Joint Committee discussed several steps to increase bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries. Shri Shiv Shanker, who was Chairman of the Committee from the Indian side, also met the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, Mr. Branko Mikulic and the Yugoslav Vice-President, Mr. Lazar Mojsov. He also had discussions with Mr. Milan Pavic, President of the Yugoslav Chamber of Economy on bilateral economic matters.

During the discussions of the Joint Committee, India and Yugoslavia have agreed on long-term contracts in several identified areas. During the session the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) signed an agreement for 50 million dollars worth of steel products to be exchanged in return for iron ore concentrate and pellets. A similar agreement is to be signed with the State Trading Corporation (STC) of India shortly.

The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and the Yugoslav Bank of International Economic Cooperation (YBIEC) have also agreed on the terms of credit agreement under which Yugoslavia will provide machineries and equipment to India and this will be repaid through exports of Indian goods.

Several areas of cooperation in the field of industries were discussed. These include electronics, energy, bicycles and mopeds, tractors and other agricultural machinery, telecommunication, machine tools, cutting tools, consumer electronics, aluminium silicate complex etc. Other possible areas of collaboration include food processing and setting up of projects in third countries.

India's major exports to Yugoslavia are coffee, tea, pepper, tractor components, electronic consumer goods, iron ore concentrates and pellets, tyres and textiles. India imports from Yugoslavia a number of items including PVC, polyethylene, polypropylene, paper, steel and steel products and components of tractors.

The Indian delegation included the Commerce Secretary, Shri Prem Kumar, representatives of Ministries of Finance, Science and Technology, External Affairs and Public Sector undertaking including MMTC, STC, HMT and financial institutions which included representatives of Reserve Bank of India, SBI and IDBI.

The Committee has decided to expand the cooperation in the area of science and technology, particularly in high technology sectors. Similarly in the field of planning it is proposed to expand cooperation so as to utilise the complementarities of the economies of the two countries.

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GOSLAVIA INDIA USA **Date**: Jan 12, 1987

February

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NADA INDIA FINLAND IRAN JORDAN USA ISRAEL PAKISTAN

Date: Feb 01, 1987

Sub Commission

Volume No

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1995

CANADA

Indo-Canadian Extradition Treaty

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 06, 1987 on the Indo-Canadian Extradition Treaty:

Shri N. D. Tiwari, Minister for External Affairs on behalf of India and Right Honourable Mr. Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs on behalf of Canada have signed today an Extradition Treaty. This is the first formal agreement which the two countries have signed to process and provide for extradition.

The Treaty is based on well-established principles of law of extradition and has provisions which are sufficiently reflective

of current concerns about terroristic activities.

To be eligible for extradition a conduct should be an offence not only under the laws of India but also under the laws of Canada. The Treaty provides that any offence punishable with imprisonment by more than one year under the laws of both India and Canada would be eligible for extradition. In this regard, even offences relating to taxation or revenue or others of purely fiscal character would also be eligible for extradition.

The Treaty also specifies a list of more serious offences like:

- i) offences against safety of civil aviation,
- ii) unlawful seizure of aircraft,
- iii) crimes against internationally protected persons including diplomatic agents,
- iv) offences related to terrorism,
- v) murder, manslaughter, assault causing bodily harm, kidnapping, hostage-taking, offences involving serious damage to property or disruption of public facilities,
- vi) offences relating to firearms, weapons, explosives or dangerous substances; and
- vii) any attempt or conspiracy to commit any of these offences.

which shall not be regarded as political offences or offences of a political character for purposes of extradition.

Under the Treaty extradition is possible for all eligible offences whether committed before or after this Treaty comes into force.

Under this Treaty each country will have jurisdiction to try and punish offenders commiting crimes within its own territory, when the offender is found in that territory. However, in determining the jurisdiction of one's own courts, in such situations, under this Treaty, India and Canada will be able to consider grave or immediate effects or consequences of the offence in question on or in the other territory, with a view to see if extradition could be provided.

This is an innovative provision which the two countries are able to accept in recognition of the fact that terroristic activities have trans-national connections and impact. In this respect, the Indo-Canadian Extradition Treaty may well be -37>

a 'path-breaker' and could serve as a precedent for future

agreements.

The Treaty also provides for proper legal safeguards for all the accused and due process of law without discrimination as to race, religion, colour or ethnic origin.

The Treaty provides for various grounds for denial of extradition which are in accordance with the Indian and Canadian Constitutional law and enactments and policy in respect of extradition.

The Treaty also provides for a duty to submit the case to one's own competent authorities for prosecution where a request for extradition is not granted.

The Treaty provides, in case of urgency, for the provisional arrest of the person sought.

The Treaty in its other provisions also incorporates standard principles governing law of extradition.

NADA INDIA USA

Date: Feb 06, 1987

Volume No

1995

CANADA

Memorandum of Understanding Between India and Canada Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 09, 1987 on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Canada:

Shri J. Vengala Rao, Minister of Industry and H.E. Mr. Joe Clark, the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Industrial and Technological Collaboration, here today.

The Memorandum of Understanding primarily aims at expanding bilateral industrial cooperation between the two countries by encouraging joint ventures, technological collaboration, licensing agreements, joint research and development and two way investments in areas of complementary interest. It further aims at encouraging the enterprises of both the countries to study the possibilities of entering into cooperative relationships. It also

envisages evolving a mechanism for exchange of information on general issues including the investment environment and government policies.

In the context of overall efforts to strengthen the bilateral economic relationship, it is envisaged that the senior officers from appropriate Ministries of both the Governments and representatives from the industry sectors, would meet regularly under the auspices of India-Canada Annual Ministerial consultations to exchange views and to review progress made in industrial cooperation.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vengala Rao said: "The development of the industrial sector in India during the last 35 years has been a remarkable feature of the Indian economic development. Industrial production has increased at the rate of about 6 per cent per annum. During the recent years, Government have taken steps to liberalise industrial policy and streamline the procedures."

On import of technology, the Minister said: "Government's policy towards import of technology is selective, based on nation's priorities. Foreign investment is allowed where it is accompanied by transfer of technology needed by the country and in exportoriented ventures. The normal ceiling for foreign investment is 40 per cent of the total equity capital, but a higher percentage of foreign equity can be considered in priority industries if the technology is sophisticated or if the venture is largely exportoriented. Foreign equity of higher level can also be considered on the merits of specific projects on technology considerations. For wholly export-oriented units, even 100 per cent foreign equity can be considered. I would specially welcome Canadian industries to establish export-oriented industries in India. It is not difficult to arrange foreign collaborations that have inbuilt buy-back arrangements or lead to exportable surplus in the developing economies. The foreign colla--38>

boration agreements should become self-financing propositions rather than a burden on foreign exchange resources.

TRADE BALANCE

There is potential for increasing bilateral trade between Canada and India. At present trade balance is tilted in favour of Canada. There is need for adjustment as well as restructuring of the patterns of trade. There must be greater reliance on trading in manufactured products and determination to buy more from India to balance the trade. Indian engineering industry today exports to the major markets of the world - USA being its single largest market. There is, therefore, scope for increasing engineering exports to Canada as also electronic products, software, diesel engines, auto components etc. The two countries could identify

common areas of interest and set up ventures for third markets.

NADA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Feb 09, 1987

Volume No

1995

DISARMAMENT

Indira Gandhi Prize for Parliamentarians Global Action

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 04, 1987 on the first Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development being awarded to Parliamentarians Global Action:

The first Indira Gandhi Prize, for Peace, Disarmament and Development awarded to Parliamentarians Global Action has been instituted to commemorate Shrimati Indira Gandhi's work for ushering in a more peaceful and equitable world order. It is administered by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

The objectives of the Indira Gandhi Prize are: promoting international peace and disarmament, racial equality, and goodwill and harmony among nations; securing economic cooperation and promoting a new international economic order; accelerating the all-round advancement of developing nations; ensuring that the discoveries of science and modern knowledge are used for the larger good of the human race; and enlarging the scope of freedom and enriching the human spirit.

The International Jury of the Indira Gandhi Prize consists of Shri R. Venkataraman, Vice-President of India (Chairman); Academician A. P. Aleksandrov, former President of the USSR Academy of Science; Dr. Bruno Kreisky, former Chancellor of Austria; Sir Yehudi Menuhin, renowned musician; Dr. Julius K. Nyerere, former President of Tanzania; Dr. Jonas Salk, distinguished scientist from the U.S.; and Dr. Mohammed El-Zayyat, former Foreign Minister of Egypt.

A meeting of the Jury was held in New Delhi on 27th January, 1987. It was attended by Shri R. Venkataraman, Dr. Julius Nyerere and Dr. El-Zayyat. The announcement has been made after consultation with the other members who were not in a position to attend the meeting.

CODE OF PROCEDURE

As laid down by the Code of Procedure, nominations were sought from members of national Parliaments all over the world and from national and international organisations dedicated to the promotion of peace and international understanding.

Proposals were received from 27 countries in respect of individuals and institutions.

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The Prize, which is of the value of Rs. 15,00,000, has been awarded by the Jury to the worldwide organisation of legislators, Parliamentarians for Global Action, in recognition of its dedicated, dynamic and tenacious espousal of nuclear disarmament and its imaginative efforts to mobilise parliamentary and popular opinion all over the world on behalf of peace, development and international cooperation. Parliamentarians Global Action has a membership of 600 legislators in 36 countries.

The Jury took into consideration the crucial role of Parliamentarians Global Action in sponsoring the Six-Nation Five-Continent initiative for Disarmament, which was one of the most significant moves in breaking the deadlock over nuclear disarmament.

The date and other details of the Award Ceremony will be announced later.

Letters inviting proposals for the 1987 Indira Gandhi Prize will be sent out in April so that the next Prize cap be announced in October-November this year.

A BACKGROUND NOTE ON PARLIAMENTARIANS GLOBAL ACTION

Parliamentarians Global Action is a worldwide network of legislators working for disarmament, development and a more just and secure international system.

Global Action (then Parliamentarians for World Order) was launched in 1980. The organization now has a membership of more than 600 legislators in 36 countries, representing the full spectrum of political parties. Members take part in their personal capacity, not as representatives of their governments.

The organization's international secretariat is in New York.

The organization initiated, and continues to play a key role in the Five-Continent Peace Initiative, an effort undertaken by six Heads of Government from Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania to facilitate progress between the Super-Powers to break the nuclear deadlock.

INITIATIVE LEADERS

The initiative leaders - President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India, President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico, Tanzanian leader Julius Nyerere and Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou of Greece - have called for a complete halt to the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, to be immediately followed by substantial reduction in nuclear forces, leading to general and complete disarmament. This, they said, must be accompanied by measures to strengthen the United Nations system and to ensure that money from the arms race is channelled to where it is most desperately needed: social and economic development.

The six leaders have met together in two summits: the first in New Delhi in 1985, the second in Ixtapa, Mexico, in 1986. They have put forward a series of proposals to the United States and the Soviet Union, including an offer to help monitor a nuclear testing moratorium.

In mid - 1985, Parliamentarians Global Action commissioned a study on third-party verification of a testing moratorium - the first study of its kind - which was written by top American seismologists. The conclusions of this study encouraged the Five-Continent Peace Initiative leaders to put forward their proposals for verification of a nuclear testing moratorium.

VERIFICATION ISSUES

Parliamentarians Global Action has also been discussing verification issues directly with the U.S. and U.S.S.R. In April -40>

of 1986, a Global Action delegation met the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Shevardnadze, and other high-level officials in Moscow to discuss verification of a test ban and related issues. This was followed by a delegation to Washington, where meetings were held with officials of the Reagan Administration. Another trip to Moscow and Washington is planned for early 1987.

Global Action helped to set the stage for the Natural Resource Defence Council's (NRDC's) project in which a team of U.S. scientists set up seismometers at a Soviet test site this summer. The agreement itself was reached at a workshop which Global Action arranged in May 1986 in Moscow.

In the U.S. Congress, Global Action members have spearheaded the effort to cut of funds for the testing of nuclear weapons, and have been active in a number of arms control initiatives within Congress.

COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN

As another way to increase international involvement in the test ban issue, Global Action developed a proposal to convene an amendment conference on the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) of 1963 to consider turning the Treaty into a comprehensive test ban. The PTBT, which outlawed nuclear tests in the atmosphere only, contains a clause which says that if one-third of the signatory countries (38 nations) request a major global conference to consider a proposed amendment to the Treaty, the depository governments (i.e. the U.K., U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.) must convene such a conference.

The U.K., U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. would be legally required to create a global negotiating forum for a test ban - something which exists nowhere today. At this forum, a concrete, detailed draft treaty for a comprehensive test ban would be put on the table.

The U.N. General Assembly over-whelmingly passed a resolution supporting the proposal in November 1986. In the U.S., many officials of the Kennedy Administration who were involved in drafting the 1963 Treaty have signed a letter endorsing the proposal and there has been a high-level of interest in the Congress.

BROAD POLITICAL SUPPORT

Global Action members demonstrated broad political support for measures to halt the arms race through "A Call of Global Survival". The "Call' is a declaration in favour of disarmament and strengthened world institutions to maintain peace and accelerate development efforts. It has been widely circulated and has already been signed by more than 1000 legislators on behalf of over 50 million constituents. Global Action members have introduced parliamentary global survival in Parliaments around the world.

Parliamentarians Global Action strongly endorsed the recommendations of the Brandt Commisson for a restructuring of the international economy and has worked to encourage increased funding for development assistance in a number of parliaments. In 1984 and 1986 Global Action cosponsored in Rome two international conferences on hunger. The first conference demonstrated international support for a legislative effort in Italy (which was successful) to allocate one billion U.S. dollars to alleviate hunger in the Third World. Global Action has now begun a worldwide campaign to collect signatures from parliamentarians in support of a Manifesto Against Hunger which was released at the second conference.

The organization brings together parliamentarians from around the world for an annual Parliamentary Forum at United Nations Headquarters to exchange ideas on topics such as revitalizing the world economy, global militarization vs. economic development,

and the reform and strengthening of the U.N. system. Global Action's 1986 forum was on the theme of "The World Economy in Crisis: Debt, Protectionism and Military Budgets."
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DIA USA AUSTRIA TANZANIA EGYPT ARGENTINA GREECE MEXICO SWEDEN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SPAIN RUSSIA UNITED KINGDOM ITALY

Date: Feb 04, 1987

Volume No

1995

FINLAND

Banquet in Honour of Finland President - Text of Giani ZailSingh's Speech

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 03, 1987 of the speech by the President Giani Zail Singh while speaking at the banquet hosted by him in honour of the President of Finland, H.E. Mauno Keivisto here tonight (New Delhi, February 3):

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the people of India and on my own behalf, to extend to you a warm welcome to India. We are pleased that your daughter has been able to join you and I am sure she will be able to get a glimpse of the culture and diversity of India.

Mr. President, we live in a world beset with problems. The International Year of Peace, 1986, has just ended without the world being anywhere nearer peace, security and the achievement of the welfare for the common man. The great powers have recognised that a nuclear war cannot be won, and that one must never be fought. Nevertheless, people all over the world were disappointed at the outcome of the Summit at Reykjavik. Enormous sums of money are expended to prop up the armaments race, while three-fourths of the world population strive hard to live at a bare subsistence level.

Conscious of the need to prevent a global disaster, India joined hands with the leaders of Argentina, Greece, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania, in issuing the Six-Nation Appeal to call for a halt to the nuclear arms race, prevention of an arms race in Outer Space and the conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. A few days ago, we again jointly issued a statement urging upon the two Super Powers to recommence comprehensive talks to prevent an arms race in space, terminate it on earth and ultimately eliminate

nuclear arms everywhere. We hope that 1987 will provide an opportunity for the USA and the Soviet Union to agree on a number of important disarmament measures and thereby enable the promise of Reykjavik to become a reality.

Mr. President, we greatly appreciate and value your country's firm commitment to peace and disarmament and your considerable and continuing contribution to the peace-keeping role of the United Nations. I am confident that in these troubled times, when mankind is threatened with annihilation, world leaders would display wisdom and courage and help to bring about sanity and understanding. It is still not too late to usher in an International Era of Peace.

Mr. President, your country is known for its concern for the welfare of mankind, its policy of peace and welfare, and its sympathetic understanding of the problems of the developing countries. Despite the harsh and uncongenial climate, the Finnish people, by their hard work grit and determination, have carved out for themselves a life of prosperity and well-being. And, more importantly, they are willing to share this prosperity with their less fortunate brethren. We greatly appreciate this and extend to you, and to the people of Finland, our felicitations and good wishes in this Jubilee Year of Finnish independence.

EXCHANGES AT VARIOUS LEVELS

Twenty-two years ago, your distinguished predecessor, the late Dr. Urho Kekkonen, paid the first State visit from Finland. In subsequent years, there have been several exchanges at various levels. Bilateral relations have improved in various areas, especially in the economic and commercial fields. We, on our part, have been engaged continuously in the gigantic task of improving the living stan-

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dards of a vast population. We have chosen the path of planned economic development which has paid us rich dividends. We have laid the foundations for an industrial society, improved the productivity of our agriculture, and are now concentrating on a technological upgradation with a view to bringing science and technology to the doorsteps of the common man. In this effort, we look forward to cooperation and assistance from all our friends. Finland and India have already established institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Commission and the Joint Business Council, to ensure speedy implementation of Indo-Finnish collaboration. We are aware that Finland is an important source of technology in a number of fields in which I am sure we can cooperate to mutual benefit.

I have learnt with gratification that the Finnish national epic. KALAVELA, is now being translated into Hindi. Your scholars have taken a keen interest in India's past and the joint project to publish a photographic corpus of the Indus seals is an example of our mutual interest in each other's culture.

Mr. President, I hope you and the members of your delegation will have a pleasant stay in India and enjoy seeing something of our country.

May I now request you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to join me in proposing a toast to the health and personal well-being of His Excellency the President of Finland and Madame Keivisto, to the people of Finland and to Indo-Finnish friendship and cooperation.

NLAND INDIA USA ICELAND ARGENTINA GREECE MEXICO SWEDEN TANZANIA PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Feb 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

FINLAND

Text of Finland President's Speech

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi of the speech by the President of Finland, H.E. Mr. Mauno Keivisto while speaking at a banquet hosted in his honour by the President Giani Zail Singh here tonight (New Delhi, Feb 03, 1987:

First of all, I should like to express my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and cordial hospitality which we have received in your country. Since this is my and my wife's first visit to India, we have been looking forward very much to the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with your magnificent and ancient country and its great diversity of cultures. We have already seen that architectural masterpiece - the Taj Mahal - and are looking forward to seeing more of the wonders of India.

In 1983, during her official visit to Finland, I had the pleasure to meet Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Our interesting discussion ranged over matters of common interest to us and to our countries. She left a lasting impression of strength combined with wisdom, of a profound attachment not only to the pressing needs of her country, but also to matters with a bearing on the whole of mankind. Her tragic death caused deep sorrow in my country. In her the world lost a powerful leader, who still had much to give for the benefit of all mankind.

Her visit to Finland inaugurated a rapid development of relations between our two countries. Agreements have been signed, official and unofficial visits have multiplied in different fields, and the process of industrial and technological co-operation has gathered momentum. Trade between us has expanded, and prospects for further growth are good. Also in the cultural field, her visit marked the beginning of a lively exchange between Finland and India.

FRIENDLY TIES AND SIMILARITIES

The reasons for this increase in mutual relations are not difficult to see.

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Despite the great differences between our countries, there are also many similarities, which make close and friendly ties natural. Both countries are Parliamentary democracies, where a sense of democratic tradition is strongly rooted. Our economies are in many sectors complementary, a factor which gives additional impetus to our efforts to increase economic interaction between us. Likewise, I feel that much can be done to avail of the opportunities that exist in science and technology. Recent steps by the Government of India to expand exchanges with foreign countries in these sectors will also serve to spur such co-operation between Finland and India.

FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY

In the field of foreign policy, I have been impressed by India's achievements, particularly in relations to peace and security. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's chairmanship of the Nonaligned Movement represented a period of consolidation and stabilization, which was crowned by the Summit in Harare last year. The decisions taken at that meeting especially those relating to the fight against apartheid, bear witness to the Movement's growing importance in world politics. The work of the group of six countries in which Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi plays a central role underscores the importance attached to the menace of nuclear weapons. The Delhi Declaration of January 1985 and subsequent declarations by the Group of Six have the support of Finland.

Finland, like India, is opposed to weapons of mass destruction, be they nuclear or not. We consider a complete and verifiable ban on nuclear weapon tests to be a most important short-term goal. Th nuclear arms race must be curbed and the elimination of existing arsenals commenced without delay, as the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States were prepared to agree to in principle during their recent meeting in Reykjavik. The ultimate goal, however, remote it may seem today, must be general and complete nuclear disarmament under effective international control.

STABLE RELATIONS

Since the end of World War II Finland has lived in peace and has been able to reach a level of development that is high by any international standards. Relations with our neighbours, the Soviet Union and the Nordic countries are stable, founded as they are on mutual respect and close cooperation. Our policy of neutrality has demonstrated its validity throughout the years and our active efforts to further security in our part of the world have yielded positive results.

The successful outcome of the recently concluded Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security-building measures and Disarmament will increase stability and mutual trust in Europe by reducing the risk of accidentally triggered conflicts. We are also working for the establishment of a Nordic nuclear-weaponfree zone, a Finnish initiative that has found growing understanding among the countries concerned. We are convinced that the creation of such a zone would contribute to stability and security in our region as well as in Europe as a whole.

I have spoken on matters relating to peace, disarmament and confidence-building between nations. This does not mean that Finland attaches less importance to international economic questions, including those relating to the North-South dialogue, in which India plays a leading role among the developing nations.

Finland has a strong interest in promoting steady and balanced economic development on a global scale. Increasing protectionist pressures and the mounting burden of international debt are a threat to our common aspirations. Finland recognizes her responsibility as well as that of all industrialized nations in contributing to solving these problems. Results can be achieved only through consensus, through concerted efforts by all countries. This also requires a viable international machinery with well defined tasks. In this respect strengthening the capabilities of the UN system is of central importance.

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NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN GATT

The recently initiated round of negotiations within GATT provides a forum for concrete joint efforts to improve the functioning of the open multilateral trading system. The decision on convening the UNCTAD VII conference and the agreement on its agenda provide another opportunity for revitalizing multilateral economic cooperation. Finland, for her part, is actively involved in this work. We have tried to give support to the aspirations of the developing world and are prepared to do so in the future. We find this natural because, to quote what the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said in one of her speeches in Finland in 1983, "Finland, being a neutral country, is a natural ally of the Nonaligned countries in their struggle for international peace and

security and economic progress".

Allow me, Mr. President, to propose a toast in your honour, to friendship and co-operation between our two countries and to the success of India.

NLAND INDIA USA ZIMBABWE ICELAND SWEDEN

Date: Feb 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOLLAND

Indo-Netherland Aid Assistance Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 13, 1987 on the Indo-Netherland aid assistance agreement:

The Netherlands Government have agreed to provide financial assistance upto Dfl 212 million (Approximately Rs. 127 crores) for the year 1987.

The agreed minutes were signed today by Mr. M. Damme, Director, Development Co-operation, in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Shri Kamalesh Sharma, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of their respective Governments.

Major disbursements would be in the projects in the area of transport, rural drinking water supply and water resources sectors and assistance in supply of fertilizers.

The other areas of cooperation discussed were rural development, shipping and transport, environment, forests and wildlife, agriculture and fisheries, women's issues, water resources, non-conventional energy sources, fertilizer and other bulk commodities, civil aviation, NABARD and Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology.

India is the largest recipient of Dutch assistance. This year's bilateral talks laid emphasis on programme support. -45>

Date: Jan 13, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

President's Address to Parliament

The following is the address by the President of India, Giani Zail Singh, to Parliament on Feb 23, 1987:

Honourable Members, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this first session of Parliament in 1987. I extend to you my best wishes for the successful completion of the budgetary and legislative business ahead.

In 1986 many of the gains made from the thorough and comprehensive policy changes initiated in several key areas were consolidated. At the same time it was a year in which the country was called upon to grapple with challenges, external as well as internal, to its unity and integrity. Our secular, democratic structure is boldly facing the forces of communalism and separatism. Nothing will ever shake the people of India from their adherence to the basic principles of democracy, secularism and socialism which inform our Republic.

FORCES OF DEMOCRACY

In Punjab the forces of democracy, unity, progress and secularism continue to be engaged in the struggle to isolate and wipe out the anti-national elements which are guided and controlled by foreign sources. Under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Shri S. S. Barnala, the State Government and the people of Punjab, have shown exemplary courage in upholding the values of secular democracy. The people of Punjab have always been in the forefront to defend the unity and integrity of India. They played a historic role in the freedom struggle which has left the imperishable imprint of secularism and democracy on their mind and spirit. It is, therefore, not surprising that they have stood up to the blatantly unconstitutional effort to subvert the democratic process through a sinister exploitation of religious sentiment. In flagrant violation of the sacred tenets and traditions of the great religion founded by Guru Nanak, a small section has turned religious functionaries and holy shrines into instruments of terror and subversion. Today this is the central issue in Punjab. Government will not allow the enemies of India's unity and integrity to abuse and misuse religion for their

nefarious ends of creating communal disharmony and of unleashing violence and hatred in Punjab. All patriotic, secular, democratic and progressive forces have to unite to build the strength of the people to overcome the reactionary, fascist and anti-national elements who are misguiding and confusing the masses in the name of religion. The challenge faces us all. No one can remain on the sidelines.

As the nation approaches the 40th anniversary of our freedom, it is fully conscious of the dangers posed by religious obscurantism and communalism. It was in April, 1948 that the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) passed a resolution calling upon Government to take steps to eliminate communalism from India's political life. The Father of the Nation had been assassinated barely two months earlier. Memories of the ghastly killings were still fresh in the minds of our Constitution makers. The threat to the unity of India from communalism loomed large before them. As we went ahead on our path of planned development, we began to assume that social and economic progress would automatically weaken the communal outlook. Experience has, however, shown that the communal and fundamentalist forces, aided and abetted by external elements, are challenging our basic values of nationalism, secularism, democracy and socialism. Indiraji's martyrdom was to defend the same sacred cause of the unity and integrity of India against the evil designs of communalists and reactionaries. These nefarious -46>

forces constitute a deeper malady which has persisted inspite of demonstarble progress in socio-economic sphere. The situation clearly calls for a reappraisal and Government propose a national dialogue for this purpose. Our precious heritage of unity in diversity can be preserved only by fighting all divisive forces.

BIRTH CENTENARY OF NEHRU

There can be no better way of celebrating the 40th anniversary of freedom and the birth centenary of the architect of modern India, Jawaharlal Nehru, than concerted and resolute action to remove the cancerous cells of communalism from our body politic. The National Committee for these celebrations, headed by the Vice-President of India, will devise a comprehensive programme to inculcate secular values and scientific temper.

While the Government were engaged in controlling extremist activities in Punjab, a new danger appeared on our borders. In January, 1987, Pakistan deployed strike formations in a menacing posture threatening Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. As Members are aware, our borders are largely manned by paramilitary forces. Faced with the situation, the Government had to deploy our armed forces for safeguarding the borders. Serious tension was generated by the forward movement of Pakistani forces. The Prime Minister took the initiative for immediate talks between the two

Governments. An agreement on measures to de-escalate the situation was reached during negotiations between the two Governments held in Delhi recently and Pakistan agreed to withdraw their Army Reserve North from the Ravi-Chenab corridor. Further talks will be held in Islamabad. India's policy is based on peace and cooperation with all nations. Government have taken various measures to strengthen cooperation with our neighbours. While determined to preserve our sovereignty and integrity, India is prepared to remove all causes of tension and distrust between the two countries in the spirit of bilateral cooperation embodied in the Simla Agreement.

The Mizoram Accord, signed in 1986, brought to an end decades of insurgency and strife in that beautiful part of our country. Pursuant to this Accord, Statehood has been conferred on Mizoram and elections have been held. A new Government has taken office.

ASPIRATIONS OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh for a full-fledged State have been fulfilled by the enactment of parliamentary legislation to confer the Statehood on Arunachal Pradesh. The new State came into existence on February 20, 1987. A new chapter in the history of the people of Arunachal Pradesh has begun.

Government are committed to safeguarding the rights and interests of minorities. The solemn assurances contained in our Constitution regarding religious, cultural and linguistic matters have been and are being implemented in letter and spirit. Government have continued to carefully monitor the implementation of the 15-point programme formulated by Shrimati Indira Gandhi to ameliorate the condition of minorities.

In my Address on February 20, 1986 I had outlined the priority areas for 1986-87 and beyond. The main policy thrusts were:-

(i) Formulation of the revised 20-point programme; (ii) formulation of the new education policy; (iii) formulation of technology missions to improve the condition of the rural and urban poor; (iv) a new orientation to our agricultural policy and taking the green revolution to the eastern region; (v) a more effective strategy for family planning; (vi) intensification of industrial growth; (vii) promotion of exports and tourism; (viii) reforms in the admi-

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nistrative system; and (ix) changes in electoral laws.

My Government have taken action in all these areas and positive results are beginning to flow.

The 20-point programme of 1986 has sharpened the focus on

measures to eradicate poverty. The main features of the restructured programme are:-

(i) Poverty alleviation programmes which aim at expansion of rural employment and improvement of productivity and production; (ii) programmes for ensuring justice to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes; (iii) reduction of income inequalities and removal of social and economic disparities; (iv) strengthening of the movement to ensure equal status for women; (v) creation of new opportunities for youth; (vi) provision of safe drinking water for all villages; (vii) protection of environment; (viii) supply of energy for the villages; and (ix) evolving a more responsive administration.

The new education policy has been formulated. It is an effective instrument in our fight against poverty. Its major aim is to reach out to the poor and the deprived and to place in their hands the means to gain control over their own destiny. Programmes such as the Operation Black-board, non-formal education, adult education, vocational education and Navodaya Vidyalayas will bring about qualitative changes in education. They will directly help socially and economically backward sections of the community. The new policy will also strengthen national integration. We have emphasized the importance of spreading an awareness and involvement of all our people in the heritage of India. The newly established zonal cultural centres have begun undertaking this task with enthusiasm and have organised innovative Festivals of our culture in Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram and Apna Utsav in the capital.

TECHNOLOGY MISSIONS

Five technology missions have been set up in the following areas:-

(i) Drinking water for all villages; (ii) eradication of illiteracy; (iii) universal immunisation of children; (iv) production of oilseeds and manufacture of edible oils; (v) improved communications.

Government are considering issues relating to an effective management and monitoring system for the missions. The key idea here is to involve the people in activities relating to the missions so that they realise the potential for individual and social development.

The reorientation of agricultural policy has proceeded satisfactorily. Growth of productivity in the eastern region has vindicated Government strategy. To increase and stabilise production and productivity in the major part of our land

resources, a national programme of rainfed agriculture through watershed development has been launched during the current year in 16 major rainfed/dryland farming States. A National Pulses Development Project, with an outlay of Rs. 50 crores, has been started in 1986-87 to increase production of this essential protein crop.

We have formulated a new family planning strategy with major emphasis on voluntary acceptance of the two child norm. The programme will be integrated with health care, nutrition and education programmes. Government have decided that the leading role in promotion of the family welfare programme should be played by voluntary agencies.

In the sphere of industry, the dynamic thrust for efficiency and modernisation has begun to show results. Industrial production has picked up significantly.

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Intensive efforts have been made on the basis of a coordinated approach to promote exports of both primary commodities and manufactured products. In our strategy manufacturing has been assigned the role of growth sector. A concessional rate of duty has been allowed on imports of modern capital goods for export production. Contemporary technology is being permitted for the thrust sectors. Significant fiscal and financial measures such as the new cash compensatory scheme, the duty drawback system, availability of MODVAT in respect of 38 specified chapters, deduction in respect of profits for exports, sharp reduction in the rates of interest on pre-shipment and post-shipment credit for exports and the new computer software policy are intended to boost exports.

ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

The process of reform in our administrative system has gathered momentum. There has been a positive response of the civil servants to the new imperatives of accountability, social responsibility and a new work ethic. Government are determined to carry forward the task of bringing about qualitative improvements in Government management with the cooperation of all sections of the work force.

The basic structure of our electoral system has stood the test of time. It has ensured free and fair elections to Parliament and State legislatures and has been recognised and acclaimed as such by the whole world. Based on the report of the Chief Election Commissioner of 1986, Government have formulated certain suggestions, which are to be discussed with the various political parties and also thrown open to public debate. Necessary legislation will be initiated, as in the past, on the basis of consensus evolving from such discussions.

1986 will be remembered for significant legislation affecting important areas of national life. Stringent and comprehensive environment protection legislation has been enacted. It was brought into force on November 19, 1986 as a fitting tribute to the memory of Shrimati Indira Gandhi who did more than anyone else to raise environmental consciousness.

- The rights of the consumers are now part of the statute book.
- Radical laws have been passed to improve the status of women.
- The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956 was amended to protect all persons sexually exploited for commercial purposes. Stricter punishment has been prescribed for living on the earnings of prostitution of children and minors.
- The Dowry Prohibition Act was amended, shifting the burden of proving that there was no demand for dowry on the person who takes or abets the taking of dowry. Offences under the Act have been made non-bailable.
- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act has been passed under which depiction of figure of a woman, her form or body, which has the effect of being indecent, derogatory or which denigrates woman has been made punishable.

A significant feature of these laws is that legal remedy can be invoked by citizens. In implementing these far-reaching laws, the cooperation of public spirited and socially conscious citizens is of vital importance.

Let me now turn to the major trends in the economy.

Notwithstanding an indifferent monsoon the growth in gross national product in 1986-87 will be around 5%. Thus the targeted growth rate of the Seventh Plan will be achieved for the second year in succession.

The foodgrain output will be somewhat higher than last year inspite of inadequate rains for the third year in succession. Government are concerned over the fact that even though agricul-49>

tural production has reached higher levels, it is showing signs of levelling off. it is partly the result of three consecutive years of poor precipitation, The basic strategy for increasing agricultural production is sound. Vigorous implementation of projects and programmes for increasing irrigation potential and popularising the use of high-yielding varieties of seeds is expected to achieve the targeted growth rates of the Seventh Plan. Government have taken major policy initiatives to increase the domestic production of oilseeds.

The industrial infrastructure has performed remarkably well both in 1985-86 and 1986-87. The average annual growth rates for the last two years are likely to be 9.5 % in power, 6 % in coal, 7.7 % in saleable steel, 6.8 % in hot metal, 8 % in railway freight and 16.5 % in fertilizers. The significant aspect of the infrastructural scene is that annual performance has continuously improved, extending over every quarter. In many cases, the lowest production in a quarter has been higher than the highest production recorded in any quarter of the preceding year. The infrastructure has begun to use investments in an efficient manner.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

The revised index of industrial production (base 1980-81 = 100), with a wider and more representative coverage than the old index, provides evidence of satisfactory industrial growth. In 1985-86 industrial production grew at the rate of 8.7 %. In 1986-87 growth rate is expected to be 7.8 %. There has been impressive growth in electronics during the previous two years at the rate of around 40 % per annum. The public sector has continued to play the key role in our economic development. At the end of 1985-86, the total investment in Central Public enterprises stood at Rs. 50,341 crores, registering an increase of Rs. 14,947 crores compared with 1984-85. The financial performance of Central public enterprises has shown an encouraging trend. Measures have been taken to strengthen the autonomy of public enterprises and to make them accountable for results.

STOCKS OF FOODGRAINS

Public stocks of foodgrains have continued at high levels and stood at 23 million tonnes in December, 1986. This has enabled Government to make additional allocations of rice and wheat to States for public distribution, to provide rice and wheat at concessional rates to integrated tribal development projects and nutrition programmes and to make higher allocations for the National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme. Comfortable stocks of foodgrains also enabled Government to give adequate quantities to drought-stricken States for the food-forwork programme.

There has been a major reorientation of policy to stimulate sugarcane and sugar production. The new two-year sugar policy aims at providing sugarcane farmers with more remunerative prices. It has also created a stable environment by announcement of the statutory minimum price a year in advance. As a result of this policy, sugar production increased by almost one million tonnes in 1985-86, and is expected to increase further in 1986-87. This has enabled Government to reduce sugar imports.

The technology mission for boosting oilseeds production has started functioning. A programme with an outlay of Rs. 170 crores

during 1986-90 has been launched to increase production of oilseeds to 18 million tonnes in 1989-90. In Kharif 1986, productivity of oilseeds is estimated to have gone up by 10 % and production by 7 % over Kharif 1985, despite adverse weather conditions which reduced acreage by 3 %. Edible oil imports were reduced to provide an incentive to domestic production. In 1985-86 imports were reduced by 55% in value terms and over 15% in quantity terms. Fiscal incentives have been provided to ensure processing of greater quantities of minor oilseeds and rice bran into edible oils.

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In 1986-87, anti-poverty programmes received stronger emphasis. The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and the Employment Programmes are the kingpin of the anti-poverty strategy. In 1986-87 an outlay of Rs. 543.83 crores was provided for the Integrated Rural Development Programme. This may be compared with Rs. 207.7 crores provided in 1984-85 and Rs. 205.9 crores in 1985-86. Upto the end of December 1986, 2.07 million families have been assisted. New features have been introduced in the implementation of the programme. They are higher level of investment per family, provision for forward and backward linkages, emphasis on training of beneficiaries, involvement of voluntary organisations, introduction of concurrent evaluation and increasing the assistance to women. Under all these programmes the basic thrust is to provide maximum assistance to the poorest of the poor and to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

The National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme were strengthened in 1986-87. Employment aggregating to 550 million mandays is expected to be created. There has been a noteworthy step up in outlays on NREP. In 1986-87 a total outlay of Rs. 479.75 crores was provided by the Centre compared with Rs. 230 crores for 1984-85 and Rs. 337.21 crores for 1985-86. Under RLEGP, which is wholly funded by the Centre, an outlay of Rs. 731.10 crores was provided for 198687 which may be compared with Rs. 400 crores for 1984-85 and Rs. 606.33 crores for 1985-86.

The 20-point programme of 1986 emphasises the provision of safe drinking water for all villages. In 1986-87, a total amount of Rs. 794.05 crores was allocated for the drinking water programme in Central and State plans taken together. 40,000 villages are expected to be covered exceeding the target of 35,930 villages. Special attention is being paid to provision of water supply for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

In 1986-87, the outlay for the annual plan was stepped up substantially. For the first time in our planning history, 40% of the Five Year Plan was financed in real terms in the first two years of the plan period. In allocation of resources high priority was accorded to anti-poverty programmes and to

strengthening the core sectors of the economy. A massive increase of 65% was made in the outlay for major anti-poverty programmes. The outlays for agriculture, rural development and irrigation were stepped up by nearly 30% The plan provision for education was increased by 60%. The Central plan for 1986-87 envisaged an outlay of Rs. 22,300 crores, representing an increase of 20.5% over the last year's outlay. The actual outlay of the plan is likely to be higher at around Rs. 23,000 crores. Nothing could illustrate better the strong commitment of Government to the pivotal role of planning in India's development.

FISCAL POLICY

Government have taken steps to implement the basic proposals outlined in the long term fiscal policy. The tax structure is being reformed and simplified, strong emphasis has been laid on mobilising resources for development by better administration and enforcement to improve compliance; a stable fiscal environment is being created to stimulate savings and investment, and a more open approach has been adopted in regard to fiscal policy.

Central Government revenues which increased by 23% in 1985-86 have shown a further increase of over 17% in April-December, 1986. Personal income-tax collection recorded an impressive growth of 30% in 1985-86; they have grown by another 16% in April-December, 1986. The continued buoyancy of Central revenues has vindicated Government's fundamental approach of reasonable tax rates combined with strict enforcement of tax laws.

A Cabinet Committee on Exports was set up to expedite decision making on policies and programmes for promotion of -51>

exports. Exports grew by 17.3% in April-November, 1986 over the corresponding period of last year. Imports increased by only 1.4% over the same period. As a result the trade deficit has shown a substantial decline. We cannot, however, afford to be complacent. The challenge of self-reliance and of building a fully independent economy demands unremitting effort.

In the current year we crossed the one million mark in foreign tourist arrivals. Foreign exchange earnings from tourism are estimated at Rs. 1600 crores as compared to Rs. 1300 crores during 1985-86.

Domestic tourism is being given special importance to promote national integration. Central Government is providing assistance for wayside facilities, wildlife sanctuaries, sound and light shows, and cheaper tourist accommodation.

While impressive results have been achieved in the matter of resource mobilisation, a similar effort has to be directed to controlling expenditure. The imperatives of growth with social

justice compel serious attention to the task of containing unproductive expenditure.

The consumer price index gives cause for concern. However, inflation, as measured by the wholesale price index has been kept within reasonable limits. Government will continue to pursue policies to counteract inflationary trends in our economy.

During the last two years, a positive trend of improvement was seen in industrial relations. Strikes and lockouts declined from 2094 in 1984 to 1716 in 1985 and 1234 in 1986 (January to October). The loss of mandays due to industrial disputes fell from 56.03 million mandays in 1984 to 29.37 million mandays in 1985 and 19.41 million mandays during 1986 (January to October). Government have taken a number of steps to ensure that unorganised workers receive entitled benefits.

Industrial workers have made a notable contribution to raising production and Productivity in the last two years. Government are committed to safeguarding their interest and to enlist their cooperation for accelerated industrial growth.

FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES

Government have continued to pursue our non-aligned foreign policy objectives of peace, disarmament, development and cooperation with all nations for building an equitable world order.

The Six Nation Five Continent initiative in which Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania are taking part, has produced a favourable impact on public opinion throughout the world for intensive and sustained effort to bring about nuclear disarmament. At Reykjavik radical proposals for ending the nuclear arms race were placed on the table. It is unfortunate that no agreement was reached. We have continued to urge both the USA and the USSR to persevere in their efforts to fulfil the aspirations of humankind for peace and for a world free from nuclear weapons.

At the Non-aligned Summit at Harare, India handed over the chairmanship of the movement to Zimbabwe. The Summit acclaimed the role our country has played in strengthening non-alignment and in reaffirming the basic objectives of the Movement. The Summit entrusted to our Prime Minister the chairmanship of the newly established AFRICA Fund Committee to carry forward the struggle against apartheid and to support the efforts of the Frontline States. The AFRICA Fund Summit held in Delhi on January 24-25, 1987 has given concrete shape to the concept articulated at Harare. Government are convinced that comprehensive mandatory sanctions alone will compel the racist regime in South Africa to forestall bloodshed and listen to the voice of reason. Governments that are in a position to influence South Africa,

because of their commercial and economic relations, have to mount pressure through comprehensive mandatory sanctions.

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SAARC

India's policy of expanding cooperation in our region has achieved significant results. The successful SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Summit held in Bangalore in November, 1986 under India's chairmanship has demonstrated the benefits of regional cooperation. A permanent Secretariat of SAARC has since been established in Kathmandu. New areas including control of drug trafficking, children's welfare, broadcasting, tourism and scholarships have been identified for the programme of SAARC cooperation. Our Prime Minister took the opportunity of SAARC meeting to hold useful bilateral sidcussions.

Despite the set-back caused by the deployment by Pakistan of its troops on our borders, efforts are continuing to create a basis for cooperation with Pakistan. The main hurdles in the way of normalisation are Pakistan's clandestine effort to acquire nuclear weapons capability, its arms programme with serious implications for our security environment and its support to anti-national and secessionist elements in Punjab.

It is unfortunate that the promise held out by our bilateral discussions with Sri Lanka at Bangalore and of subsequent high level consultations in December, 1986 has received a set-back. The negotiating process has been hindered by the hesitations of the Government of Sri Lanka in regard to their own formula of December 19, 1986. The massive military operations undertaken by the Sri Lanka security forces and the economic blockade of Jaffna area have created further complications. We are deeply affected by the hardship, suffering and loss of life of the Tamil civilian population of Sri Lanka. The ethnic issue in Sri Lanka can only be resolved through political dialogue.

My Government continues to strive for a just and peaceful settlement of the border question with China. The question remains crucial to full normalisation of our relations. The unfortunate development on the border continues to cause concern. Our position on the border question is well known. We are in discussion with China on the issue.

We uphold the unalienable rights of the Palestinian people. We support the liberation struggle of the peoples of Southern Africa. We have repeatedly urged an early end to the fratricidal war between Iraq and Iran. We continue to support the efforts of the Contadora group to achieve a peaceful and lasting settlement of the crisis in Central America. We have also supported the UN Secretary General's initiative on Afghanistan. We welcome the flexible responses to the outstanding issues in regard to

Afghanistan and trust that conditions will be created soon to ensure the status of Afghanistan as an independent, non-aligned country free from outside interference and intervention.

GOODWILL VISITS

During the last year, I paid goodwill visit to Nepal, Greece, Poland and Yugoslavia. The Vice-President visited France and Botswana. The Prime Minister paid bilateral visits to the Maldives, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Tanzania, Mauritius, Mexico, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand. The Prime Minister also participated in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Review Meeting in London, the Summit Meeting of the Six Nation Five Continent Peace Initiative at Ixtapa and the Eighth Non-aligned Summit in Harare, besides visiting Sweden to attend the funeral of late Prime Minister Olof Palme.

We had the privilege to host the Prime Minister of Greece, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, the Prime Minister of Turkey, the President of Seychelles, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, the President of the African National Congress, the President of SWAPO, the President of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, the President of Nicaragua, the Prime Minister of Zambia, the King of Jordan, the Prime Minister of Denmark, the President of Peru, the Prime -53>

Minister of Malaysia and the President of Finland. The then Prime Minister and the current President of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Prime Minister of Italy made transit visit to India. President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan paid an unofficial visit.

BILATERAL TIES

These bilateral visits have strengthened our friendly relations with these countries. A large number of agreements have been signed to further bilateral cooperation in economic, commercial, scientific and cultural fields.

In the context of the close and friendly relations that have characterised the four decade history of Indo-Soviet cooperation, the visit of Mr. Gorbachev, the General Secretary of CPSU, was a landmark. The Delhi Declaration signed by Mr. Gorbachev and our Prime Minister has provided a qualitatively new framework for international relations based on non-violence, justice and equality. It will have worldwide significance in establishing new attitudes and values relevant to the crucial problems of humanity.

The thrust of Government policy is to improve the welfare of economically and socially weaker sections of the community. The primary focus of policies and programmes initiated during the last two years has been to assist the landless agricultural labour, the small and marginal farmers, artisans and craftsmen, handloom weavers, women, children, the urban poor, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other backward classes. Our strategy of development will continue to strongly emphasize social justice as its foremost objective.

Inspite of the many difficult problems we are facing, the people have high confidence in their capacity to build a strong and prosperous India. This confidence comes from our impressive achievements. India stands as a symbol of stability and progress. Our commitment to basic values and our determination to preserve our cultural heritage have enabled us to march forward with our head held high. We still have much to do. With the cooperation and unbounded enthusiasm of our people, my Government will take the country forward on its chosen path.

Our tasks are anchored to basic national priorities. National cohesion will be strengthened. Communalism will be fought tooth and nail. The anti-poverty programme will be implemented with vigour. The core sectors of our economy will be strengthened and expanded to ensure self-reliant growth. The energy and vitality of our youth will be harnessed to nation building. The spirit of sacrifice which permeated the struggle for freedom must be recaptured to face the challenges that confront us. A passion for nation building must fill our hearts. For the accomplishment of these momentous tasks, I give you my good wishes.

Jai Hind.

DIA USA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA OMAN LATVIA ARGENTINA GREECE MEXICO SWEDEN TANZANIA ICELAND ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA NEPAL MALI SRI LANKA CHINA IRAN IRAQ AFGHANISTAN FRANCE POLAND YUGOSLAVIA BOTSWANA ANGOLA MALDIVES MAURITIUS ZAMBIA AUSTRALIA INDONESIA NEW ZEALAND THAILAND UNITED KINGDOM KOREA SEYCHELLES TURKEY GERMANY BANGLADESH JORDAN NICARAGUA DENMARK PERU FINLAND MALAYSIA ITALY YEMEN

Date: Feb 23, 1987

Volume No

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HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Minister's Address to U.N. Journalists Association

The following is the address by Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, External Affairs Minister at the inaugural session of the

Conference of the Commonwealth Journalists Association, New Delhi on Feb 04, 1987:

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Vice-President and Friends, it gives me great pleasure to be in your midst here at the inaugural session of the Conference of the Commonwealth Journalists Association in New Delhi. It is heartening that the Commonwealth Journalists Association, conceived as an idea less than a decade ago, has today in its fold eminent journalists from Commonwealth countries, sharing the objectives of the Commonwealth -54>

itself, and dedicated to the promotion of cooperation and mutual understanding.

The Commonwealth is a unique grouping of nations, trascending considerations of race, region and religion. It brings together 49 countries with a shared historical experience from all parts of the world, in a common quest for peace, mutual understanding and cooperation, on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual benefit.

COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT

While successive Commonwealth summits have discussed international issues of common concern, and the Commonwealth Secretariat has endeavoured to implement meaningful programmes of technical and economic cooperation between the Commonwealth countries, it is, indeed, gratifying to note that the media in Commonwealth countries is coming together not only to discuss measures to promote mutual understanding but also to increase exchanges of journalists and promote training opportunities for them. It is a tribute to the wisdom and farsightedness of the founders of the Commonwealth Journalists Association that it aims to achieve these objectives with a clear recognition of, and respect for, the diversities in policies and priorities of individual Commonwealth Member States.

In his address to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting at Nassau on October 16, 1985, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had identified three principal concerns which all responsible and responsive nations must willy-nilly confront: the challenge of world poverty, the avoidance of nuclear war and the elimination of racism. The Prime Minister had then made the unexceptionable point that the success of the Commonwealth would be dependent on the organization's will and ability to work for the achievement of these objectives which, together, will help to evolve a better world order.

The challenge of world poverty is not getting the attention it deserves. Efforts to establish a more just and equitable economic order, facilitating meaningful and effective measures to fight world poverty, have received a setback. The developing countries

are today faced with acute economic problems because of reduced financial flows, growing debt liabilities and ever-increasing protectionist barriers to their exports, apart from the growing detriment to their terms of trade. The developed countries, in turn, appear to be concerned with their problems of growing budget deficits, increasing unemployment and pressures for adopting protectionist measures. We, in India, believe, as the late Mrs. Indira Gandhi often said that "the world is our common possession". The planet in which we live can be made a more humane and liveable place for all people only if all countries, developed and developing, work together constructively to evolve a new ethos in international economic relations, in which the problems of development, debts and trade are addressed in a statesmanlike and farsighted manner.

We are today living in a world haunted by the spectre of a nuclear conflict. The ever-escalating nuclear arms race threatens the very existence of humankind. It was Mahatma Gandhi who first drew attention to the fallacy of the doctrine of deterrence when he said: "The moral to be ultimately drawn from the supreme tragedy of the bomb is that it Will not be destroyed by counterbombs".

India believes that if humanity is to be saved from the horrors of nuclear war, it is imperative to build a world free of nuclear weapons. This has been the main thrust of our efforts at working towards nuclear disarmament as one of the partnerstates in the Six-Nation Disarmament Initiative, with countries drawn from the five continents -- India, Tanzania, Greece, Sweden, Mexico and Argentina -- in order to bring to bear the conscience of world public opinion against the nuclear arms race. It is our hope that with the growing revulsion of world public opinion at the nuclear arms race, we could work towards achieving a comprehensive, verifiable

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nuclear test ban; and which in turn would obviate new dimensions being given to the nuclear arms race, and set in train a process of nuclear arms control leading to the early elimination of all nuclear weapons.

APARTHEID

No issue has posed as serious a challenge to the conscience of mankind and to the Commonwealth itself, as the question of apartheid in South Africa. The people of India feel a special moral obligation to spare no effort in bringing about an early, peaceful end to the apartheid system. We would be failing in upholding the ideals of the leaders of our freedom struggle if we did not lend moral and material support for the struggle against apartheid, because it was in South Africa that Mahatma Gandhi raised the banner of peaceful and non-violent resistance to racial oppression.

The Commonwealth has, for long, discussed the measures we must take collectively in order to give an impetus to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. As the Eminent Persons Group had noted, the failure to achieve an early and peaceful political change would only result in a bloodbath of unprecedented magnitude. This, we must all strive to avoid. It is precisely with this objective in mind that the Non-aligned Movement set up the Africa Fund under the Chairmanship of India. The Fund is not just meant to render economic support to the Frontline States to enable them to stand up to retaliatory economic sanctions from the apartheid regime in South Africa; but also, to bring to bear the force of world public opinion to join collectively in the struggle against apartheid. I am sure that all of you present here share and support the objectives of the Africa Fund and that you would join us in this noble struggle to end racial discrimination in South Africa.

We have witnessed great strides in the field of science and technology during the last four decades. Rapid communications have made the world a much smaller place and have interlinked countries and individuals as never before. The media today has powers to inform, educate, entertain and, most importantly, mould public opinion and thus influence action. I am sure that in your deliberations in Delhi, you will be able to discuss and devise measures not only. to give new dimensions to the cooperation which you are endeavouring to build among journalists in Commonwealth countries, but also on how we could all work together to promote an enlightened awareness throughout the world on some of the problems which I have mentioned.

I wish the Conference and its deliberations all success. Thank you.

DIA USA BAHAMAS GREECE MEXICO SWEDEN TANZANIA ARGENTINA SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Feb 04, 1987

IRAN Fourth Session of Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on the fourth session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission:

The Fourth Session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission for economic, technical, cultural and consular cooperation met in New Delhi on Feb 19-20, 1987 in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs, led the Iranian delegation to the Joint Commission. The Indian delegation was led by Shri N. D. Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs. The Joint Commission meetings at official level were held from 17 to 18

February 1987. The official level delegations were led by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs and International Relations in the Iranian Foreign Ministry and Shri Alfred Gonsalves, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

During his stay, H.E. Dr. Velayati called on Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister, with whom he had a wide ranging discussion. He also called on Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of Human Resources Development and Shri Shiv Shankar, Minister of Commerce.

The two Ministers signed the Minutes in a ceremony held on 20 February 1987. The Agreed Minutes incorporated various agreements reached by the two sides under three Committees of the Joint Commission, namely Committee on Cultural, Information, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, Committee on Trade and Committee on Industrial Cooperation.

The Joint Commission reviewed the progress in the implementation of the Cultural Exchange Programme and agreed on new areas for extending cooperation in the area of culture. The Iranian side agreed to extend necessary help to revive the Indo-Iranian Friendship Society in Tehran. Both sides agreed to facilitate travel of students, mass media representatives, businessmen and cultural teams between the two countries. It was agreed that both sides will extend cooperation between radio and television organisations of the two countries. In agriculture and fisheries, the Iranian side agreed to avail of facilities offered by the Indian side for training of Iranians in selected areas. The Iranian side also agreed to avail of the services of Indian experts who would be deputed for services with the Government of Iran.

The Committee on Trade reviewed the pattern of trade since the last Committee of the Joint Commission and agreed to make greater efforts to achieve higher levels of commercial exchanges. An Indian delegation will visit Tehran within three months to discuss pending contracts and funding. The Iranian side will purchase traditional and non-traditional items from India to the extent of 50 % of the value of crude lifted by India from Iran.

In the field of industry, both sides agreed to further endeavour for mutual industrial and technical cooperation. The items identified for cooperation include small scale and rural industries, cement plant, textile plant, automotive sector, machine tools, railways, road construction and foundry industry and steel sector. It was also agreed that India will train Iranian personnel in LAB project, continuous casting, rolling mills and coke ovens operations. Regarding Kudremukh, both sides agreed to have meetings as may be required in order to arrive at an agreement to resolve this pending matter by December 1987.

AN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Feb 19, 1987

Volume No

1995

JORDAN

India-Jordan Discuss Aviation Matters

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 19, 1987 on the discussion of aviation matters by India and Jordan:

India and Jordan discussed aviation matters relating to commencement of Air Services between the two countries, cooperation in the airports construction and training of pilots when Shri Jagdish Tytler, Minister of State for Civil Aviation visited Jordan recently. The talks between the Indian and Jordanian delegations conti--57>

nued for two-days culminating in the signing of agreed minutes on February 11, 1987. During these talks it has been decided that the two airlines, namely Air India and Alia (Royal Jordan), should meet by the end of March 1987, to determine the commercial aspects of air services. Jordan has agreed to operate to Calcutta. This would however be subject to commercial arrangements to be determined in future. In case the air services agreement is concluded, the designated national carriers of India would operate to both Amman (Queen Alia) and Agaba.

It may be recalled that the Ministry of Civil Aviation has been making constant endeavour to attract foreign airlines to Calcutta with a view to promoting Calcutta as an international airport. In recent times, national airlines of Poland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Singapore have agreed to operate to Calcutta. Singapore Airlines has started its operations to Calcutta. Alia will be the

first Middleeast carrier to operate to Calcutta when the airlines determine the commercial arrangements.

In the course of talks it was agreed that there should be active co-operation between the two countries in construction of airports. It may be mentioned that the International Airports Authority of India has already established its presence in that part of the world by way of construction of international airports in Libya and Algeria. Jordan is contemplating to construct a number of air strips in the Jordan valley for speedy transportation of vegetables to Europe by air. International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) is likely to associate itself in airport construction in Jordan. Further, an understanding has been reached for co-operation between the two countries on pilots' training. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA), which has already been commissioned at Fursatganj in Rae Bareilly District of U.P., as a centre of excellence for training of civil pilots, will be available for training of pilots of the developing countries.

RDAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BULGARIA POLAND YUGOSLAVIA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE ALGERIA LIBYA

Date: Feb 19, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

News Report on IAF Training Denied

The following statement was made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 05, 1987:

Our attention has been drawn to a report in a section of Indian press alleging that 20 instructors of the Indian Air Force along with an unknown number of Indian Army officers from the Regiment of Artillery have imparted combat training to the Iraqi Air Force and its air defence network which has been responsible for recent Iraqi air raids on Iranian cities. The report is totally false and baseless.

DIA IRAQ IRAN

Date: Feb 05, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

No Contacts with Israel: "Reports False and Baseless"

The following is the statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 24, 1987:

Responding to queries about a London report in the Telegraph newspaper of February 24, the Spokesman said that the insinuation in the report that India had contacts with Israel on the question of Pakistan's nuclear facilities was totally false and baseless. -58>

RAEL UNITED KINGDOM INDIA PAKISTAN

Date: Feb 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

President Zia's Visit to Witness Cricket Match

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 17, 1987:

Shri N. K. P. Salve, Chairman of the Indo-Pakistan joint management committee for the Reliance Cup World tournament had extended an invitation to President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan to witness the Indo-Pakistan cricket Test in India. The dates of the visit of President Zia to India are as follows: (i) arriving Delhi -- evening 21st February, 1987; (ii) witnessing cricket test in Jaipur on 22nd February, 1987; (iii) departure on morning of 23rd February, 1987. Further details of programme are being worked out.

KISTAN INDIA

Date: Feb 17, 1987

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Minutes of Consultations in New Delhi

The following are the minutes of Consultations between Mr. Abdul Sattar, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and Mr. A. S. Gonsalves, Secretary in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs held from January 31 to Feb 04, 1987 in New Delhi:

Immediate measures to defuse present tension, to prevent escalation and to deescalate the situation along the India-Pakistan border:

- (i)Both sides agree not to attack each other;
- (ii)Both sides agree to exercise the maximum restraint and to avoid all provocative actions along the border;
- (iii)In regard to concrete de-escalation measures both sides agreed to adopt a sector by sector approach for the pull out of troops deployed on the border by both sides.

In pursuance of these parameters both sides agreed, as a first step, to the pull out of troops in the Ravi and Chenab corridor. In this corridor:

- (a) All offensive and defensive forces of both sides will pull out to peace time locations within 15 days of the date of initialling of these minutes. Additional formations inducted in the Ravi-Chenab corridor by both sides i.e. Army Reserve North comprising 6 Armoured Division and 17 Infantry Division on the Pakistan side, and 6 Mountain Division on the Indian side will also return to peace time locations within 15 days of the date of initialling of these minutes. Pakistan would retain one independent armoured brigade and an independent infantry brigade of the holding Corps reserve.
- (b) The pull out of troops will be undertaken in a graduated manner and will be monitored through regular contact to be maintained by the DsGMO of both sides.
- (c) The modalities for the sector-wise pull out in other sectors would be discussed subsequently; in the intervening period both

sides agree not to make any offensive movements to the international border in these sectors;

- (iv) All mines already laid will be lifted; no mines will be laid:
- (v) DsGMO of both countries shall maintain regular contact;
- (vi) The ACAS (Ops) of both countries shall maintain contact to clear apprehensions about aircraft movements;
- (vii) Regular contacts shall be maintained through diplomatic channels;
- (viii) All satellite airfields shall be deactivated immediately;
- (ix) Navies of both sides will be brought to a lower state of operational readiness;
- (x) For a discussion of further concrete measures for deescalation along the border an Indian delegation has been invited to visit Islamabad during February 1987. Mutually convenient dates for the visit will be settled through diplomatic channels.

KISTAN INDIA USA LATVIA

Date: Feb 04, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Meeting of Experts in New Delhi

The following is the statement by the Foreign Secretary at the inauguration of the SAARC meeting of experts for expanding and strengthening regional cooperation held in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1987:

Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great privilege to address you on this inaugural meeting of experts for strengthening regional cooperation. I am particularly glad that it is a SAARC meeting that I should be addressing so soon after taking over my office in Delhi.

We are gathered to give concrete shape to the five New Ideas identified by our leaders at the last Summit at Bangalore. They are areas as yet unexplored in our regional cooperation in South Asia. Ours is, therefore, a pioneering role. I have no doubt that your deliberations will be characterised by the SAARC spirit of cooperation which has been so evident in our recent meetings. This, I am sure, will enable you to translate the Five Ideas into concrete schemes which can be easily implemented. SAARC's

history, short though it is, is one of dedicated activity. That spirit will enable us to achieve our ideals.

FIVE NEW IDEAS

The Five New Ideas we now take up are designed to promote peopleto-people contact in our region. This is one of the most important objectives of cooperation under SAARC, reflected in the Charter as well as the Declarations adopted at the last two Summit Conferences of SAARC.

Allow me to dwell a little on each of the five ideas. One of them is about the establishment of a SAARC Documentation Centre. Such a Centre would go a long way in satisfying the needs of students, researchers, scholars and teachers by facilitating the exchange of information on technical and specialised subjects.

Another is the institution of SAARC Chairs, Fellowships and Scholarships. There is hardly a better way of inculcating a sense of a South Asian community than to provide the academic community the incentive and, indeed, the opportunity to specialise in areas of interest to all SAARC member countries. The Chairs, Fellowships and Scholarships could be awarded in frontier technologies or in other subjects
-60>

of practical interest to our countries. The body of knowledge and scholarly information that will be created by these Professors, Fellows & Scholars will open new windows for us to enable us to see one another's societies, history and culture from a fresh perspective. The academic impartiality which these studies will bring will go a long way towards creating confidence and promoting trust amongst our States.

The scheme for promotion of tourism with some convertibility facilities is also one of the items on the agenda. The scheme holds great potential for bringing the peoples of SAARC countries together. The scheme itself is a highly innovative one.

SOUTH ASIAN BROADCASTING

The scheme envisaging a South Asian Broadcasting programme will enable SAARC countries to share one another's broadcasts and allow people to get a better appreciation of the cultural & literary heritage of other countries and of our endeavours in diverse fields.

Regarding the proposal to establish an organised volunteers programme, there are many sectors in which the contribution of volunteers to rural areas in the region could be useful. Participation in programmes relating to afforestation, wasteland development, agricultural extension work and others, side by side with the villagers, will, we hope, bring in a sense of realism as

well as idealism to our youth.

I am sure your endeavours here will enable us to place before the Council of Ministers concrete & workable schemes on all these five New Themes. Our meetings so far have testified to our ability to reach a consensus on complex issues. We should move forward at a measured pace to ensure that the foundations of our cooperation are surely laid. I am sure this meeting will benefit from your individual approaches and our commonality of purpose. You come in Delhi with the renewal of spring. May that spirit bring its freshness to your deliberations. We wish you a most warm welcome. We will do every thing in our power to make your stay here pleasant and comfortable. Thank you.

DIA USA

Date: Feb 23, 1987

Volume No

1995

SADCC

Minister of State for External Affairs' Address at the Ministerial Meeting of Southern African Development Coordination Conference

The following is the address by the Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, on the occasion of the 1987 annual consultative conference of Southern African Development Coordination Conference, Gaborone on Feb 05, 1987:

Mr. President, Excellencies and Distinguished Guests, I am honoured for having been given this opportunity to address this session of the Ministerial Meeting of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. This meeting takes place in a year which has marked a new phase in the struggle for freedom and dignity in Southern Africa and we are very happy to be here to participate in this process and to demonstrate the solidarity of the Government and people of India, to the heroic struggle being carried out by the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and the Frontline States.

It is particularly apposite that we are meeting in this city of Gaborone in -61>

Botswana. Those who are nearest the fire always need the greatest courage and strength. We admire your bravery in this and your

success in achieving considerable economic progress in spite of the severe limitations and onslaughts from the Pretoria regime.

Some of the most enduring effects of the region's colonial past flow out of the extent to which Southern Africa's economies and transport and communication infra-structures had been integrated with those of the Republic of South Africa. As the conflicts in the region -- over the opposition to Apartheid, over the independence of Namibia or over South Africa's intervention in the affairs of Mozambique and Angola and threat to others in the region -- have sharpened, the independent States of Southern Africa have become increasingly conscious of the need to change the pattern of their dependence whether it be for obtaining consumer necessities, energy requirements, such as oil, electricity, employment for their populations or for access to the outside world for their foreign trade. For them to be able to carry their struggle for the emancipation of the oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia to a successful finish, it is essential that they should not be susceptible to blackmail and pressures. That South Africa is apt to blackmail its neighbours in order to bolster an illegitimate minority regime was demonstrated in August last year when some countermeasures were applied against Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Even a superficial look at the situation makes it evident that for the independent States of Southern Africa to attain a minimum of economic independence, investment in transport and communications infra-structures, manufacturing industries, agriculture and manpower development of a magnitude requiring a major international effort will be necessary. The Southern African Development Coordination Conference which was formed with the declared objective of attaining "the economic liberation and integrated development" of the economies of the region, answers the need to mobilize resources and coordinate development plans in the region. During its brief seven year existence the SADCC has achieved notable success not only in focussing the attention of the international community on this aspect of Southern Africa's problems but also in helping to identify and prepare details of specific projects, mobilising about half the resources necessary and starting the implementation of these projects. Yet their efforts must continue not only till all the projects already identified are implemented but also to establish new ones, for the development needs of the region are greater than what is reflected in the present plans of SADCC and the efforts of Southern Africa to achieve economic liberation are an integral part of the political struggle to force Pretoria to move towards a Government based on universal adult franchise and to grant independence to Namibia.

NAMIBIA

India's commitment to the emancipation of the majority population of South Africa and to the independence of Namibia is of long

standing. It is natural that a country like India should have established a relationship with SADCC and that it should have tried to establish a programme of Indo-SADCC cooperation. While with some of the individual member countries of the SADCC India has had close and cooperative bilateral relations and is trying to develop similar relations with others, India has offered to SADCC a form of assistance which she believes she is well placed to offer. India's offer is for manpower development, provision of experts, preparation of studies and assistance in developing industries, particularly small scale industries.

The Movement of Non-aligned Countries at the Eighth Summit in Harare in September 1986 underlined the need to support the work of SADCC. At the same time it also recognised the urgent need for concerted international action to provide relief to the Frontline States in the region to withstand the effects of retaliatory sanctions by the Pretoria regime. Accord -62>

ingly, the Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid (AFRICA) Fund was set up which, as the Chairman of the Movement, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, emphasised, constituted one of the major achievements of the Harare Summit.

AFRICA FUND

A few days ago the AFRICA Fund Committee met in New Delhi at the level of Heads of State or Government. The leaders gathered in New Delhi recognised that the depredations of the Pretoria regime were not confined to South Africa and Namibia but were increasingly directed against the Frontline States. They emphasized that the valiant efforts of the Frontline States to protect their independence and economic development from South African aggression must receive the fullest support of the international community.

The objectives of the Fund and the measures for achieving them, as set out in its mandate, are clear. The Fund will strengthen the determination and capability of the Frontline States to intensify the struggle against Apartheid. It will serve to reinforce the efforts already undertaken by SADCC. To this end the Fund has been authorised by the leaders meeting in New Delhi to maintain close liaison with SADCC and establish appropriate working arrangements with it. The AFRICA Fund will supplement the actions of SADCC by mobilising resources for emergency measures directly related to the struggle against Apartheid.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in his concluding address to the AFRICA Fund Summit declared and I quote:

"We belong to one human family. That part of our family which lives in Southern Africa is suffering the consequences of invasion, colonialism and Apartheid. We wish to go to the aid of

our kith and kin."

It is that universal urge which unites us all under a common banner.

Mr. President, I have the honour to convey to you, and through you to this meeting, the best wishes from the Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, for success in the important and vital deliberations that you will undertake here in Gaborone this week. The struggle must continue until victory is won.

Thank you.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA BOTSWANA ANGOLA MOZAMBIQUE USA ZAMBIA ZIMBABWE RUSSIA

Date: Feb 05, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Future Prospects of Indo-Soviet Co-operation - Shri N. D.Tiwari Inaugurates Round Table

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 10, 1987 of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari while inaugurating a Round Table on "Future Prospects of Indo-Soviet Cooperation". on February 10, in New Delhi:

"I am honoured to inaugurate this Round Table on "Future Prospects of Indo-Soviet Co-operation". Indo-Soviet Co-operation is vast and mutually beneficial. This Round Table is timely given our task after the recent visit of General Secretary Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to India. India and the Soviet Union have declared their resolve at the highest level to further intensify Indo-Soviet Economic and Commercial Co-operation.

As we are all aware, during the visit of General Secretary Gorbachev, important projects in the power, petroleum, coal and steel sectors have been identified for -63>

Indo-Soviet economic collaboration in the coming years. These are projects of immense significance to the development of our country's infrastructure.

BILATERAL TRADE

Simultaneously, it has been decided to increase our bilateral trade turnover by 21/2 times by the year 1992, i.e. taking it to the figure of nearly Rs. 12,500 crores. This requires an intensified and concerted effort by both sides to identify not only new products in our trade, but also new forms and areas of co-operation such as production cooperation, third country ventures and projects in fields like civil construction in the USSR etc. Some work in this direction has already been accomplished by the Soviet and Indian Governments in the recently concluded trade negotiations; and the working group on production co-operation.

There have been major structural changes in the Indian and the Soviet economies in the last two years. We, in India, have embarked on a path of far-reaching importance through modernisation of our economy, streamlining of the procedures for imports and exports and greater liberalisation of import regime. Soviet economy is undergoing perestroika and de-centralisation as manifest in the Soviet decision to grant autonomy to more than 20 Ministries and 70 economic organisations to enter into contracts with foreign parties directly. Soviet economy is also gearing itself for modernisation. These changes would open up completely new possibilities of cooperation. While much more needs to be done by the Governments of India and the Soviet Union to tap these springs, private sector would have a major role to play. Our private sector has been traditionally oriented towards the West. In view of the adverse balance of trade position, it is imperative that our private sector takes a careful look at its imports requirements and then decides which items of equipment, machinery, raw materials and technology can be imported from rupee trading areas, the most important of which is the Soviet Union. There are also possibilities of joint ventures and third country cooperation between India and the Soviet Union in private sector.

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

At the same time, we need to also emphasise transfer of technology in areas of mutual benefit. There is a serious effort under way in India - symbolised by the Indo-Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry to identify areas of frontier technology in which the two countries can closely collaborate in mutually identified important projects over a long term. I wish their efforts success.

We are keenly awaiting the visit by the President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Mr. Marchuk to India soon, with a team of eminent Soviet scientists for talks with their Indian counterparts. Many of these scientific exchanges would require to be translated into useful applications in our industrial concerns for us to realise truly the benefits of our bilateral co-

operation with USSR.

I would suggest that Indo-USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry makes a thorough study of all these changes to see how we in India can achieve our objective of increasing substantially trade and economic co-operation. No doubt, these changes mean that contacts with these organisations would be now more direct. A common past complaint of many Indian firms which were exporting to USSR was that they were unable to have direct contact with the buyers of USSR and, therefore, a direct feedback from them. This should at least in some measure, if not to a large extent, be rectified by these changes. I am informed that the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry has decided to set up a Soviet-Indian Trade and Economic Committee in Moscow. We welcome this. I feel that this Committee would be more productive if leading representative commercial organisations from India could be associated with this as has been done in respect of the Indo-Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India. -64>

I hope that your deliberations would be positive and concrete. If there are any supportive or enabling measures that should be undertaken by the two Governments, these may be brought to the notice of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission so that cooperation between India and the Soviet Union can bloom.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC UNITED KINGDOM RUSSIA

Date: Feb 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Long Term Cooperation in Agriculture

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 12, 1987 on the signing of an agreement between India and the Soviet Union on long-term cooperation in agriculture:

A long-term programme of cooperation between India and the Soviet Union in the field of agriculture came into force today following signing of an agreement here between the Union Ministry of Agriculture and the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee.

The programme which visualises economic, scientific and technical co-operation between the two countries upto the year 2000 AD was

signed here by Shri C. Srinivasa Sastry, Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, on behalf of India and H.E. Mr. Y. N. Balandin, Deputy Chairman, USSR Agroprom, on behalf of the Soviet Union

EXPORT ORIENTED UNITS

Under the agreement the two sides agreed to cooperate through establishment of 100 per cent export oriented units, joint ventures, technical collaboration in the area of soyabean processing production and processing of vegetables and fruits for export, production of ethyl alcohol from potatoes and production facilities for essential oils.

The two sides also agreed to the establishment of goat and sheep breeding farms for processing of meat for export and establishment of modern abettoirs for export of meat. The agreement also provided for production of chemicals based on agro-industrial wastes and silos for grains, oilseeds and edible oils.

The two sides also agreed to exchange of experts for evolving modalities for strengthening and upgrading laboratories for plant quarantine services and testing insecticides and seeds. Experts would also be exchanged for identifying pure lines of poultry in USSR suitable for propagation in Indian conditions and also for identifying equipment required for modernising animal disease diagnostic laboratories.

The two sides agreed on a perspective plan of cooperation in various sectors of agriculture which included breeding, seed production and crop cultivation technologies in respect of wheat, rice, sorghum, sunflower, rapeseed, mustard corn and cotton, use of world plant resources for crop breeding including field crops, fruits and vegetables and studying, testing and evaluation of new varieties of crops in various ecological conditions.

PERSPECTIVE PLAN

The perspective plan also provides for study of advancements in the efficient use of fertilisers, combined application of fertilisers and pesticides and improving of bio-methods for crop pest control.

The perspective plan also includes technology of rain-fed/dryland farming integrated watershed management of different agroclimatic regions, application of remote sensing technology for assessment of soil and land resources and monitoring of land degradation and land use changes.

The perspective plan also provides for sunflower seed multiplication and supply to India, intensification of sericulture and improvement of milk processing technology. The two sides agreed to formulate working plans of cooperation over two years on matters of mutual interest arising out of the Long Term Programme of Cooperation and also identify new areas of cooperation for implementation.

The agreement signed today is the result of nine-day discussions with the sixmember Soviet delegation led by USSR Agroprom Vice-Chairman H.E. Mr. Y. N. Balandin, which arrived here on February 4, 1987.

DIA USA PERU

Date: Feb 12, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-USSR Protocol Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 14, 1987 on the Indo-USSR protocol on telecommunications:

A protocol between the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was signed here today. The protocol was signed by Shri D. K. Sangal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications on behalf of Government of India and by Mr. G. C. Kudriavtsev, First Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications on behalf of USSR.

The main features of the protocol are -

Telecommunications between India and USSR shall be provided by telephone, telegraph and telex services as well as by leasing communication channels to users. Both the Governments shall take measures for the development of the existing telecommunication facilities linking them. They shall expand, expedite and promote the telecommunication exchange between the two countries with a view to satisfying their mutual demands. It was agreed to expand full scale International Subscriber Dialled Telephone Service between India and USSR and increase the number of direct circuits between the two countries as required to meet the traffic demands from time to time.

Both the Governments shall render each other assistance in providing telecommunication traffic transit to some third countries, The possibilities of establishing automatic transit of telephone calls between India and some third countries via the USSR as well as between the USSR and some third countries via India will be considered by the end of the current year.

Both the Governments shall promote the provision of telecommunication facilities to industrial and other projects constructed or operated on the basis of intergovernmental Indo-Soviet Agreements on the territories of India and USSR. Concrete action for the fulfilment of this agreement will be prepared by the end of the current year.

Both the Governments shall jointly study the technical and economic aspects of the further development of communication between the two countries by means of satellite communication system.

The two Governments shall, in every possible way, promote the technical sup. port to the Festival of India in USSR and Festival of USSR in India in 1987-88 and of other bilateral events in future

TECHNICAL PROPOSALS

The two Governments shall elaborate and coordinate technical proposals on the lease of Soviet communication satellite transponders to India.

Both the Governments shall jointly examine the status of communication technology and industry in both the countries with a view to establishing longterm cooperation in the following fields:

- use of components manufactured by the two countries in joint -66>

development and production of communication equipment;

- supply and sale of equipment to each other and to third countries;
- joint manufacture of communication equipment;
- participation in the construction of communication projects by the two countries for third countries; and
- joint projects for scientific research and training.

JOINT PROGRAMME

Both the Governments agreed to prepare and coordinate in 1987-88,

a joint programme of research of wave propagation in the 10-30 KHz frequency band at the USSR international centre (Dubna) and to discuss the possibilities of setting up a testing ground station in India.

Both the Governments, having noted the common need of the countries to expand their telecommunication network and the possible benefit of exchange of experience in this field, agreed to have a broader exchange of information on the strategy and technology accepted in both countries and also to study the possibility of joint development of technology and production in this field. For this purpose, before the next bilateral meeting, the two Governments agreed to further explore the possibility of cooperation in:-

- manufacture of microwave relay equipment and digital aerial line carrier systems;
- manufacture of antenna for satellite communication systems;
- joint cooperation in the manufacture of cable pressurising equipment and rectifier unit; and
- mechanisation of cable laying equipment.

Both the Governments shall promote the expansion of business contacts between enterprises and specialists with a view to acquainting each other with the operation of communication facilities and enterprises of both sides, sharing working experience and exchanging scientific and technological information in the field of Telecommunications.

A INDIA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Feb 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

India and USSR Sign Detailed Programme of Events for Indian and Soviet Festivals

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 24, 1987 on the signing of detailed programme of events for Indian and Soviet festivals:

India and the Soviet Union today signed the detailed programme of

events of the Festival of India to be organised in the USSR and the Soviet Festival in India later this year. While the Human Resource Development Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, signed the programme on behalf of India, the Soviet Minister of Culture, Mr. V. G. Zakharov, signed it on behalf of the USSR.

The Festival of India in the USSR will be inaugurated in July 1987. It will continue for one year and will be dedicated to the 40th anniversary of India's Independence. In addition to the special inaugural events at Moscow, Leningrad and Tashkent in the USSR and Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore and Calcutta in India, the Festival shall encompass events like performing arts, 20 exhibitions, 18 seminars and conferences, 8 film festivals and 6 festivals of national cuisine on each side and youth and sports programmes, sale of souvenir items, special publications programme etc. The reciprocal festival of the USSR in India, to be inaugurated in November 1987, -67>

will be dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution.

The detailed Programme of Events, which has been compiled by the two sides after intensive discussions stretching over 6 months, includes details of all events such as cities to be covered by each performing artist, dates and venues for inauguration of exhibitions, dates and cities of film festivals, cities to be visited by the

youth delegation, dates of sporting events, etc.
The Soviet Culture Minister, Mr. V. G. Zakharov, had on his arrival in India called on the Human Resource Development Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, and the Minister of State for Education and Culture, Smt. Krishna Sahi, yesterday. Mr. Zakharov today visited Rajghat, Indira Gandhi Memorial, Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Museum and called on the Vice President of India, Shri R. Venkataraman.

DIA USA RUSSIA UZBEKISTAN

Date: Feb 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ninth Session of Economic and Commercial Sub Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 13, 1987 on the ninth session of the economic and commercial sub commission of the Indo-US Joint Commission:

The ninth session of the Economic and Commercial Sub-Commission constituted under the Indo-US Sub-Commission concluded its two day session here yesterday evening. The Indian. team for the discussion was led by Shri S. Venkitaramanan, Finance Secretary and the US team by Mr. Allen Wallis, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.

The two day session covered a wide range of Economic and Commercial issues.

Some of the main issues discussed related to multilateral and bilateral assistance including reduction in the quantum of US aid, replenishment of IDA VIII, Exim Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and Trade Development Programmes, obstacles to trade and investment in both the countries, US concerns regarding intellectual property rights, motion picture industry and specific trade issues. The Sub-Commission also considered the reports of the three Working Groups constituted under it, dealing with the economic, trade and narcotics matters.

The next session of the Sub-Commission is expected to be held in Washington next year.

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Date: Feb 13, 1987

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Date: Mar 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

DENMARK

Indo-Danish Grant Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 26, 1987 on the signing of an Indo-Danish grant agreement:

Denmark will give to India a grant of Kroner 200 million (equivalent approximately to Rs. 36 crores) during 1987. An

agreement on this was signed here today by Mr. Bjarne H. Sorensen, Head of Asia Division, Danish International Development Agency and Shri Kamlesh Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of their respective Governments. This amount will be utilised for projects on health and family welfare, rural water supply and agriculture spread over Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Kerala.

It was also agreed in principle during the talks held here between Indian and Danish delegations from March 20 to 26 that Denmark will give a loan of Kroner 250 million (equivalent to approximately Rs. 45 crores). This loan will be interest free and repayable over 35 years including a grace period of 10 years.

The Danish Ambassador to India H.E. Dr. Kan Baagoe and the Indian Ambassador to Denmark, Mr. R. C. Shukla were also present.

NMARK INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Mar 26, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Growth of India's Foreign Policy

The following is the text of the Vice-President of India, Shri R. Venkataraman's address at the Ex-Diplomats' Association on Growth of India's Foreign Policy in New Delhi on Feb 22, 1987:

At the time of independence in 1947, India did not inherit any particular tradition of foreign policy which it could follow and build upon. There was only a dim memory of the great ages of India under the Mauryas and the Guptas, and under the Mughals. India was too absorbed in domestic affairs to pay enough attention to the affairs of other countries far or near. In fact, the absence of an informed and coherent foreign policy under the Mughals, the Maratha and the Sikhs was largely responsible for India's easy drift into bondage as the central power at Delhi disintegrated and one principality after another succumbed to the advancing British power.

The external policies pursued by the British Government in London had brought to New Delhi a legacy of European hatreds and rivalries, which had little con

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cern with India's proper national interests. Imperialist, aggressive and expansionist in character, they were rooted in the old outmoded concept of spheres of influence and their principal aim was to secure Britain's hold on India. Not unnaturally, therefore, independent India found very little to emulate in these policies. The inspiration and thrust of new India's foreign policy came from the character and ethos of the freedom struggle under Mahatma Gandhi.

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

The Indian National Congress adopted its first resolution on foreign policy at the A.I.C.C. Session in Delhi in 1921. This resolution declared simply that the interests of Nationalist India in the field of foreign policy were opposed to those of the British. In the formulation of its foreign policy thereafter the Congress in creasingly felt the impact of Jawaharlal Nehru's sense of history and his deep awareness of currents and cross currents of world affairs.

While the Indian National Congress was nationalist and had nationalism as its basis, it was not parochial or isolationist in outlook. Indeed, Gandhiji had himself said that India's nationalism was based on the most intense internationalism. Mahatmaji and Jawaharlal Nehru both viewed the Indian freedom struggle as one that directly affected a great number of other countries because India's struggle was against the most extensive Imperialism of the time. Accordingly, at its Calcutta Session in 1928, the Congress identified the Indian struggle for freedom as "a part of the general world struggle against Imperialism" and it declared itself against any foreign entanglements for India. The vear before, at its Madras Session, the Congress had enunciated the Asian dimension of its foreign policy by expressing support to the people of China in their fight against imperialism and by declaring "that the people of India have no quarrel with their neighbours and desire to live at peace with them".

SUPPORT FOR ARABS OF PALESTINE

In 1936, the Congress Working Committee meeting at Wardha voiced sympathy and support for the Arabs of Palestine in their struggle for independence and condemned the attack on Ethiopia. Another plank, namely support for African independence and for freedom movements had been added to the Congress' foreign policy platform.

Thus, a decade before independence, the direction that new India's foreign policy would take was clearly established.

Its main components were:

(i) Uncompromising opposition to imperialism and colonialism as

enemies of peace and freedom, and sympathy and support for freedom movements everywhere, especially, in Asia and Africa;

- (ii) Avoidance of foreign entanglements for India; and
- (iii) The desire to live in peace, friendship and co-operation with neighbours.

India acceded to independence in a world which had just seen the end of a catastrophic war and where the Allies of yesterday were ranged against each other in cold hostility. The nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had heralded a new age. The devastating power of the nuclear weapon, the likely biological consequences of nuclear warfare, commended the necessity of an approach of restraint, understanding and cooperation in international relations; but in fact, the divisions among nations were deepening and the arms race was accelerating. Under different names, the old concepts of spheres of influence and balance of power were being pursued by great powers and alliances and treaties were being forged around the globe in the name of defence and security, What was worse, these were attempts to draw newly independent countries into -70>

these confrontational arrangements which could possibly serve no interest of theirs.

PRIMARY TASKS

The primary tasks these countries faced at home of lifting the pall of poverty and ignorance from over their deprived and downtrodden people were daunting and to accomplish these they needed peace and an international environment of peaceful coexistence, if not friendship and cooperation. After assuming office on September 7, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru defined his Interim Government's policy as one of "keeping away from the Power politics of Groups, aligned against one another, which had led in the past to two world wars and which may again lead to disaster of even vaster scale." Thereafter the basic framework matured rapidly in Nehru's deft hands and in response to national and international developments into a full-fledged policy of nonalignment. In an address to the Columbia University on October 17, 1949, he defined the main objectives of India's foreign policy as "the pursuit of peace, not through alignment with any major power or group of powers, but through an independent approach to each controversial or disputed issue, the liberation of subjected peoples, the maintenance of freedom both national and individual, the elimination of racial discrimination and the elimination of want, disease and ignorance which afflict the greater part of the world's population." He especially emphasised the last and declared that no democracy could exist for long in the midst of want and poverty and inequality and that peace was an absolute necessity for India for her to progress and develop.

As Jawaharlal Nehru often acknowledged, his foreign policy was not always popular with some of the Western countries; but he was convinced as the people of India were, that the policy was right, that it suited India's short-term and longterm interests and helped to serve the broad cause of world peace. It was resented in some quarters, not necessarily because India refused to join the military blocs, which some other countries had also done, but because of India's independent approach to world problems and because the way of her functioning differed from other countries.

COMMONWEALTH

This independent approach and new way of functioning in international relations were an inheritance of the freedom movement and the conditioning provided to it by Mahatma Gandhi. There was no malice or ill-will towards any one in India's policy and way of functioning. Rather, India looked at the world as one whole, one large human family of great diversity but with a common interest in peace, survival and progress. It was this spirit and this way of looking at things that were responsible, more than anything else, I believe, for India's decision to continue as a member of the Commonwealth even after becoming a republic. This particular act was misunderstood in some countries for several years. The point is we did what we thought was right in the circumstances without dressing up our policies and actions in the garb of seeming conformity or diplomatic deception to which the functioning of European powers over the centuries had so accustomed the world.

These new policies that came to India naturally from her rich cultural tradition in which her leaders - Gandhiji, Nehru and others - were deeply soaked, their Western education notwithstanding. And as Nehru himself once remarked, the principles which formed the basis of our relations with other nations, namely, mutual respect for each other, mutual nonaggression, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful co-existence and mutual non-interference were not new for us in India; they had governed our way of life and were as old as our thought and culture. 2200 years earlier, the Emperor Ashoka had made Buddha's message of tolerance the cornerstone of his State policy in domestic and external matters. Co-existence, mutual respect and equality, mutual tolerance, mutual non-aggression are but other names for tolerance.

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In Panditji's lifetime, I had the privilege to represent India in various Committees and Councils of the United Nations for several years. Support for the World Organisation has been a cardinal part of India's foreign policy under all Governments from Nehru to Rajiv Gandhi regardless of the World Organisation's failures in disarmament and peace keeping and our own early disenchantment with the Security Council's prevarication, under Anglo-American

influence, on Pakistan's aggression in Jammu and Kashmir. The emphasis we laid in the world forum on early freedom and independence for colonies, on the need to address the socioeconomic problems of newly independent countries, and on the importance of arms limitation and disarmament to world peace arose out of our historical and cultural conditioning to which I referred a while ago.

The United Nations has not, so far, any solid achievement to show in the field of disarmament, and its role in mobilizing the world's economic resources for the benefit of the developing countries has also been marginal. India should continue to focus the world body's attention on these two vital areas in the future also The United Nations' most dramatic success was in the area of decolonisation and India can take much justifiable pride in its own role in that process. In the matter of a decade from mid 50's to mid 60's, close to a hundred new countries achieved independence and became the Organisation's members. Imagine the state of restlessness, rebellion, violene and war in the world if those countries had continued under colonial rules:

Jawaharlal Nehru believed that no quarrel was big enough for war to be required to settle it, and it has been the policy of successive Indian Governments to especially cultivate friendly and co-operative relations with our neighbours. Ironically, armed conflicts were imposed on us by our two large neighbours, Pakistan and China. The United States policy of drawing Pakistan into cold war alliances sponsored by it and into a mutual assistance treaty has, in my view, in no way strengthened Pakistan or aided American objectives in Asia. It perpetuated tensions between Pakistan and India leading to two further wars in 1965 and 1971. The recent resumption of American arms supply to our neighbour is also fraught with dangers not only for India but also Pakistan and for general stability and tranquility of our region. It has encouraged Pakistan in its search for a nuclear military programme which, it is now clear, could not have advanced to the stage it has without American knowledge and acquiescence and without the sale, allegedly clandestine of a good deal of sensitive technology and equipment from American and other Western sources. This is a new and potentially dangerous dimension and our foreign and defence policies in the immediate future should have to take all its implications fully into account.

China, a major world power, is also the largest Asian country and a neighbour with which we share a long frontier and a history of cultural intercourse spanning many centuries. It was a central endeavour in Jawaharlal Nehru's policy to cultivate the most cordial relationship of mutual trust, friendship and co-operation with China and to find a negotiated and fair solution of the border problem. China's responses had belied our expectations and its invasion of India in 1962 had found us mentally and militarily unprepared. The experience was a great shock to us,

but it was also a lesson in the necessity of realism in our appraisals of the world scene and of the intentions and policies of other nations especially powerful nations. It has taught us that the country should always remain prepared against every possible contingency regardless of the current state of relationship between them.

Our bitter experiences with Pakistan and China notwithstanding, I am glad to say that our policy towards our neighbours has continued on the right path of conciliation, cooperation and friendship. The period of Indira Gandhi's Prime Ministership saw several new initiatives from our -72>

side for normalisation of relations with Pakistan and China. The process is continuing and may one hopes, yield positive results under our present Prime Minister's dynamic leadership of our country.

SAARC

Perhaps, in the early years our policy towards our smaller neighbours had not altogether been without a touch of indulgence and sentimentality. In this area also more realistic appraisals followed in the 60's. and the 70's and a balanced policy of mutual respect and mutual benefit was inaugurated. The over all picture of our relations with our neighbours is a good one. It is my belief that the policy we have been pursuing is the right policy, even though domestic situations of some of these countries may continue to cause misunderstandings and pose problems for us because of the shared inheritance of ethnic and linguistic affiliations. The development of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, to which India has lent ungrudging support will, I trust, in addition to promoting regional cooperation help expand and reinforce bilateral relations also.

I should like to say a word here about the growth of our relations with the Soviet Union which, in addition to being a European country, is also the strongest Asian Power. Its proximity to our borders demands a relationship of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and despite the fact that our ideologies and political systems are different, the Soviet Union has responded well to India's initiatives in that direction. Besides, it has given principled and consistent support to us on several issues of national importance. It is not without significance that the General Secretary of the Soviet Union, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, during his recent visit to India, signed a Declaration with our Prime Minister setting out measures for bringing into existence a world without violence and war.

The Soviet Union occupies a major part of the Eurasian landmass, on which China, Europe, Japan and India are among the other more substantial entities. Differences of ideology and socio-politico organisation from one country or sub-region to another are all too obvious. Then, there are ethnic divisions and border disputes to reckon with. This landmass is the cradle of all of man's religions and civilizations; and throughout these many ages, it has also been the playground of the many movements of history. In reality, the problems of the rest of the world are but offshoots of the issues of this landmass. Increasingly, therefore, the central questions of global peace and war will be decided in Eurasia rather than elsewhere and their resolution will hinge on the state of relations among this vast region's major entities. I believe, cordial and cooperative relations between India and the Soviet Union, two enormous countries, following different ideologies and socio-political systems, chart a creative new course which could lead to tranquility, peace and cooperation in the world.

NON-ALIGNMENT

India's foreign policy, has developed well in the last 40 years. Indeed, it has suffered some setbacks. But we have drawn the right lessons from our ordeals and failures and these have in turn reinforced our belief in the rightness of our overall approach and the soundness of our objectives. The framework of principles, which generally goes under the name of Non-Alignment, has stood the test of time. And it is a tribute to the farsightedness of our leaders that virtually every single country that has attained independence since 1947 owes allegiance to the policies and principles of non-alignment. I hope in their future development the foreign policies not only of India but also of other non-aligned countries will continue to move forward in their chosen direction.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Your Association represents the accumulated experience of India's foreign policy and the conduct of India's diplomacy in pursuit of that policy. Many of you have contributed in significant ways to the formulation and implementation of that policy

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in different capacities in different parts of the world. I have had the privilege of working with some of you and I know from personal experience how much the Indian Foreign Service has contributed to our national life.

The Service has come under some criticism from time to time and occasionally even under unfair attack. There are several reasons for this but I think the principal one among them is that diplomacy is essentially a profession of silences and much of what our Ambassadors and others accomplish abroad does not receive the limelight, often for good reason. But that is not to say that your services are not appreciated, and I should like to close these remarks by recalling what Jawaharlal Nehru had to say

concerning the Foreign Service's performance and your achievement. In the Budget Session of Parliament in 1958, eleven years after independence, there was some criticism of the expanding size of the Indian diplomatic establishment and the functioning of some of our missions. In his reply to the debate, the then Prime Minister speaking of our missions, some of which you then adorned as Ambassadors or in other capacities, had said:

"Taken all in all they have preserved a fairly high level of work and there can be no doubt that they have a high reputation among the diplomatic personnel of the world."

Of course, you know all this and I did not come here to remind you of what our Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers thought of your work. I responded readily to your invitation to come and be with you today because I believe that though you are no longer in the Government's active service, Your Association has an important contribution to make to the thought content of India's foreign policy as one of our more important unofficial Think Tanks.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA CHINA ETHIOPIA JAPAN MALI CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN

Date: Feb 22, 1987

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Double Taxation Avoidance Convention Between India and Hungary

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1987 on the double taxation avoidance convention between India and Hungary:

A convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income has been entered into between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Hungarian People's Republic. This has been notified in the Gazette of India and will be effective from January 7, 1987 in respect of income arising in any previous year beginning on or after the first day of April 1988.

Under this convention, business profits of an enterprise of one

country shall be taxable in the other country only if it maintains a permanent establishment like a branch office, factory, place of management, an oil field or other place of extraction of natural resources or a building site or construction, installation or assembly project or supervisory activities in connection therewith, in that other country. It has also been provided that in the determination of profits of a permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses, wherever incurred as are in accordance with the

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provisions of and subject to the limitations of the taxation laws of that State, would be allowed as deduction.

It has been agreed that aircraft profits would be completely exempt in the country of source and shall be taxable only by the country of residence of the enterprise. With regard to dividends, interest and royalties, and fees for technical services, primary right to tax these incomes has been given to the country of residence. The country of source will limit its tax on these incomes to certain specified percentages.

NGARY INDIA USA **Date**: Mar 17, 1987

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

India and Hungary Sign Production Cooperation Agreement - 500Maruti Cars to be Exported

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi an Mar 31, 1987 on the signing of production cooperation agreement between India and Hungary:

India and Hungary today signed an agreement providing for long term production cooperation. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Maruti Udyog Limited and Mogurt of Hungary, in the presence of Shri J. Vengala Rao, Minister of Industry and Co-Chairman of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission and Prof. K. K. Tewary, Minister of State for Public Enterprises.

This agreement is in pursuance of the protocol signed in the last meeting of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission held in New Delhi in October, 1986.

As a consequence of this agreement, Mogurt also signed a contract for importing a minimum of 500 cars a year from Maruti, with the intention of raising this number to 5,000 a year. The first shipment of 500 cars is expected to be made in August, 1987.

Maruti Udyog Limited has contracted with Mogurt to import specified automobile components from 1988 onwards, to balance the cost of 500 cars to be exported. This arrangement for the export of cars and import of components is for an initial period of five years, extendable by mutual consent.

A delegation from Hungary, led by Mr. L. P. Toth, Managing Director of Mogurt and including Mr. I. Csuri, Managing Director of Mercur and Mr. R. Fekete, Managing Director of MMG, has been in India for the past several days to finalise these contracts. This contract with Hungary is the first substantial order for export of cars from India and constitutes an important landmark in the growth or the Indian automobile and engineering industry.

NGARY INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: Mar 31, 1987

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Indo-Italian Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 12, 1987 on the Indo-Italian cultural exchange programme:

An Indo-Italian Cultural Exchange Programme for 1987-89 was signed here today, Shri Manmohan Singh, Joint Secretary (Culture) in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, signed the agreement on behalf of India while Mr. Alessandro Romano, Minister plenipotentiary and Director General of Cultural -75>

Affairs in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signed it on behalf of the Italian Government.

The programme envisages cooperation between the two countries in the fields of education, art, culture, science, radio and TV, youth and sports. Under the programme, books and publications, micro films, dance, music troupes and exhibitions will also be exchanged. It is also proposed to organise film weeks in each other's countries apart from participation in International Film Festivals organised in the two countries.

In addition, scholars, teachers and experts in anthropology, archaeology, museology, education, culture and art will be exchanged between India and Italy.

ALY INDIA OMAN USA

Date: Mar 12, 1987

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Shri Venkataraman Hosts Dinner in Honour of Prince Naruhito -Text of Vice-Persident's Speech

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 20, 1987 of the speech by the Vice-President, Shri R. Venkataraman at a dinner hosted by him in honour of His Imperial Highness Prince Naruhito of Japan:

I have great pleasure in extending a warm welcome to you this evening. We are particularly gratified that you have found it possible to visit India. I have no doubt that during the course of the next few days you will be able to have a glimpse of contemporary India and, as a student of history, have some opportunity to appreciate India's ancient historical and cultural heritage. Most importantly, it is our hope, that your discovery of India will enable you to vividly trace the links of culture and religion that bind our countries so closely together.

POST-WAR PERIOD

Turning to the most recent post-war period one cannot but admire Japan's phenomenal achievements. The Japanese economic miracle and the story of Japan' rapid modernisation are a source of inspiration not only for countries on the path of development but also for countries which began the process of industrialisation many decades ago. If this modernisation and achievement of prosperity have been impressive no less has been your ability to preserve your distinguished cultural heritage exemplified by your harmonious society and your traditional arts.

Our path to development has been influenced by our historical

experience. After a long colonial rule we earned our independence and embarked on a programme of planned economic development based on the criterion of social justice and within the framework of a democratic structure with popular participation in the formulation of our programmes. We have striven to achieve economic self-reliance and to safeguard in the process our economic independence. We appreciate the assistance for our development which we received from overseas including from Japan. But the major efforts for improving the quality of life of our people have necessarily been our own.

ANCIENT LINKS

The ancient links between Japan and India have been eloquently reaffirmed

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through a multi-dimensional relationship in the post war years. I recall with appreciation that India was the first country to receive economic assistance from Japan after the war. The exchange of high level visits in the fifties and the conclusion of bilateral agreements in the fields of culture and trade and more recently in science and technology have promoted the establishment of a firm basis for the development of mutually beneficial relations between our two countries. We are at different levels of development. It is also true that our historical experiences have not been similar. It is, therefore, inevitable that our respective perceptions of international relations are not similar. Nevertheless as two important countries in Asia both of which are practising democracies we have found it possible to build an impressive structure of collaborative endeavour.

The visit to India of the Prime Minister of Japan in May 1984 and the visit of our Prime Minister to Japan in November 1985 have imparted a fresh momentum to the multifarious exchanges and cooperation between our two countries. The level of bilateral exchanges in various fields has been satisfactory, but their full potential is yet to be realised. There is a need to impart a greater content and momentum to our cooperation not only for our mutual benefit but also for the peace and progress of Asia and the world.

HARMONIOUS RELATIONS

Japan, like, India, believes that harmonious relations between North and South depend to a large extent on the establishment of a more equitable international order. Joint efforts are called for to resolve international economic and financial problems in the spirit of fair play. The benefits of development must reach all sections of our world. We in India are conscious of this imperative and would like to cooperate with countries like Japan to achieve this objective. We are happy that a cultural festival

of India in Japan is planned next year. I am sure that this will enable the people of Japan to get an authentic impression of our music, dances and other artistic experiences and this festival will further strengthen the cultural bonds between our two countries.

I am sure, Your Imperial Highness, that along with our culture and traditions you will have an opportunity to acquaint yourself of our development programmes. I have no doubt that your visit to India will sustain the warm and friendly relations between our two countries.

May I conclude with fond hope that you will enjoy your visit and come again to see our vast country and its diverse attractions.

PAN INDIA USA

Date: Mar 20, 1987

Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

Banquet in Honour of Netherlands Premier - Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Speech

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 02, 1987 of the speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the banquet hosted on March 2, 1987 in honour of the Prime Minister of Netherlands:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to India, the first developing country

you are visiting after your re-election last year as the Prime Minister of the Netherlands. My wife and I remember with great pleasure our visit to your country about 18 months ago. We recall also the visit to India of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus. These visits have strengthened and consolidated -77>

the expanding friendship between our two countries.

DEMOCRATIC VALUES

Arising from our shared democratic values and our common commitment to human dignity and human rights, we have many shared concerns, leading to many common approaches. The situation in

Southern Africa calls for urgent, concerted action by the international community. The unmitigated evil of Apartheid not only afflicts the suffering people of South Africa but has led to the continuation of colonialism in Namibia and the repeated invasion and destabilisation of the Frontline States. With rare courage and fortitude, the people of Southern Africa have joined forces to rid Pretoria of the moral turpitude of Apartheid. Our solidarity with them calls for practical expression.

AFRICA FUND

In New Delhi last January, we gave concrete shape to the AFRICA Fund. Our appeal is to the conscience of the humankind - to people in every walk of life, to corporations and voluntary organisations, to international institutions and national Governments. There is an urgent need for concerted, universal help to those who are struggling against Apartheid. We must link arms with our brethren in South Africa and on the Front-line.

Further, we are persuaded that comprehensive, mandatory sanctions are essential to bring Pretoria to its senses. Failing this, bloodshed on a scale unkown since the second World War might become inevitable. We look to the Netherlands to galvanize the European Community to play its full role in eliminating racism in Africa. The European Community itself rose from the ashes of a war imposed on the people of Europe by a vicious racist regime.

In this nuclear age, more than ever before, human survival requires that adversary relationships give way to peaceful coexistence and the pacific settlement of disputes. Peace is the foremost question before humankind. It is essential for the progress of the developing countries. We are deeply concerned that the Revkjavik process has got stalled but are reassured that the far-reaching proposals then made have not been withdrawn. The Six-Nation Five-Continent Peace Initiative has on the centre of programme the call for an immediate moratorium on all nuclear testing. We of the Six have the technical skills and the required geographic spread to effectively monitor a ban on all testing while nuclear powers seek out ways of reducing and dismantling their nuclear armouries. Durable, lasting world peace cannot be secured through the stockpling of nuclear weapons in ever large number or by escalating their powers of destruction. Nor peace can be secured by seeking new dimensions for an ever-more sophisticated pursuit of nuclear weapons confrontation.

There is a sad faltering in international cooperation for the solution of international problems. The UN system, painstakingly nurtured for over four decades into a now near universality must, through our efforts, survive the dangerous pressures to which it is being subjected. It is in that forum that the North-South dialogue must be resumed for an equitable world economic order which will complement growth in the North with the development of the South, based on the ineluctable interdependence of all

segments of the world economy. The Netherlands has been ahead of most in its contribution to development cooperation. We would hope that the patient persistence for which the Dutch are renowned will help restore the dialogue which is now at a virtual standstill.

Under your leadership, Prime Minister, the Netherlands has enjoyed a considerable measure of success in countering economic recession and curbing expenditure while retaining the welfare content of your social service, limiting inflation and combating unemployment.

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NATIONAL PRIORITY

For us in India the highest national priority is our war on poverty. Over a hundred million people have been raised above the poverty line in the past five years. Our target is to eliminate abject poverty by the turn of this century, primarily through increased agricultural productivity. The green revolution is being spread to new areas and new crops. We have made major improvements in the structure and strategy of our poverty alleviation programmes. I have just announced a record Budget allocation for these programmes.

Besides modernising agriculture, India has been building an impressive industrial structure. We are working towards highquality, cost-efficient industrial production. We hope to secure this through modernised technology, better management and a more dedicated work ethic.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Economics is important but the human soul much more so. We are the proud inheritors of one of the world's great civilisations, whose unique continuity over five thousand years has been based on a celebration of our great diversity. If we lose sight of our culture, we lose sight of the values upon which our civilisation is based. That would be too great a price to pay for economic growth. Therefore, the preservation and promotion of our cultural heritage, as also widespread education linked to our cultural values are for us essential components of the development strategy.

Prime Minister, it is for both of us a matter of mutual satisfaction that our bilateral relations have grown in all fields - economics and technology, education and culture, the media and sports. More Dutch people are learning about India than ever before. So are more Indians learning about the Netherlands. We appreciate the interest which the Netherlands has taken in our development efforts. We have over two hundred joint ventures with Dutch companies. Yet, all this constitutes but a beginning. The potential is vast - and we must tap it together fully.

I would now request all of you to please rise and drink a toast to the health and happiness of His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Netherlands and Mrs. Lubbers; to the friendly people of the Netherlands; and to friendship and cooperation between the Indian and the Dutch people.

DIA THE NETHERLANDS USA SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA ICELAND

Date: Mar 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

Reply by Dutch Premier

The followingg is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 02, 1987 of the speech by the Prime Minister of Netherlands at a dinner hosted by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India in New Delhi on March 2, 1987:

Mr. Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, First of all, Mr. Prime Minister, I wish to express the thanks of my wife and myself, of Foreign Minister and Mrs. van den Broek and of the other members of my delegation for your invitation to visit India.

The great warmth of the welcome we have found here signifies, I feel, the true harmony characterizing the relations between India and the Netherlands. This was reflected at its best in the State visit paid by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and His Royal Highness Prince Claus.

We in the Netherlands know how very much India has contributed to the evolution of world culture. Your country is rightly regarded as a cradle of civilisation. Its ancient culture has shown itself to possess the resilience needed to absorb ele--79>

ments of alien cultures in a creative manner, and in turn to enrich other cultures far beyond your borders. Referring to our own times, I have only to speak of the inspiration provided to the world by Mahatma Gandhi.

The Netherlands counts itself fortunate to be one of the European nations which have maintained close relations with India for

several centuries. Our seafarers visited India's coastal towns, establishing the trade links which brought in their wake the cross-fertilization of the cultures of both continents. In the Netherlands, the Collegium Indicum of Leyden University constituted a major source of knowledge of the culture, religion and languages of India.

We see with admiration that India is today assuming a role in world affairs which is in keeping with the grandeur of its past. I would refer here to the prominent part played by India as a founding member of the Non-aligned Movement, and specifically to the work performed in this context by that great statesman, your grandfather, and to the leadership constantly provided by your deeply respected mother. India has done much to promote the cause of peace and security in the world. The Netherlands, too, has striven throughout its history to live in peaceful co-existence with its powerful neighbours, and thus appreciates the true worth of this aspect of the constitutional history of India.

VIVID MEMORIES

I personally retain vivid memories of my meetings with your mother, occasions which taught me so much about your country and its policies. The meetings which took place in The Hague in October 1985 between you and your wife and my wife and myself, our subsequent contacts and this present visit have added to this process of learning. It is difficult to be brief in describing relations between India and the Netherlands, for our dealings with each other have indeed been frequent and manifold. I prefer to see the situation as one in which we are progressing to the point where we can work together as full and equal partners in a large number of fields; yes, full partnership in many areas.

INTERDEPENDENCE OF WORLD POLITICS

If there is a growing interdependence in world politics, this is no less the case with the process of economic development. There is now an increasing awareness of the fact that no country or group of countries, no matter what its size, can influence developments single-handedly, that the world-encompassing economic system can only be controlled and managed through international cooperation.

This being the case, I can state that the European Community is in favour of further extension of trade relations with India. The new trade agreement concluded in October 1986 offers good prospects for boosting the export of Indian products to the European market. Dutch industry is likewise willing, as in the past, to work more closely together with Indian concerns. I can assure you that our representatives of trade and industry are greatly impressed by the capacities of their Indian counterparts and look forward to furthering their contact to the benefit of both.

Mr. Prime Minister, we are proud to say that after our relations in the past centuries, after a period in which those relations were characterised mainly by efforts in the field of development cooperation, we have now entered a stage of a broader partnership. A partnership in the field of economy, of technology, in the world of culture and science, in the political field, in international responsibilities.

The historical and geographical position of our two countries - India as a leading nation in Asia and the Netherlands the gateway to Europe - indeed creates opportunities of mutual interest: to work together to the benefit of our peoples and to the benefit of the family of man as a whole.

Therefore, I feel quite sure the strengthening of cooperation between India and the Netherlands will be of benefit not only -80>

to the prosperity of both countries, but equally to peace and harmony in the world.

In this spirit, Mr. Prime Minister and Mrs. Gandhi, I invite you and all who are present here to join me in a toast to the health of President Zail Singh, to the welfare of the Indian people, and to the further development of the excellent relations between our two countries.

Thank you.

DIA THE NETHERLANDS USA

Date: Mar 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

NON-ALIGNMENT

Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-aligned Countries on Latin American and Caribbean Issues -Address by Shri N. D. Tiwari

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri N. D. Tiwari to the Extraordinary Ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-aligned Cuntries on Latin American and Caribbean issues in Georgetown held from Mar 09 to 12, 1987:

Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I should like to join previous speakers in felicitating you on your unanimous election to the Chairmanship of our Conference. You have a long and distinguished record of service as your country's Foreign Minister. I am sure that under your able stewardship, we will succeed in fulfilling the objectives of our deliberations.

I am particularly happy to be here in Georgetown among the friendly people of Guyana. The peoples of our two countries have enjoyed close historical ties. Several generations of persevering, valiant and industrious Indian and African migrants have found a hospitable niche in this beautiful Caribbean country in the South American continent. This happy blending and comingling of great cultures and religions in this land is an outstanding example of how healthy nationalism is evolved by the dynamics of a social synthesis rooted in history.

The Indian delegation and I personally have been deeply touched by the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to us in Georgetown. We are also grateful to our gracious Guyanese hosts for the excellent facilities and congenial surroundings provided for our work.

It is entirely appropriate that this special Ministerial session of the Coordinating Bureau of our Movement, to consider the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, is being held in Georgetown. The adherence of a majority of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the principles and ideals of Nonalignment is not a matter of recent origin. Beginning from the early days of our movement, 17 countries from the region are now full members of the Movement. They have been a continuing source of vitality and vigour as cherished partners in our Movement. It is my sincere hope that this meting would be a source of encouragement to some of the major countries in this region, which have been associated with our movement and given it their unstinted support, to joint the Nonaligned community as full members.

REVOLUTIONARY DEEDS

Despite the vast physical distance which separates India from Latin America -81>

and the Caribbean, the region has always been close to our hearts. We fondly remember the historic revolutionary deeds of the great liberators of South America, Simon Bolivar and San Martin. Their lives and actions were a source of inspiration to our own great leaders, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru in our struggle for freedom. Some sixty years ago, a quarter century before we won our independence, the Great Indian poet, Rabindranath Tagore, toured Latin America and forged lasting cultural and spiritual links between our peoples. In more recent

years, our diplomatic and trade relations have become increasingly significant. Our bilateral ties have been supplemented by our close cooperation in the Non-aligned Movement which has added a significant new dimension to our ties with Latin America and the Caribbean.

In recent years, the Latin American people have made giant strides in consolidating their national inedpendence and sovereignty. Their democratic and antiimperialist struggle represents a profound historical movement. The emerging regional identity and consciousness in Latin America and the Caribbean signifies the determination of their people to break free from the shackles of dependence and seek cooperative regional solutions to their problems. It has been a growing source of strength to the Non-aligned community as a whole.

REGIONAL IDENTITY

We in India noted with satisfaction the development of this historic regional identity, the consciousness and desire to progress in peace. Let no hindrance smother the emergence of this unique and humane consciousness. The Latin American and Caribbean region has been the subject of continuing attempts to perpetuate foreign domination. External interference, conflict and strife have brought in their wake enormous human suffering and have undermined efforts for national reconstruction and development. The courageous sacrifices made by the people of the region to preserve their independence and national sovereignty have won world-wide admiration.

It would be a profound error to view developments in Central America from an East-West perspective. Speaking at the Harare Summit, Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi said, and I quote:

"The forces of change (in Central America) are not inspired by alien powers or ideologies. Their aim is to dismantle oppressive, obsolete social structures. These are problems of the region. They must be looked at in regional perspective. They must be resolved in a regional frame-work, through dialogue and negotiation."

Mr. Chairman, there is in India great deal of admiration for the heroic people of Nicaragua. Their brave struggle to defend their freedom and follow their chosen path of development evokes fraternal sympathy. But any struggle is only a means to an end - the end is not just the absence of war but a situation of peace based on cooperative relations among nations. We welcome the fact that the real impulse for solidarity, peace and development in Central America comes from the region itself. It has manifested itself in the Contadora process. The path to peace is a difficult one, paved with frustrations and occasional failure, but is also the road as Mahatma Gandhi said that the brave must inevitably follow. Despite difficulties and attempts to frustrate its

objectives, the Contadora process has grown in stature and been reinforced with the formation and assistance of the Lima support Group.

CONTADORA AND LIMA SUPPORT

We compliment the Contadora and the Lima Support Groups whose unflinching efforts against heavy odds have kept alive the hopes for peace and stability In Central America. The recent mission of the Group of Ten has served to underline Latin America's determination to seek a regional solution to the conflict in Central America. We also view with satisfaction the association of the Secretaries -General of the United Nations and the Organisation -82>

of American States with this Mission. These peace efforts must be given a full and reasonable chance. We appeal to all concerned to follow the path of reason and exercise restraint. Failure to do so would not only have tragic consequences for the people of Central America - it will dangerously undermine the climate for international peace and security.

The issues of independence, anti-colonialism and national liberation in the middle of this century were at the heart of the philosophy of Non-alignment. Over the years, they have been a running ideological strand in Non-aligned precept and practice. The struggles of Non-aligned countries have thus provided a powerful thrust to the global process of decolonisation.

As in other continents, the process of decolonisation has scored impressive triumphs in Latin America. The question of the Malvinas, however, remains unresolved. It is regrettable that in spite of a categorical call by the United Nations for resumption of the dialogue between the United Kingdom and Argentina on all aspects of the future of the Malvinas, there has been no progress in this direction. The continued impasse over Malvinas threatens to become a festering sore in Latin America and a source of tension and conflict in the South Atlantic. We are also concerned at some recent developments in the region which amount to a unilateral modification in the situation and can only make the road towards negotiations more difficult. We reaffirm our support for the restitution of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas through negotiations with the United Kingdom.

REJUVENATION OF ECONOMIES

The difficult political situation in Latin America and the Caribbean has been further compounded by the economic crisis that is threatening the entire region. In a world moving rapidly towards economic inter-dependence through technological advances, the rejuvenation of the Latin American economies does not depend solely on their own efforts. The movement and behaviour of the

international economy of which they are a part has a very important and crucial bearing on them. While I realise that it is difficult to generalise in a situation of wide economic diversities, it seems to me that for the entire Latin American region, access to markets and satisfactory solution of the debt problem by short-term and long term debt-rescheduling measures are the two most important and interlinked essential prerequisites to end this crisis.

It is our considered view that shortterm and stop-gap palliatives will not be able to defuse the explosive potentialities of this veritable debt bomb. The challenge before us is to first arrest and then reverse the present trends. There is an urgent need for search of formula which will end the reverse net outflow of resources from developing to developed countries. The debtburdened economies must be enabled to generate more financial resources, particularly through trade and to invest a larger proportion of these resources at home. The people of this region and their political leadership have shown tremendous courage in shouldering the heavy burden of debt repayment in this decade. Yet in the absence of quick and adequate remedial action by the creditor banks and nations, some of the region's important nations have taken unilateral action to safeguard their interests. It is our hope that realisation will dawn soon on the creditor countries-that lack of an effective debt relief mechanism is likely to drive the indebted countries to further unilateral actions which can jeopardise the prospects for longterm solutions. Now is the time, Mr. Chairman, for the creditor countries to come to terms with the realities of the situation and offer an honourable and acceptable way out of the debt crisis which will protect the interests of all the parties concerned.

INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS

The most remarkable economic feature of our times perhaps is the growing interdependence of the world. Not only -83>

does it demand integrated solutions to what may, on a surface view, appear like individual and unrelated problems. It also underlines that the North and the South are mutually vulnerable. It is the failure to realise this truth that lies at the heart of the deadlocked efforts for a new international economic order. Meanwhile, imbalances grow and asymmetries proliferate with grave consequences all around. While the gap between the world's rich and poor has been widening, prosperity itself has remained dangerously unstable.

Mr. Chairman, the Non-aligned community derives its strength and cohesion from the concern and fellow-feeling among its members. The Non-aligned Movement has stood by its members in commendable gestures of solidarity and sympathy in their hour of need. The present trials and tribulations of our bretheren in Latin America

and the Caribbean have brought anguish to us all. This extraordinary session is testimony to our common concern and to our tradition of support and solidarity with them.

We have, through unity and a sense of purpose, overcome several difficult situations in the past. Our meeting here today represents a step in the right direction to bring back peace and stability in Latin America and the Caribbean. The eminent Indian poetess Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, who was also a freedom fighter, once said, "true peace is not the peace of negation, not the peace of surrender, not the peace of the coward, not the peace of the dying, not the peace of the dead but the peace militant, dynamic, creative, of the human spirit which exalts." Let the ideal of that creative and dynamic peace be our guide in the Non-aligned Movement for peace, solidarity and progress. Thank you.

NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA GUYANA USA ZIMBABWE NICARAGUA PERU ARGENTINA

Date: Mar 09, 1987

Volume No

1995

NEW ZEALAND

Avoidance of Double Taxation between India and New ZealandNotified

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 30, 1987 on the notification on the avoidance of double taxation between India and New Zealand:

The convention for the avoidance of double taxation between India and New Zealand which came into force on December 3, 1986, has been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary on March 27, 1987. The convention was signed by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. David Lange on October 17, 1986 at Auckland (New Zealand) on behalf of their respective Governments.

Under the convention, business profits derived by an Indian enterprise or a New Zealand enterprise will be charged to tax only in the country of its residence unless the enterprise carries on business in the other country through a "permanent establishment" situated therein. The convention restricts allowance of head office administrative expenses of New Zealand enterprises in India to limits laid down in our law.

It has been agreed that aircraft profits would be completely

exempt in the country of source and shall be taxable only by the country of residence of the enterprise. As regards shipping profits, it has been agreed that the tax chargeable in the country of -84>

source will be reduced by an amount equal to 50 per cent of what would otherwise be leviable. With regard to dividends, interest, royalties and fees for technical services, primary right to tax these incomes has been given to the country of residence. The country of source will limit its tax on these incomes to certain specified percentages. For example, tax in the country of source in the case of dividends shall not exceed 20 per cent of the gross amount of such dividends.

Under the convention, double taxation on income shall be avoided generally by the credit method, according to which the country of residence will allow credit for the taxes paid in the country of source in respect of the doubly taxed income, against its own taxes. New Zealand will also allow credit for the taxes spared in India under sections 10(4), 10(4A) and 10(15) (iv) of the Incometax Act, 1961.

W ZEALAND INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Mar 30, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT

Non-Peaceful Dimensions of Pakistan Atomic Programme

The following is the statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 02, 1987 while responding to questions on press reports that Pakistan has an atomic weapon:

You may recall that while responding to a question in Parliament on February 27, 1987, the External Affairs Minister had stated that the Government are concerned at the non-peaceful dimension of Pakistan's nuclear programme. A report published yesterday which appeared in the Press is yet another confirmation that Pakistan's nuclear programme has a weapon orientation. This is viewed with a serious concern. As the External Affairs Minister has already stated in Parliament, a constant watch is kept on such developments as on all others having a bearing on India's

security.

The report that India has nuclear weapons is baseless and mischievous.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date: Mar 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

Giani Zail Singh Hosts Banquet in Honour of Romanian President

The following is the text of a press, release issued in New Delhi on Mar 10, 1987 of the speech by the President Giani Zail Singh at a banquet hosted by him in honour of H.E. Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania here tonight (New Delhi, March 10 1987):

It is with great pleasure that we welcome tonight the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the -85>

gracious Mme. Elena Ceausescu amongst us. We have been keenly looking forward to this visit.

Mr. President, you are no stranger to this ancient land which has had centuries old links with your country which straddled the old trade routes from India to Western Asia and onward to Europe. The kinship between our languages and the influence of Vedic philosophy, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata on eminent Romanian intellectuals have created spiritual and intellectual bonds between our peoples. Another example of our early contacts and cooperation is that of the great Romanian sculptor Constantin Brincusi who was invited by the Holkar King of Indore to build a temple.

OLD LINKS

These old links, Mr. President, have been reinforced by new ones in a world which today is so much more complex and interdependent. Thus, even while we have different socio-political and economic systems, not only have we friendly and mutually cooperative ties in diverse fields, we have also joined hands in the international struggle against racism and Apartheid, and for

peace and disarmament. The chain of high level exchanges epitomised by our Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi's visits to your beautiful and hospitable land, and Your Excellency's return visits have established an enduring relationship of mutual understanding at the highest levels which are endorsed by our two peoples.

The wide-ranging, in-depth discussions that we have had with Your Excellency have stimulated the exchange of ideas on some of the most significant international issues. The deteriorating international situation, Excellency, causes all statesmen and Governments grave concern. The danger of a nuclear catastrophe is already hanging over humanity. The frightening spectre of the nuclear arms race being extended to outer space augments the danger. Indiraji had said that "Peace is no longer an alternative, it is an imperative. Lasting security lies not in armaments but in dialogue and understanding". This is as true today as when she said it six years ago in Bucharest. There is growing awareness of the looming danger amongst an increasing number of world leaders, Governments, intellectuals, scientists and broad sections of humanity. In this context it has been a proud privilege of India to be associated with the Six Nation Five Continent Nuclear Disarmament Initiative, the Harare Appeal of the Non-aligned Movement and the Delhi Declaration for a Peaceful and Non-violent World.

Disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, Excellency, is a crying need of the hour. We, therefore, urge all States, irrespective of their size and regardless of their socio-economic systems, to join together in finding solutions that would halt and reverse the nuclear arms race and reduce tensions in the world.

CONSERVE SCARCE RESOURCES

As developing countries, India and Romania have a paramount need to conserve their scarce resources for the challenging tasks of socio-economic development and the material and cultural uplift of their peoples. They know that there is an umbilical linkage between disarmament and development. We have, therefore, raised our voice in the international forums for diversion of the massive resources, presently committed to armament expenditure to the developmental needs of the world.

In our own neighbourhood, we find that our efforts for sincere and strenuous steps to build bridges of understanding with our neighbours for solving our problems through bilateral political dialogue and to promote regional cooperation through regional dialogue and conciliation, and to live in peace together rather than prepare for war separately are being thwarted. The need for peaceful co-existence is not a remote ideal but a dire necessity today.

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NEFARIOUS LEGACY OF COLONIALISM

The misery of the Third World which has been a nefarious legacy of colonialism has been further compounded by the present global economic debt and repayments crisis. We need to realise that the existence of a few rich amongst many poor is a factor of instability and a potential threat to peace and security in the world. We, therefore, stand unequivocally committed to the New International Economic Order.

We in India have admiration for the remarkable economic and industrial achievements that the Socialist Republic of Romania has recorded in the past four decades. During this period our people too, Excellency, have made progress and transformed an economy from one which used to depend on imports even for elementary items to one which is substantially self-reliant. Starting from chronic, food deficit, India now produces more than enough to feed its 700 millions and even exports foodgrains. Hundreds of millions of our people have been raised above the poverty line. We are determined to narrow the technological gap between us and the most developed countries of the world, and have introduced a series of policy measures to modernise the Indian economy.

In this context we are happy to note, Excellency, that there has been much mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries. We are confident that this mutually fruitful relationship of trade and industrial cooperation will acquire new dimensions and continue to grow and expand further in the coming years and thus further strengthen and enrich our friendly ties.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I invite you now to join me in a toast to the health of His Excellency the President and Mme Elena Ceausescu, to the continued progress, prosperity and well being of the people of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and to the further invigorations and enrichment of Indo-Romanian ties of friendship and cooperation.

AN ROMANIA INDIA USA ZIMBABWE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Mar 10, 1987

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1995

ROMANIA

Text of Mr Nicolae Ceausescu's Speech

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 11, 1987 of the speech by the President of Romania, H.E. Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu at a banquet hosted in his honour by the President, Giani Zail Singh in New Delhi on March 10, 1987:

On behalf of my comrade and myself, as well as of my accompanying party, I would like to express to you on this occasion too, our thanks for the invitation to visit India, for the hospitality we enjoy in your beautiful country. It gives me great pleasure to avail myself of this opportunity to convey to you and to the entire friendly Indian people warm greetings and best wishes.

Our present visit to India is an expression of the traditional relations of friendship and collaboration that have been established and developed a long time ago between our two countries and peoples, of the mutual wish to give them broader dimensions. The mutual high level visits -- of which I recall with great pleasure the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit have gone down, every time, as particularly important moments in the development of the Romanian Indian bonds of friendship. We are glad to have the opportunity to get acquainted with new aspects of the Indian people's work and achievements on the path of independent economic and social development, as well as the possibility to continue the exchange of views on the stage of bilateral relations, on the prospects of further development of the Romanian Indian collaboration and cooperation.

NEW WAYS AND MEANS

I am confident that we will find new way and means to further expand the framework for these relations, in harmony with the interests of progress and independent development of our two countries, with the cause of detente, collaboration and peace in the world.

The international situation continues to be very serious and complex, particularly as a result of the arms race, of the policy of force and interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, of the continuation and even worsening of certain hotbeds of tension and conflicts in different parts of the world, of the world economic crisis which is continuously widening the gaps between the rich and the poor countries. All that permanently increases the danger of a world war that would inevitably be turned into a nuclear catastrophe that would destroy life all over the planet. Under such circumstances, Romania considers that the fundamental issue of our time is the resolute cessation of the arms race and the passage to disarmament, nuclear disarmament above all, the defence of peace and the people's life. Everything should be done to concert the efforts of all peoples, of the peace loving forces everywhere to

halt the dangerous course of events towards tension and war, to safeguard the foremost right of individuals and peoples to a free and dignified existence, to independence, life and peace.

DISARMAMENT MEASURES

Starting from these realities, Romania advocates and campaigns for a passage to actual disarmament measures, for a phased-out liquidation of all nuclear weapons by the end of the century. Our country welcomes and supports the proposal made by General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Mikhail Gorbachev, regarding the separate approach of the problem of the medium-range missiles withdrawal from Europe and the immediate conclusion of an agreement to this end. We are looking forward for the USA to give also a positive reply to this proposal, so that an early agreement should be concluded as regards to the elimination of the medium-range missiles from Europe, as a first step conducive to the elimination of all the nuclear weapons on the continent and then to the complete destruction of the nuclear arsenals.

RESOLUTE ACTION

At the same time, we consider that most resolute action should be taken to reach, as soon as possible, an accord on ending all nuclear weapon tests which, besides increasing the war danger, inflict bigdamage on mankind, through their negative effects, the environment included.

We maintain that the elimination and liquidation of nuclear weapons ought to be parallelled by resolute measures to cut conventional weapons, as well as troops and military expenditure. By taking concrete action on that line, Romania, on the basis of a national referendum, in which all people had their say, undertook a unilateral five-per-cent reduction of its weapons, troops and military expenses, and called on all States, especially the European ones, where the most powerful arsenals are concentrated, to take similar steps as soon as possible. We considered -- and still do -- that the situation is such that a resolute passage from words to deeds, to concrete disarmament actions and measures is required.

In the context I would like to stress that Romania welcomes and appreciates the initiatives and actions that India, "The Group of Six for Peace and Disarmament", your country included, took towards the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons and the cessation of their testing, to prevent the extension of the arms race into space.

Our country actively campaigns for the consolidation of peace, the development of good neighbourliness in the Balkans, for turning that region into a zone free from nuclear and chemical weapons, free from foreign military bases. We support the establishment of such zones in Northern and Central Europe as well as in other regions of the world, the Indian Ocean included.

ELIMINATION OF FORCE

We firmly stand for the elimination of force and the threat of force from international relations, for the settlement of all conflicts in various regions of the world -- in the Middle East, Central America, Asia and other zones -- only by political, negotiated means, in a spirit of full equality, of mutual observance of national independence and sovereignty.

We actively back the Namibian people's struggle under the SWAPO leadership for Namibia's independence. We condemn the racist, Apartheid policy of South Africa, its aggressive actions against independent and sovereign States in the region.

Starting from the reality that the worsening of the world economic crisis has considerably deteriorated the situation of the developing countries -- whose foreign debts amount to almost one trillion dollars -- Romania actively campaigns for the global settlement of the issues of underdevelopment -- including the respective countries' foreign debt issue -- for the establishment of a new world economic order, founded on full equality and equity, that should favour the lagging countries' faster progress and ensure the harmonious development of all States. In view of this we stand for holding of an international conference under the UN aegis, with the equal participation of both developing and developed countries.

In consideration of the complex charater of the international life, Romania considers that all States, especially the small and medium-sized countries, the developing and Non-Aligned States that make up the majority of the world and are directly interested in a policy of peace, collaboration and independence, should take an active and equal part in the settlement of the major issues of the world today.

WORLD-WIDE DETENTE

It is with great pleasure that I would like to stress the active collaboration between Romania and India on an international plane, within the Non-Aligned Movement too and to express my confidence that it will further grow, in the interests of our two peoples, of the cause of peace, understanding and detente worldwide.

With this confidence I toast to your health, Mr. President, Giani Zail Singh, to your health, Mr. Vice-President, to your health, Mr. Prime Minister, to the friendship and collaboration between Romania and India, between the Romanian and Indian peoples, to

the progress, welfare and happiness of the friendly, Indian people, to the health of you all.

AN ROMANIA USA INDIA NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Mar 11, 1987

Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

India and Romania Sign Convention for Avoidance of DoubleTaxation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 10, 1987 on the signing of a convention between India and Romania for avoidance of double taxation:

A convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Socialist Republic of Romania was signed here today. Shri Brahm Dutt, Minister of State for Finance, signed the Convention on behalf of India.

The convention will come into effect after the two Governments notify each other that requisite procedures in this have been completed.

The avoidance of double taxation pursuant to the signing of this Convention will -89>

encourage free flow of technology between the two countries as well as investment flows. After the convention comes into force, the enterprise of one country will be taxed in the other country in respect of its industrial and commercial profits only if it carries on business in that country through a permanent establishment.

Income from royalty, fees for technical services, dividend and interest will also be taxed at concessional rates after the treaty comes into force.

AN ROMANIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Mar 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Situation in Sri Lanka -- Statement in Rajya Sabha by ShriNatwar Singh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 19, 1987 of the statement made in Rajya Sabha on March 19, by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Natwar Singh in response to Calling Attention Motion regarding the situation in Sri Lanka:

The ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka is a matter of serious concern to all of us in all parts of the country. Government is gravely concerned about the manner in which the situation in Sri Lanka has developed, especially the large number of civilian casualties and the suffering caused to civilians in the North due to the economic and communications blockade that was imposed by the Government of Sri Lanka in the beginning of this year. These developments have been monitored very carefully by the Government and the Prime Minister has been reviewing the situation on a regular basis.

Let me briefly summarise the recent developments in the negotiating process and the events which had led us to suspend our good offices for the time being.

Progress till then was reviewed between Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi and President Jayewardene at Bangalore during the SAARC summit in November, 1986. As a follow up of these discussions, the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Hameed visited Delhi immediately after the Bangalore Summit. Thereafter the Minister of State, Shri Chidambaram and I visited Colombo on November 24 and again from December 17 to 19 and had extensive discussions with President, Jayewardene and his advisers. As a result of these discussions, certain proposals were formulated on December 19. These proposals dealt specifically with the question of the Eastern provinces to create a single Tamil linguistic unit. It was agreed that we would convey these proposals to the Tamil groups to carry the process further.

BLOCKADE OF JAFFNA

Immediately after our return to Delhi, however, we received a message saying that it would be difficult for Sri Lanka to implement these proposals due, we were given to understand to opposition from some elected representatives of the Eastern province. Later Sri Lanka reiterated a conditional commitment to

these proposals. The situation on the ground had meanwhile altered radically. Towards the end of the last year, the LTTE announced their intention to set up their own machinery to deal with some areas of administration in Jaffna. The Sri Lankan Government imposed an economic and communications blockade of Jaffna on 2nd of January. This was followed by the launching of large scale military operations in the Eastern and Northern Provinces. The main sufferers, as a result of both these measures have been, needless to say, civilians. Accor--90>

ding to some reports as many as 500 civilians, most of them Tamils might have been killed since January, 1987. It appeared once again that the Sri Lankan Government, while continuing to talk of a political settlement, was pursuing a military option.

The Government of India conveyed its grave concern at these developments in a message from the Prime Minister to President Jayewardene on February 10, stressing the need for the cessation of military operations and the lifting of the blockade to create the proper conditions for resumption of our good offices on the basis of the December 19 proposals. Since the situation in the Jaffna area continued to deteriorate, with serious hardship being caused to the population as a result of the blockade, and since there was imminent possibility of large-scale civilian casulaties, the Prime Minister sent Shri Dinesh Singh as his personal emissary to meet President Jayewardene to express our grave concern about the situation. He also impressed upon him the need for a political solution.

Since then the Sri Lanka Government has announced its intention to wind down the blockade against Jaffna. But we will have to see how this is actually translated into action on the ground. There is also some lessening of military activity. We remain convinced that there can be no solution through military means. We hope that sanity will prevail and conditions will be created in which negotiations for a political solution can begin. We shall keep the House informed regarding further developments.

I LANKA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Mar 19, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Replies by Minister

The following are the statements and replies made in the Parliament by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh on the situation and developments in Sri Lanka:

We have had a debate of a high order in which Members from all sections of the House have expressed their views on the very tragic and grave issue that we are confronting in Sri Lanka.

Before I come to the various points raised by the Hon. Members, may I, with your permission make a few preliminary remarks in addition to what I said in my opening statement?

First, any solution -- and we are all in favour of a political solution -- must take into account the unity, sovereignty and integrity of Sri Lanka. We made this clear even to our Tamil friends and we have said that the option they are presenting would lead to the dismemberment of a neighbouring non-aligned country, an event which is fraught with grave consequences and danger as has been pointed out by Shri Bhatia's memorable intervention a few moments ago.

Second, the proposals that Shri Chidambaram and I brought with us on the 19th of December are not India's proposals. They are the proposals given by the President of Sri Lanka. We were to convey these proposals of the Tamil groups on our return to India. Why this has not happened I have already stated in my opening remarks. It was because the Sri Lanka authorities went back on at least a portion of those proposals.

Third, I would like to say in all humility -- because I share the anguish and the anxiety and the concern of the Hon. Members -- I cannot honestly go along with the anger of Prof. Gopalsamy. His intervention generated more heat than light, if I may respectfully say so. We have to look at this issue in a mature, balanced and restrained manner as a responsible Government and as a responsible and mature people.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Your showing of light and restraint has so far witnessed -91>

killings. I am saying this because you said my arguments generated only heat, not light. But I want to put it on record that your restraint which has not shown light all these years has witnessed killings.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed you to speak.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I understand the Hon. Member's anguish, feelings and passions, but what I am trying to say is that one

can be hard on facts and be soft on words and yet convey one's measure gently, firmly and clearly. This is what we intend to do. And as I said in the other House, words and language are themselves a weapon which are available to this House, to the Hon. Members, to diplomats and the statesmen the world over. Ideas become forces because of the words and language. It is easy to get angry, but it is difficult to be restrained. Therefore, I would like to be soft on words not because we do not share the anxiety, the pain, the sorrow....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I cannot accept that from you. I cannot.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:of the people who are suffering.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I cannot expect that concern from you.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: We will go on trying. You are entitled to your views. Unfortunately I do not share them. Now, we have been asked what is the Government of India doing. On the one hand, it has been said that we are following - if I remember the phrase correctly of respected, distinguished Hon. Member, Shri Gurupadswamy who was himself in the Government - lame duck policy; on the other hand we are not doing enough to counteract Western press about what they say, our interference in Sri Lanka affairs. I am trying to reconcile these two. From 1983 onwards, Sri Lankans have asked us for our good offices. We have offered these good offices and a number of proposals have been made and they have not worked not because we did not want them to work, they were not acceptable to Tamil groups. Meetings were held in Sri Lanka, meetings were held in Delhi and meetings were held in Thimpu. But I will come to the proposal of 19th December. I do not want to take much time of the House on what has been said in the past.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You said that the proposals were not accepted by the Tamil groups. When you say something or utter even a word you should be very cautious. Even a word will tilt the balance. The Prime Minister himself will not like such words.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: First of all I am not yielding. As I said earlier, I would like to choose my words very carefully unlike the distinguished Member. What I said was that some of the proposals in the past were not acceptable. I am not going to that. Now the proposals that were brought on the 19th December, the objective was that we should convey to the Tamil groups. But before we could do so, the Sri Lankan Government had some reservations on the proposals which they themselves have made. So what could we have taken to the Tamil groups - that here are the prposals which are in part acceptable to Sri Lankan Government? Naturally there could be no basis for any negotiations, As I have said in my statement, certain events have occurred as a consequence of which the Sri Lankan Government took some action. This action was to have a blockade of Jaffna. Who suffered in

that blockade? Only innocent Tamils, men, women, old people and children. This blockade continued and a situation was being created which was going to be extremely serious. For this particular purpose, the Prime Minister sent Mr. Dinesh Singh, to show our grave concern about the situation in Jaffna area. As I said in the other House yesterday, there has been some indication of unwinding of the economic blockade. There has been some reduction in the intensity of the military activity. Now we have to watch this very carefully because if any solution -92>

has to be arrived at or if any political settlement has to be arrived at, it is essential that we must have the agreement of Sri Lankan Government. This is what we are working for. Here I would like to say that in diplomacy even modest progress deserves highest respect. We cannot expect overnight change. There is a history to it. Honourable Members have referred to it. Now, we are hoping that the military activities will be completely stopped; the blockade will be completely lifted. Then we will convey these proposals to the Tamil groups and request them to have a very good look at them because in our judgement these proposals need serious examination, serious consideration by the Tamil groups. This is what our attempt will be.

Madam, one or two points that worried the hon. Members were, why the Government of India is unable to stop some of the actions of the Sri Lankan Government and whether our High Commission and our Embassies abroad have taken enough initiative and exerted themselves sufficiently. I can assure that both we in Delhi with the Sri Lankan High Commission and our High Commissioner in Colombo have been sparing no effort to keep the Sri Lankan Government informed about what is happening. At the Human Rights Commission, our delegation consists of Mr. Sukul and Mr. Virendra Patil. A resolution was adopted at Geneva at Human Rights Commission for the first time and it was accepted by every Member present and whatever Sri Lankan authorities might say, the fact remains that it was a moral defeat for them. Now, we want that the Government of Sri Lanka should adhere to those proposals of the 19th December so that we can go ahead with our good offices. We have stopped these good offices because after the 19th December, as I said earlier, the Sri Lankan Government have had some reservations. Thereafter, they sent one of their Ministers here Mr. Dissanayake, who met, me, met Mr. Chidambaram and we asked him, are you adhering to the proposals of the 19th December or not? I said unless you are going to unwind your blockade and relieve the difficulties, miseries, sorrows and anxieties of the Tamil population and reduce your military activities there, how do you expect the Tamil groups to come and have a discussion either with you or with us? I regret to say that there was no satisfactory answer. We conveyed this to the President of Sri Lanka. I spoke to him on the telephone twice myself. Our High Commissioner met him a number of times. We conveyed certain messages to him in the month of February that we would like to

resume the negotiating process provided these things are done. Yet when the situation in Jaffna reached a stage that it had a few days ago, the Prime Minister said, let us, first of all, look at this particular problem and he sent Shri Dinesh Singh. He has come back after the discussion with the President of Sri Lanka and has conveyed it to the Prime Minister and in the last 48 hours or more, we have seen some alteration. We are observing it, we are watching it. It is our sincere hope, it is our desire, it is our prayer that what has been told to us will in fact be put into practice so that we can re-start the negotiating process and take these proposals to the Tamil groups. We are convinced, Madam, that the only lasting solution, and I want to repeat this and labour this point, can be arrived at through negotiations, through discussions because alternatives have very vague and serious consequences and as hon. Members have said that the security environment in the seas and waters around Southern India, around Sri Lanka is not what it was and not what we would like to be and therefore the meddling of outside powers, not entirely friendly to India is naturally a grave concern to us and to our security and we are keeping a very watchful eye on what is going on. We are also making every possible effort to have a peaceful political solution to this problem but that does not depend on us entirely. It depends upon the Sri Lankan Government and we have appealed to them more than once with all the emphasis at our command, as a Government. They are aware of the consequences. I do not want to go beyond this but as hon. Members -93>

have said, there are over 50 million Tamilians living in Tamil Nadu. They have relations who live in Sri Lanka. They cannot possibly be indifferent to the sufferings of these people. And when fifty million people of India are concerned about a particular event in Sri Lanka, then the whole of India is concerned about it, then the whole of India shares their anguish, their sorrow, their anxiety. We are in touch with the Tamil Nadu Government. I have on a number of occasions had meetings with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. We want to take everybody together in this exercise, all sections of the House, to arrive at a solution so that this agony of Sri Lanka is a thing of the past.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: When certain people become blind, they cannot see any light at all.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: First of all I would like to thank Shri Ramoowalia for initiating the discussion on this subject. This is not the first time that we have had to take up this subject in the House and I say this with a heavy heart that this is not perhaps the last time either.

I have heard with very great respect what hon. Members have said. Shri Ramoowalia referred to genocide, to the Resolutions at Geneva, to outside powers interfering, if I may be forgiven the pun, literally fishing in troubled waters around Sri Lanka. He

also quoted from Tulsi Dasji. I would not go into mythology because the interpretation of mythology of two sides of the stretching water is somewhat different. We cannot, of course, go into Sri Lanka in the capacity of Hanuman.

That is quite obvious. We have to act in a responsible and mature way. This is what we have been doing for the last so many years. I can assure you that. Restraint is not easy, But for any responsible Government restraint in the face of the problems, of the kind that we are facing in Sri Lanka is absolutely essential and necessary.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: For how long?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I share your anxiety but I merely want to say that there are three kinds of problems that diplomats have to face. The first kind is for which there are easy, ready solution available. The second kind is for which there is no easy solution but very hard and difficult solutions are available. And there are some problems for which there are no easy solutions available. One has to live with them. I am not for a moment suggesting that there is no solution for Sri Lankan problem. There is. We are trying to get the solution - respecting the territorial integrity and the unity of Sri Lanka. We said this to the Government of Sri Lanka. We said this to the Tamil Groups. We are also aware of the fouling up of the security environment around our shores, around the waters of the Indian ocean on account of what is going on in Sri Lanka.

Almost all members who spoke are very distinguished members, I do not want to single out. Two former Ministers of External Affairs have participated and gave us the benefit of their wisdom and their experience. They have said that there are no quick solutions. There are no easy answers for this.

What has been our effort right from 1983, when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. We have spared no effort to find a political solution to this problem. I am aware, the House is aware and the hon. Members are aware of the intricacies of this problem. While one could say that this is strictly a matter concerning Sri Lanka; I think in the narrow interpretation, probably it is. But on the other hand it is not. Even in International Law actions of one State which have repercussions on the affairs of another State cannot be strictly termed 'exclusive concern' of that State. Here, in a part of our country, over 50 million people - Tamil live, whose relations, near and dear ones are living across the water -94>

twenty kilometers away and they have been denied basic fundamental rights.

What are they asking for? They are asking for that they should be

treated not second class citizens but as equal citizens of the country in which they have been living for a thousand years or more. This is being denied to them.

That is why this matter has been taken up as a national issue and at the UN Human Rights Commission a resolution was adopted for the first time which, regardless of what the Sri Lankan Government might have to say, is a moral defeat for Sri Lanka.

Now, with regard to the efforts that we are making I will confine myself to the 19th of December. As Hon. Members are aware of what has happened in the past from 1983 to December 1986. My colleague, Mr. Chidambaram and I had prolonged discussions with the President of Sri Lanka and certain proposals were made. We put them down on a piece of paper because I thought it was important when discussions of this kind took place at the level with the head of State himself participating in the discussion; therefore we put them down on a piece of paper. At these discussions which took place at the President's home, the High Commissioner of India was present and two of us were also present and left a copy with the President of Sri Lanka and we brought a copy with us. But within 24 hours of our return, it was made known to us that these proposals that had been given to us were not fully acceptable and that the President would find it difficult to sell them to A, B or C, Now, the idea was that we were to convey these proposals to the Tamil Groups who are in India. We have been in touch with them because of our good offices. We were asked by the Government of Sri Lanka because it is quite obvious that to all concerned that a lasting political solution has to be found for this serious and intricate problem. Inevitably no solution can be found without our good offices. We are not thrusting ourselves, but we are making our good offices available not in the capacity of brokers or of any other kind but it is our genuine desire to find a solution for the problem which is creating such misery and so much hardship and so much conflict in a small country with which we have traditional good relations, not now but from times immemorial. But how could we give these proposals to the Tamil groups when we discovered that a part of the proposals was no longer valid. Then within a few days, beginning of January, the Sri Lankan Government, in its own wisdom, decided to impose an economic blockade on Jaffna.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Efforts should have been made to stop this blockade.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I Will come to that, Sir. Now, throughout this, we have been in touch with the Government of Sri Lanka. Our High Commissioner has been in touch and their High Commissioner has been in touch here. The Sri Lankan Government sent one of its Ministers here and each time we asked him, "first of all, you have not only gone back on the December 19 proposals but in the meanwhile you have imposed an economic blockade which is causing hardship to the innocent civilian Tamils who were not involved in

any conflict with you. They want to live a peaceful life as citizens of your country, and, secondly you have stepped up your military activities." Now, this is contrary to the spirit and letter of what we had discussed on 19th. There was no satisfactory answer. I talked to the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Jayewardene on telephone a couple of times; we talked to the Minister who came here; our High Commissioner talked in Colombo. We answered questions in Parliament. The Prime Minister spoke at his Press Conference. No helpful response came.

But lately in the last two or three weeks, it became quite clear that the situation continued to deteriorate with serious hardship being caused to the population as a result of the blockade and since there was imminent possibility- of large scale civilian casualties, the Prime Minis--95>

ter sent Shri Dinesh Singh as his personal envoy to meet President Jayewardene, to express our grave concern about the situation. He also impressed upon him the need for a political solution. Now, Sir, what has happened in the last 48 hours? There are indications that there is some, attempt to unwind the blockade, and to reduce the intensity of their military activity. We, are watching this very carefully. The Prime Minister is not here, he is on tour, we are in touch with our High Commission to find out exactly what the situation is. We have also got an indication that the Government of Sri Lanka now adheres to the proposals of the 19th of December in toto. That is our understanding. If that is the case, and we are willing to give them the benefit of doubt although our past experience has been that on more occasions than one they have gone back on what they have said. So we have to treat this very cautiously, but at the same time we do not want to close the door. Although we had said that 'we will not re-start our negotiation process', till certain things were being done. But the situation took a turn when we had to. on this particular occasion, send a Special Envoy. Now, if the proposals of the 19th December are valid, then we will try and contact the Tamil groups and place these proposals before them and say that 'these are the proposals, you should have a good look into them'. They probably do not meet their complete demands, but we have told them that as a responsible Government we cannot possibly agree to Elam. This we have conveyed to them and this is the policy of the Government of India that we are finding a political solution for Sri Lanka within the constitutional framework in Sri Lanka, that is, the unity and territorial integrity of that country. Beyond this, it is for the Tamil militants, but it is quite natural that if the blockade continued, if the military activity continued and its intensity increased, then it is reasonable that they would not like to come to the conference table with a pistol pointed at their head. After all they are the people who are involved in the struggle, there are many hundreds of them who have been killed. So, if you have to take a political package to them, then the package should

be not truncated, not motheaten, not compartmentalised, but a total package with which they can sit down and discuss and this will be our effort.

Our effort will be to try and find a political solution for this problem as early as possible because, as hon. Members have said, particularly, Surendra Pal Singhji and Bhagatji, that the ramifications of this problem are affecting us. The security environment is being affected with hostile countries getting involved in the affairs of Sri Lanka and getting involved in their Defence processes, whether it is in the capacity of mercenaries or advisers or in any other capacity. It is a small country of 14 million people, of whom 2 million are Tamils. If all these armaments keep coming in, if the Defence budget continues to grow, then obviously something is going to happen in Sri Lanka which must have adverse affects not only in our relationship, but on the security environment.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Even now it is taking place. You know fully well, not only the expenditure goes up, but actually if he wants to find out a military solution, for that he is ready; each and every effort is being made for a military solution of this problem. You are talking and talking, Sir, for the last two years you are saying like this.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, I will only tell Mr. Kolandaivelu that I fully understand his passions, I fully understand his distress, I don't entirely share his anger for the simple reason that in anger we cannot find a solution. Sir, he was saying that 'you are using words for all these years.' I would like to submit to him that ideas are translated into force through words. A language is a powerful medium used by statesmen and human beings since the beginning of time. And therefore, through this powerful medium of language we want to convey a message with the support of the entire House to the Government of Sri Lanka that if certain things happen, then this Government, this country cannot possibly be indifferent.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: When they are fighting in the field, no language is mentioned.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: They have asked for airlift of food packets.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I think Mr. Minister would at least tell us, if the economic blockade continues, for the survival of the people, India shall have to give them food and other materials. These people's lives are important as human beings.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Mr. Goswami's point is right and this is one of the paragraphs of the resolution adopted by the Human Rights Commission in Geneva where Mr. Patil represented us most ably. The Red Cross will give. If the need arises, we will also

keep this option open. But it is our hope, in view of the meeting that Mr. Dinesh Singh had with them that this blockade is lifted and there are some indications that it is being lifted.

I will really confine myself to the various points raised by the hon. Members most of which, I have already in my earlier remarks covered. I simply want to say and I want to thank the distinguished former Foreign Minister, Mr. Bhagat for the constructive and helpful statement that he made. From his own experience, he knows that if we were to take any precipitate action, it will only complicate.

I think what he said was that the Sri Lankan and place our point of view and the plight of the Tamils in international forum. We are trying to do this through diplomatic channels, through the Press, through the statement that we are making here, because a very wide coverage is given to this. But since our good offices have been accepted by the Government of Sri Lanka, it is Government's view that it would be inappropriate to internationalise the issue because we know from past experience that in international organisations, if matters of this kind go, extraneous elements enter into it, Big powers take position with regard to their regional or global interests and if I may respectfully say so, in the international for generally simple things are made difficult and difficult things are made impossible. So, we will try and keep trying and attempting to find an answer and we will see in the next few days if the assurances which have been given by the Sri Lankan Government, whether they are honouring on the ground and we will see if the December 19 proposals can be a basis for the Tamil groups to go to the conference table to work towards a political settlement.

Thank you, very much.

I LANKA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC UNITED KINGDOM SWITZERLAND TOTO

Date: Mar 19, 1987

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Shri Venkataraman Hosts Dinner in Honour of Princess of Thailand - Text of Vice-President's Speech

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1987 of the speech by the Vice-President, Shri R. Venkataraman at a dinner hosted by him in honour of Her Royal

Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand here tonight (New Delhi, March 17, 1987):

Your Royal Highness, Excellencies and Friends, the presence amidst us, this evening, of Her Royal Highness Princess -97>

Mahachakri Sirindhorn of Thailand constitutes a special and memorable occasion. Eminent scholars and writers have been visiting this country from time immemorial. In early times, Fahien and Hiuen Tsang came here from the East, Alberuni and Ibn Batuta from the Near-West as well as a host of travellers from Mediterranean climes. In recent and more contemporary times, distinguished scholars and artists have come from all parts of the world to India in a spirit of discovery. We view Her Royal Highness's visit in the perspective of that distinguished continum.

ANTIQUITY, DEPTH AND VARIETY

Her Royal Highness comes from a nation which is not just geographically proximate to us but which is culturally and aesthetically nearer to us. These links enjoy antiquity, depth and variety, touching deep chords of faith and of culture.

Thailand is one of those nations of the world which has enjoyed great continuity. It is the only country in this part of Asia to have been free from colonial domination although to the left and right of her, British and French colonial power held sway. It is, of course, not as if Thailand was totally immune from disturbances. But essentially, Thailand's inner reserves have prevailed over the fluctuations of history. Thailand exemplifies the lines:

The East bowed low before the blast in silent and deep disdain; she let the legions thunder past,.. and plunged in thought again.

EMERALD BUDDHA OF BANGKOK

Thailand received from India's shores, a series of influences, leading to a precious cross fertilization of ideas. Thailands ancient capital was named Ayuthia and the royalline which abides to this day in Thailand was founded by a great King who bore the hallowed name: Rama. 'Rama in fact is a name that enjoys very wide use in Thailand, not just as a name for individuals but also of corporate establishments. If India has shared its ancient lore with Thailand, it has also shared a very tender human heritage in the shape of Gautama, the Buddha. The Compassionate-One is a living presence in Thailand, binding its heritage with ours and weaving our sensibilities together. If visitors from Thailand to India find in Tathagata's form as depicted at Sarnath great peace, so are we from India stirred by a glimpse of the Emerald Buddha in its famous shrine at Bangkok. We are so stirred not

merely because the Buddha is an object of spontaneous veneration in India but because we see in his influence elsewhere, a vindication of the Truth of India. In the great flowering of culture in Asia - both philosophical and artistic - India's contribution is recognized and appreciated. As Sir John Marshall has written:

To know Indian art in India alone, is to know but half its story.

To apprehend it to the full, we must follow it in the wake of Buddhism, to central Asia, China and Japan. We must watch it assuming new forms and breaking into new beauties as it spreads over Tibet and Burma and Siam; we must gaze in awe at the unexamplled grandeur of its creations in Cambodia and Java. In each of these countries, Indian art encounters a different racial genius, a different local environment, and under their modifying influence it takes on a different garb.

SPREADING TREE

Her Royal Highness has come on this visit of hers to study the roots of this great spreading tree. Like the travellers of old she has started her visit with deliberation at the peripheries, visiting the eastern parts of the country associated with the transformation of Prince Siddhartha into the Buddha. Her Royal Highness has visited the great centre of Hindu learning-Varanasi - and our northern most state of Jammu and Kashmir where our valuable Islamic heritage thrives. I am glad her itinerary also includes visits to the western tracts where she will see the dreamlike murals of Ajanta and also the South -98>

where she will behold some of the rock cut temples of the Pallava dynasty.

Her Royal Highness's abiding interest in the history, culture and arts of India, her deep knowledge of Sanskrit and Pali, her knowledge of epigraphy and philosophy will find much in this journey to absorb her.

Along with the past glory of India, Her Royal Highness will also, I believe, see something of our vibrant present. Our country is engaged in a stupendous endeavour to modernize our agriculture and our industry for achieving national self-reliance. I hope Her Royal Highness will see our scientific and technological institutions which Nehru described as the Modern Temples of India.

India seeks friendship and cooperation with all nations. Indo-Thai bonds exemplify this spirit. Our Prime Minister's very successful visit to your country in October last year is a significant step in this process of strengthening our relations. There are many areas in which we can cooperate and share experiences for our mutual benefit. I am confident that this cooperation will grow further in the years to come.

I would like once again to wish Her Royal Highness a very comfortable and enjoyable stay in India.

May I now request you all to join me in a toast to His Majesty the King of Thailand, good health and prosperity to our distinguished guest Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and to the ever growing friendship between India and Thailand.

AILAND INDIA USA CHINA JAPAN BURMA CAMBODIA

Date: Mar 17, 1987

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Text of Princess Sirindhorn's Speech

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1987 of the speech by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn at a dinner hosted in her honour by the Vice-President, Shri R. Venkataraman here tonight (New Delhi, March 17, 1987):

I would like to thank you for the kind words you have just addressed to me and to Thailand.

It is a particularly great pleasure for Me to visit this wonderful country for the first time. I have brought with Me the goodwill of the Thai people and the desire to enhance the ancient bonds of friendship between India and Thailand.

The great Indian civilization has had a profound impact on the Thai way of life. Thailand's culture and religion were enriched by earlier Indian spiritual values. My visit to India is thus an inevitable and a natural consequence arising out of these deeply rooted cultural ties.

FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE

As a learner of Sanskrit, literature, history, art, music and custom, I have always had a personal interest in obtaining first hand knowledge from seeing India and from exchanging views with Indian leaders and scholars. This visit proves a useful and

helpful rare chance to accomplish this.

The visit of His Excellency Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Thailand less than six months ago marked a significant step-forward in widening the existing relationship and deepening understanding between the two countries.

Thailand and India share common interests and concerns in many areas. We both see that mutual benefits can be achieved through the intensification of our cooperation.

In the light of my visit to India, I also hope that relations between India and Thailand, both on the bilateral level and -99>

within the large framework of multi-lateral constructive cooperation efforts, will continue to be further and firmly developed.

We should do our best to make our historic links meaningful. Both sides should stand to gain from complementary factors. Exchanges between our respective nations in all fields should be broadened.

I would like to express My deep appreciation to the Government of India for the warm hospitality accorded to Me from the moment of My arrival. My stay in India will be a rewarding, memorable, and enjoyable experience.

May I now have the honour to invite you all to join Me in a toast to the health of His Excellency the Vice-President and to the friendship between our two countries.

AILAND INDIA USA

Date: Mar 17, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy - Atomic EnergyCommission Chairman's Speech

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 25, 1987 of the text of Dr. M. R. Srinivasan, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission's intervention at the plenary session of the United Nations Conference for the promotion of International Cooperation on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy at Geneva on

March 23, 1987:

At the outset, let me join the previous speakers in offering you my delegation's felicitations on your election to the Chair. My delegation is happy to be here to participate in the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Cooperation in -the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. I may recall with pleasant memories the first UN International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy held in this city in 1955 under the chairmanship of Dr. Homi J. Bhabha. It is a matter of satisfaction that the present conference is finally being held though there has been a long waiting period. We hope that there will be a positive outcome commensurate with the considerable efforts that have gone into the preparation.

RESEARCH REACTORS

The first Geneva Conference set the stage for International Cooperation for development and use of nuclear energy in a big way. In the initial stages, several countries established nuclear R & D programmes by setting up research reactors which enabled the training of man-power and production and utilisation of radioisotopes. International cooperation, including bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements and information exchange, have played a vital role. Research reactors were established in many developing countries with assistance from industrialised countries. Supplies of fuel, equipment and other items were made in a dependable manner. In many industrialised and some developing countries, nuclear power programmes were established besides large scale use of isotopes in industry, medicine, agriculture and research.

The supply of nuclear materials was subject to bilateral safeguards, mainly requiring accounting of nuclear material supplied and those produced therefrom, to give -100>

an assurance that they were not diverted to non-peaceful uses. After the finalisation of the IAEA safeguards system in midsixties, the responsibility of implementation of safeguards was transferred to the IAEA. The agency safeguards, which are facility-oriented covering nuclear materials supplied and produced from the same, were accepted by many countries under such agreements. The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which came into force in 1970 did not prevent the weapon states from continuing production of nuclear weapons, but at the same time obliged non-nuclear weapon states parties to the NPT to place all their nuclear materials under safeguards irrespective of whether the materials were produced indigenously or through cooperation with another country.

By this time, political considerations began dominating international cooperation more than ever before. While the number

and kind of nuclear weapons increased enormously leading to a nuclear arms race between the super powers in the last fifteen years, the non-NPT signatories were subject to increasing pressure to accept the discriminatory conditions of NPT. Further, a number of additional conditions were introduced by the London Suppliers Club and national legislations in certain states. Additional measures were also proposed at various international for alike International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, International Plutonium Storage and Committee on Assurances of Supply. Developments in the late seventies have been characterised by excessive emphasis on prevention of horizontal proliferation while attempts at preventing vertifical proliferation have not been nearly as enthusiastic. One consequence of these developments has been that the supply of nuclear materials and equipment to developing countries has been affected by grave uncertainties. Following the oil crisis in the early seventies, nuclear energy was logically expected to make a significant contribution to electric power in developing countries as well, but these conditions, amongst others, have stood in the way.

TWO MAJOR ACCIDENTS

The two major accidents at TMI and Chernobyl have naturally raised questions in the public mind about the safety of nuclear power. In the case of TMI, release of radioactivity to the environment was negligible. On the other hand, in the Chernobyl accident, a large quantity of radioactivity was released to the environment causing serious local impact and great concern in a number of neighbouring countries. From an analysis of the Chernobyl accident, the International Safety Advisory Group of IAEA (INSAG) was convinced that if available safety principles and knowledge were effectively deployed, nuclear power at its present stage of development was an acceptable and beneficial source of energy. Although both accidents were caused mainly due to disregard of safety rules and procedures, it is the duty of the nuclear community to restore public confidence in nuclear energy. In this regard, important steps have already been taken by the conclusion of two international conventions, one on 'Early notification of a nuclear accident' and the other on 'Mutual assistance in case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency' and by enhanced safety programmes at the IAEA.

THREE STAGE PROGRAMME

Mr. Chairman, I would like to share with the distinguished delegates the experience in India. After a detailed review of our resources and long term needs, a three stage nuclear power programme was identified. Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) were chosen for the first stage because it was foreseen that this reactor system could be indigenised in all aspects and was considered the most fuel efficient. This second factor was of importance in view of our limited proven uranium resources. The

second stage consists of utilisation of plutonium produced in the first stage and simultaneous production of Uranium-233 from Thorium. The third stage would consist of Thorium-Uranium-233 fuel cycle which would enable utilisation of our large reserves of Thorium.

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The growth of manufacturing capability has been possible due to active participation of local industries with adequate support from the design and R & D groups established over the years in the country. The PHWR system is now totally indigenised from the point of view of design, manufacture of components, construction and operation. Further, the policy of self-reliance has helped in establishing, through research and development activities, frontend and back-end facilities of the fuel cycle, required to support the nuclear power programme. It is now planned to raise nuclear power from the present installed capacity of 1,230 MWe to 10,000 MWe by the year 2000 A.D. making a contribution of eight to ten percent to the national electrical power generating capacity. Incidentally, with the present total installed capacity of about 48,000 MWe, India occupies a position in first ten or so countries of the world in regard to electricity generation.

FAST BREEDER REACTOR

The successful attainment of criticality of the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) at Kalpakkam saw the culmination of the scientific and technical efforts that have gone into its design and construction for over a decade. This will provide us necessary experience and confidence for the design of a prototype fast breeder reactor of 500 MWe capacity. A high flux research reactor, Dhruva, at Trombay, also indigenously designed and constructed, provides a powerful tool for research in frontier areas of nuclear science and technology.

India has made considerable progress in the application of radioisotopes in agriculture, industry, medicine and fundamental research. We have been sharing our experience in these fields with other Member States, in particular, countries of the region under the Regional Cooperation Agreement (RCA) of the IAEA.

Mr. Chairman, let me turn now to the question of development of nuclear power in developing countries in general.

Nuclear power over the last three decades has reached an installed capacity of around three hundred GWe in twenty six countries, forming about fifteen percent of the total installed electrical power in the world. Developing countries, in which the major part of humanity lives, have only a total of about four percent of the nuclear power generated in the world. Only seven developing countries are deriving benefits of nuclear power. Although earlier projections of growth of nuclear power have been revised downwards several times due to a variety of reasons,

according to the present projections the installed capacity of nuclear power in the world is likely to reach five hundred GWe by the year 2000 AD. The share of developing countries is expected to be only forty GWe.

FOSSIL FUELS

For the growth of the economies of developing countries, all forms of energy, particularly electrical, are essential. A number of developing countries, some of them with large populations, are unfortunately not endowed with adequate reserves of fossil fuels. Therefore, nuclear energy will have to play an important role. It may be argued that in some developing countries production of electrical energy has not yet reached the threshold level required for introduction of nuclear power. However, if these countries are to achieve a better quality of life, they must have access to greater amounts of electricity both for agriculture and industrial activities. These countries will, therefore, benefit from nuclear power in the long run. There are some developing countries having either ongoing nuclear power programmes or others which are planning an introduction of nuclear power. The constraints experienced by developing countries for promoting nuclear energy are different, depending upon the stage of their nuclear power programme, the infrastructure and resources available to them. The solutions to resolve them cannot be the same to all developing countries. The mechanism of international cooperation in the promotion and financing of nuclear power should take an integrated view and -102>

will have to adopt a flexible approach. The basic aim should be to remove constraints like lack of industrial and R & D support, access to technology, scientific and technical information, availability of skilled manpower and assurance of supply of nuclear materials, equipment and fuel cycle services.

APPLICATIONS OF RADIOISOTOPES

It is well known that applications of radioisotopes and radiation sources in agriculture, medicine and industry are playing a very important role in many countries of the world. Many developing countries are also using these modern tools. It is essential to help developing countries use isotopes and radiation technology in a wider measure. Some people may hold the view that nuclear technology is a luxury for developing countries. Our experience however shows that with proper planning and management, it can be effectively used in a number of fields. Even with limitations of national infrastructure, or even if a country has to import isotopes, they can be of significant benefit to the country. This is one of the fields where leap-frogging in technological development is feasible.

Nuclear technology is highly sophisticated and it is difficult,

particularly for a developing country, to be self-reliant in all facets of this technology. International cooperation and imports are, therefore, essential to most developing countries for making rapid progress. It is also important to find suitable financing arrangements. In respect of nuclear power development, there are examples of financing arrangements covered by bilateral and multilateral agreements. There have been some efforts at introducing the concept of 'Build-Operate-Turnover' for nuclear power, though there remain formidable problems of liability to be resolved. These and other innovations to the problem of financing nuclear power projects in developing countries are to be supported.

IAEA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

IAEA has an important and essential role to play in helping member states to overcome some of the constraints in the technical and scientific areas. IAEA should have active programmes for technical assistance in building up infrastructure and in planning and managing nuclear power programmes. Such assistance may provide an assurance to financial institutions with regard to technical and economic soundness of nuclear power projects proposed to be funded by them. In addition, IAEA may also consider mechanisms to promote and provide access to and transfer of scientific and technological developments and knowhow on a long-term basis. An IAEA study carried out in 1985 has indicated that, from the point of view of demand, there is adequate interest, particularly from developing countries, in the development of small and medium size reactor units (SMPR). In principle, smaller reactor units would require less capital outlay, provide the possibility of shorter installation time, larger involvement of local industries and greater flexibility of operation. Further, SMPR unit sizes are likely to be compatible with the growth of demand for electricity in a number of developing countries. Detailed studies on SMPRs may, therefore, be continued by IAEA.

The idea of the present conference was mooted in 1977 with the aim of resolving the problems related to international cooperation for peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, particularly nuclear power, in developing countries. The objectives of the Conference are defined in the UNGA resolution No. 32.50. Item five of the agenda reads "Principles Universally acceptable for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and appropriate ways and means for the promotion of such cooperation, as envisaged in General Assembly Resolution 3250, and in accordance with mutually acceptable considerations of non-proliferation."

FUEL CYCLE PROGRAMME

An assurance of supply of materials, equipment and service on a continuous basis is not only a very important factor in the

growth of nuclear power in a given country but it would also give confidence to the financing agencies to invest in the -103>

nuclear power industry. The sovereign and inalienable right of every Member State to choose, apply, develop and pursue its preferred fuel cycle programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be respected by all. The transfer of technology related to peaceful uses of nuclear energy must, therefore, not be subjected to conditions incompatible with national sovereignty of the receiving country. Scientific knowledge in this field should be shared with mutual trust, confidence and respect.

India has stood and continues to stand firmly against any kind of proliferation of nuclear weapons. The NPT should effectively prevent vertical, spatial and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons, ultimately leading to the elimination of all nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, a distinction has come to be made on the obligations of non-nuclear weapon states and nuclear weapon states. Responsibilities and obligations to prevent proliferation should be equally shared by all states.

India has held that to effectively prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons, all nuclear materials in all states should be used only for peaceful purposes. If such commitments were forthcoming from all states, safeguards could then be applied equally and fairly in all states. Until that time, safeguards will remain a voluntary acceptance of obligations by sovereign states, limited to the terms of the voluntary offer. India cannot accept the inequality and discrimination of "full scope" safeguards or indeed the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

PRAGMATIC APPROACH

The Preparatory Committee for PUNE (PREPCOM) and the Intersessional Intergovernmental Working Group of UNCPIC PUNE have done considerable preparatory work for this Conference. A paper prepared by G-77 for PREPCOM brings out major constraints and possible solutions to overcome them. Even though it has not been possible to arrive at an agreement at the Working Group and at PREPCOM on these aspects, Mr. Chairman, my delegation feels that the G-77 document deserves full consideration at the conference by Committee I. It is unfortunate that the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) has not been able to come up with any consensus. In any case, Mr. Chairman, my delegation hopes that all States will adopt a pragmatic approach and show sufficient will to reach a mutually acceptable solution. Though the topics to be covered by Committee II as per items six and seven of the Conference agenda are of a technical nature and the presentations are likely to give an overview on each subject, it is important that the deliberations in Committee II are aimed at removing the constraints being faced by the developing countries in utilising nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chairman, nuclear technology has come of age and nuclear power has come to stay. It is an important alternative, and at any rate an important supplement to the rapidly dwindling reserves of fossil fuels. At the present level of technological development, it is an adequately safe and environmentally clean source of electricity. Nuclear power development, though sophisticated and incorporating high technology, is gradually coming within the capability of absorption of many developing countries. What is needed is a positive attitude and willingness on the part of the industrially advanced countries to share their scientific and technological advancement with the developing countries. This will achieve the objective of promoting social and economic development of a vast majority of the population in the world. Mr. Chairman, we feel that given the political will, the objectives of this conference can be achieved, thereby opening a new chapter in the progress of mankind. -104>

A INDIA SWITZERLAND UNITED KINGDOM RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Mar 25, 1987

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Date: Apr 01, 1987

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1995

ANGOLA

Banquet Speech by President Zail Singh

The following is the speech by the President of India Giani Zail Singh at the banquet in honour of the President of Angola, H.E. Comrade Jose Eduardo Dos Santos on Apr 02, 1987:

Your Excellency, President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, Ladies and

Gentlemen, I wish to extend a particularly warm and cordial welcome to Your Excellency and to the distinguished members of your delegation. We greet you as an outstanding freedom fighter and as the leader of a country and people which are in the forefront of the struggle for justice and human dignity in Southern Africa. We in India who had waged a long and arduous struggle under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi for independence from colonial rule rejoiced when the freedom struggle led by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola under the leadership of the late Agostinho Neto culminated in the independence of your country in November, 1975. The independence of Angola and the dismantling of the Portuguese empire in Southern Africa and elsewhere was a momentous step forward in the emancipation of humanity. The achievements of the Angolan people and leadership thus had repercussions far beyond the frontiers of Angola.

Unfortunately the apartheid regime of South Africa and its patrons, fearful that the frontiers of freedom had advanced to the very borders of Namibia and South Africa itself, embarked on a systematic programme calculated to destabilise the legitimate Angolan regime. Even before independence Angola suffered a massive invasion by South African forces which has been followed by 11 years of aggression and every conceivable form of interference.

It is a matter of particular gratification that under the inspired leadership of the late President Agostinho Neto and yourself the Angolan nation and people have demonstrated the fortitude to stand up to these acts of aggression. The policy of national reconciliation and clemency which reflects the humanity of the Angolan leadership has further consolidated national unity.

Mr. President, your country has provided shelter and relief to thousands of Namibian patriots who have escaped from the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa. Your selfless support to SWAPO will be recalled as another signal contribution to the cause of human freedom. The independence of Namibia is being frustrated by the irrational conditions being imposed by South Africa and its closest allies for the implementation of Security Council resolution 435. Angola and India are confident that under the leadership of SWAPO Namibia will wrest its independence from illegal South African occupation.

The situation in South Africa itself is assuming alarming proportions. The operation of the abhorrent system of apartheid and the brutal repression of the black majority can only lead to violence on a unprecedented scale. Since the Botha regime is obdurate in its decision not to open a political dialogue which would lead to the establishment of majority rule the responsibility of the international community lies in mobilising world public opinion in favour of the application of

comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa as the only means available to secure the dismantlement of apartheid. -105>

AFRICA FUND

Mr. President, we are aware of the capacity and intention of the South African regime to apply counter-sanctions and other pressures against the Front-Line states. To meet this situation the Harare Summit of Non-Aligned Countries established the AFRICA Fund whose objective is to extend support to the Front Line states and Southern African liberation movements. A productive summit of the AFRICA Fund Committee of which India is privileged to be Chairman was held in New Delhi in January this year at which a Plan of Action was approved and a campaign to raise funds was launched. The international community has reacted favourably to this important Non-Aligned initiative and we are confident of its success.

Mr. President, Angola and India have cooperated closely within the Non-aligned Movement. Our charter remains the promotion of peace, disarmament and development. The Non-Aligned Movement is firmly committed to the goal of nuclear disarmament and has enthusiastically supported the Six-Nation Initiative whose central planks are a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The world economic situation is bedevilled by intensifying inequities and a growing gap between the North and the South which constitute another important threat to international peace and security. Angola and India as Non-Aligned countries will continue to strive for greater South-South cooperation and the establishment of New International Economic Order.

United as we have been in the struggle against colonialism, racism and apartheid, Angola and India have more recently begun to explore the avenues, for bilateral cooperation in the economic and technological fields. The visit of our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to Angola in May 1986 opened the way for mutually advantageous cooperation in these areas. We in India have over the last 40 years made significant strides in our efforts to promote economic development to improve the quality of life of our people on the basis of the principles of social justice and self-reliance. Notwithstanding its acute security concerns Angola has also embarked on a similar programme of economic development and we are more than willing to share our developmental experiences with our Angolan friends. During your visit to our country you will have an opportunity to acquaint yourself with our achievements in the agricultural and industrial fields and I am confident that your visit will result not only in the establishment of a programme of economic cooperation but also in intensifying trade and commerce between our two countries.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me

in proposing a toast to the health and well being of His Excellency President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, to the further consolidation of friendly ties between Angola and India and the success of the Angolan people in their valiant struggle against the forces of racism and colonialism and to establish an edifice of peace and prosperity in Angola.

GOLA INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE

Date: Apr 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

ANGOLA

India and Angola Sign Two Protocols

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 03, 1987 on the signing of two protocols by India and Angola:

During the visit of President of the People's Republic of Angola, His Excellency Comrade Jose Eduarado dos Santos, to India from April 1 to 4, the following two protocols were signed between the two countries:

(1)protocol relating to Indian experts sent on deputation to the People's Republic of Angola;

(2)additional protocol to the Agreement on Economic, Scientific,

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Technical and Cultural Co-operation in the field of communications.

The protocol on deputation of experts, signed by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, and the Angolan Minister of External Affairs, H.E. Comrade Alfonso Van-Dunem M'Binda, will govern the terms and condition of deputation, service conditions, remuneration, etc. and will run for an initial period of five years, renewable automatically for five-year periods unless terminated by six months' notice.

The protocol on cooperation in the field of communications, signed by Shri Faleiro, on behalf of India, and H.E. Comrade Licinio Tavares Ribeiro, on behalf of Angola, is supplementary to

the Agreement on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation signed during the visit of the Angolan Minister of External Trade in October last year. Under this additional protocol, India and Angola have agreed to establish a mechanism for collaboration for the development of telecommunications and postal services in Angola. India will send technical missions of specialists and arrange lectures and specialised training covering, among others, planning, training of personnel, supervision and operation of telecommunication postal services, industrial and technological development and studies in specialisation, organisation and methods, technical documentation, and co-operation in philately. This protocol shall be valid initially for three years and shall be renewed automatically for subsequent periods unless terminated by six months' notice.

GOLA INDIA USA

Date: Apr 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

CANADA

Indo-Canadian Protocol on Coal

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 03, 1987 on the Indo-Canadian protocol on coal:

The Indo-Canadian Working Group has identified two projects in India for cooperation. They are Baragolai Hydraulic Mining Project situated in Assam and Rajmahal OCP of Eastern Coalfield Ltd. situated in Bihar.

The protocol was signed here today between India and Canada where the Indian side was led by Mr. P. N. Abbi, Additional Secretary, Department of Coal and Canadian side by Mr. Anthony T. Tyton, Asstt. Deputy Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of Canada.

It was also agreed that besides cooperation in the above projects, cooperation between the two countries in other areas such as borge transportation of coal, coal beneficiation would be explored.

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Date: Apr 03, 1987

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Foreign Minister's Banquet Speech

The following is the text of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri N. D. Tiwari at the banquet by the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Bohuslav Chnoupek in Prague on Apr 30, 1987:

Your Excellency the Foreign Minister, Mr. Bohuslav Chnoupek, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen; I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek and the Government of Czechoslovakia for your invitation to me to visit your beautiful country and for the warm and cordial hospitality. A little more than three years ago as Minister of Industries I had the pleasure of visiting the historical capital of Prague - the golden city of a hundred spires. I have visited and admired a few of the exquisite palaces and historical monuments. It is quite evident that much love and care have been devoted to ensure their maintenance.

PEACE IS INDIVISIBLE

Peace is indivisible. The ever escalating stockpile of nuclear weapons and unslaked hunger for new and more destructive nuclear weapons is threatening not only peace but the very survival of the planet. The quest for peace is not only the responsibility and concern of the nuclear weapon powers but all the nation States who will be affected by the use of nuclear weapons. Czechoslovakia and India have opposed the nuclear arms race and have worked consistently for complete and universal disarmament. Our efforts for peace must stem from the realisation that war today would not mean victory or defeat, or even life or death of a nation but the difference between existence and annihilation. The Delhi Declaration signed by Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, and the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Soviet Union, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, ushered a new thinking in the nuclear age. India and Czechoslovakia believe that the Principles of the Delhi Declaration for a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world must inform the policies and actions of all nations in the world today if we have to secure the fragile structure of peace obtaining today.

DIALOGUE ON DISARMAMENT

While, as I said, all the States have a role to play in nuclear disarmament, the major dramatis personae are the nuclear weapon powers, specially the two Great Powers. Both India and Czechoslovakia therefore welcomed the re-opening of the dialogue on disarmament at Geneva in November 1985 and its continuation at Reyjkjavik in October 1986. The breakthrough which was almost achieved at Reyjkjavik showed how progress could be achieved given political will and goodwill on both sides. The ultimate breakdown, however, also showed the great difficulties and perils in the way of the realisation of the objective of peace. Major credit for change in the perspective must go to the policies of disarmament and peace initiated by the Soviet Union. The recent Soviet proposal on medium range missiles which has been welcomed by the USA and Western nations should be viewed in this Scenairo which Czechoslovakia and India have also welcomed. It is our earnest hope that these negotiations will produce the desired results.

Czechoslovakia, like India, has suffered the ravages of war and foreign domination. Both countries after independence chose the path of planned development. After 40 years of sustained efforts we in India can look back with some pride and look ahead with hope. We followed with great interest the outcome of the 17th Congress of your Party last year and your subsequent efforts at modernising and restructuring your economy. We too are -108>

engaged in a similar task and I am sure that we can learn from each other's example. We both believe in peaceful coexistence and international cooperation. We firmly oppose the diversion of world's limited resources to an unbridled arms race which can only bring us nearer to the brink of nuclear annihilation. We have always worked for disarmament and appreciate the support that Czechoslovakia has extended to the Six-Nation Initiative. We recall that the Prague Declaration also points to the path of peace and progress.

EMOTIONAL LINKS

The people of India have had a historical and emotional link with Africa and South Africa in patricular, where Mahatma Gandhi introduced the instruments of Civil Disobedience and non-violent resistance. Czechoslovakia, India and all countries and peoples of the world who uphold human dignity and equality have called for an end to the abominable policy of apartheid and the racism of the minority Pretoria regime. As you are aware, our Prime Minister is the Chairman of the AFRICA Fund for Solidarity which was established at the Non-aligned Summit at Harare with the objective of supporting the Front-line States to combat the policies of the racist regime and to resist economic retaliation.

It is our fervent hope that all the countries that share the eternal human values of equality and peace will help the Africa Solidarity Fund and assist our efforts to eliminate apartheid.

Closer home, India has been endeavouring to improve relations with all its neighbours including Pakistan and China.

WARMTH AND CORDIALITY

Excellency, Indo-Czechoslovak relations have all along been known for their warmth and cordiality, understanding and mutual accommodation, cooperation and collaboration in different domains of activity. There has been a warm understanding in political sphere where our policies have coincided or have been in close proximity on fundamental international issues such as peace and disarmament.

The concern for the preservation of our tradition and pride in our history is one of the many splendoured common bonds which unite India and Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovakia has produced eminent scholars of Sanskrit, Indology and Indian philosophy and musicologists specialising in Indian music as well as museologists whose interests in the arts and crafts of India are vivid and upto-date. I would like to make special mention of the Desikottama award recently conferred by Chancellor of the Vishwa Bharati University, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, on Dr. Miloslav Krasa, Chairman of the Indian Section of the Czechoslovak Society for International Relations. This is yet another example of the efforts to improve understanding between our two peoples.

There is close and growing collaboration in the economic and commercial fields and a host of important industrial projects like Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, Bharat Heavy Electricals, Tiruchirapalli, Hindustan Machine Tools Tractors Plant in Pinjore, Churk Cement Factory and the latest collaboration for the Visakhapatnam Medium Merchant Mill in India bear testimony to the vigour of this collaboration. In the cultural sphere too we have active collaboration. My visit happily coincides with the organisation of Indian Film Week in Prague which would be a glimpse of our contemporary and creative trends in film making. We welcome the celebrations of the days of Indian Culture being planned for the 40th Anniversary of India's independence from July, 1987. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to the various Indologists, intellectuals and friends of India who have endeavoured to bring our two countries and peoples closer. The friendship that exists between our two countries should retain its dynamic character. We, on our part, are pledged to persist in our efforts to improve cooperation with Czechoslovakia in all spheres.

Allow, me, Your Ercellency, Mr. Foreign Minister, ladies and gentlemen, to -109>

raise a toast for the health and happiness of Foreign Minister Chnoupek; for the well being and prosperity of the friendly people of Czechoslovakia; for the ever growing friendship and cooperation between our two nations.

RWAY SLOVAKIA USA CZECH REPUBLIC CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA SWITZERLAND SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE CHINA PAKISTAN

Date: Apr 30, 1987

Volume No

1995

DISARMAMENT

Statement by Shri K. Natwar Singh in the Conference on Disarmament

The following is the text of the statement by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh, in the conference on disarmament on Apr 23, 1987 in Geneva:

Mr. President, I am glad to have this opportunity of sharing with the distinguished members of this body the views of my Government on some of the important issues engaging its attention. I am grateful to you for your warm welcome and for your generous remarks about my country.

Permit me to avail of this opportunity to extend to you the felicitations of my delegation on your assumption of the presidency for this month. We are confident that under your stewardship, the conference will be able to make commendable advance towards discharging its onerous responsibilities.

May I extend my greetings and good wishes to all members and observers of the conference on disarmament.

It is a privilege to address so many distinguished representatives in this single United Nations body on multilateral negotiations in the field of disarmament.

On July 16, 1945, when the first atomic bomb was tested at Alamogordo, Robert Oppenheimer, who was witness to the event began spontaneously to chant lines from the Bhagwat Gita that he knew from his study of Sanskrit:

Diwa surya-sahasrasya bhaved yugapad utthita yadi bhah sadsri sa syad bhases tasya mah' atmanah.

If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burst into the sky

They would perhaps be like the splendour of the mighty one.

The mighty one then revealed himself to announce:

I am become death. The shatter of worlds.

There is no doubt that this was a watershed development in the evolution of the history of human kind. The flash of lightening and the fireball and the looming mushroom cloud were heavy with forebodings of death and destruction. The use of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima 21 days later confirmed this fundamental change in the nature of warfare.

In the last four decades, nuclear stockpiles have grown and so has the fragility of human existence. There are enough nuclear weapons today to destroy the world several times over. As Garcia Robles once said, the destructive potential of these weapons today amount to three tons of TNT per man, woman and child in the world.

GREATEST DANGER

It is now universally recognised - and nobody can with reason dispute this fact -

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that the greatest danger facing the world today is the threat to the survival of mankind in the event of outbreak of a nuclear war. At the first special session of its kind, devoted to disarmament in 1978, the General Assembly of the United Nations had resolved by consensus and without a single reservation that the removal of the danger of nuclear war was "the most acute and urgent task of the day". Over the past decades, however, we have seen a world where the nuclear arsenals have grown and the nuclear arms race continued unabated. Even more significantly, along with this development the Great Powers have increased their nuclear-war waging potential. Command and control systems have been refined to such a degree that under certain conditions that are by no means rare of extarordinary, decisions concerning the use of nuclear weapons may be left to the field commander without concurrence or control by the political leadership. No disarmament agreement has been concluded between the two Super Powers since 1979 and there have been serious differences of interpretation about those concluded earlier. The ABM Treaty is being contested. Ground is being laid for the accelerated deployment of new weapons systems. In the past few months, the prospects of reducing the danger of nuclear war have receded further. On November 28, 1986, the United States has exceeded an important numerical ceiling established under the 1979 agreement on arms limitation by bringing into service the 131st B-52

strategic bomber aircraft converted to carry cruise missiles. Early this year, the Soviet Union ended the unilateral moratorium on nuclear weapons testing, which it had maintained since July 1985, for reasons all of us are aware of.

There is another aspect of nuclear weapons which deserves our attention. In today's world, nuclear weapons are treated as currencies of power. The quest for parity turns imperceptibly but not unexpectedly to a struggle for predominance. A nuclear war can therefore arise not only from a deliberate action or folly, but also from the very existence of such weapons. The epigram that the principal cause of nuclear war may be nuclear weapons themselves has some justification. An escape from this horrendous possibility can be found only on the basis of a new political understanding involving trust, not terror; cooperation, not confrontation; negotiations, not propaganda.

ABSENCE OF PROGRESS

It is obvious that in the context of the absence of progress in eliminating the risk of nuclear war, or even in reducing it. a drastic change in the outlook of nuclear weapon States is necessary. A strategy of nuclear arms limitation or arms reduction by itself is neither sufficient nor reassuring so long as their faith in nuclear weapons as peace-keepers of the world remains undiminished. Nuclear deterrence, predicated as it is on the possible use of nuclear weapons, may itself lead to nuclear war. Collective suicide is no way to guarantee a durable peace. In receiving the "Beyond War Award" given to the six authors of the Delhi Declaration of January 1985, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi stated:

We advocate the alternative of peaceful co-existence based on nuclear disarmament.

We believe that nations, big or small, powerful or apparently weak, can and must learn to live together, in mutual recognition and trust.

We believe that a system of security which contemplates selfdestruction is inherently unstable and fragile."

Everyone is agreed that the dangerous trend of continuing nuclear competition must be stopped. The present impasse in multilateral disarmament negotiations requires to be broken through a bold move. There are several steps that can be taken right away, without waiting for actual disarmament.

The reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons, which could both follow resolution of points of substantive differences.
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For instance, pending the realisation of nuclear disarmament, a

useful avenue of preventing nuclear war is to work towards a convention on the prohibition of use of nuclear weapons. India had presented a draft convention on the subject at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1982. This was done to provide a concrete and practical basis for the long-standing proposal of non-aligned countries on the subject. The second special session ended without adopting a single measure for disarmament on the prevention of nuclear war and this proposal too, with many others, was simply remitted to the 37th session of the General Assembly. Since then, every year, the Assembly has been approving, with steadily increasing support, a resolution which calls upon the conference on disarmament to undertake negotiations with a view to achieving agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons on a priority basis.

DIRECT VIOLATION OF CHARTER

This proposal is based upon the principle established by the United Nations over a quarter of a century ago that the use of nuclear weapons would constitute a direct violation of the charter of the United Nations and that any State using weapons would be considered as acting contrary to the laws of humanity and as committing a crime against humanity. This principle, first adopted by the General Assembly in 1961, has been reaffirmed repeatedly. It is also widely acknowledged that prevention of nuclear war is not only a moral imperative but is related to the very survival of the human race. All nuclear weapon States now support the idea that a nuclear war must never be fought. Two of the most powerful nuclear weapon States have also declared the proclaimed objective of their bilateral negotiations as, ultimately, the elimination of nuclear arms every where. A legally binding commitment banning the use of nuclear weapons would therefore be a concrete step in this direction. A binding convention would also meet the argument that nuclear weapons have not been expressly banned by the charter of the United Nations. The late Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Olof Palme, had suggested in the General Assembly in 1985 the consideration of the possibility of prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons by international law as part of a process leading to General and complete disarmament.

The prohibition of use of nuclear weapons is but a step, albeit a vital one, in the direction which will ultimately lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons completely. The foreswearing of the use of nuclear weapons will help both in averting the danger of nuclear war and giving credence to the commitment of nuclear weapon States to nuclear disarmament and their declared objective of eliminating these weapons ultimately from their arsenals. Such a convention would be short and explicit. As annexed to the annual Indian resolution in the UN General Assembly, it stands less than a page in length. It will serve as a testimony to our common desire to curb the nuclear arms race. While it would not

disarm either side instantly, it will delegitimise nuclear weapons, provide momentum to disarmament efforts and in the process serve as a lasting contribution towards peace.

INTERIM MEASURES

Two other important interim measures that my Government considers to be of lasting value are a cessation of nuclear weapons testing and a freeze on the further production, testing, development and deployment of nuclear weapons, together with a simultaneous cessation of production of fissile material for military purposes. Both are essential if we are to ensure an end to the strange spectacle that nuclear arsenals grow while supposedly serious negotiations for their reduction and elimination are underway. The logic of a freeze is self-evident in the laws of physics -you can hardly hope to reverse the direction of any motion without first breaking the on-going one. A test ban is necessary for ensuring that the engine of the qualitative 'improvement' of weaponry is turned off.

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As early as 1954, Jawaharlal Nehru had initiated a move in the United Nations for a nuclear test ban. The nuclear arms race was then in its infancy. He asked for a standstill agreement in respect of testing, even if stopping nuclear weapon production was not immediately possible. The present imperatives, even more than in the fifties, point to the need for an immediate moratorium on nuclear weapon tests, to be followed by negotiations on a nuclear weapon test ban treaty.

The Six Nation Initiative, which my country is proud to be associated with, had for these reasons singled out a comprehensive test ban treaty as the most important measure at the present time and concentrated its efforts for a moratorium on nuclear testing, as a first step in this direction. Both the Delhi Declaration of 1985 and the Mexico Declaration of 1986 had appealed to this end to the nuclear weapon States, particularly the US and the USSR. We are deeply disappointed that our repeated appeals have been of no avail and that the unilateral USSR moratorium could not be converted into even a joint US-USSR moratorium, not to speak of one involving all the nuclear weapon States.

VERIFICATION

At first we were told that lack of adequate verification capability constituted an obstacle in the way of a comprehensive test ban. Even though we have never been convinced by the validity of this argument, we gave it serious consideration. In full cognizance of the technical requirements and confident that they possessed the requisite technical expertise and geographic spread to be able to verify compliance with the moratorium, the six nations offered their good offices to facilitate effective

verification of such a moratorium. Any remaining doubts due to ambiguity in interpretation of monitored data etc. could, moreover, have been taken care of by mutual on-site inspections.

Several other rather ingenious arguments were later advanced justifying the continuation of nuclear testing. We pondered over them and wondered why these issues could not be tackled in an Ad Hoc Committee of this conference in the course of negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty. To us, it has seemed incredible that it could be argued in all seriousness that the time was not yet ripe for commencement of negotiations in the conference on disarmament when the USA, USSR and the UK had already held trilateral negotiations and, before the talks were called off in 1980, reached the conclusion that almost all the obstacles to concluding a comprehensive test ban treaty had been overcome.

NEW WEAPON SYSTEMS

It was only later that the crux of the matter became evident. The insistence on nuclear testing was evidently intended to develop new weapon systems. It demonstrated the correctness of our consistent assessment that the failure of the conference on disarmament to agree on the establishment of a subsidiary body with a negotiating mandate could be attributed to nothing but lack of political will. Progress on so important a matter as a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty cannot be achieved without a fundamental change in the current position of the nuclear weapon States and certainly not by proposals which do not address themselves to the principal issue. We remain unpersuaded that a non-negotiating mandate for the adhoc Committee on a nuclear test ban would in any way facilitate or bring us any closer to realising the goal of a treaty prohibiting all nuclear weapon tests. On the contrary, it would only help in misleading public opinion into believing that an earnest endeavour was underway. I hope that distinguished members will appreciate that my Government cannot be a party to any such exercise in selfdeception.

Finally another important measure, which too is before the conference is the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The concept of the Strategic Defence Initiative enunciated for the first time exactly four years ago envisaged the creation of an impenetrable shield that would protect an entire territory against a missile attack by destroying all offensive nuclear weapons.

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Its declared merit is to reduce the risk of a nuclear war by defensive action which would render nuclear weapons ineffective. More recent appraisals of the programme, even by those who originally propounded the idea, show up such a claim as far too optimistic. Over the past two decades, every new evolution in

weaponry to counter the risks from existing nuclear forces has inevitably led to a steady development of their offensive capability. An arms race in outer space will be extremely costly and countermeasures are likely to limit any of its possible advantages. The uncertainty created by this new arms race will have a destabilising impact. Current debates on the issue have a distinct ring of the past. During the course of 1932, three commissions of the disarmament conference, meeting perhaps in the same council chamber, spent many weeks in a vain endeavour to classify armaments as 'offensive' and 'defensive'. Delegates of all nations displayed extraordinary ability in advocating that armaments which they chiefly relied upon were defensive while those of the potential rivals were mainly offensive. Instead of getting into such a debate again, the conference on disarmament should work on specific proposals to prevent outer space from becoming the cosmic dimension of the all-too-familiar terrestrial arms race. Through the ages, man has looked up to the skies and heavens and derived inspiration and solace. But if appropriate steps are not taken soon to prohibit the new space weapon systems under development, the same skies would take on a predatory face threatening humankind with destruction. The anti-satellite and anti-ballistic missile systems, particle beam and laser weapons and other third generation nuclear weapons in the offing would aggravate considerably the likelihood of a nuclear holocaust. With its high degree of automated programming, modern weaponry is only too vulnerable to the well documented dangers of false alarms, miscalculation and other failures in man-made systems.

In the area of preventing an arms race in outer space priority should be accorded to halting the development of anti-satellite weapons, the dismantling of existing systems, the prohibiting of the introduction of new weapons systems in outer space and ensuring that the existing treaties safeguarding the peaceful uses of outer space, as well as the 1972 ABM treaty are fully honoured and extended as required in the light of new technological advances.

NAM STAND

The Non-Aligned and neutral countries have consistently taken the position that the development of space weapons and an arms race in outer space must be prevented. It has been acknowledged that exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes shall be carried out for the benefit of and in the interest of all developing countries, irrespective of their degree of economic and scientific development. Outer space is the common heritage of all mankind. During the last 30 years, since the beginning of the first satellite, there have been remarkable advances in the utilisation of space for scientific activities, so far largely peaceful. Space research has expanded the horizons of science and enhanced our understanding of the fundamental mysteries of the universe. It has opened up -hitherto unimaginable vistas which have the potential of transforming the conditions of life on our

planet. Countries large and small, rich and poor have all benefitted from space communications, space remote sensing and space meteorology in a manner unthinkable a few decades before. These immense possibilities that are unfolding before us, call for harmonizing of the national interests and avoidance of any unilateral measures that could conflict with or queer the pitch for their optimum utilisation.

SIX NATION SUMMITS

Progress in any of these directions will, however, not be possible as long as nuclear weapons are accorded legitimacy by the nuclear weapon States, for this results in a flawed approach to arms control. Our Prime Minister gave expression to this situation in the following terms at -114>

the Six Nation Summit in New Delhi in 1985 and I quote:

"The five nuclear weapon States claim a kind of legitimacy for possession of such weapons ...every refinement of deterrence like flexible response' and 'limited' and 'winnable' war scenarios assumes that these weapons can be controlled by increasing their technological sophistication. The qualitative arms race is thus built into the arms control approach. That kind of arms control is no arms control."

As against the formal commitment of the two Super Powers to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons, one nuclear weapon State has actually suggested recently that nuclear weapons cannot be disinvented and that a world free of nuclear weapons would be utopian and an unattainable goal; that nuclear weapons are meant to prevent, rather than to wage war. The forty years of peace in Europe is presented, as evidence of the validity of this proposition. It is also suggested that nuclear weapons constitute an effective means to deter and regulate regional conflicts and prevent them from assuming global dimensions. In actual fact, regional conflicts are almost invariably a direct function of global strategic confrontation in an international system dominated by a political culture in which nuclear weapons constitute the legitimate currency of power. The very rationale of non-alignment has been to seek to replace the logic of global confrontation by the fabric of international cooperation and thus reduce the danger of regional conflicts being caused by great Power confrontation and intervention. In our view, peace is indivisible. Peace in Europe based on the balance of terror has not meant the absence of conflict elsewhere and it is thus totally erroneous to suggest that nuclear weapons have contributed to the maintenance of world peace. In any case, it would, in our opinion, be a rather queer way of seeking peace if the very process of doing so exacerbated tension and enhanced the likelihood of war. There is something fundamentally wrong and sinister in a doctrine which teaches us to live with nuclear

weapons, unmindful of their inhuman consequences. The non-aligned countries were categorical on this question at the Harare summit. I quote:

"Belief in the maintenance of world peace through nuclear deterrence is the most dangerous fallacy that exists. The doctrine of nuclear deterrence lies at the root of the continuing escalation in quantitative and qualitative development of nuclear weapons and has in fact led to greater insecurity and instability in international relations."

CRUCIAL ROLE

Mr. President, the conference on disarmament, we believe, has a crucial role to play in promoting international agreements to slow down, stop and reverse the nuclear arms race and ultimately to bring about the total elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. It can discharge its mandate as the sole multilateral negotiating body in the field of disarmament only if the nuclear-weapon States can muster the necessary political will to initiate, conduct and conclude negotiations on various issues on the agenda of the conference. In this process, every nation, big or small, has the right - and the duty - to make its contribution which should be given due attention by the conference. Priorities in the field of disarmament, as reflected in the final document of SSOD-I must be restored. No useful purpose can be served by focussing only on secondary questions, while leaving the major issues outside the purview of the conference. India favours a universalistic approach towards disarmament. We are not against partial or regional measures per se but these should be part of an overall global disarmament perspective if they are to be meaningful and acceptable to all as the legitimate concern of the international community. Since the consequences of a nuclear war threaten all mankind including nations not directly involved, the task of devising appropriate measures to deal with the problem can hardly be left to only a few nations. We, therefore, hope that in the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly devoted -115>

to disarmament, scheduled for 1988 all nations, big or small, will actively participate in the debate and that their views will be given the necessary weight. The conference on disarmament can also ponder over this matter and make its own contribution in making SSOD-III a successful and significant landmark on the road to disarmament.

MULTILATERAL TREATIES

Mr. President, India has signed, ratified or acceded to all multilateral treaties in' the field of arms limitation and disarmament which have been negotiated so far, except the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which India did not sign because it is an

unequal and discriminatory treaty. I hardly need repeat that we would never be able to agree to be a party to such a treaty. India is a signatory or party to the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963, the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, the Sea Bed Treaty of 1971, the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972, the Enmod Convention of 1977 and the Inhumane Weapons Convention of 1981. The basic principle which India insists on in disarmament negotiations is that all measures should be non-discriminatory in respect of the obligations imposed on the parties concerned.

Here in Geneva, not far from the conference on disarmament. bilateral talks are now in progress between the United States of America and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics. After an uncertain start, some new proposals are under consideration. While this does not by itself eliminate the nuclear threat, early conclusion of agreement or agreements on intermediate and short range missiles will mark the beginning of the process of reducing nuclear weapons. This would provide concrete evidence that the vision of a nuclearfree world contemplated and nearly agreed upon at Reyjkjavik last year can be turned into reality, provided an earnest effort is made to overcome mutual fears and suspicions. We note with satisfaction that the proposals of the USSR of last year on complete elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of the earth by the end of the century are still on the table and would like to believe that they would serve as the basis for reaching concrete agreement to fulfil the declared objective of the talks.

CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Mr. President. Jawaharlal Nehru often remarked that the evolution of human mind has not kept pace with the technological changes in contemporary society. This is fully borne out in the context of the escalating arms race which goes on despite its heavy political, social and economic costs. The resources required to fuel this race are enormous. The staggering global expenditure on weapons is related to the slow and tardy process of recovery from the world economic recession, So also is it related to many of the structural imbalances in the world trading system and the national economies of both developed and developing countries. Modern science and technology can be used to consciously alter human destiny in a manner never before possible in history. And yet, this unprecedented historic opportunity is in danger of being lost. The Non-Aligned Summit at Harare welcomed the call for an international conference on the relationship between disarmament and development under the aegis of the UN. They considered it most appropriate and timely that the adverse consequences of continuing arms expenditure for the global economy are addressed at a high political level. We expect the conference to address itself to such issues as the serious distortions brought about within the economies of the developed countries and consequently in the world economy as a whole in

recent years as a result of massive diversion of resources to the military sector. These tend to have an impact upon and aggravate the problems of the developing countries. The conference on disarmament and development would also have to devote some attention to considering how scarce resources can be transferred from armaments to development for averting instability in the developing world and promotion of international peace on a more assured basis.

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Mr. President, I have been frank in expressing my, disappointment at the stagnation of the process of negotiation in this unique multilateral negotiating forum in the field of disarmament. This does not mean that we do not see any positive features in the work of the conference on disarmament. On the contrary, we value it very much. We do not think that there is any inherent fault in the conference on disarmament - either in its composition, size or procedures. The conference on disarmament is an institution of our times and subject to the policies of the respective Governments that make up its membership. If the conference on disarmament has not lived up to the hopes that accompanied its birth, in its present incarnation, in 1978, it is largely a reflection of our individual and collective failings. On the positive side, I would like to mention the negotiations on the chemical weapons convention where some significant progress has been made. I hope that the remaining problems will soon be resolved and a convention concluded at the earliest.

What then are the future prospects of disarmament? Despite the negative climate there are some reasons for hope. In the world today, there are a number of fora where concerned governments and peoples are pursuing the quest for peace and disarmament. As the biggest peace movement in history, the Non-Aligned Movement serves as an example in this respect, as also the Six-Nation Initiative. Some of the intellectual progenitors, Pundits and practitioners of cold war diplomacy are changing sides, as the burden of nuclear brinkmanship becomes intolerable. We are gratified to note that leaders of USA and USSR have both declared that their ultimate objective is the elimination of nuclear arms everywhere. The wisdom of these perceptions needs to be translated into concrete action. For we are all poised on the brink of an abyss and we must endeavour, to the best of our capacity, to prevent ourselves from sliding over the edge. As the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament issues, this conference must play a seminal role in this effort.

GENEVA SPIRIT

Let me conclude by expressing the hope that the Geneva spirit will prevail and engender the political will necessary for enabling it to act on the various issues to which I referred earlier and which are of immediate concern to the vast majority of my countrymen and people all over the world, who find

themselves left with the eerie feeling that time is fast running out.

Thank you Mr. President.

ITZERLAND USA JAPAN OMAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA SWEDEN MEXICO UNITED KINGDOM ZIMBABWE PERU

Date: Apr 23, 1987

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Indo-FRG Loan Aid Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 09, 1987 on the signing of the Indo-FRG loan aid agreement:

An agreement on Indo-FRG Economic Cooperation for 1987 was signed here today by Shri M. S. Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Dr. Willi Ehmann, Ministerialdiricent, Ministry of Economic Cooperation on behalf of their respective Governments. The agreement was signed after detailed negotiations between the two delegations from April 6-9, 1987. The Indian delegation was led by Shri M. S. Mukherjee and of the Federal Republic of Germany by Dr. Willi Ehmann.

The agreement provides for loan assistance for 1987 of DM 395 million equi-

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valent to approximately Rs. 284.00 crores. It is a direct Government-to-Government soft loan at the rate of interest of 0.75% per annum with repayment period spread over 50 years including 10 years of grace period. The agreement also provides for export credit of DM 163 million equivalent to approximately Rs. 117.18 crores on concessional commercial terms to blend with equal amount of Government to Government soft loan by way of mixed financing and technical assistance in the form of outright grant of DM 39 million equivalent to approximately to Rs. 28.04 crores. Besides, there are separate allocation for general scholarships for Indian and additional allocation for non-Governmental organisation.

Some of the important projects to be financed out of these are

Neyvelli Lignite Corporation, Ramagundum. II Opencast mining project, Waste Heat Recovery Project of MSES at Uran etc.

A significant feature of this year's aid package is increased amount of funds for local cost financing projects for DM 80 million (Rs. 57.51 crores) for rural credit (through HABARD) housing for low income group and slum improvement through (HDEC) and rural water supply etc.

The Federal Republic of Germany is one of the major members of the Aid India Consortium. Since 1958, it has pledged about DM 11030 million (Rs. 7929.547 crores) in bilateral financial and technical assistance to India. In 1986, West Germany has emerged as the biggest bilateral donor of India.

RMANY INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Apr 09, 1987

Volume No

1995

MEXICO

Indo-Mexican Bilateral Cooperation in Railways

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 21, 1987 on Indo-Mexican bilateral cooperation in railways:

India and Mexico have reached an understanding with each other for promoting and strengthening between themselves a long term mutually advantageous cooperation in railways, keeping in view the growing friendship between the two countries. They have agreed for mutual exchange of information and personnel towards technical assistance, training and cooperation in the railway sector.

A Memorandum of Understanding to this effect was signed here today between the Chairman, Railway Board, Shri Prakash Narain on behalf of the Indian Railways and the visiting Director General of the Mexican National Railways Mr. Andres Caso Lombardo. Mr. Lombardo also signed an agreement with the Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) the Consultancy Wing of the Ministry of Railways, providing for cooperation in the field of workshop maintenance in one of the major workshops of the Mexican National Railways. Training of personnel is part of the package of this cooperation agreement. This is the first concrete step

towards mutual cooperation in the field of railway technology.

Earlier the Mexican National Railway Delegation has had detailed discussions with the Chairman, Railway Board, Shri Prakash Narain and other Members of the Board regarding the role of Railways in economic progress of the two countries. Similarities between the two countries and

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their railway systems and the importance of the role played by railways in both the countries were stressed.

The Mexican delegation is currently visiting Indian Railways including their facilities for production of locomotives at Varanasi, coaches at Integral Coach Factory and other training institutions.

The visiting Mexican delegation also called on the Minister of State for Railways, Shri Madhavrao Scindia. It may be recalled here that Shri Scindia had visited Mexico in September, 1986 along with Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi when the two countries had agreed to cooperate in several fields, specially in railways with the objective of utilising the assets to international productivity norms, and to be self-reliant in maintenance and rehabilitation of assets and to bring about gradual indigenisation starting with manufacture of spare parts.

XICO INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Apr 21, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Supply of arms by India: Reports totally False and Baseless

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Apr 13, 1987:

The Official Spokesman described as "totally false and baseless' two reports in two American newspapers which said that India supplied arms to Iran and India offers help for Iran's nuclear plan.

DIA IRAN

Date: Apr 13, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India Condemns Criminal Violence in Sri Lanka

The following is the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 18, 1987:

It is with profound sororw and shock that the Government of India learnt about the cruel and ghastly massacre of over 100 Sri Lankan citizens, mostly civilians and belonging to all the prominent communities of Sri Lanka near Kitulottuwa on the Trincomalle-Habarana Road on the afternoon of Friday, April 17, 1987.

India unequivocally condemns the action of those who perpetrated yesterday's criminal violence on unarmed civilian citizens of Sri Lanka. Those indulging in such unacceptable violence have the obvious motive of obstructing the tenuous yet sincere and sustained efforts being made to find an early and peaceful political solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic problem.

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DIA SRI LANKA USA **Date**: Apr 18, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

No Army Survey in the Wangdung area

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Thursday, Apr 16, 1987: Our attention has been drawn to a report in a section of the press today claiming that the Indian army has carried out a survey in the Wangdung area which has indicated that the Chinese may actually be on their own side of the border.

We have checked the position with the Ministry of Defence. The report is baseless. No army survey team has carried out a check of the area as reported. We have never been in any doubt about the alignment of the border in the area. The Chinese have established a post in Wangdung which is south of the boundary and, therefore, constitutes an intrusion."

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: Apr 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

No Indian Military Exercises

The Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs stated as follows in New Delhi on Apr 22, 1987:

- 1) There have been no Indian military exercises in the proximity of the India-China border in recent months;
- 2) Indian troops have very strict instructions not to cross the India-China border. There is, therefore, no question of Indian troops nibbling at or crossing the India-China border. They have not done so.
- 3) It is also not correct that Indian aircraft have violated China's air space.

It is our policy to resolve all issues with China as well as with other countries through peaceful means and through dialogue and discussions.

There was a press report recently on Defence Minister's stop-over in Beijing on April 12 and April 17. We have clarified that the Defence Minister was in Beijing on these dates on stop-overs while proceeding to and from Pyongyang. During his stop-over on April 17, a dinner in Defence Minister's honour was hosted by Zhu Xun, Minister for Mineral Resources and Geology when the two

Ministers talked to each other on matters of mutual interest.

DIA CHINA USA NORTH KOREA

Date: Apr 22, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

South African Attack Condemned

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 27, 1987:

The Zambian Government has revealed that South African commandoes raided the border town of Livingstone in the early hours of Saturday April 25. As a result of the raid four Zambians were killed and two Zambians were injured. The Government of India strongly condemns this wanton and unprovoked act by the Pretoria regime and expresses sympathy and solidarity with the Front-Line States, the Liberation movements and people of South Africa in their struggle against the Apartheid regime.

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UTH AFRICA INDIA ZAMBIA

Date: Apr 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Deep Concern and Anguish at Escalation of Violence

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman, of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 30, 1987:

The Government of India has noted with deep concern and anguish the escalation of violence in Sri Lanka in recent days. This senseless violence has taken place while serious efforts were being undertaken to find a peaceful political solution to the ethnic problem. Government have already condemned the massacre of civilians in Trincomalee district on April 17 and the Colombo bomb outrage on April 21. Government of India strongly condemn the escalation of the violence represented by the recent aerial attacks and other military measures undertaken by the Sri Lanka Government which have resulted in large scale civilian casualties. Government is deeply concerned at the statement by Prime Minister Premadasa in the Sri Lankan Parliament yesterday foreclosing the political option. It reiterates its conviction that there can be no military solution to the ethnic issue.

The Government of India urges all parties to the ethnic conflict to exercise maximum restraint. It calls on them to create conditions which would enable the early resumption of a dialogue for a negotiated political settlement which would meet the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil minority within the framework of the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

DIA SRI LANKA USA MALDIVES

Date: Apr 30, 1987

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE

Statement by Shri Tiwari at Harare Session

The following is the statement made by Shri N. D. Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs, on behalf of Foreign Ministers at the end of the Harare session of the NAM Committee of Nine on Palestine on Apr 15, 1987:

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Foreign Ministers and Leaders of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am indeed deeply honoured to have been given this privilege of performing this pleasant duty on behalf of this small, but shall I say, highly select group of colleagues.

The historic 8th summit of Nonaligned countries was held in this beautiful city, last September. The summit was a resounding success, but largely to skilful, firm and yet gentle stewardship of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, excellent arrangements made by the Government of Zimbabwe and spontaneous welcome extended to delegates by the people of this brave country. During the last two days, I have been a personal witness to a similar and equally

warm welcome that Zimbabwe has extended to all of us.

The first ministerial meeting of the NAM Committee of Nine on Palestine has just ended on a successful note. Inspiring address of His Excellency Prime Minister Mugabe, Chairman of the Movement and impassioned declaration of His Excellency, Chairman Arafat have served as our guideposts. We have adopted a short but crisp and constructive document that would form the basis of future efforts by our Committee, as well as the Non-aligned Movement, in achieving the goal, set for us by our heads of Government last year,

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at contributing to convening of an international peace conference on Middle East. Representing, as we do, more than 100 states, which include many of those directly affected or involved in searching for durable and just solution to the Middle East conflict, I have no doubt that results of our deliberations over the last two days will find a responsive chord in the hearts and minds of all those who have power and influence to make the idea of this international peace conference a reality. Mr. Chairman, so many lives have been lost over the last four decades in the wake of this conflict in the Middle East and much damage has been inflicted upon the region. People in this entire region deserve a better fate in full freedom and a secure future. For this to happen, love for humanity should transcend narrow, selfish and parochial interests. This may sound like a cliche. But I believe it is a cliche which needs to be reiterated until it is brought home to the international community.

The Non-aligned Movement, Mr. Chairman, does not seek confirmation. As its chosen hand, the Committee of Nine is available and willing to assist in bringing about the enduring peace in the Middle East, a peace that would ensure complete restoration of inalienable rights of Palestinian people, including their own homeland and state, a peace that will enable all states in the region, including the State of Palestine, to live in amity and within the secure borders and a peace that will restore the region to its former glory.

Chairman, if our committee has successfully and effectively completed the current phase of work assigned to us by the entire Movement, it is mainly due to your wise guidance, your bonhomie and your ability to achieve a consensus acceptable to all. For this, Mr. Chairman, I had my personal sense of appreciation, to heartfelt thanks, which I stand here to convey to you, on behalf of all my colleagues present here. May I also ask you, Mr. Minister, to convey to the people and the Government of Zimbabwe our gratitude for warm and friendly hospitality provided to us all.

Date: Apr 15, 1987

Volume No

1995

POLAND

Banquet Speech by Shri N. D. Tiwari

The following is the text of the speech made by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri N. D. Tiwari at the banquet hosted by the Polish Foreign Minister, Mr. Marian Orzechowski, in Warsaw on Apr 02, 1987:

Your Excellency Mr. Orzechowski, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me, at the outset, to express my thanks for the opportunity to visit your beautiful country and for the gracious hospitality extended to us. The warmth of reception and the affection shown to us undoubtedly reflect the depth and closeness of Indo-Polish ties.

History bears witness to the sympathy and affinity which bind our two nations. The courage and fortitude of the brave Polish people in their struggle against the dark forces of Fascism and Nazism are well-known. We applaud your triumphs against overwhelming odds and admire your achievements. Despite the immensity of the ravages of the last war, you succeeded in re-building your nation, literally from the ashes. We wish you all success in the attempts at building a strong prosperous and independent Poland. -122>

IDEAL EXAMPLE

Our two countries provide an ideal example of peaceful co-existence and friendly relations between two nations with differing socio-economic systems. Our two peoples take deep and active interest in each other's tradition and culture which goes back to history. When in 1498 Vasco-da-Gama reached Calicut in South India, he found that he had already been preceded by a Pole from Poznan named Gaspar who had joined the services of the ruler of Bijapur. There have been many Polish travellers since then who have forged abiding ties of understanding; notably Frydman who adopted the name of Bharatananda and Wanda Dynowska, known as Uma Devi. There are numerous Polish Indologists who have studied Sanskrit and our ancient literature and history. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the contribution made by all of them through generations to the deepening of Indo-Polish friendship.

President Jaruzelski's visit to India in February 1985 was a landmark in the development of Indo-Polish relations. It is a matter of deep satisfaction that the tradition of high level visits has continued since then, climaxed by the visit to Poland of our President Shri Zail Singh in November, 1986.

Our economic relations have progressed over time and received a fillip through General Jaruzelski's visit when a number of important agreements were concluded. We must not rest on our laurels and should continue our search for ways and means to further expand and diversify our economic cooperation to our mutual benefit. The forthcoming session of the Indo-Polish Joint Commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation will undoubtedly contribute to this process. It is a matter of satisfaction that the target of doubling the volume of our trade by 1990, which had been set in the Long Term Tarde Protocol signed in February 1986, is likely to be attained ahead of schedule. This is a sign of our common will to increase our economic cooperation to reflect the true potential that exists in the two countries.

BILATERAL TIES

Our bilateral ties have been further strengthened by the identity or proximity of views on major international issues. We share a common concern for world peace and development. We view with grave concern the deterioration in the international climate and would like to see an end to the continuing waste of the world's limited and finite resources on escalation of the arms race, particularly nuclear weapons. The very survival of human race is threatened and the choice is not between peace and war, victory or defeat but between life and death. We share Poland's long standing commitment to disarmament. Rapacki Plan presented at the 1962 Disarmament Conference was the first European proposal in this direction. We again welcome Poland's support to the Six-Nation Initiative and to the Delhi Declaration.

We note with appreciation your consistent support for the Non-aligned Movement. Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, is the Chairman of the AFRICA Fund which was established at the Harare Summit with the objective of supporting the peoples of Southern Africa in their struggle against apartheid, colonialism in Namibia and invasion of Front-line States A summit meeting of the AFRICA Fund Committee was held in New Delhi in January 1986. It was highly successful, both in terms of participation and outcome. Southern African countries count on the support of all the peace loving countries to ensure their basic human rights, dignity and equality.

Poland and India have cooperated in various international forums for peace and for establishment of a new international economic order. It is our hope that we shall continue to cooperate in future also.

May I request the distinguished guests present here to join me in a toast: to the -123>

health of His Excellency Mr. Marian Orzechowski, Foreign Minister of the Polish People's Republic; to the health of all the distinguished guests present here; to the progress and prosperity of the friendly Polish people and to ever growing friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

LAND USA INDIA PERU ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA

Date: Apr 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Dinner in Honour of Mr. Kamentsev - Text of Shri Tiwari's Speech

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 09, 1987 of the text of the speech by Shri N. D. Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs, at the dinner hosted by him in honour of H.E. Mr. V. M. Kamentsev, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, here tonight (New Delhi, April 9, 1987):

It gives me great pleasure to greet once again Mr. Kamentsev and the distinguished members of his delegation. I fondly recall our last meeting in Delhi which took place at a historic moment in our relations, during the visit of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, His Excellency Mr. M. S. Gorbachev to India.

Excellency, we deeply appreciate your gesture in making your valuable time available to be in our midst today. Your visit symbolises Soviet desire to lend greater urgency to the pace of our growing multifaceted cooperation. We on our part stand fully committed to this noble objective. Our joint action is completely in accord with the understanding reached at the highest level.

Excellency, onerous responsibility rests on our shoulders as Co-Chairmen of the inter-Governmental Indo-Soviet Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The decisions taken at the summit meeting meeting between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and General Secretary Gorbachev provide a sound basis for

us to plan our tasks for the future. Discussions on many key issues have already been held between our two sides at various levels in Delhi and Moscow. They have taken place in an atmosphere of warmth, cordiality and understanding characteristic of the relations that exist between us. While a great deal of work has been done, much more remains to be done.

We have followed a tight schedule of meetings during your brief stay in our city. Our discussions have been exhaustive and fruitful. We look forward to continuing our dialogue at the eleventh meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission in Moscow in June this year.

Friendship with the Soviet Union is a cornerstone of India's foreign policy. Our friendship today is characterised by mutual understanding and trust at the highest level and which permeates all the working levels. Indo-Soviet relations have matured into a stable and resilient factor of contemporary international reality which serves the cause of peace in Asia and throughout the world. India and the Soviet Union share similar views on major issues of international importance. The Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation constitutes a major landmark in our relations.

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STEEL BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP

Indo-Soviet economic cooperation has taken rapid strides since the beginning made in Bhilai in 1955. Today these steel bonds of friendship stretch across space and cover the widest possible spectrum of human activity. India appreciates the Soviet assistance for her development programmes. However, our past achievements, great as they are, must not induce us into complascence. On the contrary they beckon us to tap the vast potential that still remains to be harnessed. The rapid advances in man's scientific and technological knowledge must be harnessed for the mutual benefit of our two peoples. Both our countries stand at the crossroads of change. Our leaders are committed to modernisation and rationalisation and have set out their respective agenda. The Indo-Soviet Joint Commission has to play a link role in the mutual cooperation for work on the common items of these agenda.

This year is a historic one for us. We mark the 40th anniversary of India's independence, the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Soviet Union and the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. It is only appropriate that we commemorate these jubilees with the Festivals of Culture in our two countries. These two Festivals would not only provide a feast for the eyes, food for thought and sustenance for our spirits, but would bring our two civilisations and peoples still closer.

Excellency, we are aware this is not your first visit to our country. Yet this time you would have an opportunity to see the wide diversity of this ancient land, where change is visible in its myriad villages and towns. We hope your visits to Agra and Hardwar will give you an insight into the fast changing industrial skyline of India. You will also discover the immense goodwill that exists among the Indian people for the USSR.

In conclusion, may I request you to raise your glasses to the health and success of his Excellency Mr. M. V. Kamentsev, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and his delegation: to ever growing friendship and cooperation between India and the USSR: to the further prosperity and progress of the great Soviet people.

DIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Apr 09, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Production Cooperation and Machine Building

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 09, 1987 on the signing of a long-term programme of cooperation in the field of production cooperation between India and the Soviet Union:

India and the Soviet Union today signed a Long-Term Programme of Cooperation in the field of production cooperation.

The agreement was signed by the visiting Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. V. M. Kamentsev and the Union Industry Minister, Shri J. Vengala Rao.

The Long-Term Plan outlines areas of cooperation, upto the year 2000 AD in the field of production cooperation and machine building. The items identified for exploration under Long-Term Production Cooperation are in the fields of machine tools, coal mining equipment, metallurgical equipment, power generation and electrical equipment, chemical equipment, industrial machinery, earth moving equipment, instrument etc.

This programme also envisages that new fields, directions and items for developing production cooperation will be determined

through mutual exchange of technical documentation and specialists duly keeping in view the use of modern technology, efficiency of production and competitiveness of products. -125>

This long-term programme is a follow up on the main directions of economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation between India and the Soviet Union as outlined in the May 1985 Agreement signed by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the General Secretary of CPSU, Mr. Gorbachev.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Industry Minister said 'Even though production cooperation is an activity which requires exchange of a lot of technical information and building up the base is often a long process, the work has started in right earnest and it has been possible for the cooperating parties on both sides to finalise a few commercial contracts. I am told that in respect of several other items, work is proceeding at a rapid pace and given the mutual understanding, which exists between the two sides, it will gather further momentum. I am quite sure that very soon we will enter an era which will see manifold increase in the activities relating to Production Cooperation and Machine Building".

The Minister said that he was particularly glad that it was possible for both the sides to identify areas which lend themselves to mutually beneficial cooperation in the long-term perspective upto 2000 AD. It has been the desire of our leaders that long-term arrangements ought to be finalised and he was happy that with cooperation from Soviet side, India is fulfilling this mandate.

The Minister added "we have under the aegis of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission, a Working Group on Machine Buildand and Production Cooperation. Earlier, the field of cooperation was limited to only the Soviet-aided projects like Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Mining and Allied Machinery Corp. Ltd., BHEL (Hardwar Unit). Some time in the beginning of 1986, it was decided by both the countries to make this arrangement broadbased, to include within the ambit of Production Cooperation, not only these Staterun units but also others in the public sector and private sector. The idea was to explore avenues of increase in trade turnover, and at the same time, take advantage of each other's capability in the fields of science and technology so as to develop new products, upgrade the performance level of the existing products and bring about greater efficiency in the management of resources.

DIA USA

Date: Apr 09, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Agreement on STD Service

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 09, 1987 on the signing of a STD service agreement between India and the Soviet Union:

A high level USSR delegation led by Mr. V. M. Kamentsev, Soviet Deputy Prime Minister and the Co-Chairman of Indo-Soviet Joint Commission for Economic Scientific and Technical Co-operation met today the Minister of Communications Shri Arjun Singh. They discussed matters of mutual co-operation in the field of Telecommunication.

An agreement was signed by the Minister of Communications, Shri Arjun Singh on behalf of the Government of India and the Deputy Prime Minister of USSR, Mr. Kamentsev, on behalf of the Government of USSR and thereby agreed to introduction of full scale international subscriber dialled telephone service between India and the USSR; to render assistance in providing telecommunication traffic to some third countries; to promote the provision of telecommunication facilities to industrial projects constructed or operated on the basis of Indo-Soviet Agreements on -126>

the territories of India and USSR; to examine manufacture and development of telecommunication equipment with the objectives of using components made in either country; supply and sale of equipment to each other; joint manufacture of communication equipment; joint projects for research and training; manufacture of microwave relay equipment; mechanisation of cable laying equipment.

In the field of posts it was agreed to direct and transit postal exchange by sea, air and surface routes and to take measures for promoting cooperation in the field of philately.

DIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Apr 09, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-USSR Protocol on Shipping

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 25, 1987 on the Indo-USSR protocol on Shipping:

India and USSR have formulated measures required on the part of the Indo-Soviet shipping lines and the trade interests to switch over to container traffic and increase participation of Indian lines in container operations in the Indo-Soviet trade.

This follow deliberations between the two countries at the ninth session of the inter-governmental joint committee on shipping which concluded its week long session here today. A protocol was signed between the two countries on the conclusion of the joint committee session.

The protocol was signed by Shri P. P. Nayyar, Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport on behalf of India and by H.E. Mr. V. M. Nikolaichuk, Deputy Minister of Merchant Marine on behalf of USSR.

Indo-Soviet cooperation in shipping was established in 1956. An inter-governmental joint committee on shipping consisting of representatives of the two Governments meets annually to review the shipping operations in the Indo-Soviet trade and discuss matters of mutual interest.

The joint committee noted that the two Governments had reached an agreement to double the bilateral trade during the ensuing five years and discussed various measures which will be required on the part of Indo-Soviet partners to efficiently meet the shipping requirements of the growing trade. The need for adopting advanced technologies in shipping particularly containerisation in this trade were also discussed.

A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Apr 25, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Protocol for Cooperation in Water Resources

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 03, 1987 on the protocol for cooperation in water resources between India and the Soviet Union:

A protocol has been signed for long term cooperation between the Union Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Management of the USSR here today. This is in pursuance of the agreements signed earlier between the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the General Secretary of the CPSU, Mr. M. Gorbachev.

The protocol envisages transfer of technology and joint studies to be made by the two countries up to 2000 A.D.

The main features of the protocol are cooperation in directional blasting tech

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niques for the construction of dams and canals and studies in the design and construction of high earth and rockfill dams in areas affected by seismic activities. The two countries will also cooperate in the field of ground water exploration and prospective drilling. Optimisation of land salinisation and water logging have also been included in the protocol. Indian engineers will be trained in design and scientific research organisation in the USSR.

The protocol of cooperation was signed by the Union Secretary in the Ministry of Water Resources, Shri Naresh Chandra and Mr. V. K. Zarubin, Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources of the USSR.

DIA USA LATVIA

Date: Apr 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Protocol on Power Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi

on Apr 03, 1987 on the protocol on power sector between India and the Soviet Union:

The Indo-Soviet Working Group on Power formulated a long term perspective programme of cooperation between the two countries relating to new hydel, thermal and transmission projects and exchange of experience and know-how in the field of investigation, design, construction and operation of power projects.

The protocol of cooperation between India and USSR was signed here today where the Soviet side was led by Mr. P. A. Poddubsky, Deputy Minister for Power and Electrification and the Indian side by Mr. M. M. Kohli, Secretary, Department of Power. Discussions were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

At the seventh meeting of the Soviet-Indian Working Group, it was proposed to extend India-Soviet cooperation in the field of servicing power equipment, including maintenance, repair and modernisation of units of Soviet origin. It was further agreed that supply from USSR of spare parts would be continued in accordance with the requirements of the power stations.

The programme in regard to the construction of the Vindhyachal and Kahalgaon Super Thermal Stations was reviewed in detail. Both sides agreed to further intensify the tempo of activities at the Vindhyachal project site and in manufacturing units to ensure commissioning of the I and II Units of 210 MW each within 1987-88. The progress of work on the Vindhyachal-Jabalpur-Itarsi transmission line was also reviewed. In regard to the Kahalgaon project, it was noted that a detailed project report had been submitted by USSR and the two sides will now sign a contract by June 1987 so that the first unit of 210 MW can be commissioned in 1990.

The implementation of the Tehri Hydroelectric Power Complex was also discussed in detail. It was agreed that the preliminary schedule of execution of the project would be formulated by May 1987. The Soviet delegation led by Mr. Poddubsky also visited the Tehri project site.

In regard to BHEL supplies to third countries in cooperation with USSR, it was agreed that interaction between BHEL and relevant Soviet organisations should be developed in mutual interest.

The two sides have also agreed to take measures to further develop scientific and technical cooperation in the power sector. Cooperation in the field of training of power sector personnel for improvement of their professional skills was also decided upon.

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Date: Apr 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

SPAIN

India and Spain Sign Bilateral Air Services Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1987 on the bilateral air services agreement between India and Spain:

India and Spain signed here today a bilateral air services agreement which provides for two services per week by Iberia to or through Bombay with B-747-200 or lesser capacity aircraft, with traffic rights to Tokyo or any other point in East Asia of Spain's choice. Likewise, Air India is entitled to operate two services per week to or through Madrid with similar aircraft with traffic rights to a point in central or South America of India's choice. In case of unilateral operations, Iberia is to pay compensation to Air India as per the commercial arrangement between the two Airlines.

The agreement was signed by Dr. S. S. Sidhu, Secretary, Civil Aviation on behalf of the Government of India and His Excellency Carlos Fernandez Espeso, the Ambassador of Spain in India on behalf of Government of Spain.

Traffic between India and Spain grew at a steady pace in the late seventies and early 80's. According to a survey in 1983, the potential passenger traffic between the two countries was upwards of 25,000 passengers per annum.

Simultaneously, Iberia, the Spanish Airline intensified its efforts at Airline level as well as through diplomatic channels to conclude an Air Services Agreement with India. In 1986, a Government delegation from India led by Dr. S. S. Sidhu, Secretary, Civil Aviation visited Madrid on January 9 and 10. The two sides negotiated and initialled an air services agreement, alongwith signing a memorandum of understanding as well as a commercial arrangement between Air India and Iberia. The agreement was duly approved by the constitutional authorities of both countries.

The agreement would count as a major breakthrough for both

countries. The Airlines of both countries would be able to establish a direct link at such a long distance and take advantage of each other's tourism potential. Air India would be able to utilise the Spanish gateway to South America and exploit the nearly 400,000 passengers between Spain and South America every year. South America is the only continent to which Air India is not flying today. Iberia started operating to India w.e.f. May 1986 and is paying compensation to Air India for its unilateral operations for the present.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sidhu hoped that the agreement would be another landmark in strengthening friendly relations between the two countries. He said that both Airlines would be able to establish a direct link at such a long distance and take advantage of each other's tourism potential. H.E. Mr. Carlos Fernandez Espeso also was confident that this agreement will go a long way in furthering friendly relations between the two countries to mutual advantage particularly in the economic field. -129>

AIN INDIA JAPAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: Apr 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

India and FAO Sign Project Document

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 16, 1987 on the signing of a project document by India and FAO:

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is to provide \$ 2.45 lakhs for a project drawn up to promote export of value added fisheries product from member countries of Infofish (Fish Marketing and Information System) including India.

A project document was signed here today by Dr. E. Bojadzievski, FAO representative in India and Smt. Usha Vohra, Joint Secretary, in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The World Fishery Conference held in 1984 had recognised the need to improve the participation of developing countries in the international trade in fish and fishery products and had endorsed a programme of action specifically dealing with problems related

to this aspect of fisheries development.

Under the programme of action, the FAO Committee on Fisheries had established a Sub-Committee on fish trade which provided an international forum for consultations on technical and economic aspects of international fish trade and to reach a consensus and understand the problems that existed and the solutions that could be found.

The solutions have to be implemented by the national governments and FAO which does its part through a worldwide network of regional fish marketing information and technical advisory services.

In the case of Asia and the Pacific, the regional activities are carried out by the countries through Infofish, which is expected to become an inter-governmental organisation in due course.

The other countries of Asia and the Pacific participating in the project include Thailand, Malaysia, Maldives, Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands.

The project which is expected to be completed by the end of this year aims to identify product and market opportunities for value added fishery products, assist in pilot production and marketing trials for promising products and strengthen the technical cooperation amongst developing countries in the field of fish utilisation and marketing.

The project would be executed through the liaison officers of Infofish in participating countries which in India would be the Marine Products Export Development Agency (MPEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce.

The project budget includes expenses on experts and personnel, officials' travel, sub-contracts, supplies and materials and training.

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DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FIJI MALAYSIA MALDIVES THAILAND

Date: Apr 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Co-operation in Field of Health

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 15, 1987 of the joint statement by the Union Health Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and the US Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Otis R. Bowen:

At the invitation of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Otis R. Bowen, M.D., visited India from April 13 to April 22, 1987. The visit was a milestone in the more than thirty years of fruitful cooperation between the United States and India in the field of health.

Secretary Bowen and Minister Rao, while discussing the ongoing health programme carried out between their respective Governments, noted the growing ties between the United States and India. These ties are based not only on the many shared values between the people of the two countries, but also on the deep mutual respect between their scientists. Secretary Bowen and Minister Rao recognised that cooperation between the two countries in the fields of health and human services reflects not only a common concern for the well being of the Indian and American people, but also a mutual interest in promoting better lives for people everywhere.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Secretary Bowen and Minister Rao noted the importance of primary health care, including health promotion through a broad range of approaches such as immunization for childhood preventable disease, child spacing, nutrition, health education and diarrhoeal disease control. They concurred in the need for continued health research and effective disease surveillance to provide essential information on how diseases are transmitted, their distribution in populations, and how they may be prevented.

The Secretary and the Minister noted the progress made in improving the health and welfare of mothers and children through the Universal Immunization Programme, the Integrated Child Development Service Scheme, the National Diarrhoeal Disease Control Programme, and the Family Planning Programme. Under the Seventh Plan, the Government of India expects to fully immunize 85 per cent of the children under age one with key antigens, and pregnant women with tetanus toxoid. By 1990, it is planned that oral rehydration therapy will be used to treat at least half of the diarrhoea cases among infants and children. Major reductions in severe and moderate malnutrition are also projected through expansion of the ICDS Scheme.

BIRTH SPACING

Secretary Bowen and Minister Rao also acknowledged the impact of

birth spacing and proper feeding practices on maternal and child mortality. Both Secretary Bowen and Minister Rao endorsed the U.S. Agency for International Development's current project portfolio in support of the priority programmes of the Seventh Plan.

The Secretary and the Minister discussed the significance of Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome as a world health problem. Both Governments recognise the importance of surveillance of high-risk populations for this disease in their respective countries and of health education programmes to assure that the public is fully knowledgeable about the modes of transmission and the risks involved. It was agreed that the two countries will cooperate on this problem.

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The importance of access to the most current scientific information was reviewed. The Secretary and the Minister noted with satisfaction the progress made on discussions between both sides on establishment of an automated bio-medical literature information system in India.

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH

The growing problem of substance abuse and the health consequences of smoking were discussed. It was agreed that India and the United States could benefit through the exchange of ideas and information and through cooperative research. In particular, attention will be given to possibilities for enhancing cooperation in drug abuse prevention by reducing demand, counselling de-addiction and rehabilitation and promoting community awareness/education.

The progress of the ongoing U.S.-India health research programmes was discussed. Projects and activities are carried out through the highly successful Gandhi-Reagan Science and Technology Initiative, under the auspices of the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Subcommission and through other bilateral mechanisms. Important areas of cooperation to be continued and enhanced include those of medical aid for the handicapped and their rehabilitation and integration with society, infectious and parasitic diseases, cancer, mental health and neurological disorders, respiratory diseases, oral health, occupational health, gastrointestinal disorders, prevention of blindness, nutrition, reproductive physiology, pharmacology, child growth and development, health services research, and basic biomedical research.

The importance of exchange of physicians, medical educators and scientists between the two countries was noted. It was agreed that such exchanges should be encouraged and promoted.

Secretary Bowen and Minister Rao noted the important role of the

Non-Governmental Organisations in their respective countries in helping achieve health objectives. Both Governments reiterated their commitment to encourage the voluntary organisations working in the health and family welfare field in the two countries.

VACCINE ACTION PROGRAMME

The Secretary and the Minister noted with satisfaction the progress made to date under the Vaccine Action Programme announced by Prime Minister Gandhi and President Reagan in June, 1985. Under the vaccine action programme an intensive bilateral cooperative effort will be initiated to jointly undertake research and development of technologies for new and improved vaccines, support quality control systems and most importantly the efficient and full utilisation of these life saving technologies. Included in this programme, will be the strengthening of epidemiological and diagnostic laboratory capabilities. Preparatory work for the development of this programme has been initiated through a series of meetings which have led to identification of mutual research interests in areas such as diarrhoeal disease, acute respiratory infection, malaria, hepatities, rabies, etc. The Secretary and the Minister agreed on taking further steps under this programme including the convening of a group of experts to advise on priority collaborative projects after due approvals.

The Secretary and the Minister both expressed satisfaction with the results of their discussions. Secretary Bowen conveyed his deep appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him during the visit, and for the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Gandhi. The Secretary extended an invitation to Minister Rao to visit the United States, which was received with appreciation. -132>

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ITALY

Date: Apr 15, 1987

Volume No

1995

YEMEN

India Sign Cultural Exchange Programme with Yemen (PDR)

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 06, 1987 on the cultural exchange programme between India and Yemen (PDR):

An Indo-Yemen (PDR) Cultural Cooperation agreement for the year 1987-88 was signed here today. Shri Manmohan Singh, Joint Secretary (Culture) in the Ministry of Human Resource Development signed the agreement on behalf of India, while H.E. Mohd. Bin Mohammed Al-Hubaishi, Ambassador of PDR Yemen signed it on behalf of his Government.

The cultural agreement envisages cooperation between the two countries in the fields of Education, Art and Culture. Among other things, it envisages award by India of scholarships to Yemini nationals to pursue studies in higher education institutions in India; providing training facilities to Yemini teachers in the use of science kits, production of teaching materials; training in conservation of manuscripts, antiquities and historical objects; hotel management, reception and tourist guidance, cooking, hotel accountancy, hotel organisation and management; secondment of university teachers; participation in national and international symposiums and seminars; strengthening cooperation between the television and radio organisations; exchange of radio and TV programmes and journalists; visit by sports delegations; supply of books and periodicals, micro-films of rare books of mutual interest etc.

MEN INDIA USA

Date: Apr 06, 1987

Volume No

1995

ZIMBABWE

Shri Tiwari's Speech at Joint Commission Meet

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 24, 1987 on the Indo-Zimbabwe Joint Commission meeting:

The plenary session of the first meeting of the Indo-Zimbabwe Joint Commission was held here today.

Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs, and Co-Chairman of the Joint Commission in his opening statement said:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Your Excellency and the distinguished members of your delegation to the first session of the India-Zimbabwe Joint Commission. I regret that the plenary session of the Joint Commission had to be postponed for today

because of my unavoidable commitments in the Parliament. But I am glad to note that the officials from the two sides have already formed into three working groups on trade and finance, industry and technology, and technical and cultural cooperation; and have already achieved considerable progress in their work. I understand that they will be able to finalise their conclusions by the end of the day and we shall be ready to sign the agreed minutes on Monday morning.

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Earlier this year, in January, when we had the honour of welcoming your esteemed Prime Minister and his delegation for the AFRICA Fund Committee Summit meeting your Foreign Minister and I had signed the agreement to establish a Joint Commission between our countries. I am gratified that the established mechanism for bilateral cooperation is now being institutionalised.

We hold similar views on most matters and have acted in concert at the United Nations, the Non-Aligned forum, at Commonwealth meetings and elsewhere. We are close collaborators in the international campaign against the policy of apartheid practised by the obnoxious racist Pretoria regime and cooperate on the AFRICA Fund Committee. The constructive role played by your Prime Minister as the Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement on issues of vital concern to the third world is deeply appreciated in this country as elsewhere.

For our two countries with so much in common, I feel that cooperation in economic and technical fields has so far been less than satisfactory. Our two-way trade is not even half a percent of either country's total trade. This needs to be stepped up. Given the political will and existing potential there is vast scope for enhancement of cooperation which will be discussed between our delegations in the next few days.

TRADE EXPANSION

To further expand the trade between our two countries, we have to build on the beginning made through the barter mechanism rather than confine ourselves to its limitations. The barter trade was instituted primarily as a vehicle for the import by India of Zimbabwe's asbestos. But we must now expand and diversify trade. In recent months we have discussed the need to replace South Africa both as a source of imports and as a market and agreed that India has a role to play in this process. More generally, we must enhance our bilateral commercial exchanges to give effect to South-South cooperation. Towards this end I would propose that in future we have annual trade talks and widen their scope beyond the negotiations relating to the barter arrangement. By instituting a mechanism for wider trade talks, we should also be able to project both demand and supply on a more sustained basis. At the moment, both Zimbabwean importers and Indian exporters are uncertain about the flow of trade and the demand of products from

year to year. This prevents the development of the required infrastructure for our bilateral trade and inhibits its expansion. The trade talks can become the forum within which various problems that arise with regard to trade can be discussed and settled. But, apart from this, they will also facilitate the discussion of financial constraints and enable negotiations on financial arrangements for trade, projects and technical cooperation.

I understand that an Indian public sector undertaking has made an offer to supply drugs and pharmaceuticals to your country against a suppliers credit. This kind of arrangement is well worth pursuing as one of the means of increasing trade. Similarly, we could discuss the import of a great deal more of your emeralds from your existing as well as new mines. Our experts could work out the details. The metallurgical and Engineering Consultants India Ltd., which had prepared a feasibility report for calcination of your Kyanite, may be in a position to execute the project on a turnkey basis and can also supply a large part of the equipment required. A similar approach could be explored regarding a steel-re-rolling plant project. Perhaps we could enlist the assistance of the AFRICA Fund for at least a part of the funding for one of these projects.

We recognise your need for training slots in our technical institutions. We are certainly prepared to extend our maximum possible cooperation is this field.

PROJECTS PROFILES

I also understand that our National Small Industries Corporation and the

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National Research and Development Corporation have submitted to your authorities project profiles in respect of some 25 industries. This is one of the fields in which we have build up considerable expertise which could be shared. My delegation would look forward to having your delegation's response so that this matter could move forward speedily.

I am gratified to learn that a wide range of manufactured goods are getting to be known in Zimbabwe and gaining access to our market. These include tractors, three-wheeler scooters, diesel engines, pumps and a variety of other equipment. We hope, jointly with you, to intensify the efforts to promote the marketing of Indian industrial products and get the end-consumer in Zimbabwe to benefit from them. Of course, these goods should gain access to your market on the basis of an edge in both price and quality.

Finally, it is our earnest hope that this session would set us on the path of expanding cooperation between our two countries in a meaningful fashion. I hope you have a pleasant stay and fruitful discussions in the short time you will be here with us.

MBABWE INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA RUSSIA

Date: Apr 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

ZIMBABWE

Reply by Co-Chairman of Zimbabwe

In his reply the Hon'ble K. M. Kangai, Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Development and Co-chairman of Zimbabwe said:

First of all Comrade Chairman, I wish to express my appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to me and my delegation since our arrival here in New Delhi. I also wish to thank you for your inspiring opening speech.

Our meeting today marks a significant step and milestone in the quest by our two countries to cement the economic cooperation already existing and to explore new areas of further cooperation. Today we are initiating a process of identification of problems and obstacles if any, so that we ensure meaningful and smooth cooperation in the Economic Development of our peoples.

While we struggled for independence, Indian government leadership and the people were behind and in full support of our just cause. We note with deep satisfaction the role India played in the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement and the logistic support rendered to Zimbabwe by India which facilitated the successful conclusion of the Harare Eighth Summit of the Movement, the signing of a trade agreemnt in 1981, existing cooperation in the field of energy and transport. Above all, we salute the brotherly relationship between our Heads of Government namely Honourable Comrade Robert Mugabe and Hon. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi for us in Southern Africa. We suffer both economic and military pressures exerted by the racist regime of South Africa with the express support of some western powers. Impositions by the Apartheid regime are particularly pernicious and destructive as exemplified by Pretoria's unprovoked act of wanton aggression in May 1986 against the peaceloving states of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia and the continued support by racist South Africa to UNITA and MNR bandits in Angola - Mozambique respectively. The recent announcement by the racist Pretoria regime to hold elections for whites only is yet another manifestation of Pretoria's calculated

strategies to continue practising apartheid and destabilise our sub-region. These acts of sabotage by the Pretoria regime only serve to highlight our long held conviction that peace and stability, the prequisities for economic development, cannot prevail in Southern Africa unless the system of Apartheid is eliminated. We are, therefore, deeply dismayed and indeed rightly concerned to know that some economically powerful states continue to give financial and political support to this murderous regime whose deplorable and horrendous system of apartheid which has -135>

been rightly declared as crime against humanity. We see no other peaceful alternative left to avert further bloodshed in Southern Africa but the imposition by the international community of comprehensive mandatory sanctions in order to force the regime to accept the new international social order where the colour of an individual ceases to be a determinant factor in human relations. We have now entered a new phase in the quest for human development, to build new edifices of cooperation. That is why we are here. That is why our officials met before our meeting to prepare the ground for this Joint Commission at Ministerial level. Zimbabwe has a lot to learn from India's long history of self-governing. On the other hand India can also learn youthful tactics practised by 7 years olds. Remember Zimbabwe is now 7 years old. But of course, development cooperation. Indeed the cooperative venture in general is not a passing event, it is a process. The journey may be long and difficult but we should keep our eyes fixed on the objectives and our feet steady on the road and inch forward with vision and determination where we cannot run.

In our common cooperative efforts, in our mutual relations, we will, I know, wish to keep the balance between bilateralism and multi-lateralism. Under multilateralism we have NAM, UN and South South Cooperation of -which both Zimbabwe and India are active participants. These two can cross fertilise, the one process may speed up the other, and the latter may provide the broader frame work for the former.

Finally, let me say how happy the Zimbabwe delegation is to be on Indian soil. We would like to express our deep appreciation for the very warm reception which had awaited and which accompanied our stay and for the generous hospitality accorded to us.

MBABWE INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA BOTSWANA ZAMBIA ANGOLA MOZAMBIQUE

Date: Apr 24, 1987

Volume No

ZIMBABWE

Indo-Zimbabwe Joint Commission - Agreed Minutes Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 27, 1987 on the signing of agreed minutes between India and Zimbabwe:

The first session of the India-Zimbabwe Joint Commission was held here from April 23 to April 27. The agreed minutes of the discussions were signed today by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, and the Minister of Energy and Water Resources and Development of Zimbabwe H.E. Mr. K. M. Kangai, who headed their respective delegations.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship, reflecting the excellent relations existing between the two countries. The two sides agreed that there was vast scope for increasing bilateral trade. For this purpose trade talks would be held annually. Special trading and cooperation arrangements are to be instituted between the respective State Trading Corporations.

It was decided to speed up the process of formalising the Rs. 100 million Indian Exim Bank credit offered to Zimbabwe late last year so that an agreement could be signed within three months. Other financial arrangements for facilitating two-way trade were also discussed.

The items which figured in the discussions include emeralds, nickel, coking coal, timber, ivory, hides, skins and semi-finished leather etc. for import by India from Zimbabwe, and Indian export of drugs, chemicals, mining equipment transport equipment, tractors, etc. Exchange of Indian steel plants, sheets and structurals for Zimbabwean billets was also considered.

Cooperation was envisaged in rubber cultivation and seri-culture in Zimbabwe, for which feasibility studies have already -136>

been conducted by Indian experts; expansion of collaboration in agricultural research development of Zimbabwean programmes in the sectors of energy (including non-conventional energy sources) and water resources. Zimbabwe offered to share with India its experience in tobacco and maize production and in dairying.

In the industrial field, the two sides considered cooperation among other things, in the development in Zimbabwe of smallscale industries, establishment of a machine tool project, manufacture of chemicals, calcination of kyanite, setting up of a steel-rerolling mill, etc. Project profiles of feasibility reports have already been prepared by Indian organisations in respect of some of these projects.

Existing cooperation between India and Zimbabwe is to be continued and strengthened in the transport, telecommunications, water and power, forestry and tourism sectors, by way of deputation of Indian experts and training of Zimbabwean personnel. Step to improve or initiate cooperation in educational and cultural matters were also discussed and agreed upon.

The Zimbabwean Minister, during his stay, called on the Union Ministers of External Affairs, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, Commerce Minister, Shri P. Shiv Shanker, Industry, Shri J. Vengal Rao and Energy, Shri Vasant Sathe and had discussions with them on matters of mutual interest.

MBABWE INDIA USA MALI RUSSIA

Date: Apr 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Dinner Speech by Shri Tiwari in Kabul

The following is the text of the speech by the External Affairs Minister, Shri N.D. Tiwari, on the occasion of dinner hosted by the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Abdul Wakil on May 03, 1987 in Kabul:

Your Excellency Mr. Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Excellencies, distinguished members of the Afghan delegation, friends and colleagues, I would like at the outset to express my sincerest gratitude for the very kind words of welcome which you have just said and the kind words you have expressed about my country and my people. From the moment we landed in Kabul we were all so warmly welcomed that we felt we were among brothers. And indeed this is so, because the traditions of hospitality in Afghanistan are famous throughout India and it is known that every Afghan is willing to share even his last piece of Non with a stranger who comes to his house; how much more welcome do we feel then who are not strangers to Afghanistan but neighbours and close friends. As we have mentioned this morning the peoples of India and

Afghanistan have had the closest ties of friendship and traditional relations deep rooted in culture, economic and trade and travel over the centuries. Our court language during Moghul times was Persian and it came to us through Afghanistan. Our literature is full of tales from Afghanistan and about Afghan traditions. These facts only underline the historic and cultural ties that bind us.

NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

Afghanistan as a founder member of the Non-Aligned Movement has been a

strong and active adherent of the principles of that Movement over the years. For the establishment of permanent peace in Asia and particularly for the establishment of peace with security in our region, the strengthening of the Non-Aligned Movement can make a major contribution. Between India and Afghanistan there has been close cooperation at all the meetings of the Non-aligned countries and we are confident that in the future also this cooperation will continue in an active and well coordinated manner.

As Your Excellency is aware we regard the policy of national reconciliation announced more than three months ago as positive step. We have throughout extended our wholehearted support for a peaceful political settlement of the issues that trouble this region so that its people can devote themselves to the urgent tasks of social and economic development. We have on many occasions expressed our opposition to all kinds of interference and intervention in Afghanistan and we are convinced that a sovereign, independent and Non-Aligned Afghanistan can make a major contribution to the establishment of a durable peace in our part of Asia. It is with this in mind that we have frequently called for a negotiated political settlement with the problem which takes into account interest of all concerned. There can be no military solution to this problem and the initiative taken through the personal representative of the United Nations Secretary General has been warmly welcomed by us. It is our hope that in the months to come further progress will be made through this initiative in achieving a peaceful political settlement. -139>

We know that during the first year of the five-year plan Afghanistan has made good progress and that it is proposed to increase the rate of growth during the current second year of the plan. Our cooperation and contribution in this effort will be to the maximum extent that is within our means through a consolidation of the projects we have already taken up in areas like public health, small industry and culture.

We have been engaged for many years in a process of economic cooperation that is mutual. This has been the endeavour of our two Governments in the recent years and I am confident that this endeavour will continue in the future also.

Once again I would like to express heartfelt gratitude on my behalf and on behalf of my delegation for the warmth of the hospitality with which we have been welcomed in Kabul today and I look forward to the further discussions that we will have tomorrow in furtherence of our common objectives.

Excellencies, may I request you to raise a toast to long lasting and close friendship between our two countries and peoples, to the progress, prosperity and peace of the people of Afghanistan, to the health of our leaders and to Your Excellency's personal health and well-being.

GHANISTAN USA INDIA

Date: May 03, 1987

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Date: May 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Protocol of Eighth Meeting of Joint Commission

The following is the protocol of the eighth meeting of the India-Afghanistan Joint Commission on Economic, Technical and Trade cooperation held in Kabul:

The eighth meeting of the India-Afghanistan Joint Commission for Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation was held in Kabul from 3rd to May 04, 1987.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri N.D. Tiwari, Minister for External Affairs, Government of the Republic of India and the Afghan delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

During his stay in Kabul, Shri N.D. Tiwari was received by H.E. Dr. Majiv, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Sultan Ali Keshtrand, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, H.E. Mr. Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Mr. Sam kanai, Acting President of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan.

Shri N.D. Tiwari placed a wreath at the Martyrs Memorial in

Kabul.

Shri N.D. Tiwari also laid the foundation stone for the OPD Clinic and Surgical Ward at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, and presented equipment to the Government of Afghanistan for the Industrial Estate Project, Kabul.

Members of the Indian delegation separately called on officials of the Government of Afghanistan and had in depth discussions with their counterparts.

The meetings of the Joint Commission were held in a traditionally warm and cordial atmosphere. The two sides had fruitful discussions in the areas of economic, trade and technical cooperation.

The following was the agenda for the meeting: (a) Review of implementation of decisions taken by the 7th India-Afghanistan Joint Commission; (b) Examination of fresh proposals for economic, trade and technical cooperation; (c) Review of trade relations and consideration of measures for their expansion; (d) Review of cultural relations and examination of measures for their further implementation.

Both sides expressed their happiness at the fact that most of the major decisions

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taken during the seventh Session of the India-Afghanistan Joint Commission had been implemented satisfactorily.

After detailed discussions, the Joint Commission took the following decisions:

- (a) Public Health:
- (i) Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved so far in the expansion of Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH). It was decided that the necessary equipment for the new OPD Clinic and Surgical Ward would be procured and supplied by India.
- (ii) It was decided that in order to strengthen the existing facilities at the IGICH, Government of India would procure and supply medical equipment worth Rs. 20 lakhs annually to IGICH. The Afghan side agreed to make suitable arrangements for the full utilization and maintenance of this equipment including utilization of services of qualified technicians for IGICH on permanent basis.
- (iii) The Afghan side agreed to provide for adequate staffing and maintenance of IGICH with a view to ensuring its effective functioning.

- (iv) The two sides reviewed the progress made so far in the conduct of the new courses in the fields of Anaesthesiology, Orthopaedics and ENT introduced in the IGICH in 1986 and the Afghan side agreed to expeditiously grant the required recognition to these courses. The Indian side agreed to send its experts on short-term deputation for the conduct of examinations, seminars, etc., for these courses under the existing terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between IGICH and AIIMS, New Delhi.
- (v) The Indian side requested that the Afghanis accumulated with Indian Airlines in Kabul should be used for meeting the local expenditure for the IGICH Expansion Project. The Afghan side agreed to examine the matter for favourable and early decision.
- (vi) Recognizing the importance of providing for proper internal communications and sewage disposal at IGICH, the Indian side requested the Afghan side to examine the matter further and urgently devise means to resolve these problems. The Indian side agreed to consider the possibility of providing assistance on the basis of the feasibility of the proposals and to the extent possible.
- (vii) The progress relating to the establishment of the 300-bedded Gynaecological and Obstetrics hospital in Kabul was reviewed. The Afghan side indicated that the existing houses on the site allocated for the hospital could either be utilized or demolished. The Indian side requested for a written assurance to the effect that the site is legally unencumbered, clear and is ready for immediate construction. The Afghan side undertook to furnish these particulars at an early date.

(b) Industry:

(i) It was agreed that the construction of ten new sheds at the Industrial Estate Project will be taken up in a phased manner immediately after a written assurance is given about availability of adequate power supply. The Afghan side also agreed to utilize the proceeds which would accrue from the sale of these industrial -141>

sheds for purchasing of necessary equipment with a view to strengthening the Industrial Estate Project.

- (ii) It was agreed that further equipment for the Common Facility Centre will be supplied on a priority basis of a value of upto Rs. 10 lakhs as per lists to be submitted by the Afghan side.
- (iii) Referring to item 9(b) (iv) of the 7th Joint Commission Protocol, the Afghan side reaffirmed its interest for the initial feasibility studies for the establishment of a Coal Briquette manufacturing factory in Kabul. The Indian side stated that the requisite action would be taken on receipt of details asked for

by the Indian side.

(iv) The Afghan side informed the Indian side of its plans to set up a Mini Steel Plant in Kabul for which a feasibility study by a UNIDO expert has already been completed. The Indian side agreed to the request of the Afghan side for assistance in this field in terms of upgrading skills and technical know-how.

(c) Agriculture:

- (i) The Afghan side reiterated their desire to develop Agricultural Research Institute in Afghanistan. The Indian side agreed to the deputation of two experts from Afghanistan to visit selected Centres of agricultural research in India and draw up a joint programme of agricultural research and extension between the two countries.
- (ii) The two sides agreed in principle that India would consider joint research in oil seeds subject to the Afghan side submitting a detailed proposal.
- (iii) The Afghan side requested for supply of a range of improved varieties of seeds. The Indian side agreed to consider supply of the same on receipt of lists.

(d) Technical assistance:

The Afghan side expressed their satisfaction of the contribution of Indian technical experts who were deployed in Afghanistan from time to time. The Indian side considered the Afghan request for fresh Indian experts in different areas and agreed to favourably consider the deployment of experts on case by case basis. The Afghan side also agreed to ensure that the reimbursement of outstanding rentals will be made promptly.

(e) Education and Culture:

- (i) The progress regarding the establishment of English Language Training Institute in Kabul was reviewed. The Indian side indicated the readiness to send teachers and teaching aids as soon as the Afghan side makes a formal request for the teachers and provides a suitable building for the Institute. The Afghan side agreed to do the needful.
- (ii) Both sides reiterated their commitment to the comprehensive programme for cultural exchange envisaged under Cultural Exchange Programme 1985-87 and the need to implement it most expeditiously and earnestly.
- (iii) Both sides agreed to extend the validity of Cultural Exchange Programme 1985-87 by another year so as to expire at the end of 1988.

- (iv) Both sides agreed to set up small monitoring groups in Kabul and New Delhi for quarterly review of the implementation of Cultural Exchange Programme 1985--142>
- 88. The modalities of setting up of these groups would be worked out through diplomatic channels.
- (v) It was agreed that the Indian side would set up an Indian Cultural Centre on the premises of the Indian Embassy in Kabul for which land has already been allotted by the Afghan side. The proposed Centre would provide for projection of Indian culture in diverse fields including facilities for music, fine arts and theatre. In the intervening period, the Afghan side would provide suitable premises for expanding the activities of the Indian Classical Music Centre to include other fields of cultural instruction indicated above.
- (vi) The Afghan side proposed that India may facilitate the sale of Indian musical instruments in Afghanistan. The Indian side agreed to provide necessary information and services for procurement in India to an agency to be nominated by the Afghan side.
- (vii) The Indian side would examine the possibility of receiving two senior experts to see Indian cultural institutions and to share experiences in cultural planning.
- (viii) The Afghan side committed to send to India an exhibition on 'Afghan National Treasures' to National Museum, New Delhi in March-April, 1988 in accordance with the terms already agreed to.
- (ix) The Indian side agreed to further increase the supply of books and literature relating to Indian archaeology, culture, history, philosophy, etc., to the concerned institutions in Afghanistan.
- (x) The Indian side agreed to send two experts relating to the teaching of English as a foreign language to the Pedagogy Institute in Kabul.
- (xi) The Indian side agreed to send an expert to share experiences with National Gallery of Art in Kabul on the display and lighting of works of art.
- (xii) The Indian side agreed to send an expert to Afghanistan to share experiences in the general issues of conservation of works of art with particular reference to control of temperature and humidity.
- (xiii) The Indian side agreed to send recorded audio cassettes of Indian music to Afghan State Committee for Culture.

Agreed that these minutes be made an integral part of the Cultural Exchange Programme 1985-87 to be known henceforth as Cultural Exchange Programme 1985-88.

(f) Trade:

- (i) The two sides noted with satisfaction that since the last meeting of the Joint Commission there had been frequent meetings to discuss bilateral trade issues. They recognized the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 20th October, 1985 and recalling the discussions held in New Delhi in March, 1987 agreed to take effective steps to increase trade in a balanced manner.
- (ii) Both sides agreed that there was need to strengthen institutional arrangements to facilitate trade expansion. In this context they underlined the importance of more streamlined banking relations and to establish direct banking links. The banking institutions from both sides would enter into a dialogue as early as possible. Further, it was agreed -143>

that the public sector trading organizations should cooperate closely to promote two-way trade. It was also agreed that the Chambers of Commerce from both sides should enter into an arrangement to promote cooperation leading to trade expansion.

- (iii) It was agreed that the State Bank of India would send an expert to Kabul who would be deployed under the ITEC Programme and would work closely with the Da Afghanistan Bank in order to streamline and expedite banking operations. The Afghan side would send a formal proposal in this regard.
- (iv) The Afghan side suggested measures for improving trade namely: opening of Letters of Credit on c.i.f. basis under the Memorandum of Understanding and creation of a Joint Venture Trading Company. The Indian side agreed to consider these proposals.
- (v) The Afghan side expressed their interest to increase their export of dry fruits. It was agreed to explore the possibility of additional trade in dry fruits under a special arrangement between the public sector organizations.
- (vi) While recognizing the importance of increasing imports from India of traditional items like tea, it was agreed that efforts should be made to further promote trade in pharmaceuticals, automobile tyres, construction materials, fire

extinguishers and automobiles. Both sides would take effective steps to facilitate trade in these items under the existing Memorandum of Understanding.

- (vii) The two sides recognized the potential for cooperation in the small scale industries sector. The Afghan side agreed to pursue the Indian proposals in this regard.
- (viii) The two sides discussed the forthcoming Indian Industrial Exhibition in Kabul and welcomed this as a major measure for promoting and consolidating bilateral trade. The Indian side expressed its appreciation to the Afghan side for all the assistance that had been offered and rendered in this connection.
- 11. Both sides agreed that the Ninth meeting of the India-Afghanistan Joint Commission will be held in New Delhi in 1989.
- 12. It was also agreed to have a periodic review of the decisions taken during Eighth Session of the India-Afghanistan Joint Commission in Kabul at a time convenient to both sides.

Done in Kabul on 4th May, 1987.

(N.D. TIWARI) Minister of External Affairs Republic of India

(ABDUL WAKIL)
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Democratic Republic of Afghanistan
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GHANISTAN INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: May 04, 1987

Volume No

1995

ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

Shri Tiwari's Address at International Seminar

The following is the valedictory address by Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs at the International Conference on 'Media and The Struggle Against Apartheid' held in New Delhi on May 27, 1987:

I consider it a privilege to have been invited to deliver the valedictory address at this seminar on "Media and The Struggle Against Apartheid" attended by media practitioners of India and from a number of African countries. This seminar is but one of a

series of manifestations being organised around this time in India to express our solidarity with the people of Southern Africa in their struggle against the evils of racial discrimination, colonialism and neo-colonialist exploitation. We remain conscious of the bitter battle we had to wage to wrest our independence from our colonial masters.

Even before the dawn of freedom it was part of our national ethos that our independence could never be complete till colonial rule was eliminated from dependent territories in other parts of the world and in Africa in particular. Mahatma Gandhi had initiated the struggle against racial discrimination in South Africa. Since then mighty empires have crumbled. However, in South Africa a white racist minority regime continues to rule the roost and to deny fundamental rights to the vast black majority.

The South African Government is encouraged in its intransigence by the support and sustenance it receives from certain Western industrial powers which claim to be opposed to the pernicious system of apartheid but which at the same time obstinately refuse to adopt the decisive measures in the form of comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa which alone can bring the recalcitrant South African regime to its knees. These powers pay lip service to the concepts of political dialogue and change but remain cynically insensitive to the brutal policies of repression of the Botha regime which will inevitably lead, sooner rather than later, to violence on an unprecedented scale.

Details of the application of the Apartheid system are generally known. There are, however, serious information gaps arising out of the restrictions imposed by the South African authorities on the media and on expression. International awareness about the brutality of the apartheid system has to be increased by devising means of establishing reliable machinery for the collection and dissemination of objective and accurate information about developments in South Africa. The media has a critical role to play in promoting the emergence of total transparency in regard to the repressive practices of the South African authorities. Since there cannot be reliance on any substantial scale on information which media are able to get out of South Africa, alternative channels for the compilation of such information have to be explored and I am gratified to note that the question has been comprehensively examined by this seminar.

MOBILISATION OF PUBLIC OPINION

Another problem is that even existing information about developments in South Africa is not adequately disseminated. There is a vital need for the media to be sensitised into bringing about wider public consciousness about the evils of apartheid and the aggressive economic and military policies pursued by the Apartheid regime in South Africa against the Front-Line states and its other neighbours. The media also has

the responsibility to mobilise international public opinion about the imperatives of dismantling apartheid with a view to terminating the anachronistic colonial -145>

system prevalent in South Africa and Namibia. The media can usefully project the eminently reasonable platforms of essentially reasonable South African liberation movements and the dire consequences of failing to heed their appeals before they are driven to more drastic remedies to redress their grievances.

FINDINGS OF EMINENT PERSONS GROUP

The findings of the Eminent Persons Group for example make very convincing reading. Has the media done enough to convince world opinion about the reasonableness and objectivity of the conclusions of the EPG? The media has also to examine and expose the weaknesses of the policy of so-called constructive engagement and the hollowness of pleas that reliance be placed on political dialogue which has no chance of taking place. The media has a responsibility to sensitise public opinion particularly in those countries which are interested in the preservation of the status quo in order to protect their economic interests, their access to strategic materials and the security benefits they receive from South Africa. It suits these countries to argue that sanctions do not constitute an appropriate remedy on the untenable ground that sanctions will hurt the black population most. Governments in countries can be forced into modifying their policies only if the media is able to convince public opinion in these countries that their policies are based on false premises and are morally untenable.

A large part of information or more correctly disinformation about developments in South Africa is based on a highly efficient South African propaganda machinery. This propaganda barrage seeks to grossly misrepresent the resistance of the oppressed black majority in South Africa and to accuse it of acts of violence. Similarly South African propaganda makes baseless charges against neighbouring Front-Line States to justify acts of aggression against these states. The world media has a serious responsibility to counter this false South African propaganda and to present the real facts about South African oppression and aggression. I am gratified to note that this seminar has given serious thought to this challenging task.

AFRICA FUND

The AFRICA Fund has been established with the specific purpose of assisting the Front-Line states and the Southern African liberation movements to resist the onslaughts of the aggressive South African regime. The AFRICA Fund is also expected to mobilise world public opinion against the policies of the South African regime and in support of the objectives of the AFRICA

Fund. The media can clearly play a useful role in publicising the beneficial role of the AFRICA Fund and in supporting its efforts to mobilise international public opinion.

It will thus be seen that this seminar has addressed itself to a number of key issues. The Declaration being issued by the seminar, will I am sure, have a far reaching impact on the efforts the world and Indian media must make to combat the evil of apartheid wth greater determination and objectivity than has been the case in the past.

I have referred briefly and in general terms to the role the media can and should play in the struggle against apartheid. I am aware that you have discussed these issues in detail and in a professional way. The interaction between foreign and Indian participants at this seminar will, I am sure, produce constructive results. I am confident that as a result of Indian participation in this seminar, our own media will become better sensitised to the dimensions and importance of the apartheid question.

I would like in conclusion to felicitate the NAMEDIA Foundation on its initiative in arranging this seminar and on the successful results it has achieved.

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DIA USA SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA

Date: May 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

Shri N. D. Tiwari Inaugurates India-Africa Society

The following is the text of press release of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Narain Dutt Tiwari while inaugurating the India-Africa Society for fostering greater understanding of Africa in New Delhi on May 24, 1987:

I consider it a privilege to have been invited to inaugurate the India-Africa Society. This collective endeavour of the Heads of African Diplomatic Missions and Shri Rasgotra and his colleagues calculated to greater understanding of Africa, and the ties of close friendship between Africa and India are a laudable initiative which fully accords with Government's foreign policy

objectives and priorities.

India's relations with Africa are not of recent origin. These relations are ancient. Ages ago, Africa and India were geologically linked. The emergence of the Indian Ocean separated the two lands but not the contacts between them. From the beginning of recorded history India and Africa have had exchanges in the field of culture and trade, and evidence still persists of these ancient contacts. Many of our plants are known to be of African origin. We all know that Indian merchants established settlements on the east coast of the African continent as early as Seventh century.

Africa and India both came under the domination of European powers and have suffered economic exploitation and racial discrimination. As compared to India, we know, Africa's tribulations have lasted longer and still continue. We have thus inherited a common past of exploitation and have emerged from that sad experience into independence within a few years of each other. We especially cherish the fact that it was in South Africa where the Father of our Freedom, Mahatma Gandhi, started his political career and forged his unique political weapon, namely Satyagraha - a non-violent crusade - which he later taught to our people. Today, Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram in South Africa has been reduced to ashes and the land for whose freedom he crusaded is in the worst grip of racial discrimination and repression. The people's will to fight and survive in that land is nevertheless still burning bright and becoming stronger everyday.

ASIAN RELATIONS CONFERENCE

The continent of Africa is important to us. It is our neighbour. Large number of Indians have made Africa their home and have contributed to its economic development. Our conviction about our common destiny has been the basis for the firm ties that bind us. At the Asian Relations Conference in 1947 Jawaharlal Nehru drew pointed attention to the anguish of our suffering brethren in Africa. He observed:

"We of Asia have a special responsibility to the people of Africa. We must help them to their rightful place in the human family. The freedom that we envisaged is not to be confined to this nation or that, or to a particular people but must spread out over the whole human race."

It needs no reiteration that the struggle being waged in Africa against underdevelopment, poverty, disease and exploitation is as much a matter of deep concern in India as it is to the people who are engaged in it and therefore, the coming battles have to be joined together.

INDIA'S STAUNCH SUPPORT

After attaining Independence, the Government and the people of India have staunchly supported the oppressed people of the world, particularly the African Liberation Movements in their struggle to achieve political and human rights. India has made relentless efforts in the United Nations and in other international fora to hasten the process of de-colonisation of Africa.

The major issue today is the policy of racial discrimination and oppression pursued by the South African Government. This policy is a challenge to and a defiance of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles governing human rights enshrined in it. A land ruled by an oppressive white minority which denies all fundamental rights to the black minority has caused untold misery and suffering not only within South Africa and occupied Namibia but indeed throughout the entire South African sub-continent. The racist minority regime in South Africa, emboldened and encouraged by the open or tacit support it receives from some governments, continues to defy world opinion and clings to power by sheer brute force and by following oppressive methods. India's opposition to apartheid, principled and unwavering not merely in words but in substance, pre-dates the independence of most African countries. India took the lead in adopting a policy of total boycott of South Africa. India has also played an active role in the U.N. and other international fora in mobilising support for the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa. Even though these efforts are being thwarted by some countries, public conscience throughout the world has been stirred and every where there are moves to support the oppressed people of South Africa. The establishment of the AFRICA Fund to assist the Frontline States to withstand pressure from South Africa is another manifestation of India's active participation in the struggle. In conclusion I would like to say that India's relations with Africa are characterised by firm friendship and mutual respect. I would like to quote what the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi had said:

"India is and will be with African countries in their endeavour to build their national strength as it has been with them in their quest for national freedom."

Finally, I would like to offer my good wishes for the success of the India-Africa Society and its efforts to bring India and Africa closer.

DIA USA SOUTH AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NAMIBIA

Date: May 24, 1987

Volume No

BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh River Water Talks - Joint Press Release

The following is the joint press release issued in New Delhi on May 12, 1987 on the Indo-Bangladesh river water talks:

The Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, Government of Bangladesh, His Excellency Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud and the Minister of Water Resources, Government of India, His Excellency Shri B. Shankaranand, met in New Delhi on 10th May, 1987 to review the work of the Joint Committee of Experts and on 11th May, 1987 for the 29th meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission.

In the Review Meeting the Ministers took note of the progress made in the eighth meeting of the Joint Committee of Experts held in Dhaka on 3rd and 4th May, 1987 and agreed to recommend to their respective Heads of Governments that the Joint Committee of Experts may continue their work for a further period of six months.

In the Joint Rivers Commission meeting it was agreed that pending scientific studies, ad hoc sharing arrangements of the Teesta flows during the dry season as -148>

agreed earlier in the 25th meeting of Joint Rivers Commission be extended till the end of the year 1987. The Commission agreed that the Secretary of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, Government of Bangladesh and the Secretary, Water Resources Government of India should meet in July 1987 to expeditiously complete the tasks assigned to them in the 25th Joint Rivers Commission meeting. The Commission also decided that the Standing Committee and local level Committees should intensify their work to sort out issues pertaining to other common rivers.

NGLADESH INDIA LATVIA TURKEY USA

Date: May 12, 1987

Volume No

CANADA

Rs. 200 Crores Canadian Loan to India Converted into Grant

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 05, 1987 on the conversion of Rs. 200 Crore Canadian loan to India into grant:

The Rs. 200 crore Canadian loan to India has been converted into grant. Agreements to this effect were signed here today between the Finance Secretary, Shri S. Venkitaramanan and the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. James G. Harris on behalf of their respective Governments.

The Rs. 200 crore loan relates to the undisbursed amount out of a total loan of C \$ 411 million (Rs. 390.45 crores) provided to India by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The amount will be used for Idukki Hydro Electric Project (Kerala), Chamera Hydro Electric Project (Himachal Pradesh) and the Andhra Pradesh Social Forestry Project.

The Canadian decision to convert the undisbursed portions of the existing CIDA loans is a follow up of an earlier decision taken by the Government of Canada that all future CIDA assistance to development projects would be fully in grant form.

NADA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: May 05, 1987

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Trade Protocol Signed - 35 per cent Increase in Bilateral TradeTurnover Envisaged

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 27, 1987 on the trade protocol signed between India and China:

At a brief but impressive ceremony held today in Beijing Shri Prem Kumar, Commerce Secretary and Mr. Lu Xue Jian, Chinese Vice-Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, signed the Trade Protocol for the period January 1, 1987 to March 31, 1988.

This was the second trade protocol signed between the two

countries. The first trade protocol for 1986 was signed during the visit of Mr. Lu Xue Jian to India in November 1985. -149>

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the growth of trade between the two countries since the signing of trade protocol for the year 1986. They explored the potential for further growth of trade between the two countries on a balanced basis.

Envisaging a significant increase in bilateral trade volume the protocol calls for a total trade volume of US \$ 150 to 200 million during the period January 1, 1987 to March 31, 1988. The trade protocol for the calendar year 1986 had called for trade volume of US \$ 100-160 million. This represents at least 35 per cent increase in bilateral trade volume between the two countries.

Among the commodities which India proposes to export to China during the period covered by the protocol are iron ore, tobacco, chemicals, engineering products, power generation and transmission equipments, mining and building machinery, steel and steel products, wire ropes, pumps and compressors, electronics components, etc., plywood, jewels and processed diamonds.

Among products which China plans to export to India are raw silk, agricultural products, metals and minerals, chemicals and petroleum products, fresh water cultivated pearls, engineering products and pharmaceuticals.

Both sides agreed to encourage their respective trade organisations and trades to explore possibilities of promoting bilateral trade through various forms of trade and coperation including counter trade. The two sides also discussed possible cooperation in joint ventures.

The Commerce Secretary Shri Prem Kumar called on the Chinese Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade H.E. Mr. Zheng Tuobir also. He also had meetings with the Chinese International Trade and Investment Corporation and Chinese Council for Promotion of International Trade during his stay in Beijing.

INA INDIA USA

Date: May 27, 1987

Volume No

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Indo Czech Protocol Signed - Trade to be Doubled

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 25, 1987 on the signing of an Indo-Czech trade protocol:

Indo-Czechoslovak trade turnover in 1986 registered a growth of about 50 percent over 1985 and recorded the highest level attained in the last five years. India and Czechoslovakia have now agreed to double bilateral trade turnover by 1990 to reach a level of Rs. 400 crores. To attain this target both the sides have agreed to diversify and expand the structure of trade.

A protocol to this effect was signed at the end of the 12th Session of the Indo-Czechoslovak Joint Committee by Shri P. Shiv Shanker, Commerce Minister and Mr. Bohumil Urban, Minister of Foreign Trade of Czechoslovakia on 22nd May in Prague.

Working Group meetings consisting of two groups one on trade and economic cooperation and other on industrial cooperation held several sessions of intensive and detailed discussions to finalise the bilateral -150>

trade. Deliberations took place in a friendly and cooperative atmosphere.

EXPORT OF MARUTI CARS

Czechoslovakia would make efforts to increase purchase of a diverse range of items including machine tools, auto ancillaries, castings and forgings, railway wagon components, electronic components and sub assemblies and computer soft wares and electronic items from India. Export of Maruti Cars from India also figured in the protocol. The Indian side expressed interest in importing steel and steel products, chemicals, petrochemicals, paper pulp and newsprint etc. from Czechoslovakia on a long term basis. Import of textile machinery, printing machinery etc. would also be promoted.

It was agreed that Czechoslovak foreign trade enterprises would send delegations to India in selected fields for studying import possibilities from India. STC, MMTC, PEC and other Indian public sector enterprises would try to promote exports to Czechoslovak enterprises.

INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

It was decided to intensify industrial cooperation, transfer of technology and joint production in the areas of machine tools, textile machinery, printing machines, chemical and petrochemicals industry, tractors, bearings and electronics. Cooperation in power projects and mining sector was also discussed. Both the sides agreed that industrial collaboration in third country projects need to be identified and actualised. Czechoslovak side has been offered proposal for third country cooperation in the field of electrification and supply of related equipment by PEC.

To intensify bilateral cooperation, the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry would be organising seminars presenting the range of technology available with them in 1988. It was agreed that a technical team of DGTD would visit Czechoslovakia to identify technology for import into India. The Czechoslovakia side would also submit a list of machinery, equipment and technology available with them which are at present being imported by India from other sources and a similar list for Czechoslovak imports. It was agreed that both sides would study further possibilities on production cooperation and Indian participation in Czechoslovakia for projects like construction of hotels.

Shri Shiv Shanker during his stay called on the First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Rohlicek, Minister of Metallurgy and Heavy Engineering and Minister of Foreign Trade. Views concerning further expansion of trade and economic relations and industrial cooperation were exchanged.

RWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA CZECH REPUBLIC USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: May 25, 1987

Volume No

1995

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1987 on the double taxation avoidance agreement between India and Czechoslovakia:

India and Czechoslovakia had entered into an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation in respect of taxes on income. The agreement which was notified yesterday has entered into force from March 13, 1987 and shall have effect in India in respect of income arising in any previous year beginning on or after first day of April 1, 1985.

Under this agreement business profits of an enterprise of one country shall be taxable in the other country only if it maintains a permanent establishment like a branch office, factory, or place of management etc.

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Aircraft profits would be completely exempt in the country of source and shall be taxable only by the country of residence of the enterprise. With regard to dividends, interest, royalties and fees for technical services, primary right to tax these incomes has been given to the country of residence. The country of source will limit its tax on these incomes to certain specified percentages.

RWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA USA

Date: May 26, 1987

Volume No

1995

DISARMAMENT

Declaration of the Six Nation Initiative - New Appeal for Nuclear Disarmament

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 22, 1987 on a new appeal for nuclear disarmament:

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, today telecast a statement appealing for nuclear disarmament. In his opening remarks, the Prime Minister said:

This day, three years ago, leaders of six nations spanning five continents of the globe came together in a unique initiative for nuclear disarmament. The international situation, at the time, was causing serious anxiety. Arms control negotiations between the United States and Soviet Union had broken down. Their relations were marked by deep mistrust and suspicion. It was important to find new ways to break the deadlock. It was then that the leaders of Argentina, Greece, Mexico, Sweden, Tanzania and India issued the first Declaration of the Six Nation Initiative.

Today the movement has lost two of its outstanding founders Indira Gandhi and Olof Palme. Both fell to the bullets of assassins. But their wisdom and daring will remain an inspiration to us. Our duty is to go beyond the narrow confines of immediate interests to embrace the vision of a safe and more humane world.

We re-dedicate ourselves on this day to realising the objectives of a world without nuclear weapons. All six of us are issuing a new appeal on behalf of the world's people. I shall now read it out:

TEXT OF STATEMENT

"Three years ago, on May 22, 1984, we demanded that humanity's survival should not be jeopardised by the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. Today we make an appeal not to jeopardised the opportunity to start a process of nuclear disarmament.

Since our first appeal, we have welcomed the resumption of the dialogue on nuclear and space issues. At the Geneva Summit in November 1985 President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev declared that 'A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought'. At Reykjavik, there was clear demonstration, that given political will, far-reaching agreements on nuclear disarmament measures could be achieved.

Disarmament negotiations are now at a crucial point. There is a real possibility for an agreement in at least one important area. A break-through on the issue of nuclear arms in Europe appears to be within reach

An agreement to eliminate all intermediate nuclear forces from Europe would be of considerable significance and would constitute the crossing of an important psychological threshold, since, for the first time, it would lead to mutual withdrawal -152>

and destruction of fully operational nuclear weapon systems. We, therefore, urge the United States and the Soviet Union to conduct their current negotiations with a view to bringing them to a successful conclusion during 1987.

However, an agreement on intermediate nuclear forces would be only the first step towards our common goal: The total elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere. In the Delhi and Mexico declarations, we had called for two important measures - a halting of all nuclear testing and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We reiterate the crucial importance of these measures.

In Mexico, we made a concrete offer on verification of a halt to nuclear testing. That offer remains.

For too long, fear and mistrust have prevented progress in disarmament. Arms and fears feed on each other. Now is the time to break this vicious circle and lay the foundation for a more secure world. The present momentum should not be lost.

We urge President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev to live

up to this challenge so that future generations are spared the nightmare of a nuclear holocaust. Thank you".

DIA USA ARGENTINA GREECE MEXICO SWEDEN TANZANIA SWITZERLAND ICELAND

Date: May 22, 1987

Volume No

1995

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

India-GDR Agreement on Posts and Telecommunications

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 28, 1987 on the India-GDR agreement on Posts and Telecommunications:

An agreement was signed here today between India and German Democratic Republic to strengthen and expand the co-operation in the field of Posts and Telecommunications. The agreement was signed by Shri Arjun Singh, Minister for Communications on behalf of Government of India and by His Excellency Mr. Rudolph Schulze, Deputy Chairman of Council of Ministers and Minister for Posts and Telecommunications of the German Democratic Republic on behalf of his country.

The function was attended by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, Minister of State for Communications and senior officials of the Departments of Posts and Telecommunication in addition to representatives from GDR.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Arjun Singh said that the planned expansion and development of telecommunications have led India to build up a modern telecommunication network in the country. Today India is manufacturing sophisticated telephone equipment like digital electronic exchanges, microwave and coaxial equipment, incorporating the latest technology. India has also developed indigenously digital electronic switching through C-DOR, the Minister said

The agreement envisages continued cooperation in the exchange of postal traffic between the two countries as well as the provision of transit facilities - both surface and air - to third countries,

The agreement seeks cooperation between the two countries in order to simplify operations and accounting procedures. It also

envisages mutual exchange of information and cooperation in philatelic mat-

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ters. In pursuance of the agreement, the two countries will be exchanging henceforth a set of three specimens of each postage stamp released by either.

On telecom side, the agreement says that both the countries shall closely cooperate in setting up stable and mutually beneficial telecommunication connections between the two countries. They will also concert their views relating to all problems connected with their mutual telecom traffic and arrange for and agree on measures suitable to cope with the demands concerning the traffic volume, the technical possibilities and the correct requirements. Keeping in view the economic benefits, both the countries agree to use their telecom circuits for transit traffic to mutually identified third countries at agreed tariffs.

The agreement further says that international accounting rates will be applied for telecom services rendered to each other. Both the countries shall make available to each other the necessary operational documentation for the telecom traffic between the two countries.

The bills for the postal and telecommunication services envisaged by this agreement shall be regularly prepared by both the countries and mutually exchanged directly. In addition to this both the countries, in accordance with their possibilities and requirements, promote the development of scientific and technical cooperation in the field of posts and telecommunications. To this end, they shall within the framework of the respective national legislation, provide all necessary facilities and privileges.

Earlier the visiting Minister called on Shri Arjun Singh and both of them discussed matters on mutual interest.

DIA RUSSIA USA

Date: May 28, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Debate on Demands for Grants: Reply by Shri Tiwari

The following is the reply by Shri N.D. Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs, in the Lok Sabha in connection with debate on demands of grants of the Ministry of External Affairs on Apr 23, 1987:

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): Mr.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am really privileged to have heard an outstanding debate on our foreign affairs. The uniqueness of the debate is reflected in the fact that there has been no cut motion and I congratulate each and every Member of this House for having united by not having moved any cut motion, united to show to the whole world that this great House, the custodian, the repository, the representative body of the Indian people supports the approval of grants for the Ministry of External Affairs and that it supports our foreign policy with one voice. That shows the uniqueness of this debate.

While reflecting a consensus as regards the nation's foreign policy, the Hon. Members, through their suggestions and through their incisive analysis of issues, have pleaded for a better implementation of our constructive policy in the field of foreign affairs to reflect the national consensus. Shri Ayyapu Reddy is not here. I knew him as a very able parliamentarian from Andhra. He was then the leader of the House and Minister for Law and Justice, but I could see now that the has developed a lot of acumen in the field of foreign affairs also. He has made some suggestions with regard to the Ministry's Annual Report. Especially, his -154>

suggestion to improve the content of the format of our report is very well taken. We can always do better, but I must say that the Report, as printed and published, if you compare it with any other document which quintessentially contains all that needs to be reported in any Foreign Ministry Report, is a very wellsummarised document. It cannot be a voluminous document, it has to be a concise, precise document and also should cover all aspects of the activities of our External Affairs Ministry. He made a suggestion regarding the improvement of the format, especially regarding having some maps, maps giving geographical details regarding newly independent countries whenever we refer to them in our Report. I accept his recommendation. In future it will be our endeavour that we put maps, continentwise, in which the names of countries concerned are clearly delineated along with the regional reports or relevant information from different countries so that Members are facilitated in zeroing in to the subject when they read any report or information about an individual country or region. They can easily formulate the significance or the geopolitical content of that report.

I would only like to be excused regarding one matter wherein Mr. Reddy has suggested that we should give -details regarding Agreements in the Report itself. Sir, Hon. Member would agree

that it is very difficult to fit in details in an annual report or for that matter even summaries regarding treaties and agreements that we reach every year. They are so lengthy and numerous and the annual Reports will become so voluminous. But, of course we can give a brief summary and title of each agreement so that Members can know about it. Of course, these Agreements and Treaties are published documents which can be seen, whenever needed. So, we will try to accept this recommendation, in a limited context.

Sir, Mr. Bipin Pal Das in his eloquent speech referred to four factors which are threatening world peace: the madness for arms. the cancer of Apartheid, no lessening of the disparities between the developing and developed world and the growth of destabilising forces. He referred to these four factors threatening the international arena. Then he also referred to the improvement of our friendship with the Soviet Union. Mr. Zainul Basheer analysed the basis of our relationship with Pakistan and emphasised very appropriately that in the people at the grassroot level, as far as the people of Pakistan and India themselves are concerned, there is a real and sincere feeling of camaraderie and good neighbourliness, as a people to people relationship. It is at the top in Pakistan that he mentioned about a different type of relationship prevailing. Mr. Saifuddin Chowdhary, in his speech supported the basic policies pursued by all of us nonalignment, disarmament or anti-apartheid, the six-nation initiative the Delhi Declaration, support for peace proposals made by General Secretary, Gorbachev and our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He very specifically mentioned this and we value the support of his party and other parties.

Our senior parliamentarian. Mr. Indrajit Gupta, also in the same vein pronounced his rock-like support for the basics of our foreign policy.

Mr. Dinesh Goswami also spoke in the same vein. Mr. Shahabuddin, who has been a leading diplomat also very appropriately mentioned that all of us agree that our independence and sovereignty are supreme, and their protection and defence are of paramount importance. I think this is a very appropriate declaration. It should be our common endeavour that maintenance of our national integrity and sovereignty should be an article of faith with each and every citizen of this country.

Prof. Ranga - he is not here - in his eloquence, in his extempore remarks he tried to bring into proper focus the imperatives of our foreign policy and how we cannot go to any extremes in dealing with the situation. How can we do so even if we want to or even if the emotivity of the -155>

situation requires that we should go and take an extreme position? We cannot, if we are sensitive to our deals. I am

thankful to him because he has lightened my burden in this context because there are many emotive issues where we have to control our emotions and we have to keep to our moorings firmly to our principles and perspectives.

Mr. C. P. Thakur reminded us of even Chanakya telling us that "your neighbours never can always be your good friends". I am thankful to him for having told us about Chanakya today.

Mr. Tirke reminded us, that we should not boast about our strength. We should not be boastful, even though we might be powerful - we are powerful - but we should not be rather displaying or boastful about our strength. We should be modest. His advice is very well taken. Of course India is powerful in its own way because of the inherent strength of its people. But, we should not boast about that. I propose to follow his attitude not to be boastful, but to be modest.

Mr. Ram Swaroop Ram advised us that we should not be involved in and should always be aware of the conspiracies of the imperialists. That we must keep in mind.

Mr. Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi and Mr. Jadeja also spoke about our relations with Latin American countries. Mr. Chaturvedi in his excellent Hindi and Mr. Jadeja in his analysis of relations with Latin American countries spoke about our relations with overseas Indians - people of Indian origin, who are in Latin America, in the Caribbean and in other parts of the world. How we should cultivate better relations with them? I think this is a very constructive point that has to be considered.

PAKISTAN

SHRI AZIA QURESHI: In Pakistan there has been a massacre of people of Indian origin who speak Urdu as their mother tongue. You know they are massacred these days. At least we should express our concern for them also.

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI: Yes I know about it. That is a little different matter. I will come to that point in a different context. I understand what you mean.

Mr. Zainul Basheer has referred to it, yesterday.

Mr. Qureshi. I am thankful to you. Now I have referred briefly all the major points that were raised. Mrs. Thakkar in her speech mentioned the fact that neighbours come even before the relatives. Now I have referred briefly to all major points that were raised. I am mentioning all these facts because I find that while these suggestions had been made, by and large all these suggestions reflect a consensus - national consensus. I am thankful to all Hon. Members for having made these and other valuable suggestions.

Mr. Ayyapu Reddy has mentioned about the security environment, relations with our neighbours and how far has our policy improved the security environment and lessened the burden on the defence expenditure. If we look at this aspect of our foreign policy, our relationship with our neighbours, it has been our endeavour constantly that our relations with our neighbours should contribute to peace and security in our region.

SAARC

As Hon. Members know, SAARC has been a recent creation - about two years have elapsed since the creation of SAARC. What is SAARC? It is an organization of the seven neighbouring States of South Asia.

Hon. Members, even senior Members like Mr. Goswami and others in earlier debates in this House have suggested that SAARC should cover even all the littoral -156>

States, that they should even think of relationship with ASEAN countries. A suggestion was made that we should also encompass New Zealand and Australia in these regional efforts. So, the general views expressed in this House have supported this idea of regional cooperation.

What is the context of this regional cooperation, reflected in SAARC? Today, we have eleven major items on which the SAARC countries are cooperating on a multilateral basis, and more than 160 activities are planned for the current year under this SAARC programme 163 activities for the current year. So, our endeavour to strengthen SAARC is a measure of our dedication to the principles of good neighbourliness, and to strengthen the security environment. We hope that all the seven neighbouring States, inspite of all the bilateral complexities and difficulties, will keep in view that this regional organization of SAARC, while contributing to more multi-lateral activity not only in eleven fields but also think to develop relations in the field of trade and commerce as was suggested yesterday. It will also help in the improvement of bilateral relations.

Now let us take Pakistan, about which many distinguished Members had made mention about our relationship with Pakistan. As you know, India is committed to developing cordial, cooperative and good neighbourly relations with Pakistan in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla agreement. In this context, Hon. Members will remember that India has taken a number of initiatives in recent times for normalization of relations with Pakistan, such as the establishment of the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission. Recently, we have had other steps taken also, like the offer of a Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, various proposals to ease travel between the two countries

including the proposal to reopen the Khokrapar-Manubao rail route, proposal for non-discriminatory trade relations, proposals for the exchange of newspapers and periodicals, proposals for non-attack on each other's nuclear installations, and the proposals for the recent Secretary-level meeting for defusing the tension on the border. All these proposals are on the table. Even when President Zia-ul-Haq was recently here to witness the cricket match in Jaipur our Prime Minister discussed with him, and gave him a suggestion that the Joint Commission should meet early, and the two Sub-Commissions of that Commission should meet earlier, that we can also improve our economic relations. (Interruptions) Let us see what happens. We are prepared to have these Sub-Commissions meet early. We are prepared to do our bit.

I find that only on April 20 the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Sahabzada Yakub Khan had made a statement in Pakistan's parliament that Pakistan wants to build tension-free good neighbourly relations with India on the basis of equality, justice sovereignty and mutual respect. Of course, such statements made by Pakistan are there. We welcome these statements. But let us join to implement these statements. What has been lacking is the implementation. What has been lacking is the fullest adherence to the principles of the Simla Agreement. Therefore, instead of trying to get more armaments, instead of trying to get sophisticated weapons, armaments and the latest aircrafts, AWACS or AEWS from United States and other countries, let Pakistan come to the negotiating table and discuss all those proposals which are already there lying on the table.

Recently, when a tense situation developed on the borders of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir and we had two attacking formations of Pakistan on the border, we tried our level best to defuse the situation. We had two rounds of talks: our Secretary Shri Gonsalves had two rounds of talks for defusing the crisis. But Pakistan has to move forward, and instead of taking a contradictory position, it has to reconcile with its preferred objectives. What ever it can do, it should do in the practical sense of the term. We also find that our efforts have not met with success because of Pakistan's weapons-oriented nuclear policy and unwillingness to have non-discriminatory trade relations with India. Therefore,

in this context I must say that Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme is of paramount concern to us since it affects our security environment. We have repeatedly made it clear that Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear weapons is a development which we cannot afford to ignore. Our objective is a durable structure of peace in the sub-continent and our endeavour has been and will continue to be the promotion of greater and closer understanding between India and Pakistan. I would again like to exhort Pakistan to cooperate with us in our sincere effort to build such a relationship as has been enshrined in the Simla Agreement. We

feel that the fear and mistrust between our two countries must be removed and the scarce resources that we have in both the countries should be used for development rather than for the acquisition of arms.

Three or four distinguished members had yesterday mentioned this particular fact and I fully support those arguments. We consider this as a major plank of our foreign policy.

CHINA

Regarding our relations with China, Mr. Reddi had called for more flexibility and manoeuvrability in the implementation of our overall policy. He referred particularly to China. As we are aware and I would here like to assure Mr. Saifuddin Chowdhary also that we, as a matter of principle are committed to resolving the border problems with China through peaceful means. But let China also reciprocate. We have had seven rounds of talks with China and we are prepared for the eighth round also. I have been informed that a few days back the Chinese vice-Foreign Minister, Mr. Chang Chee Chung announced that the eighth round of talks should be held and they will propose the date of talks after summer. This statement has been made.

We are also prepared for the eighth round of talks. But we are amazed to see in this context that the activities of the Chinese in the Sumdorong Chu Valley have not been helpful. Their statement objecting to the grant of Statehood to Arunachal Pradesh is also unacceptable to us. We have already said that it is entirely a matter for our Parliament to decide. We have completely disagreed with the Chinese statement made in this regard. We would call upon China to keep patience and restraint and maintain peace and tranquility on the border. We will continue with our efforts to resolve this question through peaceful negotiations. We have also mentioned very clearly that we have no interests in having any border skirmishes in our border with China. We have seen Press reports emanating from Beijing and also a statement made day before yesterday by the official spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry alleging that Indian troops have crossed the line of actual control between the two countries, "nibbling at Chinese territory". They have alleged that India has forcibly occupied some places and sent military aircraft to violate Chinese airspace from time to time. It has also been alleged that we have amassed troops along the border on Indian territory and conducted large scale military exercises in the area.

I would like to categorically state that there have been no major Indian military exercises in the proximity of the Sino-Indian boundary in the recent months. Our troops have very strict instructions not to cross the Indo-China boundary. The question of Indian troops nibbling at the Chinese territory, or Indian aircraft violating Chinese airspace simply does not arise.

Having contradicted these reports, I would again like to emphasis to the Chinese Government that it is necessary for both sides to find a solution to the problems that arise along the boundary through peaceful negotiations, consultations and in a manner that ensures the maintenance of peace and tranquility all along the boundary.

There was a question that our Defence Minister Shri Pant had been to Beijing. There had been some speculation and some reports about this. I may say that the fact is, that a delegation led by Shri K. C. Pant to the Seventy-fifth Birthday Celebration of the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, at Pyongyang, made a transit halt at Beijing on April 17, 1987. -158>

The Members of the delegation along with Shri Pant were, the Minister of State, my colleague, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, and Shri Romesh Bhandari, Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, and Shri M. C. Bhandari, Members of Parliament. The Chinese Minister for Geology and Minerals, Zhu Kun, hosted a dinner for Shri K. C. Pant and Shri Faleiro, while the Head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, Zhu Liang hosted a separate dinner for Shri Romesh Bhandari, Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi and Shri M. C. Bhandari. No secret negotiations were entered into on these occasions.

SHRI BAPU LAL MALVIYA: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to take one minute of the House and wanted to state that....

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI ZAINUL BASHER): No. This is very important. Let him finish. Kindly take your seat. You can ask him afterwards.

*SHRI BAPU LAL MALVIYA: You have heard all the statements made by Honourable Members and thus we will be wasting our whole time. What you wanted to say regarding Demands, we are anxiously waiting for them and we want that you should explain the matter regarding demands.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI ZAINUL BASHER): No, please take your seat. You are getting replies. Why are you worried?

*SHRI N. D. TIWARI: I humbly state to my Honourable friend that the matter was raised by two Hon'ble Members in the House yesterday. Hence it becomes my first and foremost duty to satisfy their curiosity.

We appreciate to the fact that Chinese authorities extended due courtesies to our delegation but no substantive discussions were held on the boundary question.

A reference was also made to the visit of General Secretary of

the Communist Party, Marxist) Shri Namboodaripad to Beijing. Well, I am told that whatever has been mentioned by Deng Xiaoping, leader of China in his talks with Shri Namboodaripad has been essentially reflected in a message of Xinhua. In this context what is reported is in the Xinhua message is:

"The Sino Indian border issue should be settled reasonably in a spirit of mutual understanding and mutual accommodation, senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping said here today ... at a meeting with E.M.S. Namboodaripad, General Secretary of the Indian Communist Party. (Marxism)

China's basic policy is to develop its national economy and maintain world peace, he said. It has settled all border issues with neighbouring countries, except those with the Soviet Union and India, he noted". Let us take this statement that has been made. We welcome this statement, we are also for negotiations, as I said. Let this eighth round of talks take place and let China put forward its proposals and we shall put forward our proposals also. I think that this should set at rest the various points mentioned by Hon. Members regarding what is happening to our relations with China.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHAUDHARY: I asked a question yesterday as to what is the hitch between our relations; what are the problems, what they want and what we want. Can you elaborate on that. It is very important. The whole country is in the dark.

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI: The main difficulty is that they do not recognise the McMahon line and they also do not recognise the line in the Aksai Chin in Kashmir. That has been the main hitch because it involves hundreds and hundreds of kms. of a long border. That is why it has taken seven rounds of talks even to discuss the principles. We have to go into each and every detail later on because boundary questions are always so difficult. So that is the real hitch.

SHRI G.S.RAJHANS: They have annexed our territory forcibly. SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI: That also comes within this. -159>

SRI LANKA

Regarding the points mentioned by Mr. Selvendran and many other friends about the situation in Sri Lanka, the Government fully shares the anguish and concern expressed by many members of the House at the grave situation in Sri Lanka, which has taken a particularly tragic turn in the last few days. Government's policy as also the policy as reflected in the consensus of this House in this regard is based on the conviction that this is essentially a political problem and a long term solution can be found only through a negotiated settlement. It was for this reason that, ever since August 1983, when we offered our good

offices to help in the search for a political solution, our efforts have been directed at finding a common ground which would facilitate the start of direct negotiations between the representatives of the Tamil minority of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Government. We feel that some progress had been made in this direction. The proposals as they emerged between May and December, 1986 represent a considerable narrowing of the gap between the position of the two sides. But further progress towards an agreed settlement can only be found in direct negotiations between the two sides. It is in this direction that our efforts have been directed over the last few weeks. Here I must emphasise that violence, specially violence against civilians, adds to the accumulated legacy of bitterness and suspicion and makes negotiations much more difficult. That is why we have repeatedly condemned resort to violence, especially violence against civilians. It was because of this concern that when it was found that the situation in Jaffna area continued to deteriorate with serious hardship being caused to the Tamil population as a result of economic blockade, and since there was an imminent possibility of large-scale civilian casualties, the Prime Minister sent Shri Dinesh Singh as his personal emissary to meet President Jayewardene and to ex press our grave concern about the situation. He also impressed upon him the need for a political solution. In this context, the large-scale violence resulting in hundreds of civilian deaths in the last one week, is tragic and totally senseless. Our spokesmen have unequivocally condemned attacks on civilians, regardless of who the attackers are. All civilian lives must be considered equally sacrosanct and whoever permitted such massacre, whether the State or any group, Tamil or Sinhala, must stand condemned. I must repeat that there can be no solution in violence to this problem and any so-called local victories based on violence are bound to prove short-lived and illusory. I am sure that I reflect the wish of every Member of this House when we appeal to both sides to the conflict to eschew violence and to cooperate in resuming negotiations towards a political solution.

BANGLADESH

Some Members had mentioned about our relations with Bangladesh. We attach very great importance to our relations with Bangladesh. The outstanding issues between the two countries, referred to by many Members, are not an unusual feature of relations between two neighbours with a long common border and shared history. Issues of shared water resources, the influx of Chakma refugees into Tripura, and boundary demarcation were discussed by me during my visit to Dhaka in January 1987 and these will again be taken up during the Meeting between the two Foreign Secretaries in the next few days. We will continue to try for a steady progress in the resolution of these bilateral issues. Many Members spoke of the influx of Chakma tribals from Bangladesh into Tripura. At present, the number of Chakmas who have come in from Bangladesh is almost fifty thousand. Here, we are faced with a human

problem. Since these tribals have fled from Bangladesh out of fear, for their safety and security, it has been extremely difficult for our border agencies to forcibly turn them away...

SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI (KALIABOR): On a point of Order, Sir, If it is a human problem, does it mean that we should always go down and allow the foreign nationals to come to our State? Every moment, even right now, these foreigners are coming into the territory of India, par -160>

ticularly in Assam and the Government has no voice, nothing to say about that. They cannot stop them. So, I would like to know from the Minister what is the remedy for this.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Well, I am responding to a suggestion made yesterday regarding the Chakma refugees.

SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI: Not only Chakmas but other foreign nationals are also coming everyday from Bangladesh.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: However, it should be noted that the problem of Chakmas is not really a bilateral problem between India and Bangladesh, but is essentially an internal problem of Bangladesh. These are Bangladesh citizens who are living temporarily in refugee camps in Tripura. They have to return to Bangladesh and their early safe return has to be ensured. Since their reluctance or delay in return is because of serious apprehension about thir safety, it is for the Bangladesh Government to create conditions wherein they gain the confidence to return to their homes voluntarily. We have made this clear to Bangladesh.

BHUTAN AND NEPAL

Apart from this let us come to our relations with our neighbours Bhutan and Nepal. It has been accepted in principle that we shall have a joint Economic Commission with Nepal. I think this should be a big step forward so that we can put our relations with Nepal our economic and trade relations in a proper perspective.

One Hon. Member mentioned yesterday about the question of work permits in Nepal. According to the present information, the Government of Nepal was to issue identity cards to all workers in the Kathmandu region, irrespective of nationality, working in the organised sector in three districts of Kathmandu valley, according to some labour laws which have been enforced in this valley area. It has been ascertained that this measure is not aimed specifically against Indians. But we have also asked our Embassy in Kathmandu to take up this matter with the Government of Nepal to ensure that this is not a measure against Indian workers in Kathmandu valley.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS: I have experience of the past also. I come from that territory and I know Indians are being harassed there. People of Indian origin are being harassed in Nepal. If necessary, I can call on you and explain to you in detail. This matter should be taken up with the Government of Nepal.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: The Hon. Member is very much welcome to see me any time. But this is a specific question regarding all workers working in the Kathmandu valley. As I have mentioned, we have information that this is not meant for Indians only but for all workers in the organised sector.

SHRI SYED SHAHBUDDIN: The question is about enjoying special exemption and the law may be directed theoretically against everybody. But Indians are only its victim.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: There are not only Indians but also Tibetans and others working in the Kathmandu Valley. It is not only directed towards Indians but also Tibetans and other foreign workers working in the Kathmandu valley. It is well-known that there are many foreign workers working in this valley.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I do not know. Is there any treaty with Tibet and Nepal like Indo-Nepalese Treaty? Ultimately, if certain facilities are given under the Indo-Nepalese Treaty, then you cannot treat all of them alike. That is the point.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I am informed that this also applies to Nepalese workers and not only to Indian workers or Tibetan workers. This is not covered under the treaty. That we have examine. This is not covered under the Indo-Nepal Treaty.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Do all the workers come under that? -161>

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Yes, Yes. We have been informed that it is for all the workers of the area under the Labour Act.

Regarding Ganga Water dispute, it is not the question of Nepal being a party to any internal dispute. India and Bangladesh have approached Nepal for co-operation in the study of the possibility of augmentation of Ganga waters through construction of storage reservoirs in Nepal. Our friend Hon. Mr. Chowdhary had mentioned yesterday - the whole question is how to augment the water at Farakka so that both Bangladesh and India can have more water. The last round of discussions were held in January, 1987 and the three countries have decided on a further meeting to discuss the matter, because theoretically speaking if we have more storage, more water, then we can have more water in the Hooghly and Calcutta Port and in Bangladesh also. But, all this is a very, very remote possibility, as of now. I may also make it very clear that we have absolutely no report of any supply of arms by Nepal to GNLF. As I mentioned, it is our recognised policy, a well-

established policy, to have the friendliest relations with our neighbouring country. Nepal, in accordance with the Indo-Nepalese Treaty.

Sir, apart from that, our Hon. friend, Shri Shahbuddin had mentioned that we should enlarge I.T.E.C. programme and it should also cover the Caribbean countries. A similar suggestion was made by Shri D. P. Jadeja. Now, Shri Shahbuddin might have noted himself that the budget allocations for these programmes had expanded from Rs. 4.5 lakhs to Rs. 10 crores this year. There is no question of limitation of funds as of now. Actually the difficulty has been with the formulation of concretised programmes under which this money could be spent. There has been a paucity of programmes. It is not just India which has to offer sums of money. It is up to the recipient countries also that they should formulate suitable programmes to take benefit out of this cooperation. I think, money is not the major difficulty, but the limiting factor has been the concretisation of programmes, for example, on what particular subject they would want to have expertise being given and what type of experts they need and on what subject and for what programme and this information has been lacking in many countries, and therefore they have not been able to avail of our technical economic cooperation facilities. But we have taken the decision on principle that we will increase this amount at the rate of 15% per year, funding of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Fund by 15% per year over the next few years. I am sure in the future we will have an increasing number of such programmes. I have also directed the ICCR and also our departments concerned to intensify their efforts to get more suitable programmes concretised so that more scholarships could be availed of under this programme.

Now, regarding the suggestions made by our senior Member, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, I welcome his mentioning about the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of the African National Congress. The House will remember that in January this year, many amongst us, had participated in the function organised here to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the African National Congress and we had a largely attended international conference against apartheid which we had convened in January. Sir, the African National Congress has already an office in New Delhi and it will continue to receive our moral and material support in its efforts to bring about racial equality in South Africa, As soon as I took over, I had the privilege - to participate in a deputation of NAM Foreign Ministers mandated by the Harare Summit to visit some of the developed countries so that they could be persuaded to apply mandatory economic sanctions under the United Nations Charter against South Africa. I have seen myself, I have been interested in it myself, the intense activities that have been going on behalf of NAM to destroy apartheid, to isolate the Pretoria regime and to impress upon the developed

countries of the world by all means possible, diplomatic means possible, all peaceful means possible, to take action and to apply mandatory sanctions against South Africa. There have been some results, of course not to our full satisfaction, Much more needs to be done, but activity is on. My dear distinguished colleague, Mr. Faleiro has been touring intensively and extensively.

AN HON. MEMBER: All over the world.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Not all over the world, mostly Africa, specially South Africa. He has concentrated his attention towards AFRICA Fund. Of course, it does not look nice, but I must compliment his and his colleague, Mr. Krishnan. We have a Special Envoy, one of the most experienced diplomats we have, Mr. Krishnan, who is Prime Minister's Special Envoy dedicated specifically to this purpose. We have had an AFRICA Fund Summit here which was attended by Seven Heads of State, Heads of Government, and two other leaders one among them by the Vice-President of Nigeria. The AFRICA Fund has been constituted and now I am very happy to report to the House that about 97 million dollars have been committed to this AFRICA Fund, of which our Prime Minister happens to be the Chairman. We have fully mobilised our diplomatic efforts so that we can get more funds for this AFRICA Fund and recently, we had a Meeting at Harare so that we could identify projects appropriate to the requirements of individual countries so that the objective of the AFRICA Fund could be realised in accordance with the actual needs of the countries concerned. The aim is that there should be no duplication and the projects implemented should be of real and actual help to the Frontline States which need help from this AFRICA Fund. I am sure that this House will fully bless this AFRICA Fund. The AFRICA Fund also calls for voluntary contribution from voluntary organisation and I am sure when we go back to our constituencies we will also try to ask for voluntary contributions from voluntary organisations and individuals for making this AFRICA Fund a success.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: What is the ratio of developed countries in this Fund?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: It is mainly a Fund set up by Nonaligned countries because it was conceived at the Harare Summit of NAM. But we do hope that the developed countries will also come to the aid of this Fund. Many of the developed countries have said that they are already helping the Front-line States through the SADCC Fund, i.e. the Southern African Developmental Cooperation Council Fund. So many of them have told us that they are already helping the Front-line States through this SADCC Fund but they are contemplating help to this Fund also and France has given its first contribution of 20 million franc. France has been the only developed country to announce its contribution of 20 million Franc. When Mr. Ramond, the Hon. French Foreign Minister, was here, he announced this contribution in a meeting with me. So, we hope that the developed countries will also come forward in helping the AFRICA Fund.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Why are you against giving diplomatic recognition to the ANC as you have given to SWAPO. What prevents you?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I would not like to say 'No' to this, but it is difficult to say 'Yes'.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I think Mr. Faleiro is in favour of it.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Yes, correct. I know, I would not say that only Mr. Faleiro is, I would also like to be in favour. But there are some difficulties and I think sometimes to bring out difficulties in open complicates things. So, I would just say that I would like to keep silent on this matter, let us see how things move. As I said, I do not want to say 'No', but it is difficult to say 'Yes'.

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SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Many contribute in the Swiss Banks. Why don't you ask Swiss banks to contribute?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Well, AFRICA Fund accounts are not opened in any Swiss bank. It is not a question of taking loans. Otherwise, anybody can help voluntarily.

Also Mr. Indrajit Gupta has mentioned another important point regarding the concept of declaring the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. He correctly mentioned that the UN General Assembly has passed a resolution at its last session, calling for the convening of the Conference on Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, at an early date but not later than 1988. He mentioned that it should have been held last year, i.e. in 1986. But the deadline is also "not later than 1988". So, the resolution is still under operation.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: The relevant question is, what do you say about the indifferent attitude of Sri Lanka towards declaration of Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I am coming to that. There is a U.N. Ad hoc Committee on Indian Ocean of which India is a member to complete all preparatory work for the conference by the end of 1987. Now, this is only April.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You are hopeful?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I would like to be hopeful. India continues to participate actively in the work of the Ad hoc

Committee to contribute to the fulfilment of its mandate to convene the Conference as stated in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 41/87. The Ad hoc Committee met towards the end of March, 1987. I would like to meet the appropriate query from the Hon. Member from Alwar that the Ad hoc Committee has met towards the end of March, 1987 and has scheduled another session around July, this year. Let us hope something would come out. But I must say this and I hope the Hon. Members will agree with me that it is our view, India's view that a Conference on the Declaration of Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be meaningful only if all Great Powers and major maritime users/participate in the Conference. That is also because of the fact that was mentioned by the Hon. Member, Mr. Gupta yesterday that, now we have bases and we have the navies of the powers that be going around and we have bases including Diego Garcia. So, this Conference will be meaningful only when Great Powers, major maritime users participate in the Conference. So, it would be our endeavour that as and when this conference is held, according to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution it should be a meaningful conference. We have to ensure that all the Great Powers do attend this Conference.

Now, Hon. Shri Dinesh Goswami had mentioned that the problem of Palestine which used to occupy an important position in the international agenda has receded. I would like to humbly point out to the Hon. Member that the question of Palestine has not receded. I have just returned four days back after attending the Non-aligned Committee on Palestine at Harare. It was chaired by Chairman Mugabe, Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement. It was attended by Chairman Arafat, the President of PLO. He was there in full strength.

For three days, we deliberated upon the problems of the Palestinian people the situation in the Lebanese camps and also on the growing consensus and possibility of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East under UN auspices. It was a very constructive meeting, a very positive meeting. In recent newspaper reports, even today, we find despatches mentioning that in Algiers the Palestinian National Council is having a very successful meeting, practically all of the Palestinian groups, even those who differ from Chairman Arafat are also

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attending this meeting. Syria also seems to co-operate with Algeria in this regard.

I have had the privilege of having long discussions with Chairman Arafat. He was in a very good mood because he has achieved some success in guiding the Palestinian groups under his leadership and he was also hoping that there would be an Arab Summit in the future so that there could be a common point of view regarding the convening of the International Peace Conference on the

Middle-East. This Committee of Nine also resolved at Harare that our NAM Chairman, Mr. Mugabe, should contact the four Front-line States, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt so that they could have a common point of view regarding the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and how to deal with the problems of Palestinian camps and how to have a common point of view on the occupied territories in the West Bank in Israel. So, NAM movement has not been silent on this. The question has not receded. We are continuing to give the importance that we have been attaching to this problem and I have had the blessings of this House that even when this Parliament was sitting, I am really thankful to Hon. Members for having permitted me to go to Harare because of the importance of the Palestinian question, because of the importance of the South African question, because we have to attend these important meetings so that there could be no misunderstanding among our friends in the world that we are not taking as much interest in this issue as we have been taking earlier. I am beholden to this House, to you, to the Chair and to all my colleagues, that they have allowed us and permitted us to go even when the Parliament session was going on for an important meeting of this nature. Therefore, I would say that our giving attention to these problems has not at all deflected. We continue to give it the importance that it deserves.

Regarding points raised by Shri D. P. Jadeja and Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi, that we should do more to develop relations, to strengthen relations with our Latin American countries and with Caribbean countries where we have people of Indian origin, let me at the very outset announce that we have accepted the recommendation made by Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi and Shri D. P. Jadeja and I have asked the Indian Council of Cultural Relations to consider very early and sympathetically proposals to set up a Centre for Latin American Studies on the pattern of African Centre and I am sure that ICCR will approve of this suggestion and the Centre for Latin American Studies will become a reality as suggested by Hon. Members yesterday.

ITEC Programmes for Latin America have been increased specially for Guyana, Surinam and Nicaragua. To Nicaragua we have given substantial assistance 20,000 metric tonnes of wheat, 1,500 metric tonnes of raw jute and 12 1/2 crore line of Government credit. The House will appreciate that Nicaragua needs special assistance from us and that we have helped Nicaragua through ITEC and other programmes.

Regarding helping people of Indian origin and having more cultural links with them, I am happy to inform the House that it has been decided to set up a cultural centre in Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Basoodeo Pande, the Foreign Minister Trinidad and Tobago, himself is of Indian origin and he is hopefully visiting India in the near future and they have announced their decision that Trinidad and Tobago Government will start the Cultural

Centre from next Diwali - I mean from this year's Diwali. Also, Mr. Jadeja had mentioned that the 150th Anniversary of Indian Immigration to Caribbean is going to be celebrated in the year 1988, i.e. the next year. The President of Trinidad and Tobago had informed us officially about this when I was there to attend th NAM Foreign Ministers meeting at Georgetown in Guyana. The President himself was good enough to invite India to participate in this event and we have accepted this invitation. So, the ICCR will be organising cultural events during that -165>

point of time and if Guyana Government agrees, perhaps we can think of cooperating in the holding of a Festival there. It could also be thought of as a joint festival of all of the people of Indian origin of the Caribbean. It is up to them to decide this because we should not impose our programmes on their Government, on their people. Let them evolve their own programmes. We will do our utmost to help them so that this Anniversary is celebrated in a befitting manner. So, all the suggestions given in this regard are well taken.

We are going to strengthen our relations with Latin American countries. In all humility, I may say that my going to Georgetown to attend this NAM Foreign Ministers meeting so far away, for being there for four days taking such a long journey itself was also a measure of our determination to show to the Latin American countries that we are interested in their problems, in the problems of Central America, in the problems of Latin American countries and in the problems of Caribbean countries. We participated there in the Georgetown meeting with a zeal as if we were ourselves Latin Americans to discuss their problems in detail. So, we have now tried to fulfil this role so that the Latin American countries should not understand, while they contribute their part towards solving problems within the NAM movement, for other Continents that we do not care for their problems. That impression is not there. We have fully participated in their deliberations. We will continue to do so in the future also.

Our support to the Contadora Group and the Contadora process for the solution of the Nicaraguan and the Central American question is well-known. I reiterate our full support to the Contadora process so that peace could be brought to the Central American countries in full measure. It is also well known that we have signed many agreements with Latin American countries. Let us for example take the establishment of the Indo-Brazilian Joint Commission. Mr. Jadeja mentioned about Brazil. We have also got technical cooperation with Uruguay. The President of Peru was our chief guest in our celebrations this year during January 26. Our friendly links with Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela are also well-known. This is also a measure of our determination to strengthen our links with all Latin American countries.

more towards our publicity, that people should know more about India, Indian culture and Indian news. He mentioned about some reports that some publicity parcels which have been sent, were not opened by some Missions. We will certainly enquire into this matter. I would very much appreciate if Mr. Chaturvedi can give us the facts regarding what Mission did this etc... (Interruptions) I may inform the Hon. Members that I am myself looking into the question of reviewing our publicity strategy. We have now issued orders.... (interruptions). Orders have been issued that in each of our Missions abroad, we should have a publicity monitoring group, under the Chairmanship of the Head of the Mission in which the officer responsible for information work as well as other concerned officers should be co-opted. This monitoring group in every Mission should regularly review the publicity requirements in the country concerned in the light of local environment and political compulsion and advise ways and means of giving our publicity thrust a meaningful orientation and to have a comprehensive publicity strategy for the country concerned we have also directed that those Missions which are not having any appropriate publicity work should also think of having a plannd publicity programme. It has also been desired that all our Missions should review the mailing list at least once annually - because addresses become old - and that the publicity monitoring group should ensure compliance in this regard also. Our relations with the country media should also be regularly reviewed.

Mr. Chaturvedi very appropriately mentioned that we should look

I am very happy that Mr. Jadeja could compliment our publicity section in Panama at least that their 'La India' is a very good Spanish publication. I would certainly convey the compliments to our

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Mission there. I hope all our Missions will get such compliments in the future by having excellent publications, standard publications, and making appropriate publicity effort in this process.

Mr. Reddy also mentioned about our relations with countries in Europe and Mr. Ramaiah also, in his speech this afternoon, in his quick survey, mentioned about our relations with the Soviet Union...

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (ADILABAD): He was given only five minutes.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: In five minutes he encompassed the whole world. He had that capacity. He mentioned about our relations with the socialist countries. Well, I must say that our relations with the Soviet Union can be considered as a model and our relations with this great country have been raised, qualitatively, to a higher level following the visit of the General Secretary Mr. Gorbachev, the historic visit of Mr.

Gorbachev to India. I may assure the House that we have already progressed in the process of implementing the important Agreements signed on that occasion. I am very thankful to the Hon. Members for having fully supported the Delhi Declaration and the Six Nation - Five Continent Initiative. The Delhi Declaration has been mentioned by at least four Hon. Members and also by our veteran leader Prof. Ranga. If we look at this Delhi Declaration, we will find that it is a historic document and I would like to quote from that because when we accept this Delhi Declaration, it also means that in our bilateral relations also we have to observe the disciplines of this Declaration. I may just quote one or two points from this Declaration:

"In the nuclear age it is necessary that international relations are restructured so that confrontation is replaced by cooperation and conflict situation resolved through peaceful political means, not through military means."

"The propaganda of war, hatred and violence should be forbidden and hostile perceptions with regard to other nations and peoples abandoned."

"The world is one and its security is indivisible. East and West, North and South, regardless of social systems, ideologies, religion or race must join together in a common commitment to disarmament and development."

So, this is the Delhi Declaration to which all political parties more or less in the country have subscribed in principle And, therefore, we have to see to it that we create a proper climate and environment not only in India but all of us together outside also that we could conform to the requirements of the Delhi Declaration. Our relations with the USSR in the economic field are bound to improve and further consolidate in the coming years. It has been decided that within the next five years we should increase our trade with USSR by two and a half times. Recently, the Deputy Prime Minister of USSR Mr. Kamentsev was here and we have discussed this trade question in great detail with all the concerned Ministries. I now propose to go to Moscow in next June for the full-fledged meeting of the Joint Economic Commission with the Soviet Union so that we can formulate concrete measures and steps so that we can achieve this goal.

We are also trying to improve our trade and economic relations with other socialist countries. I had recently been to Poland and Czechoslovakia and they are also desirous to increase trade and economic relations with India. We also propose to establish relations with Comecon as an organisation.

As mentioned by Shri Ramaiah, we do propose to establish relations with Comecon and a delegation of experts will be visiting Moscow to discuss with their office-bearers regarding the possible content of our relationship.

With the United States also, as suggested yesterday, we want to further strengthen our friendly relations. We know -167>

the attitude of certain members of the Congress in United States. But in foreign policy, we have even to canvass for appropriate policies for appropriate programmes even in an adverse environment. That is diplomacy. We cannot say that we will not talk to these Congressmen or these leaders. It is, in this context that my colleague, my dear colleague Shri Natwar Singh is presently there in the United States. I have had the privilege of knowing our esteemed senior colleague Dandavateji for so many years. (Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Before you were a Congressman, you know.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Before I was a Congressman? No, when we both were Congressmen during the 1942 movement. He was in Maharashtra jails and I was in Uttar Pradesh jails. So, I know him since then. I have the privilege of knowing him ever since we both were in the freedom fight.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Only when we came out of the jail we forgot

USA

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: There was a question that what our Shri Natwar Singhji was doing in the USA. He was just there so that we can meet the leaders of the United States and the US Congress to tell them what they are doing by arming Pakistan. We have to tell them all this because it is a part of our work, I think it is very necessary for our diplomatic efforts that we should reach out to the leadership in the United States to tell them what is wrong with their policy. We have to tell them effectively. And, therefore, we want to have this effective dialogue. We will try our level best that we should carry on this dialogue with the leadership of the United States, with the Congress, US Congressmen and Senators, because we have to have this dialogue in the interest of peace and development. We know how successful sometimes dialogue becomes. What we saw in Reyjkjavik and how General Secretary Gorbachev in his recent talks with Mr. Shultz has brought about new proposals regarding disarmament; and how now there is even talk of and I myself heard this over the television only the other day President Reagan talking about the possibility of historic agreement on disarmament with General Secretary Gorbachev - the possibility of a historical agreement. This is only possible because of dialogue. So, we should not be afraid of any dialogue even with those who are adversaries and we do not consider that any country specially the USA is our adversary. Therefore, I think that the House will bless us if we actively pursue these goals of our diplomacy.

ASEAN

Similarly with the ASEAN countries we have tried to develop good relations. With Japan also we have developed bilateral exchanges. We propose to have a festival of India/in Japan in 1988 and the Japan Month in India in October 1987. Japan, because of its emerging economic power, is a factor to reckon with in our foreign policy. Therefore, we are fully cognizant of that and we will certainly try to have more friendly relations with Japan not only in the political field, but also to see how we can get better relations with Japanese in technological field.

India's relations with countries in Western Europe continue to remain friendly and productive. Countries of this region have provided valuable inputs, both monetary and technological, towards our development process.

EEC

With EEC we have good relations. Mr. Ramiah very appropriately mentioned about the textile agreement. We are trying to improve our relations with other EEC countries. With France also during the past two years we have developed more friendly relations. The recent visit of the Foreign Minister of France to India for signing of an agreement with us, I think, will go a long way in strengthening our relations with France.

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With Canada also we have strengthened our relations. We hope that our relations with Canada in the economic field will improve further. With Britain we are trying to negotiate an extradition treaty. With Canada we have already signed an extradition treaty. With Britain also we are discussing a draft and we hope that Britain's negotiators and experts will also see to it that the extradition treaty, which is on the anvil, can fulfil the requirements of extradition that are objective and constructive pertinent to the relations between the two countries.

Special attention was given to our relations with the countries of South-East Asia during the year. The Prime Minister's visit to Thailand, Indonesia and the Malaysian Premier's visit to India enhanced our contacts with the ASEAN countries.

During my visit to Vietnam in January, accompanied by two other Ministers, agreements were finalised for cooperation in oil exploration and our existing programme of economic cooperation were reviewed. We attach very great importance to our relations with Vietnam, a very brave country whose whole people stood upto the test of the time with valour for the sake of freedom and self-determination which will stand out in the annals of world history, as one of the great achievements of a nation. We have agreements finalised for cooperation in the field of oil

exploration and we have decided that our Joint Economic Commission, instead of meeting every two years, will meet every year.

On the Kampuchean issue also we have been emphasizing the need to create an atmosphere conducive to a settlement and we are exploring all possibilities to assist in this process.

Sir, I think I have touched upon the major points, practically all of the points that were mentioned by the Hon. Members. There might be some points which I have not touched as of now; but you will very much appreciate that I had to emphasize some of the points which needed more clarification. I will look into all the remaining points and try to inform those Hon. Members about the position that we have on these particular points. Once again I am greatly beholden to all those Members who have participated in this debate and even to all those who did not participate in the debate

PIYUS TIRAKY: You have not mentioned about Bhutan which is our doorstep neighbour. You have also not mentioned about Chakmas. (Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I have already mentioned about Bhutan. We have excellent relations. We are participating in their planning process.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Yesterday I mentioned about those Indian citizens who are staying in Indian enclaves surrounded by Bangladesh. You have not been able to make any arrangement to lend your relief hand to them. Their number is 1.5 lakh. They are living in a rule of jungle and looting and arson is going on.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: My Hon. friend mentioned about it yesterday. I have said that our Foreign Secretary will take up all outstanding issues with Bangladesh and I said he is going there next week.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Their number is too much. You should do something for them. There is no election. There are no electoral rolls. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is not yielding. Please sit down.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I am very thankful to all the Members of this House for having supported solidly the basics of our foreign policy. It is not just an official foreign policy. It is a foreign policy of all the people of India and I am sure that with the blessings of this House, with the support of the House and with the voting of Demands for Grants by this House we shall be able to firmly pursue our time - tested policies of Non-alignment, of disarmament, for peace, for deve--169>

lopment, for freedom, for anti-colonialism and for giving peace and development to all sections of humanity around the world. Again at the end I will repeat the words of the Delhi Declaration:

"The danger that threatens mankind is grave. But mankind has the power to prevent a catastrophe. The gathering strength of the coalition for peace embracing the efforts of the Non-aligned Movement, the Six-Nation Five-Continent Initiative for Peace and Disarmament, all peace-loving countries, political parties and public organisations gives us reason for hope and optimism. The time for decisive and urgent action is now."

I am sure by voting the Demands for Grants of this Ministry unanimously the House will show that this House representing the voice of 750 million people of India considers that the time for decisive and urgent action is now. We shall show it to the world as our scriptures have said:

*Let me overcome from darkness and have the light of knowledge; let me win the untruth and gain the truth, let me win the death and gain immortality.

From darkness to light; from untruth to truth and from mortality of war to immortality of peace we will move forward by activating our foreign policy towards the achievement of noble objectives for which all of us have dedicated ourselves.

A INDIA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND MALI CHINA KOREA NORTH KOREA ITALY SRI LANKA BANGLADESH BHUTAN NEPAL SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE NIGER NIGERIA FRANCE ALGERIA SYRIA EGYPT JORDAN LEBANON ISRAEL GUYANA NICARAGUA TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BRAZIL PERU URUGUAY COLOMBIA MEXICO VENEZUELA PANAMA RUSSIA POLAND NORWAY SLOVAKIA JAPAN CANADA INDONESIA MALAYSIA THAILAND VIETNAM

Date: Apr 23, 1987

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HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Address in Rajya Sabha

The following is the reply by the Minister for External Affairs, Shri N. D. Tiwari to the debate on Demand for Grants for the Ministry of External Affairs in Rajya Sabha on Apr 27, 1987:

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI):

Madam Deputy Chairman, as I rise to seek your permission to reply to this great debate on the working of the External Affairs Ministry, I am a little conscious of the fact that this is going to be my first submission before this august House after taking over a new and more responsible assignment in the service of this House. Therefore, I consider it my bounden duty, Madam, first to bow reverentially before the unique constitutional, parliamentary majesty of this House.

I bow before you, Madam, as representing the Chair of this majestic House, as a symbol of its dignity and authority.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I respect your feelings.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I bow before each and every Hon. Member of this House representing, singly and individually, the magnificent constitutional edifice of this House as its vibrant and living constitutional entity. May I assure you, Madam, that I will try my best to be at the service of this House and at your service at all times, except when I have been called upon to discharge my responsibilities towards this House as the External Affairs Minister in the course of implementation of our foreign policy.

May I also, at this point of time, apologise to the Hon. House, to the Hon. Members and also to my dear friend, Mr. Gurupadaswamy, who is not present here now, because I was late by three minutes yesterday when the debate began? I tried my best. I rather ran from the other House. We had the Question Hour there. Even at one minute to twelve, -170>

there was a question to be answered. I had to be there. As soon as the clock struck 12 and the House took up the next item on the agenda I ran from the other House. I could not be here on time and the debate started. It is my duty to express my regrets. It was never my intention to be late. I hope the House will accept my profound regret.

ILLUMINATING DEBATE

Madam, I am very very grateful to the Hon. Members who have participated in this most illuminating debate in the highest traditions of this august House. I am grateful to my old friend and colleague, Mr. Gurupadaswamy, for having elaborated at length the basic principles of our foreign policy and its historic evolution. As he was initiating the debate, he quoted Palmerston and even Machiavelli. When I was listening to him, I was reminded of Kautilya. Of course, all diplomacy in modern times is supposed

to have emanated from Machiavelli. But we have come a long way from Machiavelli. As he has quoted Machiavelli, I would also like to quote from Chanakaya Niti i.e., Kautilya's Arth Shastra wherein we find how centuries ago, thousands of years ago, Chanakya of India wrote what should be done by Kings and diplomats and what should be done in the field of foreign policy. Let us take this sample:

A reference from Pratapo Mitra collection is as under:

*"A diplomat should carry the message of his king to the enemy country; he should go to the enemy country for bringing message; should help in maintaining Treaty concept; should show his courage when time comes; have capability of making more and more friends; should know the art of making division in good friends of the enemy and lastly the enemy friends does not remain in good terms with him."

These principles of diplomacy were adumbrated in Kautilya Niti, not now but long long ago, centuries and centuries before Machiavelli was born and all the axioms of modern diplomacy were written. Sometimes, even if you want to speak about conflicts and confrontation, do it in a diplomatic way. That is modern diplomacy. This is not so from our times, but from our age-old tradition, even as reflected in Chanakya Niti.

As my friend and colleague, Shri Gurupadaswamy, has quoted Palmerston, I would like to quote Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he was addressing the Constituent Assembly.

He said very clearly enunciating a principle regarding foreign policy matters on December 4, 1947 that "whatever we may lay down, the art of conducting the foreign affairs of a country lies in finding out what is most advantageous to the country."

WELL-ROOTED IN EXPERIENCE

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Quite correct.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: So, the basics of our foreign policy are well-rooted in the experiences gained through centuries of diplomatic endeavour, of diplomatic parlance, of diplomatic nuances that we have inherited from the world history, and from the cut and thrust of diplomatic movement round the world that we have seen leading to so many wars. The policy of Non-alignment itself, Madam, has flowed out of our experiences through history. What is Non-alignment? One of my friends said that Non-alignment is not an objective. May I humbly submit before this august House, may I quote what Jawaharlal Nehru said, when he was the Vice-President of the Interim Government? There was a coalition Government with the Muslim League in the British days. The British Governor-General was here. But even then, on September 7, 1946, in his broadcast to the nation, Jawaharlal Nehru said, "We

propose as far as possible to keep away from the power politics of groups aligned against one another which -171>

had led in the past to world wars and which may again bring disasters on a vast scale." What was he referring to, Madam? He was referring to the First World War when we had the German-Austrian combine on the one hand. We know how the War was declared when Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in Serajevo in Yugoslavia. The First World War was started because of these powers, the Austro-Hungarian empire and the German empire coming together as Axis and just because of this assassination of Archduke Ferdinand. And then you see how one sentence wrongly uttered leads to world wars. What did Wilhelm Kaiser say in 1914? He said, "I regard my Treaty with England as "a scrap of paper" just one sentence that it is a scrap of paper; it is not a treaty, it is a scrap of paper. And England and France took umbrage to it as to why he said that. "It is a treaty, it is a sacrosanct document, and you are considering it a scrap of paper." And we saw the First World War. Then you see how the Czarist Russia, the Austro-Hungarian empire, the Kaiserite empire, the German empire combined on the one hand, and the other non-Axis powers combined on the other and this is how the First World War started. Then again in the Second World War, we had the Axis powers - Germany, Italy and Japan. This was the Axis, this was the alignment. This was a power bloc which put us through the horrors of the Second World War, the Allied forces versus the Axis forces. So, it was not only in the present context but it was in the historical context that we found that alignment with power blocs has led to world wars. And, therefore, our policy of Non-alignment is a positive objective so that the world can be saved for peace. Therefore, Madam, this august House has blessed this policy of Non-alignment, the objective of Non-alignment time and again whenever the foreign policy has been discussed under the sacred portals of this House. This policy had always, has more or less, the unanimous support of this House. If there has been any complaints, it has been regarding the implementation of it but not otherwise

So, again, today I am very thankful to the Hon. Members for having more or less unanimously supported the basic objectives of our foreign policy Non-alignment, disarmament, peace and harmony round the world, conflicts being resolved through negotiations and peace, anti-colonialism, anti-Apartheid and antiracism. And wherever in the world the forces of economic imperialism and neo-imperialism prevail our policy stands against them, squarely and forcefully.

FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES

Such are our foreign policy objectives.

I am thankful to Shri P. N. Sukul for his presentation. I also

compliment him for the role he played in the recent meeting at Geneva in the Human Rights Commission where a unanimous Resolution was passed deprecating the Human Rights situation in Ceylon, a unanimous resolution. And, to achieve this Mr. Sukul, Mr. Veerendra Patil and others made a great contribution. I compliment them and here I would also like to compliment my friends, Shri Valampuri John and Shri Gopalsamy, for having made a very forceful presentation of their views. I join them in their great anguish because I think what the editorial of the Hindu has said that "the Government must read, the Prime Minister must read, the present danger in Sri Lanka as a high priority problem for India in the region...

SHRI V. GOPALSWAMY: Is it a high priority problem or not? (Interruption)

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Therefore, I am responding to this first. I have mentioned the unanimity on this as our foreign policy objective. I would repeat that we are very deeply concerned and we are in great anguish. We are rightly exercised about the situation in Sri Lanka. The developments there in recent days are indeed tragic. Hon. Members are aware of the grave concern of the Government of India as expressed by the official spokesman. We have condemned the new escalation of violence as seen in the aerial -172>

attacks on Jaffna which have been taking place day after day and are today in their fifth straight day. Hundreds of innocent civilians have been killed. We have unequivocally condemned this. We are equally concerned about the statement by the Prime Minister Shri Premadasa in Sri Lankan Parliament, foreclosing a political solution and declaring his Government's determination to pursue the military option. Here I would like to refer to the editorial of the Hindu from which my esteemed friend Shri Gopalsamy quoted ab initio. What has this editorial which "the Hindu" has written said. Here I may assure my friend, Mr. Gopalsamy and Mr. Valampuri that this is not a problem just of Tamil Nadu. This is a problem with which the whole country is concerned about. There is no doubt about it that it is the problem of India as a whole and we are dealing with it as such.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Go in action and do not say words only. These words will not solve the problem. How many times your predecessors have also expressed this concern? (Interruptions). This is not going to solve the problem. You are not here to command me. I am talking to the Minister. Who are you to command me? Mr. Minister, I have got great respect for you. Mr. Minister, you have inherited the burden of blunders committed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi and your predecessors.

POLICY OF CONSENSUS

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: If I may be allowed to continue, I would be more thankful because I listened patiently to the views of Hon. Member when he spoke. Therefore, I would say, let us stand as a nation behind this policy - a policy which has been evolved not as a partisan policy but a policy of consensus and here I mention the Hindu editorial. I have got the Hindu paper of April 25, 1987. What does it say: "They must honestly take stock of the results of 1985-87 policy and come with a serious modus operandi for bringing to an end the senseless hostilities while..."

"...while continuing to rule out any truck with either the Eelam demand or any mad-cap ideas of finding any kind of military solution to the Sri Lankan ethnic conflict. Above all, Indian policy-makers must realise that this nation has a deep strategic and democratic interest in finding a lasting solution to the Sri Lankan crises."

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You have failed in that. You have not pursued. That is what the Editorial says.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: What I am saying is that we are adhering to the basic principles of negotiations that have been adumbrated in this editorial of The Hindu, and we will continue to adhere to it. I would once again take this occasion to call upon the Government of Sri Lanka that whatever Mr. Premadasa might have said, they should come to the negotiation table; let both the sides come to the negotiation table with December 19 proposals as the framework. Let all the blockades be removed. There is no question on that. Let the economic blockade of Jaffna and the peninsula be removed immediately and let both sides negotiate within the Sri Lankan constitution - as he said - within the established framework.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: And bombing of Jaffna should stop immediately.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Yes, without that, what can be done? Bombing has to be stopped immediately... (Interruptions).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Minister, will you yield for a minute. (Interruptions).

SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: He should sit down. (Interruptions).

SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Who are you? You are not a dictator. I am not going to sit down... (Interruptions). -173>

SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: But the Minister is replying..(Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen to the Minister. Everybody listen to

him. It is your duty to listen to him quietly. But if you go on interrupting... (Interruptions).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I requested the Minister to yield for a minute and he has yielded.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot request. Even if the Minister yields, no Member can speak unless the Chair permits. This is the rule.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Then I seek your permission... (Interruptions).

SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: What is the rule? (Interruptions). Who is he to say that? (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Everybody please sit down. There should not be any noise in the House. Please sit down. You cannot go on with this type of noise. Please sit down now. The Minister will not yield.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: May I make a request because the Minister is yielding?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, please sit down. You had full chance to say whatever you wanted to say. You got enough time. You had a full chance. I gave you special chance and you said what you wanted to say. And now you are interrupting. This is not fair.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I want a clarification; Minister has yielded.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, he has not. You please sit down and let him continue.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, he has yielded.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, he has not.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Because he made a reference to the statement of Mr. Premadasa,...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you say anything, it will not go on record. You are not fair. (Interruptions) You were given full time. (Interruptions) Mr. Gopalsamy, you had absolutely no time, but you spoke for 27 minutes. Each and everything said by you was listened to in complete silence. Everybody listened to you. But now you do not want to hear the reply of the Hon. Minister. You do not want to listen to him. (Interruptions)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, I am sorry to interrupt. (Interruptions).

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Madam, we want to hear the Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, I only interrupted because the Hon. Minister made a reference to the statement of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. I will allow you but only on the condition that you will not speak for more than two minutes and you will not again interrupt. (Interruptions) Please listen to me first. When I am standing, you cannot go on speaking like this. You can now raise your points but afterwards you should not interrupt. Now, when I am permitting you, you are not speaking. (Interruptions) It does not matter whether the Minister has yielded or not. You are given one more chance to speak now.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, while the Hon. Minister referred to the statement of Mr. Premadasa, he said 'whatever Mr. Premadasa might have said'. I say, the statement of Mr. Premadasa is nothing but a slap on the face of India. This is not a statement to be ignored. Therefore, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether we have resumed our good offices? Sometime back, you said -174>

that you are not going to resume your good offices. Now, I would like to know whether you have resumed your good offices. I would also like to know whether you pressurised the militants in Bangalore, as it has been reported in 'The Hindu,' to agree to the proposals, to come to the negotiating table. I would like to know whether pressure was exerted on the militants in Bangalore or not. I want a specific answer.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anything more you want to ask.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I do not know what he is going to say.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There cannot be a debate between you and the Minister. If you want to ask anything more, you have my permission to ask.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: If you do not permit me, I will not get up. I strictly obey your orders.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am giving you more time to ask anything more you want to ask.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I did not follow what was Mr. Gopalsamy's question regarding Bangalore.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It has been reported in 'The Hindu' that in Bangalore, the militants, particularly, the LTTE leaders, were forced by the Government to come to the negotiating table. It was said that otherwise, the Sri Lankan Government was threatening that thousands of innocent Tamils will be killed and the Seventh

Fleet may enter. They were told that this was the situation and that, therefore, they should come to the negotiating table. This was the pressure exerted on the militants. This has been reported in 'The Hindu'. I would like to know whether it is a fact or not.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I do not have any such information. Madam, in the field of diplomacy, even offensive statements are taken in the overall context. As Foreign Minister of India, as External Affairs Minister of India, I have also to take into account the statement of President Jayewardene published in the Indian Press today. I have to read the statement of President Jayewardene along with the statement of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Premadasa yesterday. I would say that in diplomatic parlance, I must interpret the statement made by President Jayewardene today declaring himself pro-peace, pro-negotiations. President Jayewardene being the Head of the State, it is and it should be the authoritative statement on behalf of the Sri Lankan Government. This is the stand I have to take as the Foreign Minister.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Is it a trustworthy statement?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (CONTD.): I would say that if any statement was given yesterday, this has been retraced today and now the latest statement made by President Jayewardene should be deemed by me, as Foreign Minister, as Sri Lankan policy. I am not binding you but as Foreign Minister I have to say that this statement is more authentic. Therefore, I say that the Government of India urges all parties to the ethnic conflict to exercise maximum restraint. We call on them to create conditions which would enable early resumption of a dialogue for negotiating a political settlement which would meet the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil minority within the framework of the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. This is our stand and we will continue to pursue this objective in the coming days. And I may assure you, Madam, and through you the Hon. House, that our Prime Minister himself has been devoting hours and hours every day, even days at length, irrespective of the engagements that he might be having, to the solution for this problem. I have been a witness myself. Only day before yesterday, yesterday, three days back, four days back,

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even some Tamil leaders were invited to come to Delhi and our point of view has been forcefully made clear to them.

OBJECTIVE TO BRING ABOUT PEACE

I call upon my esteemed leaders of public opinion, of all political parties in Tamil Nadu, in our country, wherever they might be, let us pool our talent together so that we could show to the world that we are one as regards our objective to bring peace to Sri Lanka and to stop this holocaust, this violence

against innocent civilians, which is being brought there.

Madam, there would be many more opportunities to discuss this problem informally. In the near future, I hope we will have the time to have informal consultations. The Prime Minister himself has said that not all matters being littled about can be discussed here. These are delicate things and, therefore, we can informally discuss such matters outside the House. It is not necessary that we discuss all details here and I would be very thankful for the cooperation of the Hon. Members.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, may I seek one clarification? What was conveyed by our Hon. Prime Minister to the President of Sri Lanka over telephone because it has appeared in the press?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: As far as my information goes, there was no such talk yesterday or day before yesterday. Talks might have been held earlier, I do not know, but there was no such a specific talk on telephone with President Jayewardene. (Interruptions). If it is found necessary, of course, the Prime Minister can talk to the President. I know, if any initiative is required, to bring immediate results it can be thought of any time.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (CONTD.): Madam, Shri Gurupadaswamy had mentioned to the fact that a bi-polar system had emerged at the end of the Second World War and that this bi-polar system has now become multi-polar and that India has played an increasing role in this process in view of its defence capability, continental size, population and resources. I agree that now the world scene is more and more becoming multi-polar. Here Mr. Gurupadaswamy mentioned to the fact that India has now emerged as a middle power in the world. We have never used this term. Of course, Mr. Gurupadaswamy, in his assessment if he considers that there are middle powers in the world, he is entitled to this opinion. I may for his information mention here that Nigeria has actually proposed that there should be a concert of middle powers. India has not accepted that we should call ourselves as 'middle powers'. It will be difficut to define a 'middle power', but of course, they had called a meeting on this that we should have another organisation known as concert of middle powers. We have said that it is difficult for countries to proclaim themselves 'middle powers'. What would be the criteria for a country to be known as a middle power?

NEW DELHI DECLARATION

The idea is already there. But we do not want ourselves to be considered in terms of a super power or middle power or medium power or small power. We are there in our own right a great country with a historic past. We do not want to boast regarding our strength. But we want to play our full part to bring about a peaceful world. And it is just because of this that you find the

historic New Delhi Declaration on the anvil. I think if we go through the New Delhi Declaration between General Secretary Gorbachev and our Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi - and I would call upon the Hon. Members who have so meaningfully mentioned the various aspects of our foreign policy to go through it - I have myself read this Declaration thrice, four times, ten times and every time I read it, I find that this is going to be the testament of human destiny in the coming decades, -176>

because it brings forth before the world how coexistence can become a reality, how non-violence can be the creed of the world as a societal structure within all countries. I think this is an amalgam of the ideas of Marx and Gandhiji, of all ideologues and leading theorists of the world led by Marx and Gandhi. We find this quintessential dimension of an ideological cohesion reflected in the New Delhi Declaration. And, therefore, I would say, let us ourselves try to understand the implications of this Declaration into practice through our foreign policy. That is the challenge.

RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOURS

Here I would like to come to the question as to how we should consider our relations with our neighbours in this context. It is so difficult to discuss our relations with Pakistan in a very short frame of time. You know, Madam, that India is committed to developing cordial relations and good neighbourly relations with Pakistan in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement. We have recently taken a number of initiatives to promote the process of normalisation with Pakistan, including the establishment of a Joint Economic Commission. We have offered a Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation. We have made various proposals to ease problems between the two countries. We have suggested the possibility of reopening the Khokrapar-Manubao railway route. We have proposed non-discriminatory trade relations, exchanging newspapers and periodicals, proposal for non-attack on each other's nuclear installations and the proposal for Secretary-level meeting for defusing tensions on the borders. I have listed some of the major proposals that have been made by us. When President Zia-ul-Haq was recently here to witness the cricket match, then also our Prime Minister offered to him that let the two Sub-Commissions that have not met recently meet; let our economic and trade relations be strengthened. Our Prime Minister also offered that I as a humble worker dedicated to the foreign policy of this country could then go to Pakistan for a Joint Meeting of the Economic Commission. So the offer has been made. Now what we have been seeing in the last few months is that Pakistan has been, as far as their theoretical stance goes, talking about peace and negotiations, and taking similar peaceful stances and postures.

SUB-COMMISSIONS

But, in practice, we do not find a practical implementation of what they say. Therefore, what we would emphatically suggest to Pakistan is, let these Sub-Commissions meet, let the Economic Commission meet, let us try to normalize relations within the framework of the Simla Agreement. What is the hurdle? In this context we would again suggest that our Foreign Secretary could visit Pakistan, and we also look forward to the Ministerial-level meeting for SAARC purposes here, next month. We have convened a meeting of the SAARC Ministerial Council here and during that meeting also we will have the opportunity to informally discuss our bilateral relations. I look forward to meeting His Excellency Mr. Yokub Khan, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, and then we can also discuss, informally and formally, all the bilateral matters. So, we are for negotiations with Pakistan on the basis of the Simla Agreement. Let Pakistan come to the negotiating table and discuss all the proposals which are already lying on the table. rather than embark on their current programme of massive acquisition of sophisticated weaponry paid for by aid from USA.

PAKISTAN'S ATOMIC PROGRAMME

In this context I must say that Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme is a matter of grave concern to us, since it affects our security environment. We have repeatedly made it clear that acquisition of nuclear weapons by Pakistan is a development which we cannot afford to ignore and which requires us to take all necessary measures for our own national security; I may repeat requires us to take all necessary measures for our own national security. Our objective is a durable structure of peace in the sub-continent. We feel

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that fear and mistrust between our two countries must be removed and the resources that we have in each of our countries should be used for the development of our people rather than for the acquisition of arms.

BORDER ISSUE WITH CHINA

Madam, as regards China, you are very well aware - and this House also knows - that we have had seven rounds of talks regarding our border issue. But while we have been making relevant proposals to China, China has not been so forthcoming in its proposals, with specific, detailed, proposals regarding our border.

Now we look forward to the eighth round of talks and I may assure this House and all those Members who talked about our negotiations with Chinese leaders, that we are prepared to negotiate with China, We are prepared for holding the eighth round of talks. The Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister, Mr. Zhang Zhui Zhung, has recently announced that they will propose a date for the talks after the summer. Let me assure this House that, as

announced by their Vice Foreign Minister, we are awaiting their proposals regarding the date for discussions and we are ready for talks. We hope that China will reciprocate our desire to maintain peace and transquility along the entire border. In this context, the activities of the Chinese in the Sumdorong Chu valley have not been helpful, nor can we accept their statements regarding our grant of Statehood to Arunachal Pradesh. I may also mention here that the recent Chinese statement that we are massing our troops in Arunachal Pradesh or that we are conducting military exercises or that we have been nibbling at their borders and that we have also entered into their territories, is entirely wrong.

They say that our saying that they have intruded in the Sumdorong Chu valley is wrong. We say that their statement that we are amassing troops, preparing our positions is wrong. We also say that they are wrong in their accusations that we are amassing troops, we are preparing ourselves and we have intruded into their territory. That is also wrong. They say that we are wrong. Let us maintain the status quo there, and let us talk of peace. That is our stand.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: By status quo are you accepting the helipads there? Let him explain. I am not asking a party question. He has just said that he was accepting the status quo.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Mr. Mahajan, it seems, is a budding parliamentarian, and I hope he will also prove himself to be a budding diplomat, a diplomat-politician. Not everything is said. It is such a delicate matter, I cannot say that we have accepted the helipads.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, you have just said that we have accepted the status-quo position. That is why I am asking what you mean by status quo. It can be misinterpreted that you are accepting the helipad and the construction in the Sumdorong valley. I want you to clarify your and our internal position. It is necessary for diplomacy. As a good diplomat you should not accept the status quo.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Yes, as a diplomat I have to discuss the nature of status quo. But what I mean to say is status quo ante. I was going to elaborate. What I am saying is status quo ante along the McMahon Line. Of course, we will discuss that round the table, because they are also saying that we are also having helipads. They have also been accusing us that we have intruded into their territory. That means that they accept that also. This does not mean that we accept because they have come out with names. These names have also been published in the Indian press. So, we cannot accept the accusation that we have intruded into their territory. Let is not be said that they have occupied our territory. They have also said that we have occupied their territory. So, what I would say is...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Have they or not. It is a simple question. We believe that we have not. But have they or not? -178>

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Yes, they have or not? A very good mahajan never says what the interest rate was and what was the principal. Sometimes they keep it secret.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It is not a question of secrecy, Sir. I think, Chinese have occupied our territory. You must come out. What is the secrecy?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I do not want to go into the military aspects of this question. The defence aspect, I leave it to my colleague, the Hon. Defence Minister. But what I would say is that as far as our diplomatic part of it is there, I would say that we are prepared for negotiations. We have had seven rounds of talks, and now we are prepared for the eighth round of talks.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Have they intruded or not?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I may also take note here of the discussion that Mr. Namboodiripad held with Mr. Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, in which Mr. Deng Xiaoping confirmed that the Sino-Indian border issue should be settled rationally in a spirit of mutual understanding and mutual accommodation. We look forward to the Chinese side putting forward its proposals at the eighth round of talks, and we shall put forward our proposals also. We believe that the five principles of peaceful coexistence should continue to guide the relations between our two countries and hope that the persisting differences in regard to the border can be resolved through peaceful negotiations.

Meanwhile, we have taken note of the fact that it has been possible to make some progress in our relations with China, marked by exchanges of delegations in various fields.

Several Hon. Members have touched upon our relations with Bangladesh. We attach very great importance to these relations with that country which is not only our close neighbour but whose emergence on the international stage was supported by us at a time of great crisis for our own country in 1971.

The outstanding issues between the two countries referred to by many Members, are not an unusual feature of relations between two neighbours with a long, common border and shared history.

SHARING WATER RESOURCES

Issues of sharing water resources, the influx of Chakma refugees into Tripura and boundary demarcation were discussed by me during my visit to Dhaka in January 1987. These have again been taken up during the on-going meeting between our two Foreign Secretaries

over the last two days. As I speak here, I may inform the Hon. House that our Foreign Secretary, Mr. Menon, is now-a-days in Bangladesh precisely to talk over these matters of vital interest because of the importance that we give to these matters. In today's newspapers we have seen reports that the two Foreign Secretaries have agreed in principle that these Chakma tribals who have come into Tripura should go back to Bangladesh. At present the number of Chakma refugees who have come in from Bangladesh is almost 50 thousand. Here we are faced with a human problem. Since these tribals have fled from Bangladesh out of fear for their safety and security, it has been most difficult for our border agencies to forcibly turn them away. However, it should be noted that the problem of Chakmas is not really a bilateral problem between India and Bangladesh, but it is essentially an internal problem of Bangladesh. These are Bangladesh citizens who are living temporarily in refugee camps in Tripura. They will have to return to Bangladesh and their early return has to be planned for. We hope that the Government in Bangaldesh will create conditions at the earliest so that these Chakma refugees can go back to Bangladesh.

RELATIONS WITH NEPAL

We greatly value our relations with Nepal. There was a reference by some

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Hon. Members that a work permit system has been introduced in Nepal. Specially Mr. Chaturanan Mishra - he is not present here now - has mentioned about this. We enquired about this and we were told this was rather an enforcement of the factory or labour laws in the Kathmandu Valley and it applies to all workers irrespective of the fact whether they are of Indian origin or of Tibetan origin or of any other foreign origin or even the Nepali labourers. But we have asked for more information regarding this. And if there is anything detrimental to the interests of the Indian workers i.e., the Indian citizens living there, we will take up the matter. The House will be happy to know that we have recently decided to have a Joint Economic Commission with Nepal. This will be a big step forward so that we can improve our economic and trade relations with Nepal in a proper perspective. Mr. Chaturanan Mishra referred to the problem of rivers that flow from Nepal into India, the problem of huge floods, the problem of soil erosion and soil coming to India and the necessity of having a planned response and a planned initiative to meet this flood problem, to stop soil erosion and soil coming into India and all the pertinent problems and also for planning joint power and irrigation projects. It is not only for this purpose that we have proposed to set up this economic commission so that we can discuss with Nepal all relevant bilateral matters. It is all the more necessary because of the geographic dispensation what we have to have good relations with Nepal so that in the long-term and in the mediumterm we could plan such projects as has been

done in the Gandak project in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

SAARC MEET IN KATHMANDU

We hope that Nepal will be forthcoming in this respect and we shall find ways and means, both the countries, so that in the future we can further develop our historic and geographic relationship in a more meaningful manner, more purposeful and constructive manner. At this point I might refer to the establishment of SAARC headquarters in Kathmandu. Now, Kathmandu is the central place of SAARC activities, the headquarters being located there. While our friends have talked about our relations with our neighbours, we have also taken into account the fact that we have a very good neighbourly relationship with most of them as far as multilateral relations are concerned and SAARC is its manifestation. For the last two years, we have had two SAARC summit meetings which is well-known to the Members. This SAARC organisation is a recent phenomenon and hopefully, is going to play a very great role in improving our multilateral relations in the future. Madam, I very well remember that when I had the occasion to lay a statement on the Table of the House regarding SAARC summit at Bangalore, this House and leaders of various Parliamentary groups were good enough to support unanimously this SAARC idea. We hope that now in the coming years the SAARC organisation will consider expanding all the eleven subjects which have already been taken up with 163 activities on the anvil. As I said earlier, the next SAARC ministerial meeting, that is, meeting of the Foreign Ministers of seven States is going to be held at Delhi to discuss further agenda of items and also monitor the programme that we had accepted at Bangalore and to prepare for the summit meeting of SAARC countries at Kathmandu later this year either in September or October.

INDIAN OCEAN

There was also a very important reference made, a very appropriate reference made to the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. This is a very important subject as Hon. Members will know that this decision was taken by the United Nations General Assembly to have this Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. Now, a committee has been set up to take preparatory action on the declaration of Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. The first meeting of the convening committee has taken place in March this year and the next meeting will take place in July and it is hoped that if this preparatory committee

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is able to agree on an agenda, then this conference can take place sometime next year. But India is of the firm opinion that this conference must be attended by the big maritime powers, the super-powers because until and unless super-powers attend this meeting, it will not be successful and the objective of the conference will not be achieved. Therefore, we have made it clear

in this committee and outside at U.N. forums and at other appropriate forums that super-powers must be persuaded to attend this meeting.

With the United States we have sought to enhance the existing relations in the field of commerce, scientific cooperation and transfer of technology and also build up the considerable fund of goodwill that exists between the people of the United States and our own people.

Here I would like to mention that in the context of different perceptions with United States in so many matters, it is necessary for us to carry on a diplomatic dialogue with the United States. The rudimentary principle of diplomacy is that we have to talk on matters of mutual interest not only with those who agree with us but even with those who disagree with us. Sometimes, we have to talk more with those who disagree with us. This is the rudimentary principle of diplomacy and it is because of this that we have tried to carry on a continuous dialogue with the United States and it is because of this that my distinguished colleague, Shri Natwar Singh went to the United States. Now, it is not only the U.S. Administration that matters under the United States Constitution. The U.S. Administration is there but there is also the United States Congress, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Senate Committees, the House Committees, then representatives of the U.S. public opinion and the United States Press, these are all factors which determine the United States policy. So, we have to have dialogues with the members of U.S. Committees, with the Congress leaders, with the leading Senators. Madam, I think, many of the Hon. Members have met eminent Congressmen from United States here also in New Delhi, whenever they visited us. They have visited our Parliament. They have seen the functioning of our Parliament. We have met them formally and informally. Parliamentary delegations have been exchanged and we know, in the United States Congress, there is a considerable number of Senators and Congressmen who have openly taken a positive stand for peace. They have supported India's case partly and even effectively and we have to meet them, we have to keep a constant dialogue with them, with the leading editors of the press of United States, with the public of the United States and also the Government of United States. Of course, according to the Constitution, the Presidency is the most determining factor there. We have to keep up reasonable dialogue with them and it has been in this context that I have been invited to go to United States to carry on this dialogue with the Secretary of State, Mr. Shultz and with other leaders of the United States, including possibly with President Reagan so that we can tell them as to what are the implications of the policy of United States of arming Pakistan.

DISARMAMENT INITIATIVE

Then, we have to support the disarmament initiative. For example,

we fully support the initiatives taken by General Secretary, Gorbachev in the field of disarmament. We have to tell all the world leaders about the Six-Nation initiative taken by Five Continents. We have to carry the message of this Six-Nation Five-Continent initiative to the United States leadership. We have to convey our full support. Well, it is a very encouraging move that I myself heard on the television that even President Reagan said that there might be a historic agreement possible between him and General Secretary Gorbachev regarding nuclear disarmament, regarding medium range missiles and short range missiles. We welcome that initiative taken by General Secretary Gorbachev and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze by offering even -181>

a new proposal in the field of short range missiles which many countries in Europe supported and even in the field of conventional disarmament. I have a latest report with me in which I find that Victor Karpov, the Director, Arms Control for the Soviet Foreign Ministry said in an interview on American Television: that Moscow is ready to begin negotiations to redress any imbalance in conventional forces in Europe. We were told that many NATO countries including France were telling that if nuclear missiles, short-range missiles or medium-range missiles, were withdrawn from Europe, what would happen was that there would be a conventional arms imbalance in Europe. Now, we find that Moscow is seeking to allay even fears regarding the imbalances in conventional armaments. Now what else is required? We fully support the Soviet initiative in this. It shows that General Secretary Gorbachev is fully committed to the New Delhi Declaration signed here and we fully support this initiative and, therefore, we would also like to confirm this support and convey this support to the US leadership and we hope that in the coming days and in the coming months, this first major disarmament move after Reykjavik will come to a success and we shall have a major disarmament reality in the world. We fully support this and this is in accordance with our foreign policy objectives. With the Soviet Union and the East European countries we have built up the edifice of friendship in a very stable manner. We have consolidated our friendship and I may inform the honourable House that we are taking steps to implement the decision between our leader, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Gorbachev that we will, in the next five years, increase our trade and commerce by more than two and a half times. It is a very difficult target to achieve, in five years to have trade and commerce increased by two and a half times, up to a turnover of more than Rs. 12,000 crores. But we are trying our level best in this context.

The Deputy Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, Mr. Kamentsev, was here a few days back and for three days we sat together and discussed all the modalities and we have formulated a coordinated programme regarding this and I hope to go to Moscow this June to have a fullfleged meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Economic Commission and then we will adumbrate, we will

concretise, our short-term and long-term proposals as to how we can achieve this trade and commerce increased by two and a half times. We are also going to strengthen our relations with COMECON as such. We have already good relations with the EEC, that is, the European Economic Community and we want to establish similar relations with COMECON and we will send a delegation to Moscow to discuss with COMECON as an organisation on what we can do organisationally with COMECON. With the other socialist countries, that is, Eastern Europe, we are trying to have increased trade and commerce. I visited Poland and Czechoslovakia recently and there we also discussed relevant measures. Many other delegations have also gone there at the official level, at the ministerial level, and we look forward to closer economic relations with the East European countries.

AFRICA FUND

With regard to the West European countries, we have already very good relations with France. The French Foreign Minister, Mr. Raymond, was here. As a matter of fact, France has been the first country to declare a donation to the AFRICA Fund, the first Western country, and Mr. Raymond was good enough to announce a twenty million franc donation to the AFRICA Fund. And, Madam, we hope that our bilateral relations with France will improve in the years to come. With the other West European countries, with West Germany, with Italy, with Holland, with Belgium and with the other countries who are members of the EEC, we hope that we will continue to have sound economic and political relations.

Regarding our relationship with Front-line States in Africa we have been

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very active. My dear colleague, Mr. Faleiro, is sitting beside me. He has spent months together in visiting the remote corners of Africa to establish good relations with practically all the concerned African countries, to plan joint action, peaceful action, against Apartheid. From the jungles of Mozambique he has been to the mountains of Tunisia, from Senegal to Zimbabwe, from Zaire and Male to Kenya. He has talked to the African leaders of all the different shades of public opinion in Africa. And this has been mandated by our Prime Minister that he could as a matter of policy discuss with African leaders as to what we can do together for economic development in countries of Africa and what we can do along with the Front-line States to overcome Apartheid. The Harare Summit was a resounding success. I am very happy to report to this august House that we have by now received a pledge of around 97 million dollars to the AFRICA Fund. And our Special Envoy Mr. Krishnan, has been going round, to the developed countries also, to ask for contributions on behalf of the AFRICA Fund. He has been to the Scandinavian countries. He has been to the United Kingdom. He has met the E.E.C. leaders, and we hope that the AFRICA Fund will be able to subscribe to its objectives.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (TAMIL NADU): What about the African National Congress - A.N.C.?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: My esteemed colleague, Mr. Hari Prasad Sharma, has...

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY (WEST BENGAL): Can I make a submission?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (UTTAR PRADESH): No interruptions.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: I believe I am saner than you.

My point is that just a few minutes back you have said that our relationship with France has improved and it is expected that it will be more friendly in the days to come. My only submission before your goodself is that while dealing with France we must take into consideration the role that is being played by France in the Pacific region, the policy that is being pursued by France in the matter of having nuclear tests in the Pacific zone, in the matter of accepting smaller countries like Caledonia, Polinasia and other small countries which have been subjugated by France, in the matter of Greenpeage Ship which has taken place very recently in the Pacific region. So this role of France should also not be forgotten while dealing with this country. This is my humble submission

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: While I am thankful to the Hon. Member for this, we have already taken up this matter with France, and I have on my agenda of discussions with the French Foreign Minister these two items. Our point of view is very well known to France. I also take note of it for future also.

ASIAN RELATIONS CONFERENCE

Now, Madam, Mr. Chaturvedi, gave a very important suggestion regarding the Asian Relations Conference. As the Hon. Members are aware, the first Asian Relations Conference was held in March 1947 in New Delhi. So this year marks the 40th anniversary of that conference. Mr. Chaturvedi made a suggestion that a Conference should be held this year to commemorate the 40th anniversary. We welcome this idea. The Government of India has already considered this.

Since the 1947 conference was held under non-governmental auspices, it would only be appropriate that this commemorative conference should also be a non-governmental effort. I understand that several non-governmental organisations of India are already on the job. The India International Centre is also taking an active interest in coordinating all such organisational efforts. A conference is proposed to be held beginning 2nd October.

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I am happy to announce that this conference to be organised by non-governmental organisations in India will be inaugurated by our Prime Minister on October 2, 1987, so, we have accepted this idea, so that the commemoration coincides with Mahatma Gandhi's birthday who had blessed the holding of the conference. The detailed plans for holding this commemorative conference will be announced by the organisations concerned. They have to coordinate their efforts with other countries and organisations. Therefore, it will take some time. But the date of its inauguration has been decided and it is 2nd October.

Hon. Shri Raoof Valiullah has suggested the formation of NAM bank, the bank of Non-aligned Movement, in the spirit of South-South cooperation. I have mentioned here that according to the decision taken at Harare, a ministerial level meeting is going to be held in Pyongyang, North Korea, specifically on South-South cooperation and we are looking forward to that. All the members of NAM who will be attending this Pyongyang conference, will be coming forward with specific suggestions. In this regard, the Hon Members will also recall that the Group of 77 which includes practically all the members of NAM as well as other developing countries, have been discussing the formation of a South-South bank. There have been several meetings to discuss the formation of a South-South bank and the matter is being pursued in that forum. As I have mentioned, practically all the NAM members are members of the Group of 77 also. We need not duplicate this effort by suggesting a NAM bank because it is the same effort and more or less the same membership. But the idea is very sound. But it is so difficult to give it a realistic and practical shape and to implement it. Therefore, let us see what is achieved by this Group of 77.

BHUTAN

Now, there was a suggestion by Mr. H. P. Sharma regarding our relations with Bhutan. I may assure him that our relations with Bhutan are excellent. He has mentioned about some interview. I would request him not to give so much importance to this interview because we know definitely that Bhutan is one of our best friends. We are fully assured that they, the Bhutanese, will continue to adhere to the special relationship that we have with Bhutan. Traditionally, we have close and warm relations and we continue to consult each other on all aspects of our relations and things of mutual concern.

Hon. Mr. Anand Sharma has referred to the proposed aid cut by the United States. I may clarify that this "aid-cut" is only a recommendation made by one committee of the U.S. Congress. The proposal has yet to go before the full House and the full Senate.

The US Administration has stated publicly and through its Ambassador in New Delhi that they will work towards getting the cut restored. As we know, the US Congressional procedures are very complex and, therefore, it is necessary for us to discuss this only when a final decision has been taken. Our relations with United States are friendly and we value these. I have referred to the suggestion made by Mr. Gurupadaswamy about the conference on demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean. Now, I would like to mention about the remarks made by the Hon. Member, Mr. Gurupadaswamy, regarding our Ministry that either they are pro-Russian or pro-US but there is nothing pro-Indian. I think, he has rather captured this idea from some publication. I cannot believe that this could be considered a reasonable statement of Mr. Gurupadaswamy. If we have to characterise our Ministry in that way, then I say that our officials are hundred percent pro-Indian, and if they are pro-Soviet Union or pro any other country, it is only because they are pro-Indian and nothing else. We should be proud of our Foreign Ministry officials. If you go round and survey the world foreign offices, the high respect and regard which our Indian Foreign Service commands round the world, I think, it is one of the best Foreign Services in the world. We can be proud of -184>

that. And their diplomatic acumen, their experience and their command of diplomatic nuances wherever they have gone have left their indelible mark on any diplomatic meeting or international meeting and gathering. So, I think, we should all agree not to demoralise by any means our diplomats and the functioning of our Missions. There may have been individual cases. I do not dispute that. Mr. Gurupadaswamy mentioned that our visitors are not very well treated in many Missions.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is not here.

PUBLICITY

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: He is not here. But whatever he said must be explained because points must be countered, if necessary. And then, Madam, I have myself visited many Missions. We are trying our level best so that in all the Missions, all the visitors can get the courtesy and respect that they expect reasonably in any Mission, and they become the recepients of a courteous behaviour. So, we are trying for that. Many of our Missions have taken special measures for that. And I may assure the Hon. House that we will take all other measures that are necessary in this regard. I only require suggestions for particular Missions. Funds are a constraint in some places. There are so many difficulties as far as new Missions go. But we will try our level best so that we can effectively make our Missions a better service-oriented organisation also.

Regarding publicity, there was a suggestion that our publicity efforts are not very successful because of paucity of funds. I agree and we would like to have more funds for publicity purposes. But till the time we get more funds, we are

streamlining our publicity efforts. I have directed all the Missions to have a publicity committee in each Mission headed by the Ambassador or the Head of the Mission himself so that there could be a publicity policy for each country, that what type of publicity is needed for that particular country in that particular region, and what particular language and in what particular manner. The total publicity and informational environment in any given country is always the deciding factor. So, we have now asked all our Missions to have a publicity committee....

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Madam Deputy Chairman, the Minister said about publicity. (Interruptions) I would like to know from the Minister whether this publicity includes the publication of Indian maps also showing the boundaries of India. If it is so, nearly 33 maps have been published showing wrong boundaries of India. Even the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been shown as part of Pakistan and even Aksai Chin is depicted in the latest Soviet World Atlas as part of China. So, there are so many such maps in the world. Has the Government published corrected maps and distributed them to all the missions?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Madam, I think that my dear friend, Mr. Satyanarayan Reddy has brought in an entirely new point. It does not refer to our internal publicity. It refers to maps published by some countries, not our own publicity. Of course, we have always published our own maps. And, wherever there have been misprints or wrong printing of maps by other countries there also we have taken them up through our diplomatic missions abroad strongly. And in many countries - of course, I cannot give all the details just now - they have corrected the maps. I am talking at the moment of our own external publicity, publicity made on behalf of our Embassies, our missions or our High Commissions. When I am speaking about publicity, I am speaking about our own external publicity, publicity made on behalf of our mission.

Now, this question was primarily raised by Mr. P. N. Sukul. As regards Indians overseas, we do recognise that Indians overseas are a potential bridge, of cooperation and understanding. It is also being increasingly appreciated that the NRIs are an asset to our country and form a potential reservoir of spreading goodwill. -185>

To utilise their expertise and talents for national development various facilities and schemes have been drawn up by the Government. All this is known to the House.

HAJ PILGRIMS

Mr. Valiullah and Mr. Matto mentioned about facilities to Haj pilgrims. It was my pleasure and privilege to visit the Haj House in Bombay, a magnificent edifice, only day before yesterday to participate in a "Korra" and lottery, that we organise every year

in the Haj House. Now, the Hon. Members of the House will be happy to know that this year the number of Haj pilgrims has been raised by two thousand. An additional facility for Haj pilgrims so that they could go by air from Delhi, it has already been introduced. Now, this year or next year, it is proposed to organise plans so that Haj yatris could also go by air from Madras and Calcutta. Hon. Mr. Matto was referring to Srinagar. Of course, this announcement has been made by the Hon. Prime Minister and as soon as necessary facilities are available, we will do it. You know, at the moment there are no international flights from Srinagar direct. But as and when the logistics of the matter are resolved such service could be made available. We have also discussed the possibility of increasing facilities for Haj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. I have directed my mission there, our Embassy there to discuss this matter with Saudi Arabian Government in order to see as to how we can give more facilities to our pilgrims while they are going for Haj to Saudi Arabia. Already the local voluntary organisations have been contacted. I must compliment my colleague in the other House, Hon. Mr. Sait for having taken the initiative. He has already been able to contact some organisations and they have created certain facilities for our pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, I must congratulate Mr. Sait for that. There are some wakfs and some wakf properties in Saudi Arabia. They are under nobody's control nowadays. We have created, our Haj Committee has created and considered a proposal by which all these wakfs could be reorganised so that their assets could be at the service of thousands of pilgrims who visit Mecca and Medina every year. I will very much appreciate if we have concrete suggestions from Hon. Members in this connection so that whatever else we can do to facilitate our Haj pilgrims we can try to do.

I must compliment Mr. Kalpnath Rai who in fluent Hindi postulated the basic principles of our foreign policy. I must tell him that we are in full agreement with the policy nuances that he made.

Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan, in her flawless English, also made a very good presentation. Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya is a very good old friend of mine for the last 30 years. Of course, being a Member of opposition, he was trying - I could see very easily - very hard to reconcile his stand with his support for our objectives. It was difficult for him but somehow I could find that he had a soft corner for us, for the objectives at least, and I must compliment him that he was actually fulfilling the greatness of his name Satya Prakash. The truth inside his heart was coming out because of Prakash - Satya Prakash.

Mr. D. P. Ray said that he is speaking after a long time. But he spoke a flowery language very fluently. I could find through his oration that he is so much dedicated to our policy and our objectives.

Then, Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh - I think he is here; I very

much welcome his ideological conviction, the way he analysed imperialism, neo-colonialism and all that. I think it was a good study and I agree with many of his ideological formulations. Of course, in certain matters, we cannot be very dogmatic. But I think on the ideological part of it,he made a good analysis.

Shri Thakur Jagatpal Singh also supported us and our policy. I am thankful to him. Then Mr. Mahajan also spoke. I think he is a budding diplomat; a diplomat in the making. I would advise him to refine his ideas and he would find that he is -186>

in complete agreement with us. We might be in different parties but our basic objective is the same.

There are some other points but I think it is already 8.15 and probably many more opportunities will come for me to explain those.

In the end, I would say that I am reminded of the illuminating factor. As we enter the portals of Parliament, as we enter this great edifice of our Constitutional being, at the gate No. 1 of Central Hall, as we enter, I find this Sanskrit Sloka embedded in the building as an invocation to all those who enter this mighty edifice:

*"This is mine and that is yours', the only mean men think like that. The man of broad thinking considers the whole universe as his own family.

This invocation of the Vedas, this foreign policy declaration has not come now but it is from ages, from centuries ago.

This has been the formulation of our sages, our rishis and munis and cultural savants. This formulation is the basic objective - it continues to be the basic objective - of this nation today, of our people, of all the political parties and of this House as well. Therefore, I would say -

*"The man of broad thinking considers the whole of universe as his own family."

"The whole world is our family".

Let this be the guiding principle of our foreign policy, as blessed by this House, as sanctified by this House. I would say, Madam, this debate today, with its unifying ramifications, has further strengthened our resolve, our common resolve, to stand by this peroration, this sacred message, this sacred sloka containing the essence of the Vedas, the Sastras, of our Rishis and Munis:

*"The man of broad thinking considers the whole of the universe

as his own family."

Let us dedicate ourselves to this great objective as declared even in the New Delhi Declaration. Thank you.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AUSTRIA UNITED KINGDOM YUGOSLAVIA FRANCE RUSSIA GERMANY ITALY JAPAN SWITZERLAND SRI LANKA NIGER NIGERIA PAKISTAN MALI CHINA BANGLADESH NEPAL LATVIA ICELAND NORWAY POLAND SLOVAKIA BELGIUM MOZAMBIQUE SENEGAL TUNISIA ZIMBABWE KENYA MALDIVES ZAIRE KOREA NORTH KOREA BHUTAN SAUDI ARABIA

Date: Apr 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

No Massing of Troops on China border

The following is the press statement by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on May 06, 1987:

The Government of India wishes to state categorically that it has no intention of seeking a conflict with China. India has always emphasised that peace and tranquility must be maintained all along the India-China boundary. Any disputes that arise must be settled through peaceful negotiations and no effort should be spared in this direction.

India does not covet even one inch of Chinese territory and has given strict instructions to all its personnel not to cross the international boundary between India and China. It is not our intention to 'mass troops' or to conduct any belligerent exercises. Such accusations are baseless and without foundation. -187>

India has repeatedly stressed that it is willing to enter into talks with China to settle the boundary question. Recently, our External Affairs Minister stated in Parliament that India would welcome the holding of the Eighth Round of Border Talks with China. We sincerely hope that the Chinese Government will do nothing to vitiate the atmosphere or disturb peace and tranquility along the India-China frontier.

INA INDIA USA

Date: May 06, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Developments in Fiji Viewed with Deep Concern

The following is the statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on May 14, 1987:

The Government of India are distressed to hear reports of the military seizing power in Fiji and taking the Prime Minister and members of his Cabinet into custody. The overthrow of a Government elected through popular mandate only recently and the abrogation of the constitution are disquieting developments. The Government of India view these developments with deep concern. We hope that racial harmony in Fiji will be maintained and that all parties will whole-heartedly work for the speedy return of Parliamentary democracy in Fiji.

JI INDIA USA

Date: May 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Attack on Angola Condemned

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesmen of the Ministry of External Affairs on May 26, 1987:

On May 20 South African forces sabotaged the railway line linking Namibia to the provinces of Hoila and Kuando - Kubango in the South of Angola by placing explosives along the line, thereby disrupting railway traffic and supplies to the people in these provinces.

This is yet another effort to destabilise the Front-line States and the Government of India strongly condemns such dastardly attacks on Angola by the racist South African Government in violation of all norms of international law and civilized behaviour.

GOLA SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA INDIA

Date: May 26, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOLOMAN ISLANDS

Diplomatic Relations Between India and Solomon Islands

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 27, 1987 on the agreement to establish diplomatic relations between India and Solomon Islands:

Guided by the wish to continue to strengthen and deepen the friendly ties that already exist between their two peoples and to foster their cooperation the Governments of Solomon Islands and India agreed to establish diplomatic relations on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with the principles of the Vienna Convention on diplo--188>

matic and consular relations with effect from May 27, 1987.

The two Governments further agreed that the Indian High Commissioner in Suva will represent India by way of double accreditation and the roving High Commissioner of Solomon Islands in Honiara will represent Solomon Islands in India by accreditation.

AN INDIA AUSTRIA FIJI SOLOMON ISLANDS

Date: May 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Shri N. D. Tiwari Hosts Dinner in Honour of Mr. Dobrynin

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 22, 1987 of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari at a dinner hosted by him in honour of H.E. Mr. Anatoly F. Dobrynin, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union here tonight (New Delhi, May 22, 1987):

It is a pleasure to greet amongst us tonight His Excellency Mr. Anatoly Dobrynin, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Soviet Union. It is indeed gratifying that after his visit to Delhi last November when he accompanied General Secretary Mikhail Sergeyich Gorbachev on his first visit to this ancient city, Mr. Dobrynin has found an early occasion to respond to our invitation for an extended familiarization visit. Your Excellency's discussions have eminently served to continue the much valued and well-established dialogue between the leadership of our two friendly countries. I also extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Irina Dobrynina and the distinguished members of the delegation.

HISTORIC VISIT

Excellency, the memories of General Secretary Gorbachev's historic visit to Delhi are still fresh in our minds. Your visit has provided us the opportunity to take stock of the follow-up action on the very important agreements that were signed by our two countries at the time and to exchange views on important international and regional developments of common interest and concern since then.

The Delhi Declaration signed by our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and General Secretary of CPSU, Mr. Gorbachev, for a Nuclear Weapons Free and Non-Violent World met with wide appreciation and approval the world over. The path of peace and national development indeed is complex and difficult especially in the complicated international situation of today. There are powers that thrive on the continued existence of hotbeds of international tension and domestic disruption and unrest, especially in the newly emerged and developing countries. The Delhi Declaration stands as a beacon in the right path towards the future.

Our people, however, dearly love their freedom and independence which they won through an unparallelled struggle in human history under the remarkable leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. They are well aware of the challenges facing them and stand united to thwart the negative designs of hostile quarters.

India has a proud and long tradition of independent course of international relations, as exemplified by our contribution to the Non-aligned Movement. Our role has not been an easy one. Yet we remain firmly dedicated to the pursuit of our policies of peace, progress and friendship towards all based on the principles of Panchshilla. We continue to believe in -189>

the peaceful co-existence between the countries, irrespective of the different socio-political and economic policies pursued by them.

We have consistently endeavoured to promote an atmosphere of trustful good neighbourliness in our region. We have sought the solution of bilateral problems, if any, through political dialogue and discussion. It is a matter of regret that not all our neighbours subscribe to this just and reasonable approach. Pakistan's relentless rearmament, all too evident and single-minded pursuit of acquisition of sophisticated weapons and the imminent acquisition of Airborne Early Warning Systems pose a great threat to our security. The play of outside forces in the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and the unleashing of violence against hapless civilians are a matter of grave concern to us in India. Aside from the humanitarian aspects involved, 1,40,000 refugees have crossed into India about whose welfare and return to Sri Lanka we are deeply concerned.

TRUE & TRUSTED FRIENDS

It is satisfying to note in the overall context that we are not alone and that our true and trusted friends stand beside us. The Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation signed by India and the Soviet Union in 1971 provides a shield of tranquility and strength and is a vital factor in ensuring peace and stability in Asia and the world. The economic, scientific and technical cooperation constitute a healthy and vital component of our stream of friendship. We deeply appreciate the generous assistance extended by the Soviet Union in strengthening our industrial infrastructure and the scientific superstructure.

The intrinsic vitality and strength of our enduring and many splendoured relationship, however, transcends economic ties and draws its strength from the shared common objectives and aspirations of our peoples committed to a struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism and striving for a just and equitable international economic order, peace and disarmament and peaceful co-existence. Above all, the role of the leaders of our two countries, namely, General Secretary Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has been unique in shaping this relationship and achieving a holistic harmonisation of the vital interests of our two countries.

May I, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, request you to raise

your glasses, in toast to the health and happiness of H.E. Mr. Anatoly F. Dobrynin, Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the health and happiness of the gracious Mme. Dobrynina and other Soviet guests, the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people, and the ever expanding vistas of Indo-Soviet friendship and cooperation.

DIA USA PAKISTAN SRI LANKA

Date: May 22, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Prime Minister's Statement on Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 28, 1987 of the statement made by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi on the latest Sri Lankan offensive:

Violence has already claimed thousands of lives in Sri Lanka. The military option is adding to the carnage. Hundreds have died in the last few days. The death toll will quickly rise, as thousands of defenceless civilians in Jaffna are strafed from the air and repeatedly and systematically subjected to carpet bombing. -190>

The Sri Lankan authorities know this and acknowledge it. Yet they justify this massacre of unarmed noncombatant civilians on this scale.

The horrific loss of innocent life of this magnitude is totally disproportionate to the avowed aim of exterminating the Tamil militant groups. The calculated coldblooded slaughter of thousands of Sri Lankan citizens by their own Government cannot promote a solution. It is a gross violation of every tenet of human rights. The international community must impress upon the Sri Lankan authorities the imperative need for restraint.

While India was patiently and painstakingly working towards a political solution, it is apparent now that the Sri Lankan Government was buying time for pursuing the military option. The present offensive is part of this plan. India has done everything to find solutions compatible with the unity of Sri Lanka. But by mercilessly bombing a defenceless people and spreading misery, on the basis of only ethnic difference, Sri Lanka is itself putting

its unity and integrity in jeopardy. From the rubble and the ashes, there can only arise the total alienation of an entire people, a more determined militancy, more extreme options.

The time to desist from a military occupation of Jaffna is now. Later may be too late.

I LANKA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: May 28, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Statement by Foreign Minister

The following is the statement by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri N. D. Tiwari made on May 27, 1987:

The Government of India strongly condemn the massive assault launched by the Sri Lankan security forces today against the entire civilian population of Jaffna, in spite of earlier official announcement that Sri Lanka will continue to actively pursue the path of negotiations. It also signifies the increasing influence of external elements inimical to security, stability and peace in our region.

The Government expresses its grave concern and sorrow at the widespread civilian suffering and casualties which are bound to be caused by this action of Sri Lanka Government, adding to already large toll of civilian deaths which, even by Sri Lankan Government's own admission, amounts to over 4000 deaths. This will also result in a further influx of refugees into India to add to the large number already here. The Government of India reiterates its conviction that there can be no long term solution to the ethnic problem through violent means.

The consequences of this onslaught on the long suffering Tamil population of Jaffna will be tragic. Even at this stage, Government of India urges the Sri Lankan Government to realise the long-term dangers of the military option and undertake measures to restore the trust and confidence of its Tamil citizens.

Date: May 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Situation in Sri Lanka - Statement by Shri K. Natwar Singh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 08, 1987 of the statement by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh, in Rajya Sabha today (May 8, 1987) in response to Calling Attention Notice on the situation in Sri Lanka raised by Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty and four others:

It was only a few days ago that the House had a detailed discussion on Sri Lanka during the discussion on the working of the Ministry of External Affairs. Since then, unfortunately, situation in Sri Lanka has continued to deteriorate. Continued resort to violence has led to mounting civilian casualties. Bitterness and suspicion between the two sides has continued to grow and prospects for a negotiated settlement look increasingly less bright.

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RECENT EVENTS

One cannot look at recent events in isolation without seeing them in the perspective of past developments. Even if the history of Tamil grievances over several decades and the more recent events starting with the anti-Tamil riots of July 83 are kept aside, one has to see the events of the last few days at least against the backdrop of actions since the beginning of the year. In its statement issued four days ago, the Sri Lankan Government have sought to justify these actions in terms of some unilateral administrative steps taken by the LTTE in the Jaffna peninsula. These actions were admittedly misguided. But it is difficult to appreciate how the misguided actions by a few can justify the imposition of harsh economic and communication blockade and large scale military action in the Eastern and Northern Provinces lasting several months and causing widespread suffering, death and destruction to innocent civilians. It has been said that the economic blockade was only aimed at the militants and applicable only to fuel supplies, but the fact is that it has affected the availability of food-stuffs and medicines and has disrupted normal life and caused hardship to civilians throughout Jaffna. The military action in the Eastern and Northern Provinces has resulted in hundreds of civilians deaths. What is most

regrettable is that these actions came at a time when there was a chance of making some progress towards a negotiated settlement on the basis of the December 19 proposals. Such actions and such widespread suffering caused to civilians produce their inevitable reactions in India.

It is against this background that the developments since April 17 mark a particularly tragic turn of events. We have declared in this House that we consider all human life as sacrosanct. That was why we had condemned the incidents of April 17 in Trincomalee district and the explosion on April 21 in Colombo as strongly as we had condemned the massacres of Tamil civilians in earlier army actions. Nor do the incidents in Trincomalee and Colombo condone the aerial strafing and shelling of civilians in Jaffna in subsequent days.

We have repeatedly stated our firm conviction that this is a political problem and only a political settlement offers a long-term solution. We must therefore condemn all acts of violence. Whoever perpetrates such violence and massacres, whether the State or any group - Tamil or Sinhala - must stand condemned. Such acts only add to the toll of human deaths and suffering and make a final settlement more difficult.

In this connection, Government is particularly concerned about recent intemperate statements coupled with expressions of determination to pursue a military solution that have emanated from Sri Lanka. It is understood that the Sri Lanka Government has now ordered the closing down of the Jaffna Hospital, which has already been the target of shelling on several occasions. This will add further to the suffering of the Tamil people in Jaffna. It is also a pointer that the Government of Sri Lanka is getting ready to embark on an action which is bound to lead to large scale civilian deaths and mass destruction. We hope better sense will prevail.

We would once again urge both sides to this tragic dispute to give up the path of violence and to work for a peaceful solution. We would stress that a solution to this problem cannot be found through military means. Any victories through violence will be short-lived and illusory. A solution to this problem and the long-term welfare of Sri Lanka lies at the end of the path of negotiations, in a negotiated political settlement which meets the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil minority within the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. We hope all parties to this dispute will realize this before it is too late.

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I LANKA INDIA USA MALDIVES

Date: May 08, 1987

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Date: Jun 01, 1987

India and UNDP Sign Agreements

UNITED NATIONS

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Shri Tiwari's Arrival Speech in Beijing

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 14, 1987 of the statement by Shri N.D. Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs, in Beijing:

The Minister for External Affairs, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, reached Beijing at 12 noon today, to a warm welcome from the Chinese side represented by the Head of the Asia Department. In his arrival statement to the Press, Shri Tiwari said:

"I am very happy to come to Beijing, a capital which I have not had the privilege of visiting before. I am grateful to the

Chinese authorities for arranging for my brief visit which is in the nature of a stopover after the Conference of Nonaligned Countries in Pyongyang. It is a mutual desire of the leaders of both our countries that all opportunities be availed of for discussions in order to deepen our mutual understanding and to seek an improvement of relations. I am, therefore, grateful for the programme for discussions arranged by our Chinese hosts. I intend to utilise the rest of today for some sightseeing in order to see the great cultural heritage of China. Both our countries share deep relations in the cultural field. I am grateful for the programme of visit to historic places which have been arranged by my hosts.

"We look forward to this opportunity to exchanging views on all matters of mutual interest with the Chinese Government, and it is understandable that we have much to discuss. I am convinced, however, that both sides would approach the discussions in the larger context of developing friendship and enhancing mutual understanding and developing allround relations."

INA INDIA NORTH KOREA USA

Date: Jun 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Press Release on Visit to Beijing

The following is the text of the press release released on Jun 16, 1987 upon the departure of the Minister of External Affairs, Shri N.D. Tiwari from Beijing:

Shri N. D. Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs of India transited through Beijing from June 14 to 16, 1987 on his return home from the Non-aligned Ministerial Meeting at Pyongyang.

During his stay in Beijing, the Minister called on the Acting Premier of China, H.E. Mr. Wan Li and met with Vice Foreign Minister Liu Shuqing.

The opportunity of his transit was used for an exchange of views on matters of mutual concern between the Indian and Chinese Governments. At the talks during the visit, both sides expressed the desire to improve relations in all fields. On the India-China

boundary question, the Chinese side restated their views, and the Indian side reiterated its position. While it may take time to settle the boundary
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question, both sides felt that it should be solved through peaceful negotiations in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence. Both sides have also reaffirmed their intention to maintain peace and tranquility all along the India-China boundary.

Close or similar views were exchanged on subjects such as South-South Cooperation, the struggle against Apartheid and disarmament. Views were also exchanged on other recent international developments.

Shri N. D. Tiwari expressed his appreciation for the excellent arrangements made for his stop-over which included visits to several historical sites. The talks with his excellency Mr. Wan Li, acting Premier, were held in an atmosphere of cordiality, marked by the common desire of both China and India to improve relations in all fields. Talks with his excellency Mr. wan Li, Shuqing, Vice Foreign Minister, contributed to an enhancement of mutual understanding of each other's positions. The exchange of views during the visit has been useful.

Both governments will continue to remain in touch on the issues discussed and work steadily and hope for a further improvement of India-China relations.

INA INDIA NORTH KOREA USA

Date: Jun 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

India and Czechoslovakia Sign Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 08, 1987 on the signing of a cultural exchange programme between India and Czechoslovakia:

India and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic signed a Cultural Exchange Programme at Prague on Friday last. The Programme envisages co-operation in the fields of science and education,

art and culture, cinema, television and radio, and also provides for the signing of a separate sports protocol between the two countries.

While Shri M. Varadarajan, Culture Secretary, signed the Programme on behalf of India, Mr. V. Cisar, First Deputy Minister of Education of the Czech Socialist Republic signed it on behalf of Czechoslovakia.

The main highlights of the Programme are that the two sides will exchange groups of performing artists and soloists with accompanists. There will also be an exchange of exhibitions between the two countries. The Czechoslovak side will send an exhibition on "Masterpieces of Early Christian Art" and an exhibition of Graphic Art. The Indian side will send an exhibition of "Miniature Paintings". The two countries will also organise reciprocal "Days of Culture". This will feature a comprehensive programme of cultural activities in each other's country.

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RWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA CZECH REPUBLIC

Date: Jun 08, 1987

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Two Indo-FRG Financial Cooperation Agreements Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 03, 1987 on the financial cooperation agreements between India and F.R.G.:

Two agreements concerning financial cooperation in 1987 between India and the Federal Republic of Germany were signed here today by Shri S. Venkataramanan, Finance Secretary and H.E. Guenther Schoedel, Ambassador of the FRG on behalf of their respective Governments. The agreements cover a total amount of DM 395 million (Rs. 279.65 crores) of financial assistance extended by the FRG to India by way of soft loan carrying an interest of 0.75 per cent per annum with 50 years' repayment period including 10 years' grace. This represents direct Government to Government aid.

The financial assistance from FRG will be used for import of

goods and services of German origin, and also to cover local cost social development projects in the fields of rural water supply, agriculture and housing.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri S. Venkataramanan noted with satisfaction that the share of local cost projects as a percentage of total aid package had gone up to 20 per cent this year, as compared to 14 per cent in the previous year and 10 per cent earlier. Shri Venkataramanan said that India's development effort was mostly financed by internal resources and foreign aid comprised only 3 to 4 per cent of the total amount. However, India welcomed the financial assistance offered by FRG through these two loan agreements.

The financial assistance committed this year, in association with export credit would be used to start some new projects, apart from providing additional assistance to on-going projects. The new projects covered are Waste Heat Recovery Units of Uran Gas Power Station, Dry Beneficiation of power Station Coal Project at Bina and Ramagundum Opencast Coal Mining. Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Cable Terminal Boxes II projects would get some additional assistance.

In addition to these projects financed under Mixed Credit programme, financial assistance also covers import of capital goods, general commodity aid, financial institutions and local cost projects e.g. low cost Housing Projects through Housing Development and Finance Corporation (HFDC), rural development projects through NABARD, rural water supply schemes etc.

Financial assistance covered under the two agreements signed today is in addition to export credit, technical assistance and NGO programmes supported by the FRG.

The German Ambassador Mr. Guenther Schoedel expressed the hope that India and the FRG would share a long lasting cooperation in India's endeavour to become one of the leading industrial nations.

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RMANY INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: Jun 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

FINLAND

India and Finland Sign Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 02, 1987 on the cultural exchange programme between India and Finland:

A three-year Programme of Cultural Exchanges between India and Finland was signed in Helsinki yesterday. Shri M. Varadarajan, Secretary, Department of Culture, signed it on behalf of India and Shri Kalervo Siikala of the Finnish Ministry of Education, on behalf of Finland. A Cultural Agreement had been concluded between the two countries around the time of the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi's visit to Finland in June 1983.

The new Programme of Cultural Exchanges covers science and education, culture and arts, mass media, health and social welfare and sports. A Professor of Sanskrit fluent in Tamil and Malayalam will be sent from India to teach and take part in the research programme at the Helsinki University. The Department of Asian and African studies of the University, under Prof. Asko Parpola, an acknowledged authority on the Indusvalley civilisation, has been working with the Archaeological Survey of India since June 1984 and a photographic corpus of Indus valley seals and other inscriptions is due for publication within a few months. The Agreement provides for exchange of material on cultural heritage with the Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts.

There is a growing interest in Finland in Indian culture and Kalidasa's Shakuntala will be staged in Kaupio, a town in Central Finland in September this year. Some of the Finnish specialists in the field of theatre have been deeply impressed by the powerful symbolism of Kathakali gestures and Shri Krishnan Namboodhiri, an acknowledged expert from Kerala, is currently teaching at the Theatre Academy in Helsinki, apart from helping with choreography and direction of Shakuntala.

NLAND INDIA USA **Date**: Jun 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

South Africa Freedom Day

The following is the address by Shri N. D. Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs, at Symposium on South Africa Freedom Day to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Campaign of Defiance Against Unjust Laws and 32nd anniversary of Adoption of Charter of Freedom held in New Delhi on Jun 26, 1987:

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have gathered here to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the launching of the campaign of defiance against unjust laws of South Africa and the 32nd anniversary of the Charter of Freedom which is appropriately observed every year as South Africa Freedom Day.

I consider it a privilege to have been afforded the opportunity to place on record our serious concern about the repressive policies pursued by the racist South African regime and to reaffirm our solidarity with the African National Congress and -196>

the brave people of South Africa in their indomitable struggle against the abhorrent system of apartheid.

On June 26, 1952 the ANC staged a protest against the South African Legislature's passage of the obnoxious bill called the "Suppression of Communism Bill" which later became the core of the Internal Security Act. From this ignominious legislation the South African regime assumed the draconian powers of suppression of free assembly, free speech and other peaceful activities. The "Suppression of Communism Bill" prompted an emergency meeting of the ANC, its youth wing, the South African Indian Congress and several other trade union and political organisations to adopt jointly a resolution against the Bill. This occasion is of particular importance because it led to a coalescing of various anti-apartheid forces within South Africa.

On the same day in 1955 the ANC, the National Indian Congress of South Africa, the Coloured People's Organisation and the White Congress of Democrats organised a Freedom Congress which drew up the Freedom Charter as a blueprint for a non-racial South Africa.

GROWING IDENTITY OF GOALS

Right from the beginning of this century, when sensibilities in India were already incensed against the injustices and indignities inflicted by a foreign power, the African situation imparted a new and larger dimension to the Indian struggle for independence. Between the people and freedom fighters of Africa and India there emerged a growing identity of goals and perspectives. It is no wonder then that the situation in South Africa shaped the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi and became one of the sources of inspiration for our own independence struggle under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The leaders and people of

Africa have always appreciated with sympathy and even derived inspiration from India's struggle for self-government and the subsequent and the subsequent endeavours at nation-building. The people of both these continents are conscious that they share a common destiny and that their struggle for freedom and independence is a joint endeavour to combat the forces of colonial and neocolonial domination. At the Asian Relations Conference in 1947 Jawaharlal Nehru while speaking with anguish of "our suffering brethren in Africa" had said: "The freedom that we envisage is not to be confined to this nation or to a particular people, but must spread out over the whole human race." Thus, freedom for every people and territory in Africa has been viewed by Indian leaders and people as an integral part of our own independence. It is against this background that we view the situation in South Africa and Namibia.

NINE LONG DECADES

Apartheid has lasted now for nine long decades, taking into account the period before the formal adoption of unjust laws subjugating the entire native majority of South Africa to poverty, squalor, extreme backwardness and inferior status. The repression pursued by the regime is not only in defiance of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of human rights enshrined in it but also a crime against all norms of equity in political governance. Today, South Africa has the highest prison population in the world. The oppressive white regime is inflicting untold suffering through about 316 apartheid laws which are currently in force. The cornerstone of apartheid is the disenfranchisement of all indigenous black Africans who constitute more than 80% of the population. Enactments like the Group Areas Act have reduced the native people to the status of aliens on their own soil. Not content with oppressing its own people South Africa has been systematically seeking to destabilise its neighbours by armed aggression and by supporting rebel movements within these countries. The Non-aligned Movement has established the AFRICA Fund to assist the Front Line States and the Southern African liberation movements to resist the economic pressures to which they are subjected by the South African regime. India has -197>

assumed the Chairmanship of the AFRICA Fund and we are engaged in an effort to mobilise funds to implement the Plan of Action of the Fund. Our beginnings have been modest but we are confident of attaining the objectives of the Fund.

India has been in the forefront of the international struggle against the racist policies of South Africa. In 1952 in the wake of South African repression of the campaign of defiance against unjust laws India called on the UN General Assembly to consider urgently the question of apartheid in South Africa. We practise a total boycott of South Africa which spans diplomatic, consular,

commercial, cultural, Sports and all other fields. There is growing international support for decisive measures calculated to bring the racist regime to its senses. It has become clear that only comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa can achieve this objective. Unfortunately, the powerful allies of South Africa refuse to see the logic of this approach in view of their security and economic interests in South Africa.

It is particularly unfortunate that certain Governments under the euphemism of 'constructive engagement', 'political dialogue' and 'gradualism' are encouraging South Africa to persist with her repressive policies. The Non-aligned Movement right from its inception in 1961 demanded immediate abandonment of the policy of racial discrimination which constituted a grave violation of the UN Charter. Successive NAM meetings have reiterated demands for the dismantlement of apartheid through the application of comprehensive mandatory sanctions and for concerted international action to assist the Front Line States to resist the economic pressures of the South African regime.

The Commonwealth too has been periodically reviewing the steps needed to isolate and pressurise South Africa. The release of the Eminent Persons Group report demonstrated the virtual consensus within the Commonwealth on the measures required to redress the explosive situation in South Africa.

WORLD PUBLIC OPINION

The struggle to mobilise world public opinion on the urgency of dismantling apartheid through peaceful means has to be intensified since the only alternative will be violence on an unprecedented scale. The Charter of Freedom clearly points to the need for action. The following represent our minimum demands:

The release of Nelson Mandela, Walter Silulu, Govan Mbeki and all other persons imprisoned for their political beliefs or detained unduly without trial;

Lifting of the ban on the ANC and other political organisations and the establishment of the right of all South Africans to form political parties, express political opinions and otherwise participate freely in the political process;

The termination of the stae of emergency and the release of the detainees held under emergency regulations;

The restoration of national citizenship to all persons born or naturalized within the internationally recognised territory of South Africa that have been denied citizenship on the basis of race;

The repeal of the Group Areas Act, the Native Lands Act and the Population Registration Act;

The creation of a legal sytem that will ensure that persons charged with crimes, including those of a political nature, are entitled to guarantees of due process, particularly the right to a fair and speedy trial and the prohibition of detentions without cause;

The reincorporation of the "independent" homelands into the Republic of South Africa.

What is in fact required is the establishment of a democratic polity and the enjoyment of human rights by all South -198>

Africans. The struggle to dismantle apartheid has been arduous. It is, however, a just struggle and one which can only end in victory. It would perhaps be pertinent to recall the words of the Father of the Nation. He said:

"My idea of nationalism is that my country may become free, that if need be the whole of the country may die, so that the human race may live. There is no room for race hatred here. Let that be our nationalism."

I am sure Mahatma Gandhi's dedication to the cause of human freedom will continue to inspire our joint endeavours to see that South Africa is also freed from the yoke of colonial domination and racial discrimination.

In conclusion I should like to felicitate the Indian Youth Congress (I) on the initiative it took to organise the International Youth Conference Against Apartheid in New Delhi in January this year and to hold this national symposium to commemorate South Africa Freedom Day as part of the concerted effort of youth to support the struggles of the heroic Southern African liberation movements, ANC and SWAPO.

UTH AFRICA USA INDIA NAMIBIA

Date: Jun 26, 1987

Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

India Sings First Cultural Exchange Programme with Maldives

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 16, 1987 on the signing of the first cultural exchange programme between India and Maldives:

The first Cultural Exchange Programme between the Governments of India and Maldives was signed here today. The programme, in implementation of the

Cultural Cooperation Agreement executed between the two countries on September in 1987, was signed by Shri M. Varadarajan, Secretary, Department of Culture on behalf of India and Mr. I.H. Zaki, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives, on be half of Maldives.

The Programme covering the period 1987-89 envisages the strengthening and developing of friendly relations and cooperation between the two counties and their people through exchanges in the fields of education, culture, sports, radio, television and films. The Programme provides for exchange of experts in the fields of culture, history, etc. between the two countries as well as organisation of periodical book fairs in each other's country. According to the Programme, scholarships will be awarded to the Maldivian scholars for study in Indian universities and institutions and Indian coaches in athletics, swimming, cricket and badminton will be sent to Maldives. Similarly, India will receive Maldivian nationals for training as coaches. Indian athletes will also be sent to Maldives for participation in their national sports and Maldivian athletic and swimming teams will come to India for participation in the national and international meets. -199>

Radio and television programmes will also be exchanged between the two countries, according to the Programme. Observance of each other's national days through radio and T.V. organisations, development of cooperation between radio organisations of the two countries and participation in international film festivals to be held in each other's country have also been provided for in the Programme.

LDIVES INDIA

Date: Jun 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 20, 1987 on the signing of the Indo-Nepal Joint Commission agreement:

The Nepalese Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya stayed on in Delhi for a day after the SAARC Ministerial Council meetings on an official bilateral visit. Mr. Upadhayaya held discussions with the External Affairs Minister, Shri N.D. Tiwari, on matters of bilateral cooperation between India and Nepal. Besides political matters of bilateral and regional interest the two Ministers discussed various aspects of Indo-Nepal economic cooperation, focussing particularly on measures to promote trade between the two countries, promotion of Indo-Nepal joint ventures, the long-term projection of Indian aid to Nepal, and cooperation in water resources development.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of trust and cordiality which is traditional in Indo-Nepal exchanges.

The highlight of Mr. Upadhayaya's visit was the signing of an Indo-Nepal agreement on the establishment of a Joint Commission for promoting and coordinating economic cooperation between the two countries. The agreement was signed today (20.6.87) by the External Affairs Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari and Mr. S. K. Upadhayaya, Foreign Minister of Nepal.

The agreement provides for specialized Indo-Nepal subcommissions, which would meet periodically to monitor the implementation of various inter-governmental agreements and identify new areas of cooperation in trade, transit, industry, Power and other fields. These sub-commissions would report to the Joint Commission which would be co-chaired by the External Affairs Ministers of the two countries.

The Joint Commission is expected to provide an impetus to economic cooperation between the two countries. -200>

PAL INDIA USA

Date: Jun 20, 1987

Volume No

NEW ZEALAND

India-New Zealand Agree to Expand Trade and EconomicCooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 08, 1987 on the first India-New Zealand Joint Trade Committee meeting:

India and New Zealand have agreed to foster and expand trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and to take effective steps in this direction. This was decided at the first India-New Zealand Joint Trade Committee meeting held in New Delhi on 4-5th June, 1987.

The Committee identified the areas of trade and economic cooperation for both the countries. Export items identified by India include coffee, tobacco, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, power generation equipment, electrical machinery, pumps, compressors, transport equipment, machine tools and leather products.

New Zealand expressed continued interest in items already exported to India i.e. pulp, newsprint, pulses and wool. New items of exports offered by it include dairy equipment, food processing equipment, hides and skins, rain storage equipment and handling technology, electrification equipment, livestock breeding equipment and technology, seed and fodder technology and technology for utilisation of natural gas.

The areas of economic cooperation identified by India include power generation and railway electrification and modernisation. Possible areas of joint ventures offered by New Zealand are food processing, meat processing, plastic extrusions, grain storage equipment, geothermal energy development and computer software.

Both the countries also recognised the need to progressively increase on a sustained basis trade and cooperation in areas identified.

It was also agreed to encourage visits of trade delegations by both the countries to explore possibilities of entering into special arrangements. The desirability of establishing an institutional arrangement between the business communities was also discussed. Both the countries agreed in principle that such an arrangement will contribute to trade expansion and decided to refer this to the concerned organisations namely ASSOCHEM on the Indian side and International Business Council on the New Zealand side

The India-New Zealand Joint Trade Committee was set up under the Trade Agreement signed between the two countries during the visit of Prime Minister to New Zealand in October, 1986.

The Indian delegation at the two-day meeting was led by Shri Ravi Sawhney, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and the New Zealand team was led by Mr. David Gamble, Assistant Secretary (Trade Relations) Department of Trade and Industry. -201>

W ZEALAND INDIA USA

Date: Jun 08, 1987

Volume No

1995

NON-ALIGNMENT

Speech by Shri Tiwari on South-South Cooperation

The following is the statement by Shri N. D. Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, at the NAM Ministerial meeting on South-South cooperation, in Pyongyang on Jun 09, 1987:

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, it is a great honour and privilege for me to address this NAM Ministerial Meeting on South-South Cooperation. This is an extremely significant meeting - the first one that the Movement has devoted exclusively to the vital subject of our mutual cooperation. The President of the DPRK is to be congratulated on the initiative that he took which has led to the holding of this meeting. We are extremely happy to be here, in Pyongyang, in these beautiful surroundings, for our deliberations on issues which will be of growing importance to all our countries. We are sure that the wise guidance of our distinguished Chairman, Vice Premier KIM YONG NAM, will ensure that our discussions progress harmoniously and successfully. On behalf of my delegation I would like to offer him our warm felicitations.

The subject of South-South Cooperation is as old as our Movement itself. Indeed the awareness that conscious efforts were needed to strengthen mutual cooperation on commercial, economic and related matters goes back to the Bandung Meeting of 1955. The first Summit in Belgrade, in 1961, underlined the importance of economic and trade cooperation among non-aligned and other developing countries. The Non-aligned Movement has since then played a central and catalytic role to strengthen Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries and to bring about efforts towards activating Collective Self-Reliance. The Movement launched a series of proposals and initiatives that have shaped

the discussions and given substance to the concepts evolved at Bandung and at Belgrade. The Declaration on Collective Self-Reliance at the 7th Nonaligned Summit in New Delhi provided a new clarity to the principles and conceptual framework of Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries.

NON-ALIGNED ACTION PROGRAMME

The Non-aligned Action Programme was first strated at the Cairo Summit in 1964. It has been strengthened and elaborated at each successive Summit. Today it has evolved into a broad-based Action Programme for Economic Cooperation with a well-structured framework. It has designated coordinating countries for each sector and mechanisms for monitoring, implementation and harmonization of the Programme with the measures undertaken by the Group of 77.

Collective Self-Reliance and ECDC have enormous potential to accelerate the pace of development and to reduce the vulnerability of our countries in a world of increasing tension and uncertainty. In fact South-South Cooperation today has become a historical necessity, a logical response to the challange of development in the face of an unfair and unbalanced international economic order. Thus when the proposal was put forward at the 8th Summit at Harare last year to convene an Extraordinary Meeting devoted solely to South-South Cooperation, India among others immediately welcomed and supported this important initiative. We who have come here this week carry with us the expectations and hopes of our peoples -expectations that this meeting will initiate concrete programmes that will have a real impact on their lives, and hope that these programmes will help to free them from the poverty, malnutrition and disease that is the legacy of the past.

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Pyongyang, we believe, will mark a major turning point in our efforts to attain the goal of Collective Self-Reliance we set for ourselves many years ago. The host country has given painstaking and elaborate attention to the preparations for this Meeting. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank them for this and for providing us with excellent and comprehensive documentation including the Draft Declaration, that will greatly facilitate our work this week.

Our Meeting takes place at a time of great strain and difficulty in the world economy. The global crisis of recent years has severely affected developing countries. A development and debt crisis has engulfed many nations. In some areas, particularly in sub-Sahara Africa, development has been brought practically to a halt. Their difficulties have been greatly compounded by the failure of the international financial and monetary system to assure an adequate transfer of resources, stable exchange rates or a balanced international adjustment process. The rising tide

of protectionism in the developed countries has eroded our markets and has had very serious effects on our efforts to increase export earnings, which are vitally needed for essential imports and to fulfill financial obligations. These severe difficulties and debt problems of the last few years underlines the dangers of dependence on the developed countries. It has become clear that efforts to surmount the debt trap will have to be based increasingly on our own efforts and through assisting each other to develop a Collective Self-Reliance among ourselves.

STRUCTURAL ORIGINS

The economic crisis of the 1980's has structural origins arising from the great changes which have taken place in the world in the last forty years. The internationalisation of capital markets and of production, the emergence of competing economic power centres, the growing domination of international trade by small numbers of large corporations, the dramatic changes in the technology of communications, information processing and new materials have changed the parameters of production. The world economy has become extremely inter-dependent. Unfortunately, the international economic system has not been adapted to reflect and take into account, these changes. A monetary, financial and trade system designed for the world of the 1940's could not have been expected to cope successfully, either with the problems or the opportunities of the 1980's or the 1990's, with the capability to look beyond to the challenges of the 21st century. The multilaterial economic system should have been strengthened to respond to these challenges. Regrettably, there has in fact been a perceptible retreat from the spirit of multilateralism especially in a few major developed countries.

The signs of the failure of the international economic system are visible everywhere. The efforts of millions of peoples in the developing lands to emerge out of their poverty and backwardness have been jeopardised. In fact per capita incomes in many developing countries today have fallen back to the levels of a decade ago. At the same time in industrialised countries there is unprecedented unemployment, while their projected rates of growth fall month by month. The Nonaligned Movement had put forward a series of well thought-out proposals to address the crisis afflicting the world economy. Unfortunately, these proposals made at the New Delhi Summit of 1983 and at the Harare Summit last year, have not been implemented due to the resistance of a few industrialised countries.

NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

These developments have made it increasingly clear that the key to progress in the North-South dialogue, and in the efforts of the developing countries to bring about a new international economic order, lies in our own solidarity, cooperation and commitment of purpose. South-South Cooperation would enable

developing countries to grasp their future in their own hands and make that future less vulnera-203>

ble to the shocks that arise from the ebbs and flows in the industrialised world. Effective South-South Cooperation would increase our bargaining power vis-a-vis the developed world. Indeed by demonstrating our determination and our capacity to take meaningful action, it would make the developing countries more attractive partners for the industrialised countries.

It is our hope that this Ministerial Meeting will attain two complementary and reinforcing objectives for intensifying South-South Cooperation. The first is to renew and reaffirm the total commitment of our countries to economic cooperation among developing countries and Collective Self-Reliance. During the centuries of alien rule and domination, the natural horizontal linkages between our countries withered or were deliberately destroyed and replaced with vertical links with the colonial centres. Effective ECDC will require restoring and rebuilding the historical and natural bonds among our- selves. The great Argentine economist, Raul Prebisch, identified many years ago the dilemma of the developed centre and the backward periphery. That is our colonial past - it need not remain our sovereign future. Reshaping these linkages will require sustained determination but the rewards when we achieve it will be commensurately great in terms of stability and growth, sovereignty and self-reliance.

PROMISING AREAS OF ECDC

The second aim for us this week should be to focus our commitment on the most promising areas of ECDC and give form to that commitment by specific programmes. The Fifth Meeting of the Coordinating Countries of the Action Programme for Economic Cooperation (APEC) held in New Delhi last year proposed a far reaching streamlining of the Non-aligned Action Programme, which was approved at the Summit at Harare. In particular, the original 23 spheres of cooperation were reorganised into a more coherent set of 13 sectors. Other recommendations were made for improving implementation in the various sectors. The APEC now covers, in a compact way, all the important matters relevant to our development, ranging from meeting basic needs in food, agriculture and health to means for accelerating our development by the application of modern science and technology. This Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting in Pyongyang provides us with a most valuable opportunity to give a strong impetus to these activities, particularly those that could yield the most significant and early benefit to our countries in the context of the current economic crisis.

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Mr. Chairman, several years ago the Non-aligned Movement

established a Research and Information System of the Non-aligned Countries. Much progress has been achieved in this regard but the planned network of research institutions in Non-aligned Countries, which would form the System, still remains to be made operational. If each of our countries could designate a national institution for the RIS and the network could be established soon, we would have an effective means to exchange information about development concerns and about research and development directly, without having to rely on intermediaries in industrialized countries. Such a network would facilitate cooperation both in commercial and economic matters as well as in a variety of other areas including education, human resources and so on. The Report on the World Economy in the 1980's brought out by the RIS just before the Harare Summit is a good example of the type of independent research work that our countries should increasingly undertake in the future.

Perhaps the single most significant achievement in ECDC over the last decade has been the launching of the negotiations for establishing the Global System of Trade Preferences. The GSTP has the potential for altering the structure of international trade in favour of developing countries. Most of our countries, however, face an acute and persistent shortage of convertible currencies. In order, therefore, to -204>

ensure that the full potential of trade growth can be realised, modalities will have to be found to help finance the expanding trade flows, inter alia, through payments and currency arrangements. Such monetary cooperation would support trade expansion measures. We hope that this Meeting would be able to give a political commitment to bringing about a payments arrangement among interested developing countries as a complement to the trade preferences already under negotiations. Existing regional or sub-regional payments or clearing house arrangements could serve as building blocks for the global system. A process needs to be initiated for each region or sub-region to examine ways to strengthen existing arrangements, and set up new ones and to link these together, so that over a period of time our objective of a global payments system among developing countries could be realised. Developing countries would then have mutually reinforcing trade and payments arrangements to underpin their commercial exchanges.

Commodities are an area of vital concern to a large number of developing countries. We have talked about cooperation in this sector for many years but little so far has been done. The collapse of commodity prices in the 1980's sharpens the urgency for cooperation in this area. Sharing of research and development experience, joint marketing, harmonization of production and pricing policies, measures to improve access to markets and competitiveness vis-a-vis synthetic substitutes could constitute elements of a meaningful programme. The coordinating countries

for commodities should give early attention to such measures.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Science and Technology is another sector where cooperation among our countries would be very useful. It is self-evident that the hopes of our countries to improve the conditions of life for our peoples depend on the increasing application of modern technology to production. However, the question of what is the most suitable technology given the conditions in our countries, is not an easy one. Quite often, the most appropriate technology may be available from a fellow developing country but the necessary information about it is lacking. We must put in place effective modalities to create awareness in each country, of what is available in others. This will be a major step towards our Collective Self-Reliance. The RIS network could facilitate the exhange of information if this is available in member countries. India would be happy to work with other interested countries to prepare such inventories of technologies.

One of the important initiatives undertaken in the field of science and technology is the proposal to establish the Centre for Science and technology of the Nonaligned and other developing countries. India's offer to host this Centre in New Delhi has been endorsed by the Movement. While preparations for its establishment are continuing satisfactorily, unfortunately the required number of countries are yet to sign and ratify the Statute of the Centre. Only a few more countries are needed to sign the Statute to reach the requisite number. I would like to express our deep hope that the required number is reached during the course of this Meeting itself. The ratification process thereafter may take some time. In order to avoid any delay, we hope that it would be acceptable to make the Centre operational as soon as the requisite number of countries have signed the Statute. We shall certainly do our best to ensure that the Centre for Science and Technology makes a major contribution towards strengthening our cooperation in this key sector.

Our countries will also need to obtain advanced technology from enterprises in the industrialised countries. Most of us have had experience in dealing with such enterprises, particularly the transnational corporations which possess a large proportion of such advanced technology. Exchange of this experience between ourselves could be helpful in our efforts to acquire the technology and to improve the terms on which it is obtained. This process could be carried out under the aegis -205>

of the Centre for Science and Technology as well as through direct contacts.

Developing countries since the inception of the programmes of cooperation under the Non-aligned Movement and the Group of 77 have made very serious efforts to initiate serious cooperative ventures. We in India have given the highest priority to intensifying our econome relations and commercial exchanges with developing countries. A number of specific agreements have been concluded at the bilateral, trilateral, regional and multilateral levels. Inspite of our own acute shortage of resources, we have also implemented a technical and economic assistance programme to share expertise, technology and experience in fields ranging from agriculture, small-scale industries to medicine and engineering with a large number of our fellow developing countries.

AFRICA FUND

We have also had the privilege of being closely associated with the AFRICA Fund which was one of the major accomplishments of the Harare Non-aligned Summit. After the Summit Meeting of the AFRICA Fund Committee in New Delhi, our joint efforts have resulted in raising significant resources for the Fund. The AFRICA Fund is an extremely important example of a Non-aligned initiative for cooperation, one that has generated considerable resources to assist our brothers in Southern Africa who are facing intolerable burdens. We hope that all countries contribute to the Fund according to their capacity to do so.

Mr. Chairman, our countries are confronted today by what is perhaps the most difficult international economic environment in the last four decades. Resources are limited and our efforts must therefore be focussed, in ways that make the optimum use of the scarce savings that represent the sacrifice of our poor peoples. In this context ECDC is an idea whose time has come, a means to ensure that each of our countries benefits from, even as it contributes to, the development of fellow developing countries. Every successful ECDC initiative will strengthen the credibility and significance of ECDC as a whole. This in turn will generate new interest in initiating further efforts and set up a self-reinforcing, virtuous cycle. ECDC and Collective Self-Reliance will then start to make a visible and tangible impact on our development prospects and thus reinforce the position of the developing countries as a whole in the global economy.

Non-aligned and other developing countries have long sought to bring about a just and equitable world order. Such a new order will require a determined and sustained struggle from all of us. Collective Self-Reliance and cooperation among our countries will show to ourselves, and to the international community as a whole, our inherent capacity and resolve. This is essential, for as our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, said in his Inaugural Address to the Ministerial Meeting of Developing Countries on the GSTP, in New Delhi in July 1985, and i quote:

"If we are to carry conviction with others, We must demonstrate our will by creating a new order in areas in which we can act ourselves."

Thank you.

DIA NORTH KOREA USA INDONESIA YUGOSLAVIA EGYPT ZIMBABWE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jun 09, 1987

Volume No

1995

NON-ALIGNMENT

Concluding Speech by Shri Tiwari

The following is the concluding speech by Shri N. D. Tiwari, Minister for External Affairs, Government of India on behalf of the Asian Group at the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference of Non-aligned countries on South-South cooperation in Pyongyang on Jun 13, 1987:

Mr. Chairman, it is with a profound sense of satisfaction and pride that i take the floor to speak on behalf of the Asian -206>

Group at this concluding session of the NAM Ministerial Meeting on South-South Cooperation. This has been the first such meeting that the Movement has ever devoted entirely to our mutual economic cooperation.

The Pyongyang Meeting developed as a result of the initiative taken by His Excellency, the President of the D.P.R.K. Kim II Sung. The President's vision regarding South-South Cooperation was articulated in his eloquent Inaugural Address that we were privileged to hear on the first day of our Meeting. The inspiration provided by this Address has been of great importance during our deliberations this week as we have sought to intensify ECDC and to strengthen our Collective Self-Reliance.

One of the first expressions of the concept of ECDC was perhaps at the Conference of Afro-Asian Peoples at Bandung 32 years ago. As we look back through the perspective of those 32 years, we can comprehend how far we have come from those initial steps. Our countries, which were dominated by centuries of alien rule, had slowly lost contact with fellow developing countries. Awareness of what was happening in each other's societies had greatly eroded. Over the last three decades we have painfully re-built

our bridges to each other, and constructed on this foundation a sound structure of cooperation among our countries. Some are disappointed that South-South Cooperation has not already made more of an impact. All, however, recognise the immense potential of ECDC to liberate us from the poverty and vulnerability which has characterised too much of our past, and so open the way to a new path of development.

The first steps of any journey are the most difficult. But in these years from Bandung to Belgrade, New Delhi and Harare from the first NAM Summit to the Eighth, a clear conceptual framework for South-South Cooperation has emerged. We have not only considered, but also set up a variety of mechanisms and modalities to promote ECDC and Collective Self-Reliance. These modalities would continue to develop, the successful ones would be multiplied and extended, while the less successful ones will have to be modified and adapted.

During the last five days we have had the opportunity to review and take stock of the state of our cooperation, to identify the weaknesses and to strive to overcome them. Important decisions have been taken in the fields of food and agriculture, health science and technology, trade and monetary cooperation, information exchanges. A particularly happy feature of these last few days is that during the course of this Meeting the requisite number of signatory countries have signed the Statute of the Centre for Science and Technology of Nonaligned and other developing countries so that the Centre can start functioning in the near future. It is a matter of satisfaction for the entire Movement that this important initiative for which we have worked for so long has become a reality in Pyongyang. May I express our thanks to all those who cooperated to make this possible.

Mr. Chairman, today, the Non-aligned and other developing countries have before them the opportunity to establish a new system of trade and payments for their countries, They have the possibility of accelerating their pace of development and improving the conditions of life for their peoples through cooperation in the application of modern science and technology. If we act collectively to turn these possibilities into reality, we will take significant steps towards restructuring the present inequitable international economic relations.

IMPORTANT INITIATIVE

Pyongyang has also provided the occasion for the first meeting of the NAM Ministerial Standing Committee. This is an extremely important initiative of our Movement, and one, which we hope will reinforce our cohesiveness and solidarity in dealing with key international economic issues.

In our efforts to find new ways to strengthen our cooperation we must not

forget our brothers and sisters whose efforts in developing their own countries are hampered by the hostile acts of external powers. Thus, we have had an opportunity to review the situation in the Palestine at the Meeting of the Committee of Nine on Palestine and in our Declaration and Plan of Action we have expressed our feelings and anguish at what is happening in Southern Africa. We will have other opportunities soon in the Movement to review these questions and develop further our response to them.

This first South-South NAM Ministerial Meeting marks a watershed point. It has taken us a long time and the collective efforts of our Statesmen, intellectuals and negotiators to bring us here. We are confident that we now have the will, the vision, as well as the means, to put in practice the many ideas and proposals which we have studied and examined. The goal of self-reliant development today lies before us tantalizingly. Pyongyang has shown us the way how we can join hands to reach out collectively to attain this goal as we go back to our countries, let us examine in depth what our respective countries can do for more economic and commercial cooperation amongst us bilaterally and multilaterally, and get our Governments and concerned Depatrments to move more effectively and firmly in the desired direction.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Nonaligned countries of Asia, it is my happy privilege to thank the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Great Leader of the Korean People, Kim II Sung, the leadership and people of Korea, for the cordiality, warmth and friendliness which has made a deep impression on each one of us here this week. I would also like to express our gratitude and deep appreciation for the way you have personally conducted our meetings and the guidance you have provided us throughout.

Mr. Chairman, to quote the phrase made famous by the late President Samora Machel, A Luta Continua - the struggle goes on. After Pyongyang we are sure that our economic endeavours will be illuminated by a new spirit and a surer sense of direction.

Thank you.

DIA NORTH KOREA INDONESIA USA YUGOSLAVIA ZIMBABWE KOREA

Date: Jun 13, 1987

Volume No

NON-ALIGNMENT

India to Help in Removing Imbalances in Information Flow

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 10, 1987 of the address by Shri Ajit Panja Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting at the Information Ministers' Conference in Harare:

The Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Ajit Panja, today offered to share its experience with other developing countries to help correct the imbalances in information flow and to ensure that all countries come to possess at least the basic infrastructure of relevant mass media.

Shri Panja was addressing the Second General Conference of Information Ministers of Non-aligned countries in Harare today.

Shri Panja urged the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) to take steps to disengage itself from the throtling hold of the western global information system and work for an effective information grid that reflects the ardent and cherished aspirations of the third world.

The Minister told the NAM Information Ministers at their threeday conference that opened here that NAM would continue to resist the unjust flow of information in the world.

Shri Panja said while fighting the menace of misinformation and disinformation spread by the developed west, NAM was facing the twin challenges of spreading extensive awareness about events in their correct perspective and about develop -208>

ments in the third world in their relevant contexts. It was a formidable challenge with which we have been graplling for a long time - a challenge that had to be met squarely, resolutely and with continuing vigour, he added.

The Minister said that the Non-aligned News Agencies Pool had stabilised itself and was poised for further growth, but to make it an effective instrument of decolonisation of information it was imperative that its stories find increasing utilisation by the end-users in member countries. He said that for this purpose there was heed for an institutionalised mechanism to monitor the progress periodically.

Turning to Southern Africa, Shri Panja said it should be the movements's endeavour to provide on priority, support to the news agencies of the front-line African States, to the South-West Africa Peoples' Organisation (SWAPO), and to the African National

Congress.

The All India Radio and Doordarshan were giving due prominence to issues and events in Southern Africa, and he referred to the recent NAMEDIA Conference in New Delhi to sensitise the media and the people to the epochal events in Africa.

Pledging unequivocal support to the UN body, Shri Panja said India greatly appreciated efforts of the UNESCO and the International Programme for Development of Communication (IPDC) towards providing consistent technical guidance and funding the national, regional and inter-regional projects for establishment and expansion of the communication infrastructure in the developing countries.

DIA ZIMBABWE USA

Date: Jun 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Remarks by Pakistan Contrary to Simla Agreement

The following is the statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jun 10, 1987 in New Delhi:

Our attention has been drawn to the remarks made by the Official Spokesman of the Pakistani Foreign Office on the 3rd June, 1987, expressing concern about the recent disturbances in Meerut and Delhi. We have also seen reports of uncalled for comments made by some Federal Ministers of Pakistan in this regard. These remarks and comments are contrary to the Simla Agreement and constitute an interference in our internal affairs. It is, therefore, regrettable that they should have been made.

KISTAN INDIA

Date: Jun 10, 1987

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Wall Street Journal Report Denied

Statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 10, 1987:

With reference to the article in Wall Street Journal by Jim Courter, Republican representative from New Jersey, the official spokesman described as false and baseless the report that the Nicobar Islands are being used by Soviet Naval submarines. -209>

DIA USA

Date: Jun 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Dhaka Protests Rejected

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Jun 30, 1987:

The Bangladesh Government had protested to us about two alleged incidents on June 1 and June 18, respectively, involving the border security force. The Bangladesh Government claimed that on both these occasions, the Border Security Force had intruded into Bangladesh territory and fired upon and killed 11 Bangladesh civilians in the first incident and 7 Bangladesh rifles personnel in the second incident on June 18.

We have thoroughly investigated these alleged incidents and find that the reports about border security force having crossed into Bangladesh territory are totally baseless and fabricated. The Government of India has rejected these protests and expressed its dismay at these protests to the Bangladesh Government. The acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh Ahmed Tariq Karim was today called to the Foreign Office and given a protest against the baseless allegations which were being made repeatedly by the Bangladesh Government. The Government of India have also protested to the Government of Bangladesh at a recent incident involving an attack on our High Commission premises in Dhaka by

around 30 persons. We have protested at the fact that law enforcement agencies in Dhaka did not prevent the demonstrations and also did not make any effort to stop the demonstrators from attacking and damaging our Mission premises. The attention of the Government of Bangladesh has been drawn to their responsibility for according due protection to our Missions in that country.

NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date: Jun 30, 1987

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE

Shri Natwar Singh Inaugurates Asian Seminar on Palestine

The following is the text of a press release of the speech by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Natwar Singh, while inaugurating the Asian Regional Seminar and the NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine here today, (New Delhi, Jun 08, 1987):

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Delhi for the Asian Regional Seminar and the NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine which is being organised by the UN Committee on the exercise of Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in cooperation with the Department of Public Information.

The role of public opinion in pursuading Governments to adopt policies aimed at the resolution of the problem cannot be underestimated. The Seminar/NGO Symposium is one small but significant attempt in the moulding of international public opinion for the Palestinian struggle.

The Palestinian issue remains one of the great tragedies of our times. For many decades the Palestinian people have seen only war, misery, suffering and the subjugation of their homeland. At a time, when all but a few nations have broken the shackles of colonialism and become free, our brethren in Palestine continue to suffer. Yet they continue to make sacrifices and to fight for the most fundamental of human rights - the right to self-determination and the right to live in freedom and with dignity. -210>

The problem is as old as the United Nations itself. For forty years, the comity of nations has not been able to resolve the problem. Why is this so? What are the obstacles which impede

progress on this crucial issue. What more needs to be done? I hope the seminar and the symposium over the next few days will discuss and ponder over these issues and provide fresh insight into some of them.

It is not my intention to delve into the history of the Palestinian problem which is well known. I leave to our distinguished panelists and experts to add new insights.

The Israeli Government over the years has been following a twopronged policy. On the one hand, they have sought through various means to consolidate their position in the occupied territories and have attempted to make irreversible their annexation of territory. They have tried to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territories by encouraging Jewish migration into their areas. New settlements and other permanent structures have come up. An unlawful declaration regarding Jerusalem as the "capital" city of Israel has been made and efforts to seek recognition for this illegal act from foreign governments continue. Unfortunately, some Governments have supported this policy by moving their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem. On the other hand, Israel has tried to completely destroy and decimate the movement for national liberation of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. The invasion of Lebanon and the attack on PLO headquarters in Tunisia are some of the Israeli actions that can be viewed in this context.

COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT

This policy is, however, self-defeating. There can be no security for the States of the region unless a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem is arrived at. Mere aerial bombardment of PLO Headquarters and the killing of some valiant freedom fighters cannot stifle the innate human desire for freedom and liberty, the need for self-determination.

For every fighter killed, a new one is born. Every fresh Israeli attack, makes the PLO stronger and more vibrant to enable it to carry on its struggle for liberation with renewed vigour.

India had even during the days before independence recognised the historical, cultural and national identity of the Palestinian people. The leaders of our freedom movement supported the aspirations of the Palestinian people for their own national homeland. This support has continued after India's Independence. In 1980 we accorded full diplomatic recognition to the PLO, as the sole and authentic representative of the Palestinian people. Our commitment to the Palestinian cause and to the PLO has been consistent. As the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said at the Harare Summit of Non-aligned countries in 1986, and I quote

PLO AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVE

"We shall stand by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole and authentic representative of Palestine, in their struggle to secure for their people their inalienable national rights and inevitably they will".

We do not believe that partial or piecemeal solutions would bring about lasting peace. Furthermore, the settlement must be premised upon certain fundamental principles - the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and their right to return to their homeland. We believe that the Palestine issue is at the core of the conflict in the Middle-East and that there can be no peace in the area unless this issue is resolved.

It is in this context that the call by the United Nations to convene an International Peace Conference on the Middle-East assumes paramount importance since it remains the only peaceful option for the settlement of the Middle East question.

The efforts of the international community in recent months have focussed on ways and means to convene such a Conference. We are happy to note that those who were earlier disinclined to the Con-211>

ference now recognise that this is the only way left for achieving peace.

In the United Nations, the Secretary General has initiated a process of discussions with the permanent members of the Security Council and those directly concerned.

The recently released report of the Secretary General on the Question of Palestine and the Situation in the Middle-East, we are happy to note, gives ground for cautious optimism. The Secretary-General has said that unlike the previous years, this year none of the permanent members of the Security Council opposed in principle, the idea of convening an international Conference under U.N. auspices. While differences remained amongst the permanent members on various substantive and procedural issues, such as the setting up of a preparatory Committee, the Secretary General noted greater flexibility on some of these issues.

These developments are encouraging and our efforts must continue. A comprehensive political settlement can be achieved only if all concerned parties display the necessary political wisdom and foresight.

JUST STRUGGLE

Long years of war and deprivation have not subdued the ardour of the Palestinians for their own homeland. If at all, it has only strengthened it Through all its years of travail Palestinian nationalism has emerged stronger and deeper. As was shown at the last session of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers, the Palestinians today are even more united and determined to continue their struggle. Their struggle is a just one. It is our duty to provide all assistance to them.

I am happy to inaugurate this meeting. May I wish you all success in your deliberations.

DIA USA ISRAEL LEBANON TUNISIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ZIMBABWE ALGERIA

Date: Jun 08, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Inaugural Address by Prime Minister

The following is the inaugural address by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India at the third session of the council of Ministers of the South, Asian Association for regional cooperation in New Delhi on Jun 18, 1987:

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are delighted to welcome back to Delhi our friends, the distinguished Foreign Ministers from our neighbourhood. We hope that you and your delegations will enjoy a comfortable stay here despite the rigours of the weather. Our seasons too - the hot and the humid as much as the cool and the bracing - are a part of our sharing under SAARC!

We met here in Vigyan Bhavan four years ago to sketch out the first tentative beginnings of the cooperative endeavour which was to grow into the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Inaugurating that meeting, Smt. Indira Gandhi said:

"There are many regional organizations, some fully developed, some still at a tentative stage ... Let us not be disheartened if we have some difficulties and differences to contend with. We are at the beginning of what promises to be a useful journey."

We have done much to fulfil that promise, perhaps much more than any of us would then have imagined. -212>

We have put in place firm institutional foundations. We have a charter of principles and a programme of work. We have fashioned

modalities of cooperation carefully tailored to the realities and compulsions of our region. We have drawn upon our ancient traditions of conciliation, consensus and concord while responding to contemporary circumstances. We have imparted strength and durability to our cooperation. South Asian cooperation is not a blind imitation of the experience of others. It is an authentic expression of our particular needs, our particular priorities and our particular genius.

Good work has been done in the months that have elapsed since Bangalore. Progress has been especially heartening in the two new areas of cooperation identified at the Dhaka Summit: women in development; and the prevention of drug trafficking and drug abuse. We have achieved a breakthrough in defining areas of joint action against terrorism - a breakthrough of significance for deliberations in global forums.

VIABLE REGIONAL COOPERATION

We had emphasised at Bangalore the need for our Programmes to go beyond governments and officialdom, to reach out to our peoples. Viable regional cooperation must impact on the lives of the people in palpable, tangible manner. There is evidence of a growing awareness of this in the plans of action being elaborated by the Technical Committees. One would hope that the political-level consideration of the new ideas starting today will help deepen popular participation and popular involvement in our programmes of regional cooperation.

The momentum of our work can be accelerated only by the impetus of fresh thinking. Consolidation is important, but not enough. There must also be expansion and growth. We have before us the proposal to establish a South Asia Food Security Reserve. Where twenty years ago many of us were still dependent on food imports for survival, our remarkable achievements in agriculture have made it feasible to counter scarcities and unexpected shortages by recourse to our own resources. Our national self-reliance as countries would be reinforced by a framework of regional self-reliance.

We share common aspirations for our people. We need peace for development. We strive for economic growth and social progress. We must conserve our environment. We must preserve our heritage. This is our responsibility severally as independent nations and jointly as members of this association for regional cooperation.

Geography has given us something of a distinct identity. History binds us. Culture is a unifying factor, provided it is founded in a respect for our diversities and a celebration of our interaction. Our problems are many, but similar. One country's solutions often find validity in another. Indeed, cooperative solutions may well be the quickest and most effective. We have inherited the wisdom to work towards living with each other in

peace, amity and a fruitful cross-fertilization of experience and ideas.

It is in this spirit that I welcome you once again to New Delhi. You have a challenging task ahead of you. I am confident that your meeting will take us further ahead. The people of South Asia join me in wishing you good luck and all success.

Thank you. -213>

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BANGLADESH

Date: Jun 18, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Shri Tiwari's Statement

The following is the Opening Statement by Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs, at the Third Session of the Council of Ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in New Delhi on Jun 18, 1987:

Distinguished Foreign Ministers and Delegates, allow me, first of all, to extend to you our most cordial welcome to Delhi. I hope your stay here would be comfortable and the results of our deliberations, constructive and fruitful. We shall spare no effort in making you feel at home during your stay in Delhi.

Excellencies, maintenance and strengthening of friendly relations with all our neighbours has always been and will continue to remain the most important objective of India's foreign policy. We have been making an assiduous, persistent and painstaking endeavour in this direction. We know it only too well that to do so is in the interest of our own people and stability and prosperity in our region. Though not a pre-condition for the success of cooperation under SAARC, the resolution of bilateral differences between member countries will contribute a great deal to promoting regional cooperation.

It is at the same time important to remind ourselves that relations between neighbours cannot be wholly free from problems. That is why cooperation under SAARC is predicated on the premise that our common concerns should be considered more important than

our individual differences. We should seek to derive full advantage from whatever unites us. Ours is an effort to widen the areas of agreement and cooperation in spite of bilateral differences. This is precisely the reason why we took a conscious decision not to burden SAARC with our bilateral concerns. For, we realised that by doing so we will end up in a stalemate and miss the immense opportunities that regional cooperation offers.

WELFARE OF PEOPLE

We all have the same concern for the welfare of our peoples. The masses in each one of our countries are waging the same struggle to improve their lot through economic and social development. There are numerous complementarities between our economies which remain to be exploited. Our cultures, outlooks and values spring from the same common source. We have a common heritage that goes back to at least three millennium. Now that we have broken past barriers and embarked on regional cooperation, we should not allow any inhibiting barriers of the past to cast their shadow on the present and future.

Distinguished delegates, since we met in Bangalore, there have been further disconcerting developments in the world economic situation. The developing countries continue to be trapped in the twin crisis of debt and development. The economies of the developed countries are growing at a very slow rate and the prospects for the future are for an even slower rate of growth. The rates of interest in the developed market economy countries have started rising again, thus further retarding growth and aggravating the crushing debt burdens of the developing countries. The exchange rate fluctuations have become even more volatile and the payment imbalances wider than before. As a result, one hears the rumblings of trade war between the major economic powers much too frequently for the comfort of any of us.

UNCTAD-II

The world monetary, financial and trading systems are in disarray and no serious effort is under way to address the grave systematic problems of the world economy. There is a general trend of drift and uncertainty regarding the approach to be followed to deal with these problems. The major economic powers are not able

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to agree even among themselves as to how to remove the present imbalances and reactivate growth. And in their discussion of issues which affect the economic destiny of all nations, they are showing no inclination to associate the developing countries which have come to play an increasing role in the global economy in the post-War years. The fate of UNCTAD-VII hangs in thin balance because of the unwillingness of the developed market economy countries to negotiate on any substantive issues and

their concerted onslaught on the very role and purpose of UNCTAD as an institution.

In this context, the decision taken at the Bangalore Summit of institutionalising Ministerial-level consultations among SAARC countries in order to adopt a common position on global economic issues, acquires a special significance. We believe that a Ministerial meeting some time in September this year would be very timely. This will enable us to make an assessment of the outcome of UNCTAD-VII and the Fund-Bank meeting and review our position on the ongoing Uruguary Round and GSTP Negotiations.

Excellencies, the process of the consolidation of the institutional base of SAARC is continuing. The inauguration of the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu earlier this year marked a very important step in this direction. I have great pleasure in welcoming to this Meeting of the Council of Ministers, the Secretary General and his Directors. The Secretariat is still in the process of being fully established. We hope that it would soon assume its main role of facilitating better coordination and implementation of SAARC Calendar of Activities.

In Bangalore, we decided to undertake a review of the progress made in processing various proposals for the establishment of regional institutions under SAARC. The position that emerges from the reports submitted to us on this subject is that a sense of realism is replacing the earlier enthusiasm in advancing proposals for the creation of regional institutions.

The process of institution-building is, by its very nature, slow and requires a thorough examination of all the implications if the institutions to be established are going to be viable and useful for all the member countries.

Ever since the launching of South Asian cooperation, we have laid particular emphasis on approaches and programmes which are designed to bring our peoples together. In this context, the five New Ideas advanced and approved by our leaders in Bangalore, constituted a landmark. These ideas have now been translated into concrete programmes. The Standing Committee has formulated specific decisions to be taken by us in this regard. Let us adopt these decisions so that the implementation of these schemes can commence as early as possible.

AUDIO VISUAL EXCHANGE

The launching of these programmes will impart new dimensions to regional cooperation. Through SAARC Audio Visual Exchange (SAVE), the peoples of the entire region will share a common telecasting and broadcasting experience. The SAARC Chairs, Fellowships and Scholarships will bring our scholars together. The SAARC Documentation Centre will be of great help not only to our scholars but also to functionaries in the Government and private

sector. These programmes together will contribute to the promotion of mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of each other's problems.

The Group of Experts on Terrorism which was reconvened in Delhi shortly after the Bangalore Summit has fully discharged its mandate by identifying terroristic acts which for the purpose of extradition should not be considered as political. This is a major step towards facilitating cooperative action among the member countries for combatting the menace of terrorism.

EXPANSION OF COOPERATION

Areas of cooperation under SAARC have gradually expanded. In the course

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of time, we have to further enlarge the scope of SAARC cooperation. Among the additional areas which are of vital concern to our economic well-being and in which the member countries have expressed interest from time to time, are trade, industry, energy, money, finance and environment. Cooperation in these areas offers the most far-reaching opportunities for bringing direct benefits to our people, for equalising gains from cooperation and for harmonising policies. It will also open avenues for more effective participation by the SAARC countries in South-South and North-South cooperation.

The question of accepting external assistance for SAARC activities and the establishment of links between SAARC and outside agencies has been agitating our minds for some time now. We should not expect others, for reasons of altruism or lofty principles, to divert their resources to finance our future. The external resources come from the same kitty of the aid-giving countries and it will be simplistic on our part to believe that the same countries which have been so insensitive to our requests for resources at the global level, will suddenly become generous at the regional level. We have, therefore, no alternative but to mobilise our own resources and to join our efforts together to find common solutions to our common problems.

Distinguished delegates, by embarking upon regional cooperation, we have set in motion a historic process. At the Dhaka Summit, our leaders provided a firm institutional basis for such cooperation. At Bangalore, they consolidated and strengthened this base and added many new dimensions, particularly in order to ensure that regional cooperation did not remain merely a business of governments but became a peoples' movement. We have now to build further on this foundation so that in not too distant a future, SAARC becomes one of the few success stories in the otherwise frustrating history of regional cooperation. We in India are fully committed to extending our full support for realising this objective.

Date: Jun 18, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Strengthening and Consolidation

The following are the opening remarks and statement by Shri K. P. S. Menon, Foreign Secretary, Government of India on Jun 16, 1987:

Distinguished Colleagues and Delegates, allow me to extend to you all a cordial welcome to Delhi. We shall do our utmost to ensure that you have a comfortable stay here despite the difficult weather conditions these days.

I am personally very happy to have this opportunity to participate in the meeting of the Standing Committee for the first time and to address this gathering in my capacity as the Chairman. I would also like to welcome in our midst the new Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Mr. A. M. Nazrul Islam. We look forward to working with him for the strengthening and consolidation of SAARC. To his predecessor, Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, I would like to convey our best wishes.

IMPORTANT DECISIONS

At the Bangalore Summit, our leaders took a series of very important decisions and placed heavy responsibilities on us to follow up these decisions. The last seven months have, therefore, seen a great deal of activity with the inauguration of the SAARC Secretariat, the convening of the meeting of the Group of Experts on New Ideas, the re-convening of the meeting of the Expert Group on Terrorism, and the convening of the meeting of the Expert Group on the Sharing of the Costs of Regional Institutions and the latest round of the meeting of the Technical Committee. This gives us a wealth of matters for -216>

consideration at the Standing Committee.

We have now our own Secretariat, which was inaugurated in Kathmandu soon after the Bangalore Summit. I have great pleasure in welcoming our Secretary General and his colleagues. One of the problems that SAARC has been facing is the coordination and monitoring of the SAARC Calendar of Activities, which has until now been done by individual member Governments. This cannot, in its very nature, be entirely satisfactory. We, therefore, look forward to the Secretariat taking over the functions of coordination and monitoring of the SAARC Calendar of Activities, as its primary role. We are prepared to extend to the Secretary General all possible assistance in promptly taking over this responsibility. At this session, we would also be giving our full attention to the proposals made by the Secretary General regarding salaries, emoluments, Staff Rules and the general working of the Secretariat.

GROUP OF EXPERTS

The agreement reached by the Group of Experts on Terrorism, which was reconvened in accordance with the instruction given by our Heads of State or Government, is indeed a breakthrough. The Group has succeeded in identifying a list of offences of a terrorist nature which, for the purpose of extradition, are not to be regarded as political. This is no mean achievement considering that there are very few forums in the world today where such an identification has been possible, and that too after prolonged debate.

We have had an extraordinarily successful meeting of our experts on New Ideas, held in New Delhi in February, 1986. This is yet another demonstration of our capacity to evolve bold and innovative schemes to expand the horizons of our cooperation. In advancing and reaching an agreement, in principle, on the New Ideas, our leaders sought to open new avenues for bringing our peoples together. We have no doubt that the schemes now fully worked out, for promoting organised tourism with limited convertibility of currencies, institution of SAARC Chairs, Fellowships and Scholarships, establishment of a SAARC Documentation Centre, SAARC Audio-Visual Exchange, and the launching of a Youth Volunteers' Programme, will go a long way towards enabling our people at different levels to interact with each other and promoting a sense of South Asian identity.

I would like to congratulate the members of the Working Group on the Sharing of the Recurrent Costs of Regional Institutions for the efficient and effective manner in which they have been able to formulate their suggestions. I particularly welcome the recommendation that regional institutions should grow from and be established in association with existing national institutions. This is a practical and highly cost-effective approach for giving concrete shape to one of the most important aspects of regional cooperation.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

It is customary for us in the meeting of the Standing Committee to review the activities of the Technical Committee and take decisions on issues referred to us. I would like to begin with the newest Technical Committee established in pursuance of the decision taken at the Bangalore Summit, i.e. the one on the Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Abuse. Its report clearly demonstrates that it has got off to a flying start and its results fully justify the initial expectations. Regional cooperation in this area has now added the missing dimension to the national and global crusade against the twin menace of drug trafficking and abuse. The meeting has adopted measures for cooperation among drug law enforcement agencies of the member countries, particularly through a rigorous system of information exchange on all aspects of drug trafficking. We welcome the recommendation of the Committee on the harmonisation of drug legislation of member countries in order to deter traffickers from exploiting the diversity of laws in the SAARC region. -217>

We also attach great importance to the programme of cooperation worked out by the Committee for the education, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and for the involvement of the NGOs in the prevention of drug abuse.

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

India had the privilege of convening the second meeting of the Technical Committee on Women in Development. One of the important activities proposed in this meeting was a workshop on the problems of the female child, an area which has so far remained neglected. The two other important programmes carried out in this field have been the seminars on Women and the Environment held in Islamabad and that on Women on the Law held in Dhaka. These seminars addressed some of the root causes of the problems that women face in our region today. Our leaders have given directives to the Technical Committees increasingly to build activities related to women and the survival and development of children, into their work programmes. In this connection, we are glad to note that the Technical Committee on Women in Development and Rural Development are planning workshops relating to children in their areas. Other programmes of this nature which can be carried out under the aegis of the Technical Committees are child immunisation, improvement of drinking water supply, improvement of nutritional standards, and the prevention of diseases which particularly afflict children.

As the Chairman of the Technical Committee on Postal Services, India convened its fifth session in New Delhi from the 10th to the 12th March, 1987. In this meeting the project document on the establishment of a Regional Research and Development Centre was thoroughly discussed and a revised version prepared. We hope that this Centre will soon be given a concrete shape. We shall be introducing International Speed Post Services with some SAARC

countries following the recommendation of the Technical Committee. We are also happy to note that the exchange of commemorative stamps has already begun.

AGRICULTURE

In the field of agriculture, it is gratifying to note that all the programmes included in the Calendar of Activities have been implemented. Among these, was the meeting of Plant Exploration and Related Activities, recently held in New Delhi in order to assess the prospects of cooperation for the utilisation of plant and genetic resources for crop improvement. Our region is one of the world's richest repositories of plant genetic wealth and we should share and husband these precious resources. We are glad to note that the document on the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre will be finalised by the next session of the Standing Committee. We hope that the proposed Seminar on Forestry would come up with concrete proposals to save our fast depleting forest cover and thereby prevent ecological degradation.

An important achievement in the field of telecommunications has been the commissioning of the international subscriber dialling services between India and Bangladesh. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Bangladesh inaugurated these services on Bangladesh's National Day, i.e. 26th March. We shall be introducing a similar facility with Nepal and Pakistan soon and thereafter with other memeber States of SAARC. This will remove one of the biggest anamolies whereby we have to go via London or Hong Kong in order to communicate with places just 50 miles across our borders.

SPORTS, ART AND CULTURE

The last meeting of the Technical Committee on Sports, Art and Culture provided new momentum to activities in this area. A major event planned is the Historical Congress to be held in Dhaka in September this year. We have reason to be satisfied with the follow-up action taken on the recommendations of the Archaeological Congress held in India last -218>

year and with the fact that this Congress has now been institutionalised with offers already made for hosting the second and the third Archaeological Congress.

We are going to add yet another new dimension to our cooperative endeavours through our recommendations to our Ministers for the establishment of a South Asian Food Security Reserve. When implemented, this project will go a long way towards mitigating human sufferings in our region.

Distinguished colleagues, the external economic environment in which we have been pursuing our national development efforts and

regional cooperation has seldom been more adverse. We are facing the problem of ever increasing resort by developed countries to protectionism in different forms and shapes against our exports, high rates of interest which retard growth and add to our debt burdens, and volatile exchange rates which have introduced a great deal of instability and uncertainty in the international monetary and trading systems. The flow of official development assistance to developing countries has declined in real terms. Financial flows from commercial markets have virtually dried up and private capital flows to developing countries have remained stagnant for the last few years. Low rates of growth of the developed countries and the projections of still lower rates of growth in these countries in the coming years, is not going to make our tasks easier.

All this underscores the supreme importance of our endeavours under SAARC. Let us impart further depth and dimension to regional cooperation and make it really comprehensive by encompassing those vital areas which are still left out and without which no regional cooperation can realise its full potential.

Distinguished colleagues, we have a heavy schedule and we need to apply ourselves to the tasks before us with zeal and in the usual SAARC spirit. You can count on the full cooperation of my delegation in the accomplishment of these tasks.

DIA BANGLADESH USA NEPAL MALDIVES CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN UNITED KINGDOM HONG KONG

Date: Jun 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Report of Third Session of Ministers

The following is the report of the third session of the Council of Ministers:

At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of India, the SAARC Council of Ministers held its third session in New Delhi from Jun 18-19, 1987, under the Chairmanship of Mr. N. D. Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs of India and the leader of the Indian delegation. The list of participants and the agenda of the session are attached as Annexures I and II respectively.

The meeting of the Council of Ministers was inaugurated by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India. On behalf of the Foreign Ministers of SAARC countries, Mr. Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal thanked the Prime Minister for his inaugural address.

The Council considered the report of the Standing Committee on its eighth session commended the Committee for its work and endorsed the report. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation for the work of the Programming Committee at its third session.

The Council expressed its satisfaction at the tangible progress made in the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Action. They emphasized that SAARC should concentrate on concrete and action-oriented projects and programmes which could bring direct benefits to the people and that greater discretion should be exercised in the selection of activities in different sectors.

Views were expressed that there was an urgent need for cooperation in the field -219>

of mass media. Such co-operation could take a number of forms such as establishing a common SAARC news agency, instituting an annual SAARC award to a journalist from the region and greater involvement of media in SAARC.

In pursuance of the directives given by the Heads of State or Government at the Bangalore Summit, the Ministers undertook a review of the proposals for the establishment of regional institutions. They endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group on the Sharing of the Institutional Costs of Regional Institutions and the decisions taken by the Standing Committee on the issues referred to it by the Working Group. The Ministers also endorsed the procedures laid down by the Standing Committee for expediting the processing of proposals for the establishment of regional institutions. They stressed that economy and optimum efficiency should be the twin criteria governing the establishment of such institutions. In this connection, they attached particular importance to the recommendation of the Working Group that regional institutions should be established in association with national institutions.

The Ministers expressed the hope that with the establishment of common criteria and procedures relating to the administrative structure and financing of regional institutions, it should be possible to establish some of the proposed regional institutions without much delay. At the same time, they recognised that the process of institution-building was, by its very nature, slow and required a thorough examination of all the implications if the institutions to be established were going to be viable and

beneficial to all the member countries.

The Ministers endorsed the procedure approved by the Standing Committee for further considering the proposal for the establishment of a multi-sectoral investment institution.

The Council approved the Standing Committee's decision that the Rules of Procedure as revised by the Programming Committee at its third session, continue to be applied on a provisional basis.

The Ministers regarded the establishment of the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu as a landmark in the process of the consolidation of the institutional base of SAARC. They felt that measures should be taken to enable the Secretariat to discharge its functions effectively. They urged the member countries to assist the Secretariat in taking over the functions of monitoring and coordination of the implementation of SAARC activities presently done by member Governments.

The Council endorsed the Staff Rules and Financial Regulations approved by the Standing Committee and the decisions taken by the Committee on the "Draft Provisions relating to salaries, allowances and other entitlements of the Secretary-General and the members of the staff of the Secretariat."

The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the five New Ideas endorsed by the Heads of State or Government at the Bangalore Summit had been elaborated into concrete programmes. They were convinced that these programmes would play a significant role in bringing the peoples of SAARC member countries together. The enhanced interaction amongst them would foster goodwill and trust which, in turn, would open new vistas of regional cooperation. The Ministers:

- a) endorsed the report of the Meeting of Experts;
- b) approved the following five schemes elaborated and concretised by the experts:
- i) SAARC Audio Visual Exchange;
- ii) Organised tourism among SAARC member countries, including facilities for limited convertibility of national currencies;
- iii) SAARC Documentation Centre; -220>
- iv) SAARC Chairs, Fellowships and Scholarships;
- v) SAARC Youth Volunteers Programme;
- c) fixed the dates of commencement of the implementation of the schemes as follows:

i) SAARC Audio Date of the Visual Exchange opening of Third SAARC Summit

ii) Organised 1.7.1988
tourism among
SAARC member
countries, including facilities
for limited
convertibility
of national
currencies

iii) SAARC Docu- To be fixed mentation Centre later

iv) SAARC Chairs, Academic Fellowships and year com-Scholarships mencing in 1988

v) SAARC Youth To be fixed Volunteers later Programme

- d) requested the member Governments to initiate the necessary administrative actions, including the designation of focal points, where necessary, in order to enable the commencement of the implementation of the schemes on the dates suggested above and at the earliest possible dates for those schemes for which no dates have been fixed; and
- e) requested the member Governments to nominate as early as possible their representatives on the SAVE Committee, Programme Committee to Review and Monitor the Progress of SAVE, and the Documentation Expert Committee as recommended in paragraph 12 of the Group of Experts on the SAARC Documentation Centre.

The Ministers accepted the recommendations contained in the report of the second meeting of SAARC Group of Experts on Terrorism. They called upon member States to take early measures to implement these recommendations, particularly by enacting amending national legislations relating to extradition, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 4 of the report. They decided to convene a Group of Legal Experts of SAARC member countries to prepare a draft regional convention on terrorism for consideration at the ninth session of the Standing Committee. The Ministers thankfully accepted the offer of Sri Lanka to host the meeting.

The Council decided to establish the South Asian Food Security Reserve and designated the SAARC Secretariat to function as the Secretariat of the Reserve. It requested the member countries to examine the draft Agreement and to complete the necessary formalities with a view to singing the Agreement at the forthcoming Kathmandu Summit.

The Ministers considered the letter of March 30, 1987 from the Secretary-General of SAARC to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers on some aspects dealing with the role, powers and the functions of the Secretary-General and the SAARC Secretariat. They requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive draft containing specific suggestions covering the various points raised in the letter. They laid down the following interim guidelines on the question of dealing with different institutions under the UN System, regional bodies, voluntary organisations and the countries outside SAARC:

"Regarding communications received by the Secretary-General from such bodies and individuals which intend to elicit information regarding SAARC,

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the Secretary-General has the authority to provide such information, as adopted and approved by member Governments. Each case of request for formal contact, cooperation, linkage or consultative status between outside organisations and countries should be submitted to the Standing Committee and the Council of Ministers. The Secretary-General should inform the requesting organisations that all initiatives for such linkages, contacts or consultative status would come from SAARC itself."

The Ministers recommended to the Heads of State or Government of the member countries that the third SAARC Summit in Kathmandu be held from 2-4 November, 1987.

The Ministers decided to hold the fourth session of the Council of Ministers in Kathmandu immediately prior to the third SAARC Summit.

On behalf of the Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, H.E. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan presented a vote of thanks to the people and Government of India for the meticulous arrangements made for the Third Session of the Council of Ministers and for the gracious hospitality extended to the visiting delegates. He also conveyed their deep sense of appreciation to the Chairman for the skillful manner in which he steered the deliberations of the Session to a successful conclusion.

Date: Jun 18, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Banquet Speech by Shri Tiwari

The following is the text of the speech by Shri N. D. Tiwari, Minister of External Affairs, at the banquet in Moscow on Jun 05, 1987:

Excellency and distinguished guests, I am happy to be in this great country yet again. We have been overwhelmed by your gracious hospitality, your courtesy and kindness. It is a greater pleasure to be in Moscow in spring. Spring is for lovers of beauty and nature. To us too this spring is dear, coming as it does in the wake of the historic Gorbachev visit to India last winter. Also because this spring is the harbinger of the high noon when our Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi comes here on 3rd July.

I would like to reciprocate simply and truthfully your sentiments about me and my country and our relationship. I am, therefore, not going to paraphrase what you have said so eloquently.

Our talks this morning reflect the depth of our mutually beneficial bilateral relationship. Although our two countries follow different socio-political systems, we share our commitment to peace and peaceful coexistence. We both desire accelerated economic development of our economy. We have great areas of complementarity and the willingness to share our experience and capabilities. The cooperative ventures of the last three decades are ample testimony of our spirit of cooperation. The vision of Pandit Nehru and of Smt. Indira Gandhi to nurture friendship with Soviet Union continues undimmed in India, as it does in the Soviet Union. Our friendship is a shining example for other countries.

We are meeting in Moscow in the age of `Perestroika'. These are exciting and -222>

challenging times. We wish you success, which will undoubtedly crown your courageous and innovative efforts. This period is also ushering in new forms of economic, commercial and technical cooperation. We should counsel patience, flexibility and imagination to ourselves as we are exploring together a new territory. Perhaps we would need not just mutual understanding but empathy.

We are encouraged that after more than three years of difficult negotiations, contracts have been signed for two hotels as also for the first Indo-Soviet joint venture in the form of an Indian Restaurant. We should drink to this perhaps now, with the hope that we will eat in it next time we are together in Moscow.

I would now request you all to rise and drink with me a toast to 'Indo-Soviet Friendship', Indo-Soviet Cooperation and finally to the health and happiness of H.E. Mr. V. M. Kamentsev.

Thank you.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date: Jun 05, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

MAMC to Supply Manganese Steel Castings Worth Rs. 17 Crores to USSR

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 02, 1987 on the contract by MAMC to supply manganese steel castings to USSR:

A contract for the supply of manganese steel castings and other mining equipment by Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC) to USSR valued at Rs. 17 crores were signed in New Delhi and Durgapur. These orders to be implemented over a period of 18 months, is the largest contract of its kind by MAMC.

MAMC is a Government of India undertaking under the Department of Public Enterprises. MAMC is engaged in the manufacture of mining equipment for coal mines, iron ore mines etc. as well as bulk handling equipment used for thermal plants and ports.

Shri R. K. Vachher, Director (Marketing), MAMC signed the contract on behalf of MAMC and Mr. I. E. Vodopianov, President of V/O Prommashexport signed on behalf of USSR in New Delhi for the supply of manganese steel castings.

A delegation of V/O Prommashexport, USSR, led by their President Mr. Vodopianov and Mr. B. F. Shalnov visited Durgapur for negotiations and contracts for supply of mining equipments like winches and drums worth Rs. 5 crores were signed by Shri Utkal K. Roy, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of MAMC at Durgapur. The delegation was assisted by Mr. Motorin the resident representative of PME.

The export target of MAMC for the year 1987-88 is Rs. 15 crores compared to last years export of Rs. 11 crores. The company has already made shipments worth Rs. 3 crores in first two months and another Rs. 2.5 crores is scheduled for June 1987. The target of Rs. 15 crores will be exceeded and the next years target is likely to be much higher.

Total order book of MAMC is sufficiently large for the next two years. The overall target fixed by the company for current year is Rs. 91 crores which will be an all time high. MAMC after a gap of 10 years was able to turn the corner and declare a profit for the year ending March 31, 1987. Current orders from V/O PME will provide the loading for the plant and give the much required continuity.

The MAMC is also making serious efforts to export their products to other countries also. Negotiations are under advance stage with Zimbabwe and Vietnam and contracts are likely to mature in next few weeks.

The MAMC has exported machinery worth Rs. 64 crores till date to USSR and in addition has supplied machinery to Afghanistan, Turkey, Syria etc. -223>

Date: Jun 02, 1987

A INDIA RUSSIA VIETNAM ZIMBABWE AFGHANISTAN SYRIA TURKEY

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Government of India's Messages to Colombo

The Government of India sent three messages to the Government of Sri Lanka on the urgently needed relief supplies to Jaffna through the Indian Red Cross. The text of the messages are as

follows:

MESSAGE DELIVERED TO SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 1

The population of Jaffna, already suffering extreme hardship under the five-month old economic blockade imposed upon them by their own Government, are now becoming the victims of an all out military assault as part of what has been described as a "fight to the finish". Thousands have already been killed in the ethnic conflict and hundreds more are dying as the defenceless civilian population is subjected to sustained strafing and bombing from the air and artillery shelling from the large numbers of old and new military camps.

Although attempts have been made to keep this tragic story from the world by a communications blockade and by sealing off Jaffna from the rest of the world, reports are already filtering out of large scale civilian deaths, property damage, leaving thousands homeless and acute shortages of food, medicines and shelter. Even hospitals have become targets leaving the population without adequate medical facilities.

In response to this tragic situation, and motivated by humanitarian considerations the Government and people of India propose to send urgently needed relief to Jaffna through the Indian Red Cross. These supplies will be sent by sea to Jaffna City starting on June 3, 1987. The supplies will be inspected by the Indian Red Cross. The Sri Lanka Red Cross is invited to joint in this inspection. The convoy, which will be on a humanitarian relief mission, will not be armed nor will it have any armed escort. Representatives of Indian and International media will be invited to accompany the boats to Jaffna so that they can report on the relief operation. Personnel of the Indian Red Cross will accompany the relief convoy to distribute the supplies directly to the persons needing relief. We hope that the Sri Lanka Red Cross will cooperate and participate in this humanitarian mission.

The concurrence of the Government of Sri Lanka may kindly be conveyed urgently so that relief can reach the long-suffering citizens of Jaffna without further delay.

TEXT OF MESSAGE CONVEYED TO MR. A.C.S. HAMEED, F.M. OF SRI LANKA THROUGH SHRI J. N. DIXIT, HIGH COMMISSIONER

We thank the Sri Lankan Government for agreeing to participate in this humanitarian undertaking in the spirit of good neighbourly relations. As indicated in our earlier message, in view of the urgency it is proposed to despatch the relief goods from Rameshwaram on June 3. The Sri Lanka High Commissioner in New Delhi may, therefore, be kindly authorised to immediately nominate a representative to join the international media to inspect the relief goods for despatch.

TEXT OF MESSAGE SENT TO SRI LANKA THROUGH SHRI J. N. DIXIT, HIGH COMMISSIONER ON JUNE 2, 1987 AT 5.00 P.M.

We have seen the reply of the Government of Sri Lanka conveyed through High Commissioner Dixit this morning. The Government of India would like to reiterate that in view of the prolonged suffering and agony of the people of Jaffna it is imperative that relief goods from Rameshwaram proceed to Jaffna without delay.

In view of this urgency Government of India is surprised and deeply distressed by reports that Sri Lankan naval authorities have distributed leaflets to owners -224>

of fishing boats in the Rameshwaram area threatening to shoot and sink any Indian boat that approaches Sri Lankan waters. The Government of India again urges the Government of Sri Lanka to extend support and cooperation in its efforts to provide much needed humanitarian assistance to the people of Jaffna.

I LANKA INDIA USA **Date**: Jun 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Shri Rajiv's Gandhi Expresses Sorrow

The Official Spokesman issued a statement which expressed the anguish of the Prime Minister at civilian casualties in Amparai:

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has learnt with deep sorrow and anguish of the killing of innocent civilians in Amparai district of Sri Lanka, an official spokesman said here today. The Government of India strongly condemns the action of those responsible for the killing of innocent civilians.

I LANKA INDIA

Date: Jun 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Essential Supplies to Jaffna

The following is the statement by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jun 02, 1987:

At the outset I would like to say that at the present moment the Foreign Secretary, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister Shri N. Krishnan, and Secretaries in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri A. S. Gonslaves and Shri A. B. Gokhale are in the process of briefing foreign envoys resident in New Delhi about our offer of humanitarian assistance to the people of Jaffna and the efforts we have made to obtain the support of the Government of Sri Lanka. Earlier we received information from Rameshwaram that Sri Lanka has distributed leaflets to the owners of fishing boats in the Rameshwaram area threatening to shoot and sink any Indian boat that approaches Sri Lankan waters. We have therefore asked our High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Shri J. N. Dixit to convey the following to the Sri Lankan Government and this is also being given here to the Sri Lankan High Commissioner Mr. Tilakaratne:

"We have seen the reply of the Government of Sri Lanka conveyed through High Commissioner Dixit this morning. The Government of India would like to reiterate that in view of the prolonged suffering and agony of the people of Jaffna it is imperative that relief goods from Rameshwaram proceed to Jaffna without delay.

In view of this urgency, Government of India is surprised and deeply distressed by reports that Sri Lankan naval authorities have distributed leaflets to owners of fishing boats in the Rameshwaram area threatening to shoot and sink any Indian boat that approaches Sri Lankan waters. The Government of India again urges the Government of Sri Lanka to extend support and cooperation in its efforts to provide much needed humanitarian assistance to the people of Jaffna".

I would also like to inform you that apart from 90 Journalists, 8 Doctors from Delhi and a 6 Member delegation of the Indian Red Cross led by Dr. M.L. Gupta of the Indian Red Cross have gone to Madurai. Senior Officials of the Government of India have also been deputed to co-ordinate the work of sending the essential supplies to Jaffna. They are:

(1) Mr. Moses, I.A.S. - in Madras;

- (2) Mr. Madhavan Nambiar in Madurai; -225>
- (3) Mr. Madhav Sharma in Rameshwaram.

The essential food items and other supplies that have already reached Rameshwaram are: 850 tonnes Rice, 50 tonnes Pulses, 5 tonne Salt, 8 tonnes Vegetable, 10 tonnes Skimmed Milk Powder, 18 tonnes Edible Oil, 150 kg. Tamarind, 50 thousand Match Boxes and 60 thousand Bread Loaves. Medicines, Medical Kits and Kerosene have also reached there. These items are to be loaded and despatched to Jaffna tomorrow.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date: Jun 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Inspection of Convoy by Red Cross

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jun 03, 1987:

A convoy of unarmed and unescorted Indian ships carrying relief supplies, medicines etc. on behalf of the people and Government of India has been inspected by the Indian Red Cross and a group of Indian and foreign journalists. The convoy consists of 19 boats and one vessel carrying Indian and foreign journalists and the Indian Red Cross personnel. This convoy has left for Jaffna. The Official of the Government of India accompanying this convoy is Mr. D. K. Maitra, Director in the Ministry of External Affairs.

We are in continuous touch with the Sri Lankan Government in this regard.

It is understood that the Indian Red Cross has received a message from the President of the Sri Lankan Red Cross that they are willing to work with the Indian Red Cross.

I LANKA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA

Date: Jun 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Convoy Stopped by Sri Lanka Navy

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jun 03, 1987:

The convoy carrying relief supplies for the suffering people of Jaffna was stopped by the Sri Lankan Navy off the Kachchathivu Island. Shri D. K. Maitra is holding negotiations with the Sri Lankan Navy to expeditiously ship the relief supplies and Medicine to the suffering people of Jaffna.

I LANKA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: Jun 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka Urged to Permit the Supply Vessels

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jun 03, 1987:

When I had spoken to you earlier today I had mentioned that the Sri Lankan Navy had stopped the convoy of unarmed and unescorted Indian vessels from carrying the relief supplies for the people of Jaffna. The Official from the Ministry of External Affairs Shri D. K. Maitra who has proceeded with the convoy has been in touch with the Sri Lankan Naval Officers and urged them to permit the vessels to proceed ahead to carry the relief supplies for the beleagured people of Jaffna.

We are seriously concerned and deeply distressed that on one pretext or another the Sri Lankan Navy is deliberately preventing the convoy from moving forward. We are continuing our efforts to

persuade the Sri Lankan Navy not to stop us from taking the relief supplies for the people of Jaffna. Our convoy has been halted for nearly 5 hours. The Sri Lankan Navy's attitude appears to be deliberately negative and obstructive.

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I LANKA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA

Date: Jun 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Return of Relief Convoy to Rameshwaram --- Statement of Official Spokesman

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jun 03, 1987:

The Government of India had, earlier today, expressed its serious concern and deep distress that the unarmed and unescorted convoy of Indian relief vessels had been stopped from proceeding forward while carrying relief supplies for the people of Jaffna, by the Sri Lankan Navy. A short while ago the Indian relief convoy received the following message from the Sri Lankan Naval Commander:

"I have been directed to inform you to remain where you are and not to enter the territory of Sri Lanka. I have been charged with the responsibility of protecting our territorial sovereignty to the best of my ability".

In the light of the implicit threat held out by the Sri Lanka Navy it was clear that the Government of Sri Lanka was determined not to allow the relief mission to proceed further ahead. There was, therefore, no alternative for the relief convoy which was proceeding on a purely humanitarian mission but to return to Rameswaram.

The Government of India strongly condemns the action taken by Sri Lanka gun boats in forcibly preventing the convoy of Indian relief vessels carrying urgently needed and essential items and medicines from proceeding to Jaffna. This action of the Government of Sri Lanka in preventing the urgently needed relief supplies from reaching the long suffering people of Jaffna, coming in the wake of the five month long economic blockade and the brutal killings of hundreds of innocent civilians in recent

weeks by the Sri Lanka armed forces makes it clear that the Government of Sri Lanka is determined to continue denying the people of Jaffna their basic human rights.

The Government and people of India are deeply concerned at the continuing hardships inflicted by the Government of Sri Lanka on their Tamil people indefiance of world public opinion. They cannot remain indifferent spectators to the plight of the people of Jaffna, many of whom, have in recent years, fled their homes to seek safety and refuge in India.

I LANKA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jun 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Refusal of Sri Lanka to Allow Humanitarian Supplies -- Statement of Official Spokesman

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 04, 1987 of the statement of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on the refusal of Sri Lanka to allow humanitarian supplies:

Consequent upon the refusal of the Sri Lanka authorities to allow our unarmed and unescorted boats carrying humanitarian supplies to get through to Jaffna yesterday, accompanied by the officials of the Indian Red Cross and representatives of the international media, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner Mr. Bernard Tilakaratane was called to the Ministry of External Affairs today. The Sri Lankan High Commissioner was informed by the Minister of State for External Affairs K. Natwar Singh that in keeping with its commitment to provide humanitarian assistance to the long suffering and beleaguered people of Jaffna the Government of India was dispatching a consignment of urgently needed relief supplies by air, which would be para-dropped over Jaffna by transport aircraft. These Indian air force transport aircraft would be duly escorted to ensure their defence in case they are attacked while on flight.

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The relief supplies being sent to Jaffna by air have been inspected by a large group of Indian and foreign journalists, some of whom are to fly in the transport aircraft.

This action had to be undertaken because the continuing deterioration of the condition of the civilian population of the Jaffna penninsula, which is of legitimate concern to the Government and people of India, has serious implications for peace and security in the area.

It is our sincere hope that the Government of Sri Lanka will extend its full cooperation in ensuring the unobstructed completion of this humanitarian mission, in the context of the traditionally friendly relations between India and Sri Lanka.

I LANKA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jun 04, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Relief Supplies Sent by Aircraft

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jun 04, 1987:

The aircraft which had proceeded to Jaffna for airdroping urgently needed relief supplies have successfully completed their Mission, which was humanitarian in providing supplies to the needy people, and have returned to base around 6.30 p.m. Five AN - 32 Air Force aircraft carried the relief supplies and were escorted by four Mirage 2,000 aircraft. They did not encounter any ground fire.

I LANKA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jun 04, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Government and Opposition Leaders' Statement on Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 4, 1987 of the statement adopted at the meeting of opposition leaders with the Prime Minister in New Delhi on Jun 04, 1987:

The aerial supply of humanitarian relief materials to the Jaffna peninsula of Sri Lanka today is a token of India's deep and abiding concern for the sufferings of the Tamil people of that area. It should be seen against the background of our friendship and good neighbourly relations with Sri Lanka and our consistant wish that the ethnic discord in Sri Lanka be resolved through a political settlement. We trust that the blockade enforced against Jaffna will end and military action, leading to large-scale distress and death, will be given up. India continues to stand for a peaceful solution of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka within the framework of the unity and territoiral integrity of Sri Lanka.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date: Jun 04, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Modalities of Relief Supplies - Communique

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jun 15, 1987:

The Government of India has been consistently stressing the urgent need to provide relief supplies to the population of Jaffna, and has been discussing this with the Sri Lankan Government. We have kept in close touch with and consulted the Indian Red Cross on the details throughout this process. These discussions were carried out by the High Commissioner of India in Colombo, Shri J. N. Dixit and the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. A.C.S. Hameed. After a final discussion lasting over one hour, today the two sides have reached an agreement on the modalities to provide relief supplies to the people of -228>

Jaffna. The text of the Communique agreed upon is as follows:

Taking into account discussions between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka from June 1, 1987 onwards;

Motivated by, the desire to provide relief supplies to Sri Lankan citizens on the Jaffna peninsula, and appreciating that Sri Lanka has accepted the offer, desiring to sustain and further the good neighbourly relations between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka and respecting Sri Lanka's sovereignty and territorial integrity;

It was agreed today (15th June) between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka in Colombo that the following will be the modalities for despatch of relief supplies from the Government and people of India to Sri Lankan citizens on the Jaffna peninsula:

- (i) Relief supplies will be sent by Indian vessels upto Kankesanthurai. The Indian vessels will be unarmed. Prior to loading, relief supplies will be inspected by representatives of the Indian Red Cross and by any representatives of the Sri Lankan Government that it may choose to nominate;
- (ii) The Government of India will convey in advance the route that Indian vessels will take from ports in India to Kankesanthurai. The Sri Lankan Navy will escort these vessals when they enter Sri Lankan territorial waters. The Sri Lankan naval and port authorities concerned will make necessary arrangements to receive these Indian vessels bringing in supplies.
- (iii) Logistical arrangements for offloading of supplies at Kankesanthurai Port, arrangement for the transportation and distribution of goods to areas in Jaffna Peninsula (including the Vadamarachchi region, Tenamarachchi and Vallikamam west region and Jaffna City) will be undertaken by the Government of Sri Lanka through the Government Agent, Jaffna, and the following agencies will be associated with the distribution of humanitarian aid:
- (a) Six representatives of Sri Lankan Red Cross including representatives of the Jaffna Chapter.
- (b) Six representatives of the Indian Red Cross.
- (c) Representatives of the Jaffna Multipurpose Cooperative Societies.
- (d) Two representatives of the Government of India/Indian High Commission.

Precise tonnage/description of relief supplies to be despatched by India will be decided mutually through normal diplomatic channels."

It was agreed that the despatch of relief supplies will commence as soon as possible.

I LANKA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jun 15, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

India and UNDP Sign Agreements

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 05, 1987 on the signing of agreements by India with UNDP:

India and United Nations Development Programme have signed agreements here today for Drug Abuse Control Training in Public Administration and procurement of equipments from developing countries including India. The agreements were signed by Shri M. S. Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of Government of India and Mr. G. M. -229>

Hamdy, Resident Representative of UNDP on behalf of UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) and United Nations Development Programme. The total contribution committed by the UNFDAC and UNDP in these projects is US \$ 21.467 million.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Mukherjee said that UNDP's contribution will be a big milestone in international cooperation on Drug Abuse Control. Recalling the Prime Minister's emphasis on modernisation and training, Mr. Mukherjee said that the Project of Training in Public Administration will go a long way in building up a cadre of experts in management and control. With the signing of the Project on Procurement equipments from developing countries Shri Mukherjee expressed the hope that the procurement from India will be maximised.

Thanking the Government of India for enlisting the cooperation of UNDP in a greater measure Shri Hamdy disclosed that the Project on Drug Abuse Control was their first major collaboration with India. On procurement project, Shri Hamdy said that it will not only result in increased procurement from India but also heighten the response of the Indian goods to the world market.

The first agreement signed was a Memorandum of understanding between the Government of India and the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control. Under this MOU, UNFDAC undertakes to commit US \$ 20.0 million as an initial budget framework from its resources towards specific projects and programmes to be jointly agreed upon by the UNFDAC and the Government of India, within the framework of the basic master plan. UNFDAC assistance will help India in supplementing the measures against various aspects of drug abuse control. This is the first time that UNFDAC has extended assistance to India in this magnitude for drug control activities.

The second agreement pertains to project on training in public administration. Against Government of India input of Rs. 5.35 million, UNDP contribution to the project would be \$ 1.35 million. UNDP assistance is expected to provide a selected group of senior administrators with advanced refresher training in various fields of development administration, through participation in formal courses at leading institutions in the world. UNDP will assist in exploring the possibility of establishing linkages with renowned foreign institutions for subsequent 'twinning' arrangements between the Indian training institutions and the institutions abroad. UNDP would also help in imparting training to middle level administrators and upgrading the quality of training programmes for middle and junior level administrators in India.

The third agreement pertains to Increased Procurement from Developing Countries. Government of India had been looking forward for ways and means of stepping up procurement of equipment from developing countries under the various UN programmes. UNDP assistance to this project in monetary terms though modest (\$ 117,000) will be critical as an instrument for spin off of procurement contracts. The projects aims to familiarize potential suppliers in India with UN system of agencies and their procurement procedures and to advise them on preparation of bids and proposals which meet the bidding requirements in the UN System. The roject would also help to provide for the UN System of Agencies information booklets which would contain data on common user items available in India giving full specifications, prices, ordering points, delivery terms and freight costs to various destinations.

The UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) was founded 15 years ago to finance coordinated action on the international front against drug abuse, drug trafficking and production of illicit drugs. The fund is supported by voluntary contributions from the UN member countries.

The UNDP is the central funding agency of the UN System for technical assistance activities. The UNDP technical -230>

assistance programme in value terms may not be as high as capital aid but is of critical nature and important in qualitative terms since it helps the developing countries in bridging technological gaps and in developing their human resources. UNDP's technical asistance programme in India is the largest in the world.

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Date: Jul 01, 1987

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HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Meeting of World Commission on Environment and Development -Prime Minister's Address

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 10, 1987 of the speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the meeting of the World Commission on Environment and Development in New Delhi on July 6,1987:

Prime Minister Brundtland, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you to India and to Delhi. Unfortunately, we have not been able to provide you a better environment for your meeting in the midst of Delhi's summer.

You represent the global concern with environment. We have learnt in the past years that disregard of the environment can be crippling to development, and that reckless industrialisation brings about irretrievable spoliation. Man, with modern technology at his command, has for the first time the power to destroy the environment around him and create a situation from which he will not be able to come out no matter how technologically advanced he may be. We must utilise technology for protecting the environment and not for abusing it.

The WCED report shows that without environmental preservation there can be no sustained development, and that for accelerated economic development we need environmental conservation. We welcome Prime Minister Brundtland and her colleagues as fellow campaigners in a world wide movement to link development concerns with environmental issues. I should like to give a special welcome to all the Ministers and others who have come from various countries of Asia.

The ancient Indian tradition points out that man can be happy only if his life is in harmony with the environment. The modern technological civilisation has in fact waged a war on the environment. We must get back to harmony between human beings and nature.

The old civilisations of Asia have supported vast populations. Over the years, we have used just about every square inch of land for cultivation. Our large populations have put pressure on lands on which forests grew. There do not seem to be any virgin forests any longer. The need for conservation is that much greater.

DEVELOPMENTAL PRIORITIES

If the environment is to be protected, world-wide and within our own countries, we need to have a relook at our developmental priorities. We cannot develop if we do not see the larger picture. We can develop only if we see humanity as one without

any barriers, without putting pressures on each other. This applies to relations between industrialised and developing countries. Within developing countries it applies to relations between the richer and poorer. We see conspicuous consumption by the rich. We find that a great degree of pollution is created by the richer sections of society. Those who suffer are the poor. The more advanced a country gets, the more the demands of the rich, the more the pressure on the poor. We cannot build walls at the end of our garden and separate human beings from each other. We must see each other as one family.

Environment consciousness is growing in India. I have seen in just the few years that I have been in Parliament that there -233>

has been a complete change in the attitude of our Members of Parliament. Only a few years ago, when any project was delayed for assessing its environmental consequences, Members of Parliament were eager to get it released quickly. The question that was often put was "What is this new Department of Environment which is blocking all progress?" But in these few short year, we have seen a total reversal of this attitude. Today, whenever a project comes to Parliament, the first question that is raised is "How has Environment cleared this project? What compromises have you made?" This is a positive step. But we still have to transform this into a mass attitude at the grassroots level. When there is a flood or a drought, the people should be able to relate it to their own actions and their consequences in terms of environmental degradation.

Our deserts are spreading. We have terrible problems of deforestation, of soil erosion, of water-logging, and soil salinity and alkalinity, floods and droughts. We have a flood and the soil is washed off. The following season we have a drought, because there is no water.

The environment and development go together. We cannot stop one for the other. Our development must be designed in such a manner that it does not destroy the environment but builds the environment, restores it to health, gives jobs and better lives for the poorer people who are affected.

PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Thanks to this widespread recognition of the importance of protecting our environment, we have been able to bring about a comprehensive new Act on protecting our environment last year. We have set up a National Wastelands Development Board whose target is to reclaim five million hectares per year once it gets going at full-speed. We have started a major programme of cleaning our rivers starting with the Ganga. At the last big Mela that took place in Hardwar, the water was clean enough to be drinkable directly from the river. Our objective is that by the time the

next major fair comes along in January 1989 in Allahabad, the Ganga there will be clean enough to drink from.

Conservation strategies have been worked out for ecologically fragile zones. We have 127 agro-climate zones for which we are setting up National Agricultural Research Projects. For endangered plants and animal species, we have established biosphere reserves and taken many other measures. We are making the planning and implementation agencies responsible for environmental consequences of their developmental activities. It is also necessary to see that work that has already started does not further damage the environment. We shall, I am sure, benefit tremendously from international cooperation in protecting the environment. We ourselves are ready to contribute what we can to international cooperation in building a movement that will protect the environment and link environment to development and to a new economic order.

Your report describes the seamless web of causes and effects which weave together an area's economy and ecology.

POLLUTION CROSSES BOUNDARIES

Environmental degradation is not limited by man-made frontiers. The environmental chain, such as atmospheric pollution, pollution of the oceans and river systems crosses political boundaries. It can not be switched off and on at international borders. Secondly, the international economic system impinges on global environment and the national environments. Poverty in developing countries and excesses in the industrialised both lead to depletion of natural resources without renewal or replacement. The rich countries and the rich in developing countries consume far beyond their needs in resources and energy, and that in turn puts pressure on the poor. Unless we are able to balance both and work at both ends we shall not be able to come to a satisfactory solution. What is needed is an integration of the global environmental system with an in -234>

ternational economic order which is more just and more equitable.

For protection of the world-wide environment, we need high rates of growth in developing countries. As Indira Gandhi said in Stockholm in 1972: "Poverty and need are the greatest polluters". Until we can remove poverty, until we can give the basic minimum needs to all, the poor will feel no stake in the environment. Fuel and fodder are two basic requirements of the poor. In the old days, the environment provided them freely. But today they are becoming so scarce that women have to go very long distances to get what they used to obtain at their doorstep. The women in the village, especially in hill areas, are spending almost their whole day in getting fuel to cook their food and fodder to feed their animals.

In many regions, the poor have lived in forests for centuries without damaging them too much. In our system of development and modernisation, we have brought roads into these areas and have opened up the areas. But these roads do not help the poor so much as they help the rich to send away the products of the region for their own greed.

This is true of the international scene also. Development must not mean that the rich countries develop at the cost of the poor. The flow of resources to developing countries must be adequate. The debt burden today is pushing many countries to exploit their resources and their environment in order to repay those debts. The terms of trade are skewed in such a manner that the value of primary goods is going down. Larger quantities of resources are being taken out of the ground to get the same amount of earnings.

SECOND-LEVEL-TECHNOLOGY

Technology is not parted with easily. It is given when it becomes second-level or on very harsh terms. It makes it harder for the developing countries to use technologies which will protect the environment.

Such measures are not conducive to self-reliance or to protecting the environment.

What we need is a global commitment to eliminating poverty. Low growth rates mean accentuation of environmental degradation. In developing countries, environmental problems arise from poverty, from pressures of the population. The question is of survival. We almost ask to a man or a woman in the village if he or she wants to survive or let the environment survive. Only if we are able to improve the quality of life of our poorer people and our more backward regions, shall we be able to protect and regenerate the environment. The people will cooperate, if the burden is not intolerable. So the promise of growth will encourage conservation. Poor growth will give little incentive to protecting the environment. What we need is a widening of the options, to prevent the abuse of the environment by poor households who are obliged to do so for their immediate needs. The human element cannot be ignored. Those affected must be protected and cushioned from the steps that we take. Those affected invariably are the poor. If for example, our legislation to conserve forests is to be effectively implemented, we must provide alternative employment, alternative income, alternative supply of food, fuel, fodder, and building material to the poor. We have tried to build these things into our forest policy.

On the same analogy, international conservation measures should also display a similar understanding of the imperatives of development in the poorer countries. As Indira Gandhi had remarked, "Twenty per cent of the world's population consumed 80

per cent of the natural resources of the globe and produced about 90 per cent of world's waste and pollution". The industrial world is primarily responsible for depleting the world's ecological capital. For development, the developing need a bigger share in global consumption. Resources must be distributed more equitably between the rich and the poor. What is required equally is that the rate of consumption of the resources of the globe -235>

must slow down. Otherwise there will be no resources left for the developing countries when they become more developed. For effective conservation, we need an equitable international pattern of consumption, specially of scarce natural resources and of energy.

RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

Development generates major environmental problems. The consequences of industrialisation are globale, cutting across political and religious boundaries. There is another boundary that is affected. We must consider whether we have the right to deprive the future generations of their future. Can we deplete the ozone shield, which affects the food chain in the oceans, and the health of every living being? Can we promote acid precipitation that kills forests and lakes? Can we allow the carbon dioxide green house effect to change our climate? Are these not part of the heritage which must be handed down to the coming generation? Or can the present generation claim the sole right over such heritage? We have seen in the past years how just slight change of temperature in the lower depths of the Pacific has affected the climate in Northern Africa, leading to droughts and famines as in Ethiopia.

This perhaps is a portant of what could happen everywhere on the globe in the future. The realisation must come that everyone is affected. There are no boundaries, no barriers. Every action affects every human being, whether in an industrialised or developing country. We must see the environment from that point of view. Yet we treat environmental policies as national policies or regional matters. The developing are not listened to, their interests are not considered. What we need to evolve is the involvement of the entire international community on a footing of democratic equality. We look to your commission in helping to bring about such an awareness in the world.

U.N. IS THE RIGHT FORUM

We need greater commitment from the international community. The U.N. is the right forum to undertake corrective action. The effects of pollution and degradation hit poorer nations and poorer households disproportionately harder. We have seen what happened in Bhopal in 1984. We have seen how the rural poor have suffered from floods and droughts. Our relief work gives a rough

measure of the way the environment is degrading. The relief that we provided in the first two years of the Seventh Plan has been of the same order that we provided in the whole five years of the Sixth Plan. In such a short time, we had to increase the relief two and a half fold. We have reoriented our relief programmes in such a way that they build up rural assets and regenerate the environment. This year the drought in some areas has been even more severe than in the past. But the effects of the drought have been less because of the drought-proofing that has been done.

National programmes must look at the weaker sections and focus on those who bear the heaviest burdens and have the least resilience. Relief measures should be conceived in such a manner that environmental upgradation takes place. Conservation of the environment is important in itself but it is also crucial to our development. It is imperative for national stability and for international peace. Indiscriminate deforestation destroys cultivable land, marginalises small farmers and swells the ranks of the landless labour. The poisoning in rivers deprives our fisherfolk of their livelihood. Poor command area development leads to water-logging and turns an asset into a liability. Unchecked urbanisation gives rise to expectations which turn into discontent.

We need to see similar international cooperation to ensure that countries and peoples who are affected most by degraded environment are protected.

The threat of instability is not only national but international. To the pressures created by poverty, add the pressures of armaments, the pressures of vested interests in maintaining a system of -236>

blocs in international politics, and we end up with a very unstable peace. If we have to fight this, we must see where to begin. The environment is an area where there is very little difference of opinion. Perhaps it is the area where international cooperation is most promising. So conservation can provide a good start to the much needed effort of building a new world.

I once again congratulate the World Commission on Environment and Development for the report it has provided under the leadership of Mrs. Brundtland. I have no doubt that the debates that you have started all over the world will help in building our common future. We shall follow with interest what other Governments will be doing. Your report, I have no doubt, will lead to an international programme to safeguard the environment through faster development of both, the industrialised and the developing countries, both the rich and the poor. I thank you on behalf of India for giving us this opportunity to play host to you.

Date: Jul 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

President Zail Singh's Farewell Broadcast to Nation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 24, 1987 of the text of the President, Giani Zail Singh's farewell broadcast telecast to the nation on July 24, 1987:

My dear countrymen, I am having the privilege of greeting and addressing you on the eve of my laying down the office of President tomorrow, which I have occupied for the last five years. It has been a rare honour you and your elected representatives conferred on a humble son of the soil like me.

As the first citizen and servant of the nation, my foremost duty has been to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and to devote myself to the service and well being of the people of India.

Though I have done my utmost to discharge these functions to the best of my ability, yet if I have ever been found wanting in any manner, I can crave only your indulgence. The love and affection showered on me by all of you will sustain me upto the end of my days and will remain my most cherished treasure.

During my tenure, I tried to meet as many of you as possible in your own States and homesteads. In view of the vastness of our land and various other factors, it has not been possible for me to visit each and every town, though I really wish I could do so.

I have always yearned for your prosperity and welfare, especially of those who are still suffering from disabilities and inequities and are struggling to attain a reasonable standard of living. I share my deep sympathy with those who are still victims of narrow prejudices and discriminations and are trying to achieve social status and self respect.

As an ancient nation, we have every reason to be proud of our rich cultural heritage. It is a land of prophets, rishis, munis, gurus, saints, seers and scholars. There is, perhaps, no other country with such a diversity of languages, faiths, creeds and customs. By forging bonds of unity, we could attain great

strength and become a mighty force.

In a democratic system, sovereignty rests with the people. They hand a mandate to the representatives elected by them. Individuals are important, but more important are the basic values and principles of democratic system. Since independence, our people have shown remarkable intelligence and maturity in exercising their democratic rights. I have abiding faith in their discerning power and their judgement.

Our national leaders had a vision and a dream for the country. They wanted to build a strong, united and prosperous India with respect and dignity in the world. It is for us to realize that dream with honesty of purpose and integrity of character. We have to place the nation above groups and parties. We have to remember that there are no higher virtues than tolerance and respect for one another and no greater sins than communal discord and hatred. And also there is no substitute for honesty and hard work. To make India great, we shall have to work with sincerity, courage and confidence.

We won freedom at the end of a long struggle. We got a chance to lead an independent national life. We set an example to scores of subjugated nations of Asia and Africa, who, one after another cast away colonial yoke and became members of the comity of free nations. As the biggest third world country, the eyes of the world are upon us. We must continue our resolve to be a citadel of peace, freedom and democracy.

I would like to say a word of appreciation and admiration for the high morale and efficiency of our defense services. They have always displayed a deep sense of devotion and dedication to defend the country against any external danger and to keep our borders inviolable. I extend my best wishes to all officers and men for their welfare.

To conclude I would like to thank all of you once again, my countrymen, for the honour you gave me and the consideration and affection with which you treated me. I do not have enough words to express my gratitude to you.

My services as a humble citizen will always be available to the nation. I do hope that all of us will continue to work to strengthen the fabric of a democratic and secular India and take it to greater heights.

Jai Hind!

DIA USA

Date: Jul 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Speech by Shri Venkataraman on Assumption of Office as President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 25, 1987 of the speech by Shri R. Venkataraman on his assumption of office as President of India:

Giani Zail Singhji, Mr. Prime Minister, Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Excellencies and Friends:

Thirty-five years ago, when, as a Member of the Parliament of India, I watched, in this very hall, the swearing-in of Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the President of the Republic of India, I did not imagine that the nation will one day confer the same honour on me.

The Presidentship of India was not one of the dreams of my adulthood. Those who participated in the freedom struggle never dreamt that they would achieve freedom during their lifetime and hold the reins of government in their hands. To them patriotism was its own justification and work its own reward. I bow my head in reverence to those soldiers of freedom - known and unknown - whose sacrifices have enabled your fellow citizen to rise to this position today.

In the galaxy of freedom fighters, my predecessor Giani Zail Singh is a shining star. The nation will always remember his contribution to the freedom struggle and to the post-independence governance of the country. His heart is truly rooted in the soil and the people of India and I wish him a long and happy life of continued service to the nation even after retirement.

I am deeply conscious of the honour bestowed on me by the people of India. I -238>

however look upon the Presidentship of India not as an office of pomp and pageantry but as a post of duty that calls for the highest standards of honesty, sincerity and objectivity. As I enter this office today in all humility, I wish to assure the nation that I shall endeavour to deserve the trust and confidence reposed in me. In the discharge of my responsibilities, namely, to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution, I shall strive

to follow the illustrious tradition set by eminent Presidents like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Radhakrishnan and Dr. Zakir Husain. I will neither fail to exercise the duties and functions attached to this high office, nor stray beyond the powers enshrined in the Constitution by the Founding Fathers.

Looking at the world around us, one finds that most of the newly independent countries which adopted a democratic form of Government, have lapsed into dictatorships. Today, India is a democratic oasis in a desert of dictatorships. It is the bounden duty of every citizen to ensure that the system of parliamentary democracy which we have worked successfully for four decades remains a permanent feature of our political system.

The Nation is on the threshold of the 40th Anniversary of our Freedom. We can be justifiably proud of our achievements during these four decades. Thanks to the policy of planned development, a great transformation has occurred in our land. We are today a nation that counts, a nation that holds the attention of the rest of the world.

But even as we register progress, formidable challenges - some old and some altogether new - confront us. Communal violence stalks the ground that we walk on; religion and language are used as instruments of disruption. Anti-social elements try to destroy the fruits of freedom. We may recall the impassioned lines of the great Tamil poet, Subramania Bharati:

Thanneervitto valarthom? Sarvesa! Ippayirai-k

Kanneeraar Kaathom; karuhathiruvulamo.

'With tears, not water, this plant of freedom we reared: Is it your pleasure, Lord, it should be seared?

Further on he said.

'Isn't sweet freedom the best of your fruits?

Will you not guard it against heartless brutes?

The great Hindi poet, Maithilisaran Gupt has made an equally, fervent invocation:

"Sab Ke hruday mein sarvada samavedana kiki daah ho, Hamko tumhari chah ho, thumko hamari chah ho."

("May every heart with sympathy burn; And I to seek your, and you my affection, learn.")

We must bear in mind that the spectre of violence and hatred is the diabolical handiwork of but a few individuals. The vast masses of our people - the sincere, hard-working and simple men and women of India - are totally and fundamentally opposed to violence. They have long known that violence never solves problems. Peace is both natural and essential to us. We cannot afford to waste time, energy or materials on internecine quarrels. I have no doubt that howsoever grim the prospect may sometime seem, the people of India will emerge triumphant from their ordeals.

The Nation needs, at this hour, consolidation and confidence. A consolidation of its gains, and the building of mutual confidence. Too many institutions and relationships have suffered an erosion of confidence. This cannot but have disastrous -239>

consequences. It will be my constant endeavour to play my due role in clearing mistrust, in strengthening the foundations of mutual understanding and confidence and in building bridges of respect between people and institutions. I appeal to all fellow citizens of this ancient land to march with firm unwavering steps towards the goal of a peaceful and prosperous India. May I conclude with the lines that Mahatma Gandhi used to cite in his daily prayer:

"Sabko sanmati de Bhagwan".

DIA USA

Date: Jul 25, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

40th Anniversary of Asian Relations Conference

The following is the text of a press communique issued in New Delhi on Jul 20, 1987 on the Asian Relations Conference:

A National Committee headed by the Vice-President of India has decided to organise a Conference this year in New Delhi to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Asian Relations Conference held in Delhi in March, 1947. The Conference, which forms part of the celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of India's Independence, will be inaugrated by the Prime Minister of India. This four-day Conference will open on October 2, 1987, which is the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, who had addressed the closing session of the Asian Relations Conference.

Forty years ago, when most nations of Asia were poised to throw off the colonial yoke and embark on their own "tryst with destiny", India took the initiative under the inspiration of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to organise the Asian Relations Conference in Delhi. The purpose of the Conference was to project the vision of a resurgent Asia, free from the shackles of colonialism, determined to shape its own destiny, and to make its own distinctive contribution to world peace, progress and harmony. This was predicted to a large extent on the rediscovery and rebuilding of the Asian identity and consciousness.

The deliberations of the Conference sounded a new note of hope for Asia. Participants were, of course, aware of the difficulties and problems that lay ahead of them. Nevertheless, there was both confidence and enthusiasm in facing the future.

During the 40 years that have elapsed, much has happened which could be regarded as a retreat from the vision projected in the Conference. This has made us more sober and realistic. At the same time, if one were to draw a balance-sheet, there would be no doubt that Asia has forged ahead in many directions and there are reasons to believe that the future holds even greater promise.

The purpose of this Conference is to look back to the Conference of 1947, take stock of the situation in Asia four decades after the vision of a united and resurgent Asia was projected in 1947, analyse the extent to which we have been able to translate this vision into reality and also, to look into the future.

The list of countries to be invited will be essentially the same as that for the 1947 Conference subject to the changes in the political map of Asia since then. Prominent personalities from Asian countries, enjoying a very high stature in their country are being invited in their individual capacity.

Following the lead of the organisers of the 1947 Conference, the agenda for the Conference will be confined to social, economic and cultural issues. There will be four sections dealing with (i) emergence of Asian identity and trends in the Asian relations; (ii) Asia in the world economy; (iii) social situation in Asia and (iv) Asia - common values and heritage.

Like the Asian Relations Conference, the commemorative Conference will be a non-governmental gathering. A Steering -240>

Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Vice President of India for providing guidance for the organisation of the Conference. The members of the Steering Committee have been drawn from a wide spectrum, including Council of Ministers, Parliament, universities, research institutions, surviving members of the Organising Committee of the Asian Relations Conference and other prominent personalities in political, economic, social and cultural fields. There is also a smaller Executive Committee with Shri P.N. Haksar as its Chairman and Shri Natwar Singh as its Vice-Chairman, for decision-making relating to the organisation of the Conference. The India International Centre, in association with other cultural and research institutions, will be organising the Conference.

DIA USA

Date: Jul 20, 1987

Volume No

1995

NORWAY

Banquet in Honour of Norwegian Premier - Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Speech

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 06, 1987 of the speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the banquet hosted in honour of the Prime Minister of Norway:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you and the members of your delegation to New Delhi. Your visit is an important landmark in the development of our relationship. We have a long history of close friednship and fruitful cooperation. There is much that is common in our quest. We seek peace and peaceful co-existence. We work for a just and equitable international order.

Jawaharlal Nehru first visited Norway on a trekking holiday when he was a student at Cambridge. He recounts in his autobiography how he slipped and fell into a mountain stream, but had a providential escape. It was nearly half a century later that he again visited Norway, this time as the first Prime Minister of inedpendent India. His visit was quickly reciprocated the following year by Norwegian Premier Einar Gerhardsen. My mother, Indira Gandhi, paid a memorable visit to your country in 1983, during which she particularly enjoyed cruising through your beautiful fjords. We were delighted to receive Their Royal Highnesses, the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess, on their official visit to India last year.

We are grateful for the cooperation extended by Norway in assisting us to develop our economy. In 1952, India became the first recipient of development assistance from Norway. You have made a notable contribution to the development of our fisheries.

We appreciate your help in many rural projects, education and health. The nature of our cooperation has been enhanced to a level commensurate with the industrial progress we have made. Our two countries have now joined hands in such diverse and advanced fields as electronics and off-shore oil development, ocean engineering and Antarctic research.

Colonialism deprived us of the opportunity of participating in the first Industrial Revolution. We are determined to catch up with the new scientific revolution that is now sweeping the world. We possess the technological infrastructure. We have the required scientific talent. Our material and financial resources are, of course, limited, but we have demonstrated our ability to absorb and adapt technology, and thereafter develop it further so that we progressively become technologically self-reliant. Technological development re--241>

quires international cooperation. Our search for the latest technology has met with mixed results. Some advanced countries like Norway have responded in a friendly and constructive manner. Elsewhere, however, we have run up against obstacles. A negative approach to technology transfer can only prove self-defeating. Given the inter-dependence of the global economy and the momentum gained by the Indian economy, there is a growing potential for fruitful mutual interaction between ourselves and partners abroad.

Excellency, your interest in the environment and the role you have played in elucidating the linkages between environment and development have conferred on you the richly deserved leadership of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Its call to realise "One World, One Destiny" finds an echo in the ancient philosophical works of India, which saw the entire world community as one large family, with related obligations and advantages.

Peace is indivisible and so also, as Nehru said, is prosperity in this one world of ours. We are now beginning to realise that the global environment, like the human family, is also indivisible. Environmental degradation anywhere causes complications elsewhere. There is an indissoluble link between any one ecosystem and all others.

India has been something of a pioneer in recognising that the conservation of the environment is not to the detriment of economic growth but the pre-condition for sustained development. The pressures of poverty and population bring about environmental degradation. Equally, the deterioration of the environment makes development more difficult. Economic growth and environmental enchancement are, thus, mutually reinforcing.

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK

We welcome the support that we have received from the World Commission on Environment and Development in seeking a voice for all developing countries, in joining the global struggle to combat the many threats to the global environment. We demand the right to be heard and the power to influence the global framework that shapes our development.

The most serious and pressing issue before the world is that of disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament. The danger to the human race is compounded by the false and misleading perceptions that nuclear deterrence can guarantee peace or forestall a holocaust. After a period when the augmentation of nuclear arsenal took precedence over disarmament negotiations, the outlook for nuclear disarmament has also become more encouraging than it has been for a long time. The proposals tabled at Reykjavik continue to be on the table and there are indications of possible moves in the direction of dismantling intermediate nuclear force. The Six-Nation Five-Continent Peace Initiative has, we believe, made an important contribution to creating an awareness and an atmosphere conducive to serious negotiations on nuclear disarmament. We urge a moratorium on all nuclear tests to facilitate the negotiating process. Norway has played an important role in helping this process.

Norway, with its fine traditions of working for international justice, has been notably active in opposing Apartheid. We hope that your example will be emulated by other developed countries. Pretoria cannot be cajold to dismantle the pernicious system of Apartheid. It should be made to feel the concerted pressure of the international community. Comprehensive mandatory sanctions are necessary to bring about a free, democratic, non-racial majority Government in South Africa and the freedom of Namibia. The Front-line States must receive financial and economic assistance to resist the perfidy of Pretoria. The Non-aligned Movement have set up the AFRICA Fund to assist those who are resisting the designs of the Pretoria regime. We are grateful for Norway's concrete support to this effort.

Please join me in a toast to the good health of Her Excellency Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway, to the friendly people of Norway, to cooperation between our two countries in the cause of a better world.

RWAY INDIA USA ICELAND SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA

Date: Jul 06, 1987

Volume No

1995

NORWAY

Memoranda of Understanding Between India and Norway Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 06, 1987 on the signing of a Memorandum of understanding between India and Norway:

The Prime Minister of Norway, H.E. Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, is paying an official visit to India from July 6 to 8, 1987. During the visit a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) on Economic, Industrial and Technological Cooperation was signed by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro and the State Secretary (Vice-Minister) of Norway H.E. Mr. Torstein Moland, on July 6, 1987.

The MOU aims at lending strength and dynamism to the rather modest existing dimensions of Indo-Norwegian cooperation Particular emphasis is accorded to a forward looking strategy, seeking cooperation in new and high technologies through joint ventures and licensing agreements in high technology areas and industrial cooperation in third countries, including through joint tendering and subcontracting.

The MOU covers a wide range of sectors from trade, maritime, offshore activities, electronics, consultancy and engineering. telecommunications to agriculture, fisheries, forestries and tourism.

It envisages periodic consultations at the officials level for effective review of the implementation of decisions taken.

The MOU will also incorporate existing MOUs between India and Norway on Electronics and Environment.

RWAY INDIA USA **Date**: Jul 06, 1987

Volume No

1995

Situation in Fiji

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Jun 02, 1987 on the situation in Fiji:

The Government of India have noted with great concern the events following the military coup on May 14 which caused the illegitimate overthrow of the democratically elected government in Fiji. Subsequent developments have enhanced our apprehensions about the future of the parliamentary democratic system and the prospects of racial harmony in Fiji.

The Government of India hope that measures towards national reconciliation and a return to democracy would fully take into account the need to consult all sections of the population so as to ensure that there is no discrimination against any ethnic group of Fiji's multi-racial society which has lived in harmony for decades.

The Government of India have been in close touch with other Governments in the Commonwealth of nations which share India's concern and with the Secretary -243>

General of the Commonwealth. India will support any Commonwealth initiative for facilitating the restoration of democracy in accordance with the present Constitution and the consolidation of racial harmony and stability in Fiji.

JI INDIA USA

Date: Jun 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Advisory Panel of Centre for Africa

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 15, 1987:

The Advisory Panel of the Centre for Africa held its sixth meeting on 15th July, 1987 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro. The Advisory Panel consists of 20 members who are all eminent in their

respective field of activity. In the meeting they discussed the past activities of the Centre including the recently held Festival of Africa. Subsequently the chart of future activities of the Centre came up for discussion. Various items discussed were: (1) Afro-Asian writers conference; (2) African Film Festival; (3) Lethographic exhibition on Africa; and (4) Exhibition of paintings by artists on Apartheid.

DIA USA

Date: Jul 15, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Car Bomb Explosion Report Denied

The following is the reaction and remarks by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 20, 1987:

The Official Spokesman has deplored the recent baseless and unfounded allegations of the Pakistan Prime Minister alleging Indian involvement in the car bomb explosion in Karachi. It has been stated that India strongly condemns all forms of terrorist violence and remains committed to the normalisation of relations with Pakistan in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla agreement.

NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA PAKISTAN MALI

Date: Jul 20, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan Occupation of Kashmir

In response to querries from the press on President Zia's reported statement on Kashmir during his current visit to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir the Official Spokesman stated as follows on Jul 21, 1987 in New Delhi:

We have seen reports of President Zia's speech wherein he described Kashmir as "an integral of Pakistan", and spoke in a manner calculated to arouse passions on this issue. It is possible that domestic compulsions may have inspired President in making such a statement. He cannot, however, be unmindful of India's well known and legally irrefutable position that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that the only issue which remains to be resolved is that of vacation by Pakistan of its illegal occupation of POK. President Zia cannot also wish away the fact that both countries are committed to resolve this issue in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement. President Zia had himself renewed Pakistan's commitment in this regard during his visit to New Delhi on December 17, 1985 when he had stated that this question would be resolved in accordance with the Simla Agreement and at an appropriate time. -244>

KISTAN INDIA USA **Date**: Jul 21, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan Nuclear Programme

A journalist on Jul 24, 1987 asked the Official Spokesman about India's reaction to Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo's suggestion for mutual inspection of nuclear plants in India and Pakistan.

The Official Spokesman stated that there was no question of equating the nuclear programmes of the two countries. He said that while no one had said that the Indian nuclear programme was weapon-oriented, there was no secret about Pakistani intentions. No Indian had been arrested for stealing nuclear components for manufacturing weapons.

KISTAN INDIA RUSSIA

Date: Jul 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Prime Minister's Luncheon Speech in Moscow

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 03, 1987 of the text of the speech delivered by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the lunch hosted in his honour by the General Secretary of the CPSU, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev and Mrs. Raisa Gorbacheva, in Moscow on July 3, 1987:

Esteemed General Secretary, Madame Gorbacheva, Respected Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, when our great national poet, Rabindranath Tagore, first visited the Soviet Union in 1930, he wrote to a friend from Moscow:

"I am now in Russia; had I not come, my life's pilgrimage would have remained incomplete."

That sense of fulfilment abides with us whenever we return to the Soviet Union. Now, as always, it is a pleasure to be here and to meet again with our Soviet friends.

Later today, we will be inaugurating the Festival of India in the Soviet Union. The colour and pagantry of India will unfurl itself against the majesty of your monuments and the gaiety of your crowds. Our songs and dances, our poetry and drama, our painting and sculpture will be yours to savour over the next 12 months. In November, the land of Volga and the Yenesi will come to the land of the Ganga and the Kaveri when the Soviet Festival opens in India. These are celebrations which bring together millions of Indians and millions of your citizens in a carnival of mutual recognition, mutual understanding, and mutual appreciation.

Ours is a relationship based on the esteem and affection in which our people hold each other. When my grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, paid his first visit to the Soviet Union as Prime Minister of free India, the warmth of the reception he was given by your people made a profound impression upon the people of India. Rising well above the usual courtesies and formalities of a State visit, the journey led to a friendship between our peoples which has been at the core of our relationship for over three decades. Under Indira Gandhi, our mutuality of interests found eloquent expression in the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation,

concluded just under sixteen years ago. The Treaty has been a vital factor for peace and stability in -245>

Asia and the world. With the passage of years, in an increasingly complex international situation, the significance of the Treaty has grown.

END OF ERA OF EMPIRE

Even as the Great October Revolution was an epochal watershed marking off a radical new direction in the organisation of human society, so also was the independence of India the decisive historical point in ending the Era of Empire. And even as for years siege was laid on the Revolution by the elements who had been worsted and their foreign cohorts, so also have the newlyindependent countries been besieged by imperialism in new guises. We have not won our freedom to mortgage it to the interests of others. We have not wrested our independence to become campfollowers of others. Our liberty is guaranteed by our selfreliance. We have exercised our right to speak our mind on international affairs freely, frankly and unfettered. We have resisted the threats and blandishments of militarism. We have demanded that the callous inhumanity of Apartheid must end. We have pressed for the last colonial baston in Namibia to crumble. We have insisted that destabilisation, subversion and illegitimate pressures on the Frontline States must cease. We have given comfort to the victims, courage to the freedom fighters, and effective support to the liberation movements. We have been honoured with the Chairmanship of the AFRICA Fund. At home, we have shown the world that we can stand on our two feet. We have not succumbed to threats. We have resisted temptations. We have upheld Nonalignment.

Even as you thwarted those who sought to sabotage the Great October Revolution, so have we thwarted those who sought to suborn our independence. This is a continuing struggle. The forces which seek to undermine the independence of nations are always on the lookout for opportunities to work out their nefarious designs. We see them using different methods in different parts of the world. We find them increasingly active in our region, much to the detriment of our security environment. We shall remain vigilant, as we continue to work for peace and cooperation in our region and in the world at large.

SIX NATION PEACE INITIATIVE

The age of nuclear weapons dawned just before we secured our Independence. Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru were among the first to press for nuclear disarmament as the only sure way of forestalling the destruction of our planet at our own hands, whether by error or design. To begin with our advocacy of nuclear disarmament and peaceful coexistence found few adherents. We

persisted. After the Appeal issued in 1984 by Smt. Indira Gandhi and her colleagues in the Six-Nation Peace Initiative and the Delhi Summit Declaration of January, 1985, world awareness has been heightened of the horrors of a nuclear holocaust. Public opinion has been mobilized even within the nuclear weapons States. You, Mr. General Secretary, have your-self made a series of courageous and innovative proposals over the last two years, including Reykjavik and after, most recently in connection with the dismantling of intermediate nuclear forces in Europe. The outlook for the limitation and reduction of nuclear armaments is more encouraging than it has been for a long time. We urge an immediate suspension of all nuclear weapons tests to facilitate meaningful negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

DELHI DECLARATION

A few months ago, Mr. General Secretary, we had the honour to receive you in India. There, we issued the path-breaking Delhi Declaration. It sets out the ten basic principles that must govern the new thinking necessary for a non-violent world free of nuclear weapons. The Delhi Declaration draws its inspiration from the essential humanism of our time-honoured traditions. It reflects our deeply-held belief in the need to abjure violence. It enjoins us to base our community life on the tenets of non-violence. It mirrors our profound commitment to the inviolable inde-

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pendence of nations, to democracy in the global community, and to peaceful co-existence founded in the tolerance of different social and economic systems. We have affirmed that the balance of terror must yield to enduring international security. We have urged that fear and suspicion give way to understanding and trust. All must work together for the good of the individual, for growth and development, for the greater glory of humankind. The Delhi Declaration represents an important new phase in the development of international relations.

Science and technology, properly used, constitute the key to economic development. Not much more than 200 years ago, Indian technology was on a par with that of the best in the world. Colonialism opened the gap. Independence offers the opportunity to close it. We have done much to narrow the gap. Much remains to be done. To attain technological self-reliance we need the cooperation of others. Following the recent visit to India of perhaps the most distinguished delegation of Soviet scientists ever sent abroad, and the return visit by our delegation, a few minutes earlier we signed the Integrated Long Term Programme on Scientific and Technical Cooperation. This adds yet another dimension to the multifaceted interaction between our two countries. Our cooperation has made an important contribution to international stability and peace in the world. We highly value the contribution which the Soviet Union has made to building the

core sectors of our economy. We now have your friendly cooperation in accelerating our technological revolution. We shall together draw on the vast reservoir of scientific skills and technical talent in each of our countries.

You have been with us in times of trouble. We have had your asistance and cooperation in developing our economy and building the sinews of our strength. Our friendship has been a model of fruitful coexistence. Notwithstanding the differences in our historical heritage and in our socioeconomic systems, the Indo-Soviet relationship has been marked by a mingling of ideas, an exchange of experience, and a cross-fertilization of cultures. We have enriched each other's lives, retaining and developing the distinctive characteristics of our respective societies. We have followed with great interest the dynamic changes being undertaken in the Soviet Union in the new spirit of perestroika to harmonize the full development of the human personality with the realities and imperatives of our contemporary world. There are common elements in our world view which we have built upon for the good of our countries and the good of the world.

Our talks, Mr. General Secretary, have strengthened and reinforced three decades of working together. Ours is an unique relationship, a relationship which has grown continuously in strength and content. As always, there has been a convergence of views and shared perceptions on issues of cardinal importance; peace, development and disarmament.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in a toast to the health and happiness of our dear friends, General Secretary Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Madam Raisa Gorbacheva; to the untiring efforts of the great Soviet people in their pursuit of peace; and to ever-growing friendship between India and the Soviet Union.

SSIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALI NAMIBIA ICELAND

Date: Jul 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Prime Minister's Remarks at Return Dinner in Moscow

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi of the remarks at the return dinner in Moscow on Jul 03, 1987 by

the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi:

I am delighted to welcome our dear friends, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Raisa Gorbacheva. We are also honoured by the presence of our other distinguished Soviet guests. Ambassador Kaul informs me that the previous occasion when the Soviet leadership gathered in the Indian Embassy was over 20 years ago. -247>

He himself remains the link between then and now.

The friendship between our countries is deeply founded in our shared vision of a world at peace. It has been tested in the crucible of experience. Our friendship is neither ephemeral nor a matter of mere convenience. It is a mutually enriching relationship, based on understanding and respect, equality and mutual benefit. It is a creative relationship. We have placed ambitious targets before ourselves. I have no doubt that we shall be able to fulfil these targets through our joint efforts and our common determination.

I would like to thank our gracious hosts for the excellent arrangements made for our visit. You have, as always, devoted the most punctilious care to our comfort.

You have embraced us in the warmth of your hospitality.

We look forward keenly to the visit to India in November this year of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Madam Ryhzkova. Premier Ryhzkov will be inaugurating the Festival of the Soviet Union in India, a celebration of the ties of friendship which bind our people together. A warm and friendly reception awaits your artistes in India.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would now request you to join me in a toast to their Excellencies General Secretary and Madam Gorbacheva; to their distinguished colleagues present here; to peace and prosperity for the great Soviet people and to our ever growing friendship and cooperation.

SSIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jul 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi of the text of speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the unveiling ceremony of Smt. Indira Gandhi's statue in Moscow on Jul 03, 1987:

Your Excellency Mr. Gorbachev, Madam Raisa Gorbacheva, Dear Soviet and Indian Friends, I am deeply honoured that you have invited me to unveil the statue of my mother, Indira Gandhi. She was a great daughter of India. She was a great daughter of the world. She symbolised resurgent India. In her young years she fought for India's freedom; later, she worked for the consolidation of that freedom. Yet her vision was not limited to India. She regarded the entire Earth as her home. She worked for the right of all peoples to live in peace and to grow to their full potential. She identified herself with the deprived and the wronged. They in turn had immense love for her.

Indira Gandhi had a very special affection for the Soviet Union and the Soviet people. This was perhaps augured at her birth, for she was born in the very month of the Great October Revolution. As a teenager, she learned of the profound historic significance of the Revolution from the letters her father, Jawaharlal Nehru, wrote to her from his colonial prison. She grew into one of the leading architects of the friendly relations between our countries. It was during her Prime Ministership that India and the Soviet Union concluded the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation.

Indira Gandhi epitomised the strong bonds of friendship between our two peoples and countries. I know personally how dear she is to your hearts. So many Soviet daughters have been named after her. Almost every letter I receive from the Soviet Union - and I receive many - mentions Indira Gandhi. Many of the young letter writers compose verses in her memory. I treasure these sentiments, as does India.

It is, therefore, most fitting that the unveiling of this statue should be the first ceremony of the Festival of India in the Soviet Union, a year-long affair of the -248>

heart. This statue will remind us of the values which Indira Gandhi cherished. It is a monument to the high ideals she stood for and the noble goals she strove for. It is a symbol of the deep and abiding friendship between India and the Soviet Union.

SSIA INDIA USA **Date**: Jul 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Festival of India in USSR - Prime Minister's Inaugural Address

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 03, 1987 of the text of the speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the inauguration of the Festival of India in USSR in Moscow on July 3, 1987:

General Secretary Gorbachev, Madam Raisa Gorbacheva, Excellencies, friends and companions, to all our friends who have come here in such large numbers, we extend a warm and hearty welcome. Thank you for being with us.

For the next twelve months, India will dance and swirl amidst you. The sights and sounds of India will be brought to your doorstep. Our drummers and our dancers, our artistes and our artisans will perform for you. You will hear the songs of our people and the poetry of our languages. You will see the splendour of our sculpture and the beauty of our painting. We will give you a glimpse of a civilization five thousand years old.

The Indian civilization is unique. It combines great antiquity with uninterrupted continuity and a vibrant heterogeneity. The strength of our civilization has been its great self-confidence. We were neither buffeted nor blown off our feet by the winds which blew about our house. We assimilated. We synthesised. We have had neither hesitation nor difficulty in absorbing the best of what came to us. Our heritage is a steady accretion of many different dimensions to an essential Indian core. All these different dimensions have been preserved and cherished but harmonised into an underlying unity, a pervasive Indianness.

Like the Soviet Union, India is a composite of many cultures and many different ways of life. The cultures of India have been enriched by ancient contacts with Soviet Central Asia and contemporary contacts with all parts of your great country. In turn, we can claim, without too much immodesty, to have made our contribution to your heritage.

The origins of our freedom movement owe much to the decisive influence of Leo Tolstoy on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of life and struggle, of war and peace. Gandhiji was inspired by two of

Tolstoy's works: "The Kingdom of God is within you" and "Letter to a Hindu." Tolstoy was then the towering apostle of non-violence; Gandhiji was still in South Africa embarking on his experiments with truth. Yet, Tolstoy who had never met Gandhiji and exchanged but a few letters with him, recognised the genius of the novice. Two months before he died, Tolstoy wrote to Gandhiji:

".. the use of force is incompatible with love as the fundamental law of life ... therefore, your activity in the Transvaal, as it seems to us at this end of the world, is the most essential work, the most important of all the work now being done in the world."

Seven years on came the Great October Revolution. One of our great poets, Subramania Bharati, was deeply moved by the transformation which the Revolution had wrought. He wrote:

"In one brief hour Has arisen people's Rule Over people's life: A great Republic is proclaimed. All fetters are broken. All men are free ... The Golden Age has now begun."

Let me share with you another little vignette from our cultural history. During the period of colonial rule, the great classical dances of India had fallen into disuse -249>

and even disrepute. Dance had been banished to obscure corners, out of the light of life. A budding young Indian danseuse, Rukmini Devi, herself something of a nonconformist, something of a revolutionary, was looking for ways of breathing new life into our ancient classical forms. She happened to see a performance by the great Russian ballerina, Anna Pavlova. After that, there was no looking back. Inspired by Pavlova's example, Rukmini Devi founded Kalakshetra, near Madras. It quickly became the centre for the renaissance of Indian classical dance. The revival of many of the dances you will be seeing here and over the next year owes a deep debt of gratitude to that chance historic encounter between Indian sensibility and the great art of your country.

Economic development is our top priority. But it will avail us nothing if we make only material progress and in the process lose our cultural moorings. Our culture is the vehicle of our values, our standards, our principles. The culture of India embodies those qualities which have enabled us to survive and flourish as a civilization over five thousand years. It has given us the strength to endure adversity and to maintain equanimity in success. It has taught us tolerance and compassion, detachment, a love of our fellow beings, a sense of oneness with all humanity. It has taught us to respect the moral and spiritual values of

others and rejoice in the great and glorious diversity of the world. We must retrieve, preserve, cherish and develop all that is noble in our heritage. We must also share it with our well-wishers and our friends.

In that spirit, we look forward with keen anticipation to the Soviet Festival in India.

I now have the greatest pleasure in declaring open the Festival of India.

DIA USA RUSSIA SOUTH AFRICA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Jul 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Prime Minister's Statement on Agreement

The following is the text of the statement by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, on the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement in Parliament in New Delhi on Jul 31, 1987:

Madam Deputy Chairman, I have returned yesterday from a brief but momentous visit to Colombo and I would like to take the House into confidence immediately about the outcome. I consider the visit momentous because His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka and I signed an Agreement on the 29th of July, which aims at bringing to an end the difficult conflict which has afflicted our friendly neighbour Sri Lanka for years. The House is aware of the background of the ethnic conflict between the citizens of Sri Lanka which has its roots in complex historical and socioeconomic factors. The conflict assumed acute dimensions over the last four years endangering the very stability, unity and integrity of Sri Lanka.

Things reached a low with the outbreak of unprecedented violence against Tamils in Sri Lanka in 1983. I do not wish to go into the details of the large scale killings and the extensive sufferings which affected the Sri Lankan people. The period between July 1983 and May 1987 was a particularly tragic chapter in Sri Lankan history. Thousands of civilians were killed - Tamils, Sinhalese, women and children, even monks, priests. Thousands were rendered homeless and became refugees, as -250>

it were within Sri Lanka itself. India received nearly 150 thousand Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.

India has a deep interest in Sri Lanka's unity, integrity and stability. The entire country has felt concerned at the strife in Sri Lanka. President Jayawardene sought our good offices in finding an equitable and enduring solution to the crisis. We agreed to help. Our efforts were directed towards getting the difficulties and apprehensions of Sri Lanka's Tamil citizens removed, so that Sri Lanka could preserve its untiy and integrity as well as its multi-lingual, multiethnic, multi-religious plural character. Four years of patient and unremitting dialogue culminated in the Agreement signed yesterday in Colombo. President Jayawardene and I have also exchanged letters agreeing on masures to meet our mutual concerns and to strengthen our bilateral relations.

We have structured a frame-work for a durable solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic problem. The Agreement meets the basic aspirations which animated the Tamils' struggle, namely, the desire to be recognised as a distinct ethnic entity; political autonomy for managing their political future; and appropriate devolution of governmental power to meet this objective, the recognition of the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka as areas of historical habitation of the Tamils and the acknowledgement and designation of Tamil as an official language of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The Agreement constitutes the Eastern and Northern Provinces of Sri Lanka into one administrative unit with an elected Provincial Council and a Chief Minister. Powers would be devolved to the Provincial Council within the framework of the proposals finalised between May to December 1986 to ensure a full measure of autonomy to the Provinces in Sri Lanka.

The Emergency in Sri Lanka is to be lifted in the near future. The cessation of hostilities and the surrender of arms is to take place within a defined time frame. A general amnesty is to be granted to all militant cadres. Elections to the Provincial Councils are to be held within three months.

The Agreement suggests the holding of a referendum of the basic issue of the link between the Northern and Eastern Provinces by the end of 1988, which the President has the discretion to postpone.

The President of Sri Lanka and I have also exchanged letters in which Sri Lanka has agreed to be responsive to India's political and security concerns. The Agreement and the letters detail the obligations which India has undertaken on its part to ensure the unity, territorial integrity and stability of Sri Lanka. We shall meet these obligations faithfully and in full.

The President of Sri Lanka informed me that he felt that the outbreak of violence in Colombo and other parts of Sri Lanka over the last few days was the work of the Sinhala terrorist organization the JVP. He felt that some members of religious organizations and opposition parties had allowed themselves to be used as tools by the JVP. But none of the parties representing trade unions and workers had supported the violence.

Hon'ble Members would recall that the same organization had engineered a large-scale insurrection in Sri Lanka in 1971. The then Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike, had asked for our assistance to put down the insurgency, and we had given prompt and full assistance.

President Jayawardene explained that because of the deteriorating situation is a result of these disturbances and the increasing demands that this puts on Sri Lankan security forces, his Government would need assistance to implement the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement for ending the ethnic crisis. For this purpose the Government of Sri Lanka made a formal request for appropriate Indian military assistance to ensure the cessation of hostilities and surrender of arms in the Jaffna Peninsula and, if required, in the Eastern Province.

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He also requested for air transport to move some of the Sri Lanka troops from Jaffna to points in the South.

In response to this formal request from the Government of Sri Lanka, and in terms of our obligations under the just signed Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement units of the Armed Forces of India landed in the Jaffna Peninsula yesterday. Let me repeat that our troops have landed in Sri Lanka in response to a specific and formal request of the Government of Sri Lanka who have invoked our obligations and commitments under the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement. Our troops have gone there to help implement the Agreement to end the ethnic strife in Sri Lanka and their despatch underlines our firm commitment to the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. We are in continuous touch with the Government of Sri Lanka at various levels.

The conclusion of this Agreement has not been an easy exercise for the Sri Lankan Government and Sri Lankan leadership. I wish once again to pay tribute to President Jayawardene's wisdom, courage and statesmanship.

I am confident that the Agreement which we have signed with Sri Lanka brings to an end a tragic chapter of Sri Lanka's recent history and marks the beginning of a new chapter in Indo-Sri Lanka relations. I am equally confident that the Agreement will remove past tensions and mistrust and consolidate and strengthen the friendship between the peoples of Sri Lanka and India dating

back to more than two thousand five hundred years of shared history and heritage.

The text of the Agreement signed between His Excellency President Jayawardene and myself and of the letters exchanged between us at Colombo are placed on the Table of the House.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date: Jul 31, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement to Establish Peace and Normalcy in SriLanka

The Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr. J. R. Jayewardene having met at Colombo on Jul 29, 1987.

Attaching utmost importance to nurturing, intensifying and strengthening the traditional friendship of India and Sri Lanka and acknowledging the imperative need of resolving the ethnic problem of Sri Lanka, and the consequent violence, and for the safety, well-being and prosperity of people belonging to all communities in Sri Lanka.

Having this day entered into the following Agreement to fulfil this objective.

- 1.1 desiring to preserve the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka;
- 1.2 acknowledging that Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic and a multilingual plural society consisting inter alia, of Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims (Moors), and Burghers;
- 1.3 recognising that each ethnic group has a distinct cultural and linguistic identity which has to be carefully nurtured;
- 1.4 also recognising that the Northern and the Eastern Provinces have been areas of historical habitation of Sri Lankan Tamil speaking peoples, who have at all times hitherto lived together in this territory with other ethnic groups;

1.5 Conscious of the necessity of strengthening the forces contributing to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka, and preserving its character as a multiethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious plural society, in which all citizens can live in equality, safety and -252>

harmony, and prosper and fulfil their aspirations;

2. Resolve that:

- 2.1 Since the Government of Sri Lanka proposes to permit adjoining Provinces to join to form one administrative unit and also by a Referendum to separate as may be permitted to the Northern and Eastern Provinces as outlined below:
- 2.2 During the period, which shall be considered an interim period (i.e.) from the date of the elections to the provincial Council, as specified in para 2.8 to the date of the referendum as specified in para 2.3, the Northern and Eastern Provinces as now constituted, will form one administrative unit, having one elected Provincial Council. Such a unit will have one Governor, one Chief Minister and one Board of Ministers.
- 2.3 There will be a referndum on or before 31st December, 1988 to enable the people of the Eastern Province to decide whether:
- (A) The Eastern province should remain linked with the Northern province as one administrative unit, and continue to be governed together with the Northern Province as specified in para 2.2, or
- (B) The Eastern province should constitute a separate administrative unit having its own distinct Provincial Council with a separate Governor, Chief Minister and Board of Ministers.

The President may, at his discretion decide to postpone such a referendum.

- 2.4 All persons who have been displaced due to ethnic violence, or other reasons, will have right to vote in such a referendum. Necessary conditions to enable them to return to areas from where they were displaced will be created.
- 2.5 The referendum, when held, will be monitored by a committee headed by the Chief Justice, a member appointed by the President, nominated by the Government of Sri Lanka, and a member appointed by the President, nominated by the representatives of the Tamil speaking people of the Eastern Province.
- 2.6 A simple majority will be sufficient to determine the result of the referendum.
- 2.7 Meeting and other forms of propaganda, permissible within the

laws of the country, will be allowed before the referendum.

- 2.8 Elections to Provincial Councils will be held within the next three months, in any event before December 31, 1987. Indian observers will be invited for elections to the Provincial Council of the North and East.
- 2.9 The emergency will be lifted in the Eastern and Northern provinces by August 15, 1987. A cessation of hostilities will come into effect all over the island within 48 hours of the signing of this agreement. All arms presently held by militant groups will be surrendered in accordance with an agreed procedure to authorities to be designated by the Government of Sri Lanka. Consequent to the cessation of hostilities and the surrender of arms by militant groups, the army and other security personnel will be confined to barracks in camps as on May 25, 1987. The process of surrendering of arms and the confining the security personnel moving back to barracks shall be completed within 72 hours of the cessasion of hostilities coming into effect.
- 2.10 The Government of Sri Lanka will utilise for the purpose of law enforcement and maintenance of security in the Northern and Eastern -253>

provinces the same organisations and mechanisms of Government as are used in the rest of the country.

- 2.11 The President of Sri Lanka will grant a general amnesty to political and other prisoners now held in custody under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and other emergency laws, and to combatants, as well as to those persons accused, charged and or convicted under these laws. The Government of Sri Lanka will make special efforts to rehabilitate militant youth with a view to bringing them back to the mainstream of national life. India will cooperate in the process.
- 2.12 The Government of Sri Lanka will accept and abide by the above provisions and expect all others to do likewise.
- 2.13 If the framework for the resolutions is accepted, the Government of Sri Lanka will implement the relevant proposals forthwith.
- 2.14 The Government of India will underwork and guarantee the resolutions, and co-operate in the implementation of these proposals.
- 2.15 These proposals are conditional to an acceptance of proposals negotiated from 4.5.1986 to 19.12.1986. Residual matters not finalised during the above negotiations shall be resolved between India and Sri Lanka within a period of six weeks of signing this agreement. These proposals are also conditional

to the Government of India co-operating directly with the Government of Sri Lanka in their implementation.

- 2.16 These proposals are also conditional to the Government of India taking the following actions if any militant group operating in Sri Lanka do not accept this framework of proposals for a settlement, namely:
- (A) India will take all necessary steps to ensure that Indian territory is not used for activities prejudicial to the unity, integrity and security of Sri Lanka.
- (B) The Indian Navy Coast Guard will co-operate with the Sri Lanka Navy in preventing Tamil militant activities from affecting Sri Lanka.
- (C) In the event that the Government of Sri Lanka requests the Government of India to afford military assistance to implement these proposals the Government of India will co-operate by giving to the Government of Sri Lanka such military assistance as and when requested.
- (D) The Government of India will expedite repatriation from Sri Lanka of Indian citizens to India who are resident there concurrently with the repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees from Tamil Nadu.
- (E) The Governments of India and Sri Lanka, will co-operate in ensuring the physical security and safety of all communities inhabiting the Northern and Eastern provinces.
- 2.17 The Government of Sri Lanka shall ensure free, full and fair participation of voters from all communities in the Northern and Eastern provinces in electoral processes envisaged in this agreement. The Government of India will extend full co-operation to the Government of Sri Lanka in this regard.
- 2.18 The official language of Sri Lanka shall be Sinhala. Tamil and English will also be official languages.
- 3. This agreement and the annexure there-to shall come into force upon signature.

In witness where of we have set our hands and seals hereunto. Done in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on this the twenty ninth day of July of the year one thousand -254>

nine hundred and eighty seven, in duplicate, both texts being equally authentic.

Rajiv Gandhi Prime Minister of the Republic of India Junius Richard Jayewardene President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

I LANKA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jul 29, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Annexure to the Agreement

- 1. His Excellency the Prime Minister of India and His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka agree that the referendum mentioned in paragraph 2 and its sub-paragraphs of the Agreement will be observed by a representative of the Election Commission of India to be invited by His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka.
- 2. Similarly, both Heads of Government agree that the elections to the Provincial Council mentioned in paragraph 2.8 of the Agreement will be observed by a representative of the Government of India to be invited by the President of Sri Lanka.
- 3. His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka agrees that the Home Guards would be disbanded and all paramilitary personnel will be withdrawn from the Eastern and Northern Provinces with a view to creating conditions conducive to fare elections to the Council.

The President, in his discretion, shall absorb such paramilitary forces, which came into being due to ethnic violence into the regular security forces of Sri Lanka.

- 4. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka agree that the Tamil militants shall surrender their arms to authorities agreed upon to be designated by the President of Sri Lanka. The surrender shall take place in the presence of one senior representative each of the Sri Lankan Red Cross and the Indian Red Cross.
- 5. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka agree that a joint Indo-Sri Lankan observer group consisting of qualified representatives of the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka would monitor the cessation of hostilities from. 31 July, 1987.

6. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka also agree that in terms of paragraph 2.14 and paragraph 2.16 (c) of the Agreement, an Indian Peace Keeping contingent may be invited by the President of Sri Lanka to guarantee and enforce the cessation of hostilities, if so required.

PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA NEW DELHI

July 29, 1987,

Excellency,

Conscious of the friendship between our two countries stretching over two millenia and more, and recognising the importance of nurturing this traditional friendship, it is imperative that both Sri Lanka and India reaffirm the decision not to allow our respective territories to be used for activities prejudicial to each other's unity, territorial integrity and security.

In this spirit, you had, during the course of our discussions, agreed to meet some of India's concerns as follows:

(i) Your Excellency and myself will reach an early understanding about the relevance and employment of foreign military and intelligence personnel with a view to ensuring that such pre-255>

sences will not prejudice Indo-Sri Lankan relations.

- (ii) Trincomalee or any other ports in Sri Lanka will not be made available for military use by any country in a manner prejudicial to India's interests.
- (iii) The work of restoring and operating the Trincomalee Oil tank farm will be undertaken as a joint venture between India and Sri Lanka.
- (iv) Sri Lanka's agreement with foreign broadcasting organisations will be reviewed to ensure that any facilities set up by them in Sri Lanka are used solely as public broadcasting facilities and not for any military or intelligence purposes.

in the same spirit, India will:

- (i) Deport all Sri Lankan citizens who are found to be engaging in terrorist activities or advocating separatism or secessionism.
- (ii) Provide training facilities and military supplies for Sri Lankan security forces.

India and Sri Lanka have agreed to set up a joint consultative

mechanism to continuously review matters of common concern in the light of the objectives stated in para 1 and specifically to monitor the implementation of other matters contained in this letter.

Kindly confirm, Excellency, that the above correctly sets out the agreement reached between us.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(Rajiv Gandhi)

His Excellency Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Colombo.

PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA

July 29, 1987

Excellency,

Please refer to your letter dated the 29th of July 1987, which reads as follows:

Excellency,

Conscious of the friendship between our two countries stretching over two millenia and more, and recognizing the importance of nurturing this traditional friendship, it is imperative that both Sri Lanka and India reaffirm the decision not to allow our respective territories to be used for activities prejudicial to each other's unity, territorial integrity and security.

- 2. In this spirit, you had, during the course of our discussions, agreed to meet some of India's concerns as follows:
- (i) Your Excellency and myself will reach an early understanding about the relevance and employment of foreign military and intelligence personnel with a view to ensuring that such presences will not prejudice Indo-Sri Lankan relations.
- (ii) Trincomalee or any other ports in Sri Lanka will not be made available for military use by any country in a manner prejudicial to India's interests.
- (iii) The work of restoring and operating the Trincomalee Oil tank farm will be undertaken as a joint venture between India and Sri Lanka.

- (iv) Sri Lanka's agreements with foreign broadcasting organisations will be reviewed to ensure that any facilities set up by them in Sri Lanka are used solely as public broadcasting facilities and not for any military or intelligence purposes. -256>
- 3. In the same spirit, India will:
- (i) deport all Sri Lankan citizens who are found to be engaging in terrorist activities or advocating separatism or secessionism.
- (ii) Provide training facilities and military supplies for Sri Lankan security forces.
- 4. India and Sri Lanka have agreed to set up a joint consultative mechanism to continuously review matters of common concern in the light of the objectives stated in para 1 and specifically to monitor the implementation of other matters contained in this letter.
- 5. Kindly confirm, Excellency, that the above correctly sets out the agreement reached between us.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Sd/(Rajiv Gandhi)
His Excellency
Mr. J. R. Jayewardene,
President of the Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka, Colombo

This is to confirm that the above correctly sets out the understanding reached between us. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sd/-(J.R. Jayewardene) President

His Excellency Mr. Rajiv Gandhi Prime Minister of the Republic of India, New Delhi

I LANKA INDIA USA MALDIVES

Date: Jul 29, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Remarks at the Colombo Reception

The following are the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's remarks at reception hosted by President Jayewardene in Colombo on Jul 29, 1987:

President Jayewardene, Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, four years ago, in the dark days of July 1983, the Government of Sri Lanka sought our good offices to resolve the crisis which had been precipitated in the island. These four years have been years of trial and tribulation for all of us. There has been much destruction. Communities which had lived together in harmony for hundreds of years were estranged. The economy of Sri Lanka was disrupted by civil disorder. Refugees flowed across the Palk Strait into India. Through this period of strain, however, we kept our dialogue going.

We have reached an Agreement. It is a momentous event in the history of our two countries. It heralds peace. It is a compact in the cause of brotherhood. It promises national reconciliation in Sri Lanka. It has created conditions for the return of the refugees. It has dispelled the clouds that had hovered over our relationship.

The Agreement is a tribute to the wisdom and understanding of the Government and people of Sri Lanka. I would like to pay a personal tribute to the courage and statesmanship of President Jayewardene. The Agreement embodies his faith in the great values of Maitri, Karuna and Samanyaya.

The Agreement consolidates the historic relationship between India and Sri Lanka. It is not mere geographical proximity which binds us. Ours is a relationship of heart and mind, finding expression in history and philosophy, literature and art, -257>

and in our contemporary concerns and daily lives. Our trust in each other lay at the heart of the arduous process of negotiations. That trust has been vindicated by the happy conclusion we have reached. The Agreement betokens India's continued commitment to the unity and well being of Sri Lanka.

Every agreement is an act of faith. Faith, to triumph, needs unremitting toil and unflinching determination. In democracies,

critics are often more vocal than supporters. It is upto us to defend this Agreement and bring round its detractors. As we move into the next and vital phase of implementing the Agreement, we shall have to draw deep on the vast reserves of good-will and understanding which our peoples have for each other.

This is not the time for recrimination or reprisal. It is a time to heal the wounds, to comfort the afflicted. It is a time for renewal and rebuilding.

Let our guiding light be Subramania Bharati:

Living together is the true life, Falling apart spells ruin; Well must this lesson be learned, No other wisdom do we need.

Through this Accord, we resume the journey on which both our countries embarked when Emperor Ashoka, who renounced war and violence, sent his son, Arhat Mahendra, to Sri Lanka with the Buddha's message of non-violence, compassion and justice.

Long live Indo-Sri Lankan friendship.

I LANKA USA INDIA **Date**: Jul 29, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

TV Address in Colombo

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's TV address in Colombo on Jul 29, 1987:

Dear Sri Lankan Friends, this is my first visit to your beautiful country. Yet no Indian is ever a stranger in Sri Lanka.

We in India have always thought of the people of Sri Lanka as friends- friends who cherish the same great ideals, values and experiences. We have seen you as colleagues in our struggle for a new kind of world - a world not of dominance but of equality, a world not of exploitation but of compassion, a world not of discord and war but of harmony and peace.

For some years now your green and beautiful island, so long a haven of tranquility, has been rocked by violence and splattered with blood. Brother has killed brother. Innocents have died. No group, no community has been untouched by the loss of dear ones.

There has been a growing revulsion against this cycle of violence. People have yearned for peace, for a respite from fear and trouble As your poet Kodituwakku has said so forcefully:

Stop it Stop that fight.... He who died that day was one of us.

Your President asked for our cooperation in his effort to restore trust and peace. We readily joined the quest, for we in India know the price that violence extracts. We have known the agony of partition. We have resolutely stood for the unity of Sri Lanka. We have worked with you to bring about reconciliation between the different communities of your country. Months of patient negotiation have borne fruit in the Agreement which President Jayewardene and I signed today. It is an Agreement perhaps without parallel. It flows from centuries of affection and goodwill. Whether Tamil or Sinhala, Buddhist or Hindu, Christian or Muslim, there is close relationship between your people and ours. The Agreement holds out the promise of a strong, united, peaceful -258>

Sri Lanka which is as much in our interest as it is in yours.

It is a unity of hearts which guarantees the unity of a nation. Where there is discrimination and discord, a nation's security becomes fragile. Unity cannot be imposed. It has to arise from a sense of common belonging, common participation, common endeavour and a common destiny.

Both our countries have had the vision to choose democratic forms of government. Democracy is both the rule of the majority and the security of the minorities. No society can be wholly free of tension and friction. But democracy resolves them through discussion and accommodation.

An Agreement is not the conclusion of a journey but a new beginning. We must work together closely to ensure its fair and determined implementation. There might be problems. There might be difficulties. Some may not like this Agreement. What is important is that the narrow approach of thinking of exclusive identities should be eschewed for the larger national good.

India, for its part, will be faithful to the letter and spirit of the Agreement. We shall carry out all our obligations.

Sri Lanka and India are joint founders of the Non-aligned

Movement. Our commitment to Non-alignment arose out of our traditions and the ethos of our Freedom Struggles. Peace in our region depends crucially on all of us remaining Non-aligned. It is this which has made this Agreement possible.

I bring you greetings from your brothers and sisters across the Palk Straits. Our friendship is enduring. Our affection is strong. We shall continue to work together to build a peaceful, prosperous future for our peoples.

Jai Hind Jai Sri Lanka Jaya Wewa

I LANKA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jul 29, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 09, 1987 on the Indo-U.S. vaccine action programme:

During the visit of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi to the USA in June 1985, the initiation of a new programme to undertake high technology based R & D as a collaborative effort between the leading scientific groups in the area for the development of vaccines and immunodiagnostics against some of the major communicable diseases that are prevalent in India was announced. These areas include viral hepatitis, diarrhoal diseases, typhoid, canine rabies, pneumonia etc.

The collaborative research between the scientists of the two countries will bring together more than a dozen leading laboratories and institutions from both sides.

On the Indian side, the Department of Biotechnology in the Ministry of Science and Technology will act as the nodal point for the programme. A joint working group consisting of leading scientists from both sides will direct the research collaboration.

In addition to joint collaborative research which would involve exchange of scientists, the programme also envisages exchange of information. This collaborative programme would also address itself to aspects of quality control of biological products and training in epidemiological research.

A Memorandum of Understanding to undertake the above joint programme called "Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme" was signed here today by Dr. S. Ramachandran, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology on behalf of India and by H.E. Mr. John Gunther Dean, Ambassador of the USA for the US Government. -260>

A INDIA

Date: Jul 09, 1987

August

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DIA JAPAN MONGOLIA PAKISTAN SRI LANKA SWEDEN

Date: Aug 01, 1987

Volume No

DISARMAMENT

Relationship with Development

The following is the text of the statement made by Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs after he was elected President of the international conference on the relationship between disarmament and development in New York on Aug 24, 1987:

Mr. Secretary General, Distinguished delegates and other distinguished participants in the conference, may I express my deep gratitude to you all for electing me the Chairman of this important, even historic conference. This is an honour you have done to India, for which we are deeply appreciative. At the same time, you have imposed a heavy responsibility on me. I assure you that I shall do my utmost to not let you down. I am sure, in this task, I will have your full cooperation and support.

We are gathered here on a rather unique occasion. If I am not mistaken this is the first time we are discussing at the political level, the relationship between disarmament and development. We are most grateful to the distinguished Secretary General of the United Nations for his thoughtful inaugural address which sets the tone for our deliberations.

Allow me to extend a most cordial welcome to the distinguished delegates from member countries, and to the scholars, academics and other representatives of non-governmental organisations. Their erudition and insight into the subject under discussion and their zeal and dedication will be a source of great strength to the conference. I would also like to compliment those distinguished delegates whose dedicated efforts has brought about the unprecedented event.

The present arms race is threatening the very survival of humankind. This has made disarmament not only a moral imperative but also an immediate necessity. The continuing crisis of the global economy and the precarious position of the developing countries in it calls for a revitalisation of the developmental process in both developed and developing countries. There could not have, therefore, been a more opportune moment for the international community to discuss under the aegis of the United Nations, the relationship between disarmament and development.

The global military expenditure today has reached the mindboggling figure of one trillion US dollars. There has been no worthwhile progress in disarmament for over two decades. On the development side, all available projections seem to be unanimous in predicting that the already slow rates of growth in developed countries are going to become slower. The developing countries are trapped in the twin crises of debt and development. The world economy is characterised by violent exchange rate fluctuations, currency mis-alignments, high rates of interest, collapse of commodity prices and proliferation of protectionism in a variety of forms. The world economic system is in deep disarray.

This is the sombre background in which we have to debate the critical issue of the relationship between disarmament and development.

The United Nations has been the principal forum for the discussion of both dis--261>

armament and development. It was generated new ideas and pioneered new approaches and strategies in both these fields.

The U.N.'s journey for linking disarmament and development commenced as early as 1962 with the publication of the first U.N. Expert Group Report on, "Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament." With the convening of this conference, we have arrived at an important landmark on the disarmament highway.

In the coming weeks, we will discuss and endeavour to arrive at a consensus on the nature and implications of the relationship between disarmament and development. The very convening of this conference is a declaration of this relationship. The understanding of this relationship has a critical bearing on human welfare and destiny. Much of our analysis and actions in the field of disarmament and development will remain fragmented and dismembered until they are firmly rooted in the acceptance of the reality of this relationship and our understanding of its ramifications.

Both disarmament and development are related to security. Without adequate security there can be neither disarmament nor development. There is wide convergence of opinion that security cannot be viewed purely in military terms. The various non-military threats to security are attracting increasing attention recently.

You will also be examining the implications of the present level and magnitude of continuing military expenditure for the world economy and the international economic and social situation. I am aware of the limitations on our reaching definitive conclusions based on emperical studies. At the same time, there are certain characteristics of global military expenditure which are self-evident. There are also factors which are impinging on our day-to-day life. I hope that it would be possible to reach an understanding on these characteristics and factors.

Military expenditure, first and foremost impacts upon the macrovariables of the national economies.

Since the dominant part of the global military expenditure is incurred in the developed countries and since these countries account for the bulk of the output, trade-exchanges and the capital and liquid resources of the world, what happens in these countries largely determines the health of the global economy and frequently sends down convulsions in the third world. It also affects the world economic system and the climate of international economic cooperation. Through the phenomena of the inter-relationship between trade, money and finance and interdependence among nations, the diverse effects of military expenditure on the macro variables of the national economics get transmitted to the global economy and the world economic system.

Distinguished delegates, in the present adverse climate of international cooperation, we should tailor our expectations from this conference to what is realistically attainable. I would like to allay the apprehensions of those who think that we have come here to seek immediate rechanneling of additional resources for development, from out of military expenditure, or, for seeking instant disarmament measures.

All that we are trying to achieve here is to reconfirm our commitments in the fields of both disarmament and development and reiterate our determination to adopt appropriate measure in the light of these commitments.

We have also come here to reach an understanding on the relationship between disarmament and development and on the need to adopt effective policy measures in order to ensure mutually reinforcing relationship between these two processes.

Obviously another major objective we have in view is to arouse the conscience -262>

of the world to the unconscionable and ruinous expenditure for military purposes and alert the world to the non-military threats to our security.

Distinguished delegates, the arms race, particularly the nuclear one, poses a threat to human survival. We live under the Damocles sword of nuclear weapons. The damage that the arms race is inflicting on our economies and on the international economic system is something we feel palpably and on a day-to-day basis. The military expenditure is eating into the very vitals of our life. This is a demon which threatens to enter every house and home and cast a long and sinister shadow on all human activity.

This conference should not be a "once for all" undertaking.

Rather it should be seen as the beginning of a process to be continued under the aegis of the United Nations.

Multilateralism is under seige. We need to put an end to this seige. This conference should impart new vigour and life to multilateralism under the United Nations. This process can be deemed to have already begun the preparatory work of the conference and will continue through its deliberations.

Should we not all ensure that the United Nations emerges stronger and united in purpose on this issue at the end of our deliberations.

The follow-up action to be taken on its recommendations would open new vistas for multilateral cooperation under the aegis of the United Nations.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU

Date: Aug 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

President's Broadcast on the Eve of Independence Day

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 14, 1987 of the text of the broadcast by the President, Shri R. Venkataraman to the Nation on August 14 on the eve of the Independence Day:

Friends, on my first address on the eve of Independence Day I wish to extend to all of you my warmest felicitations and good wishes. On the day that I assumed office I had the privilege of addressing my fellow citizens through their elected representatives in Parliament. Today I have the privilege of speaking to all of you directly and sharing with you some deeplyfelt thoughts.

We cannot but recall with gratitude on this anniversary of our Independence the sufferings and sacrifices of those freedom fighters who participated in the struggle for national liberation. The first salvo for freedom was fired in 1957, 130 years ago, in the historic War of Independence. This was followed by several movements each with its own distinct character, until Mahatma Gandhi arrived on the scene and led us, in an unique way,

to freedom. To each and every one of those heroes of national history let us, offer our reverential homage.

This is the fortieth year of our Independence. I am happy that plans are under way to observe the anniversary not only in a spirit of rejoicing, but also with austere dignity and introspection. You are all aware, that even as the Tricolour went up to herald the changeover, the horrors of -263>

Partition and the agonies of uprooted masses tinged the new dawn with deep distress. The sagacious presence of Mahatma Gandhi, the humanistic leader-ship of Jawaharlal Nehru, the doughty pragmatism of Sardar Patel - above all - the solidarity and wisdom of the masses of the people of India, steadied the Ship of State on its destined course. The sea was as rough as the route was uncharted but we can look back with a legitimate pride on the great distance that has been traversed since then.

The most significant of our achievements is the success of the democratic form of governance in India. The wisdom of the founding fathers of our Constitution is amply demonstrated by the fact that the people of India have mastered the functioning of the system. No more is the patronizing phrase 'democratic experiment' applied to India. India represents today no experiment but a proven model and example of a successful democracy. Nor is our democratic structure a purely political mechanism. It has shown - pioneeringly - an ability to help transform the living conditions of our people, in accordance with the popular mandate.

India did not struggle for mere political freedom, the substitution of the white rulers by the brown or the shifting of pomp and pageantry from aliens to nationals. We promised the people that freedom was only an instrument for improving the lot of the masses and not an end in itself. Poet Subramania Bharati sang that in the new social order if a single individual goes without food, we will destroy the entire world. We wanted to remove social and economic inequality and ensure the sovereign rights of every citizen

FIVE YEAR PLANS

We launched the ship of independent Bharat with high hopes and deep dedication. Thanks to the acceptance of the concept of a planned economy by almost the entire country we have fulfilled several five year plans. As a result, today, we are self-sufficient in food. Gone are the days when we used to look up to other countries for food supply, food aid and concessions. With an efficient public distribution system we can now meet the food requirements of our masses. The industrial infrastructure has been firmed up and we are in the front-line of the newly independent countries in the production of basic industrial

goods. In the field of science and technology, we have won recognition in the scientific world and are on the threshold of a take off in this area.

Progress, however, must relate to the lives of the people. If it does not interlock with their daily experiences, progress is only theoretical. It is here that we in India have a great reason for satisfaction. The indices of the quality of life show continuous and sustained improvement. Major endemic diseases like malaria, smallpox and cholera have been controlled and, most telling of all statistics, life expectancy has improved from 32 years in 1951 to 55 years. With special attention being paid to immunisation and maternal and child care, further gains are expected. Access to education has improved, particularly in rural areas and for disadvantaged classes. There are nations in the Second and Third Worlds with per capita incomes that are higher than ours, thanks to a smaller population and larger natural resources. But if they are evaluated by the crucial test of the amenities for the masses like education, medical care, communications etc., it will be observed that India stands far ahead of them.

While the overall situation is sanguine, the unprecedented drought in almost every part of the country except the Eastern Region causes grave concern. This is the third successive year when the monsoon has disappointed us and the cumulative effect of all these threaten to cause misery to our masses who are all the time living on a narrow margin. Efforts to tackle the situation are urgent and I am glad that the Government have realised the urgency and constituted a Cabinet Committee with the Prime Minister as Chairman to deal with this trying situation. May I appeal

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to all of you to join hands with Government in avoiding waste and conserving resources so as to meet the situation caused by the truancy of the monsoon.

Friends, I referred at the beginning of this address to the agony that accompanied the ecstacy of our independence. Now again, as we prepare to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of our independence, deep anxieties assail us.

Like an eclipse over the radiant sun at noon, communal violence and political terrorism cast their shadow over our lives. The cult of terrorism being blind and heartless, attacks innocent people - simple men, women, children who have committed no crime, offered no provocation. Never before has the nation faced such fierce onslaughts. While the principal responsibility to combat terrorism violence rests with the agencies of the State, the people of India must support the efforts of the State with poise and maturity. I know fully well that grave provocations are being offered to the traditional values of our society. But I would

like to commend for your consideration the words of Jawaharlal Nehru (and I quote) "The consequences of acting in passion are always bad for an individual; but they are infinitely worse for a nation."

This is the time for the people of India, irrespective of religion, region or language, to rise above all sectarian loyalties to the ultimate loyalty towards the nation. I am confident that the ancient wisdom of our people which has bound them together in a unity that encompasses their diversities, will sustain us in the task of meeting the challenges that face us. There is no force, internal or external which seeks to disrupt our life and impede our progress, that we cannot meet if we remain united, confident and disciplined. We must recapture the spirit of unity and involvement that marked our freedom struggle, linking the people of all parts of the country in a common endeavour. Let there be no doubt that the people of India have the capacity to forge unity and solidarity whenever the nation's interests so demand.

Friends, at a ceremony in Rajghat on August 16, handfuls of soil brought from different sthals of India's freedom movement will be mingled in one casket and thereafter returned to the various States of India, symbolizing the great transcontinental solidarity which underlay that momentous struggle.

This gesture will vivify the truth that the freedom of India was wrought by the action of a people who functioned as one people with one resolve: freeing India from the yoke.

We have achieved only one objective, namely, winning freedom but we are still to reach the other goal of prosperity to the masses. In that sense our struggle is not over. We have to put our shoulders together and continue the struggle to rid the country of poverty.

Let us rededicate ourselves to this great and noble task. Jai Hind.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Aug 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Prime Minister's Message

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 14, 1987 of the Prime Minister's message on the 40th Anniversary of Independence:

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, has said that India's policies of self-rule, self-reliance and self-restraint are shaped by the ideas bequeathed to us by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. No nation could ask for a more glorious legacy. Let us, the people of India, wherever we are, enrich this bequest through dedication and unremitting toil. -265>

The following is the text of the Prime Minister's message on the occasion of 40th anniversary of India's Independence:

"It is forty years since India's Non-violent Revolution culminated in Independence and the soul of our nation, so long suppressed, found utterance. The tryst with destiny blossomed into a date with democracy.

In these forty years India has built a society which gives primacy to the power of the people and has consciously discarded conventional ideas of hierarchy in favour of equality. In a land blessed by many religions but blighted by many rituals and dead practices, we have adopted the secular ideal. While using science and technology to overcome economic backwardness, we are at the same time determined to conserve and promote our spiritual and cultural treasures.

Internationally we reject the concept of a world divided into blocs. We believe in a united humanity. There is a future for this humanity only if there is peace. We must recognise that peace cannot be attained through accumulation of weapons of destruction.

India's policies of self-rule, self-reliance and self-restraint are shaped by the ideas bequeathed to us by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, No nation could ask for a more glorious legacy. Let us, the people of India, wherever we are, enrich this bequest through dedication and unremitting toil.

On Independence Day, I give my good wishes to India's proud sons and daughters in every part of our land and in every part of the globe.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Aug 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Allocation of Mine Site to India in Indian Ocean - Prime Minister's Statement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 26, 1987 of the statement by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, made in Parliament today (August 26) regarding allocation of a mine site to India in the Central Indian Ocean by the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority (PREPCOM):

"I rise to inform this House of an important development during the 40th anniversary celebrations of our Independence. On August 17, 1987 we have secured for our country a unique position. Our application for registration and allocation of a mine site in the Central Indian Ocean was unanimously accepted by the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority - PREPCOM - a body of the United Nations.

Hon'ble Members will recall that the Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea accorded India, Pioneer Status along with three other countries in deep seabed exploration in recognition of their achievements in seabed surveys, research and development. India is the only developing country to be so recognised. This was an important landmark.

The decision of the PREPCOM, to register India's claim first and earlier than that of any other country and allocate an area 150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand) square kilometres for further exploration and development is yet another landmark. This decision entitles us to explore and develop the resources of the deep seabed, which contain rich deposits of polymetallic nodules and which are a source of important minerals like copper, cobalt, nickel and manganese. However, commercial exploitation of these resources will take place only in future, after we have developed or acquired adequate technology and after the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea comes into force.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Preparatory Commission has determined that similar claims of other States, viz. France, Japan and USSR would be registered towards the end of this year. This will pave the way for universal participation of developed and developing countries in the new legal regime for ocean space. The registration of our claim for a deep seabed mine site indeed provides a concrete indication of indigenous scientific capabilities and achievements. It is yet another step forward in our quest for self-reliance.

I am sure this House will agree to place on record our appreciation for the excellent work done by our scientists and engineers who have taken up the challenging task to explore new horizons of science to unravel the mysteries of the ocean.

DIA USA TOTO FRANCE JAPAN

Date: Aug 26, 1987

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Shri Natwar Singh Hosts Dinner in Honour of Japanese ForeignMinister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 10, 1987 of the speech by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Natwar Singh at a dinner hosted by him in honour of H.E. Mr. Tadashi Kuranari, Foreign Minister of Japan here tonight (New Delhi, August 10, 1987):

"It is an honour to welcome you, Mr. Minister, to India. We are indeed happy that you could find the time to visit us to keep up the momentum of our bilateral relationship which was set in motion by the visit of Prime Minister Nakasone to India in May 1984 and of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Japan in November 1985.

Japan and India have had historical links, with interaction visible for centuries. Buddhism was our initial medium for cultural and personnel exchanges. It was an important vehicle for intellectual exchange and fostered the spirit of cooperation and the value of co-existence which are with us till today.

This ancient relationship received a fresh impetus in this century. Japan was the first Asian country to incorporate the new developments into its traditional thought. Japan's achievements came to be seen with appreciation in India. Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru recalled in his Autobiography the excitement he experienced as a boy when he heard about Japan's achievements which were seen to be due to her adoption of new industrial methods.

Since we achieved independence the India-Japan relationship has covered fresh ground. The dissenting opinion expressed by Justice Radha Binode Pal at the Tokyo Trials after the Second World War was a manifestation of our attitude to your country. Pandit Nehru had been an advocate of Japan's emergence into the comity of nations as an independent entity.

Friendship with Japan and regular exchanges with Japanese leaders has been important to us and I am particularly happy that Your Excellency has found it convenient to visit us and renew our dialogue. In March this year, we were happy to receive Prince Hiro, a visit which brought back memories of that of his parents, the Crown Prince and Princess to India in 1960.

NEW CHALLENGES

The nations of Asia faced new challenges. The most important one is - development. Our response took the form of a non-violent freedom movement followed by a commitment to nonalignment in our foreign policy and democracy and economic development with social justice internally. Japan's historical circumstance being different you responded to the challenge by building a modern state which could surpass those which had been early starters on the same path. We in India have been impressed with Japan's achievements. We also admire the manner in which modernization has not been allowed to mar your well known cultural traditions - "the civilization of human relationship" as Tagore had termed them..

We consider the process of development as an extension of our independence movement, which we pursue with confidence and resolution. Our Nation building activity has been largely from our own resources, but we have not turned away from appropriate foreign assistance. We attach great value to the assistance that Japan has provided in important areas and are grateful for the increased contribution announced by your Government at the recent India Consortium Meeting. We are confident that our economic cooperation is a useful bridge for personnel exchanges and promoting contacts among our people. We are also confident that the follow up to the Science and Technology Agreement signed in November 1985 will provide a further basis to our cooperation.

Successful development depends on a peaceful environment. Japan's experience bears this out. We too seek peace for development. You are aware, Excellency, of the external threats we have faced. Without being disheartened we have placed our faith in the process of dialogue and negotiations with our neighbours. However, intractable the problem or discouraging the situation, we have relentlessly stuck to a peaceful path without any aggressive intent. You will be glad to know that the agreement signed between India and Sri Lanka is progressing smoothly,

restoring peace in a friendly neighbouring country.

Peace and nuclear disarmament are the urgent need of our times for the establishment of a world order based on mutual trust between nations. The alternative to peaceful coexistence is a situation which threatens the very existence of mankind. India continues to work for mobilising international opinion and to build a world free of fear and distrust which will be responsive to the needs of the current times.

Excellency, I have found our talks today extremely productive. I am confident that with our good understanding and commitment to developing mutually beneficial relations we shall be able to go ahead in fulfilling the promise made by our leaders.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to raise your glasses to the good health and wellbeing of the Foreign Minister of Japan and Mrs. Kuranari and to the further strengthening of Indo-Japanese friendship.

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PAN INDIA USA SRI LANKA

Date: Aug 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

MONGOLIA

India and Mongolia Sign Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 18, 1987 on the signing of a cultural exchange programme between India and Mongolia:

India and Mongolia have agreed to exchange scholars, journalists and performing artists as also to participate in each other's sports and games events.

A Cultural Exchange Programme to this effect was signed here today between the two countries. While Shri Man Mohan Singh, Joint Secretary (Culture), signed it on behalf of India, the Mongolian Ambassador, Mr. O. Khosbayar, represented the Mongolian People's Republic.

This is the eighth exchange programme in the series of similar programmes formulated and executed by the two countries in the

past. It provides for visit of specialists in pre-school education to Mongolia; participation of each other's delegations in international conferences, symposia and seminars; preparation of Hindi-Mongolian and Mongolian-Hindi dictionaries; award of scholarships and visits of sports teams and participation in international competitions to be organised in each other's countries. Mongolia has agreed to provide a teacher of Mongolian language at the Jawaharlal Nehru University and to exchange books and publications of mutual interest.

Provision has also been made for examining the possibility of establishing a Chair of Mongolian studies in an Indian University. Mongolia will be invited to participate in the International Film Festivals organised in India. Exchanges of radio and TV programmes, musical recordings, documentary films; organisation of film weeks, etc. have also been provided for in the programme, which will be valid till the end of 1989.

NGOLIA INDIA USA

Date: Aug 18, 1987

Volume No

1995

NON-ALIGNMENT

Prime Minister's Speech at Seminar

The following is the inaugural address by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the International Seminar on Non-alignment and World Peace held in New Delhi on Aug 07, 1987:

I would like to welcome all the distinguished scholars, academics, opinion leaders and diplomats who have come from all parts of the world and are gathered here today for this Seminar on Nonalignment and World Peace. Your erudition, your insight are needed to understand and evaluate the genesis of Nonalignment and its relevance in today's contemporary world. Amongst us in the Nonaligned Movement, there is a close affinity as befits the Movement. As Indira Gandhi had said, "The Nonaligned Movement is the largest peace movement in the world".

India's choice of Nonalignment was not one by accident. The ethos of Non-alignment is woven deep in woof and warp of India's national fabric. It is deep in our civilisation and our heritage. The ideals of peace, of tolerance, of pluralism and of universal

brotherhood go back to the origins of our civilisation. Our civilisation has survived while others have disappeared into oblivion because of its resilience, because of its flexibility and its adaptability, because it has the ability and the selfconfidence to absorb and assimilate whatever has been of the best in other civilisations and in other cultures. Cross-fertilisation has flourished and we have not rejected without evaluating others' ideas. We have survived because of synthesis not antipathy to different ways of life, different ideals, different beliefs, different thoughts. This tradition of assimilative humanism is deeply etched in our collective psyche. It is from this ethos that our freedom movement developed strength against British rule, not against the English man. Our creed was nonviolence, our bedrock was secularism. From that has developed our philosophy of Nonalignment. Nonalignment is our framework of interaction with the contemporary world keeping in harmony with our ancient ideals.

Our emergence as an independent nation coincided with the dawn of the nuclear age, which transformed the role of military power in human affairs. In the pre-nuclear age, a breakdown of the balance of power, resulted only in a breakdown of the peace in the region. Today, if there is a breakdown of the balance of power, it will result in collective suicide, in the destruction of the attacker and the attacked. It will eliminate all the combatants as well as the non-combatants. It will annihilate most of the human race, most of animal life, and most of plant life. It will spell doom to the present generation and untold future generations. In a sense, it could be called the ultimate epidemic. And the only cure for such an epidemic is prevention. It is imperative, therefore, for us to devise alternative strategies to those that existed in the pre-nuclear era. The obsolete concepts of balance of power must be replaced by something which can function in a nuclear world. The alternative can only be peaceful coexistence. And the centerpiece of any philosophy of peaceful coexistence is the philosophy of Nonalignment.

While those who believe in Cold-War or in the balance of power live in paroxysm of hate, they paint others in devilish colours and themselves as paragons of virtue. We, on the other hand, urge reason and understanding, tolerance and compassion, cooperation and not rivalry, coexistence and not confrontation. When Jawaharlal Nehru first articulated Nonalignment, India was a little island of peace in a vast, turbulent ocean of confrontation. Slowly, that island has expanded. Today two-thirds of the nations of the world are members of the Nonaligned Movement. We have shown the power blocs ways out of dangerous and barren confrontations by our very existence, by adhering to Nonalignment, by enlarging the area of peace, and by demonstrating the feasibility and desirability of peaceful coexistence. The Belgrade Declaration said that the advent of nuclear weapons has rendered war "not only an anachronism but

also a crime against humanity."

DURABLE WORLD PEACE

Nonalignment is not only a strategy for durable world peace but also a strategy for safeguarding the independence of nations. After the searing experience of two centuries of colonialism, we could not hitch ourselves to the bandwagon of others. We could not circumscribe our own opinions and our options to those chosen by others. To be free, we had to be free to speak our minds. We had to be free to control our destinies, we had to be free to determine our friends, we had to be free to choose our direction, and we had to be free to influence the direction that the world was taking. We rejected the attempts by a handful of States to arrogate to themselves the right to run others' affairs, by virtue of only their military or economic might. By an overwhelming majority, the emergent nations in the post colonial world have -270>

adopted Nonalignment. Because of this commitment of the newly independent nations to Nonalignment, our foremost concern has been the liberation of peoples and nations. The transformation of the world community into a community of self-governing States has largely been achieved, but there are a few exceptions, notably in South Africa, in Namibia and in Palestine. The task there remains unfinished. Decolonisation has not ended there, and the highest priority must be given to these three areas.

Beyond being a strategy for peace and the independence of nations, Nonalignment is also a strategy for equality, for justice in international affairs. Nonalignment stands for global democracy, where all States have an equal voice and equal say, where all States are listened to with respect, where all are equal in the attributes of their sovereignty irrespective of size or strength, military or economic. The United Nations, for all its imperfections, is the closet approximation to global democracy today. Alas: when most of the globe was under colonial subjugation, the dominant powers said the United Nations was the voice of humankind. Today, when that same humankind has found its own voice, and has found the United Nations as a forum to speak out, we find that those same powers are disenchanted with the United Nations and the democratic ways in the world. Therefore, strengthening the United Nations is crucial in today's atmosphere, it is crucial in our continuing struggle for a world order based on democratic equality amongst sovereign nations.

THREAT TO SECURITY

Poverty is perhaps the greatest threat to our security and we have, therefore, outlined a New International Economic Order. This was elaborated in the Algiers Summit of the Nonaligned in 1973. The present order is inequitable and unjust. It needs a

radical overhaul to promote possibilities of development for the poor in the world. But although the international economic system is convulsed in a crisis for over a decade, the North-South Dialogue is at a standstill. Our view is not of our prosperity versus the prosperity of the North. We feel that rapid growth in the North is only possible with rapid, sustained growth in the South. No prosperity can be there for the North if there is instability, if there are cyclical ups and downs and structural malfunctioning in the present economic system as there is today. For our prosperity and that of the North, we need steady sustained development. It is for this reason that we seek a mutually reinforcing symbiosis of stable prosperity in the North and sustained development. in the South.

UNCTAD-VII

It is incredible that the North's response to this appeal to reason and justice is so barren. Yes, UNCTAD-VII has been more constructive than the earlier UNCTAD, but there is no substitute for a radical reorganisation of international economic relations. This is as essential for the North as it is for the South. But to achieve this, and to have the strength to have our views heard, we must first develop South-South cooperation. Today, there are many areas in technologies, in scientific developments which are available in the South amongst ourselves. But we do not have enough knowledge about ourselves. We know more about the developed nations than we know about each other. Unless we are able to change this, we will not be able to develop South-South cooperation. The first step must be more areas of interaction, more levels of interaction between the nations of the South. We hope the South-South Commission that is due to start its work soon will help in this task. We are honoured that a distinguished Indian economist has been chosen as the Secretary General of this Commission.

The greatest challenge in the struggle for equality and justice is perhaps still in Southern Africa. The issues of Southern Africa dominated the last Harare Summit. They are still engaging our attention. The Nonaligned Movement has identified -271>

itself with the struggle in South Africa. It has identified itself against apartheid, against colonialism. It has been with the struggle against the invasions and destabilisation in Southern Africa.

The AFRICA Fund was set up as an earnest of this commitment. We have received many contributions from Nonaligned members despite their own development demands and their limited resources. Our commitment and our resolve will not be reduced by our lack of economic strength. We have already received amounts for approximately one-third of the target that we have set for ourselves, and we are optimistic that with the other schemes that

we have developed where nations could contribute directly to the schemes that we have identified, we will be able to complete the targets that we have set for the AFRICA Fund. We have identified the priority areas, and with bilateral assistance from other liberalminded developed nations, we will be able to achieve these targets.

DECEPTIVE CALM

In South Africa, there is a deceptive calm. In reality, it is a brief lull before the storm breaks. Institutionalised racism, that is, stamping over human dignity and cruelly flouting human rights cannot last. It must not be allowed to last. It is a powderkeg that will blow up. It has lasted so long because of sustained sand-bagging by certain interested nations, certain countries with economic and military interests which seem to prevail over the greater human interests of dignity, human dignity and freedom. They have supported the racist regime in Pretoria, but they cannot save this regime. They must snap their links. They must end apartheid. They must make their positions clear. The quicker apartheid ends, the less painful the transformation will be. We must maintain our support for those that are fighting against racism, for those that are fighting for their freedom. The only way of fighting apartheid is through compulsory mandatory sanctions against the South African regime which clearly constitutes a clear and present threat to peace under Chapter-VII of the UN Charter. This will be the highest tribute to Nelson Mandela and his people. Pretoria has kept him incarcerated for over a quarter of a century now, and it is a shame, not just for Pretoria but for the whole world, that we have not been able to muster up enough strength to remove colonialism from its last corner in the world.

The prolongation of apartheid prolongs the colonisation of Namibia. Nine long years ago, the UN Plan for Namibia was put through to accelerate the dismantling of the illegal colonial occupation of Namibia by Pretoria. But some parties to the Plan have blocked the implementation of that Plan. Some parties for reasons totally alien to Namibia, have not allowed that Plan to go through.

AFRICA FUND

South Africa also blatantly invades the Frontline States. They support the mercenaries and their puppet regimes with arms and economic aid. They are throttling the normal life of the Frontline States. The gross transgression of the sovereignty of the Frontline States and the use of every ruse to destabilise the Frontline States must be faced with resolute courage by all Nonaligned countries. The Frontline States must be supported in their struggle against South Africa, against the Pretoria regime, and we must contribute with whatever we can in material and economic assistance. We must contribute with moral support and by

inspiring them. This is the challenge that the Nonaligned face today. The AFRICA Fund is a gauge of that solidarity, of that moral support and of our material assistance.

The plight of the Palestinians continues, the tragedy that has continued for decades. The only solution is the restitution of the inalienable right of the Palestinians to have a State of their own in their own homeland. India has fought for Palestine's right from before our independence. We have spoken out for the rights of our brothers. We voted in the -272>

UN against the partition of Palestine. Recently, our brother Yasser Arafat was in Delhi. India, we feel, is his second home. Our support for the cause of the Palestinian people is consistent and unflinching.

In Central America, many of our Nonaligned countries are facing pressures of intervention and aggression. Popular struggle against obsolete and oppressive socio-economic structures continues. It cannot be subordinated to the strategic interests of unilaterally imposed spheres of influence. What is needed is restraint and dialogue. What is needed is for the Contadora process to be upheld and continued.

INDIAN OCEAN

In our own region, the climate for peace and stability is being undermined by the steady induction of sophisticated weaponry, by attempts to integrate South-West Asia into the global strategic perspectives of outside powers, by foreign influences and presences in the Indian Ocean. In this regard, the unanimous view of the littoral and hinterland States is that our security lies only in the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. The Sri Lankan crisis has shown how hostile forces can exploit difficulties in other regions to introduce unwarranted presences, threatening presences, presences that threaten regional stability and regional security and the commitment to Nonalignment, forces that draw the region into global rivalries which are the antithesis of Nonalignment. The Indo-Sri Lanka agreement delivers a severe blow to these forces. It emphasises the reality of the region's Nonalignment, a Nonalignment which is the bulwark against outside rivalries coming into our region. The Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement shows that the Nonaligned can sort out their own problems. We do not need the intervention of major powers. It reinforces the need for an early convening of the Colombo Conference on the implementation of the 1971 UN Declaration.

In the Gulf, the remorseless conflict between two Nonaligned countries continues. Recent events have underlined how potentially explosive this conflict is for regional peace, for international peace and for world security. The unanimous Security Council resolution to end the conflict must be paid heed

to by both the combatants.

DISARMAMENT

But over-arching all regional conflicts and tensions and hotspots is the nuclear arms race. Nuclear disarmament is a major plank of the Nonaligned Movement. The Nonaligned have supported and endorsed the Six-Nation/Five-Continent Peace Initiative. The prospects for nuclear disarmament are better now than they have been for many years. After Reykjavik and the subsequent proposals, what we need is a moratorium on nuclear tests to facilitate progress in the disarmament negotiations.

We appreciate the suggestions put forward recently by General Secretary Gorbachev in his interview to "Merdeka". He has offered a global double-zero disarmament and dismantling, which includes the short-range and the medium-range landbased missiles in both Europe and Asia (approximately a hundred missiles which are in Asia) which would be dismantled under this scheme, without insisting on the reciprocal dismantling of sea-based or air-based missiles, but with important concessions from the United States. This opens the way for the first genuine disarmament agreement and the first dismantling of operational systems since the Second World War, through a Summit between Reagan and Gorbachev, which we hope will lead subsequently to the complete removal of all sea-based and airbased missiles and the dismantling of all nuclear presences in Asia, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific and all over the world.

Interdependence is one of the key factors in Nonalignment. A cooperative framework for solutions of our common problems must be built if this interdepen--273>

dence on each other is to strengthen our Movement. The Nonaligned today include half the human family and we reach across the globe. Our strength is in our cohesion and in our concerted action. The Nonaligned Movement is not a bloc. Therefore differences in emphasis and nuance are inevitable and desirable. The Nonaligned methodology is one of consensus, one of consulting and getting all views expressed before developing that consensus. What is needed is the traditional spirit of accommodation, the spirit of respecting each other's views within a larger framework of the Nonaligned Movement maintaining the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned movement.

In concluding, I would like to thank all those who will be participating in this seminar, especially our friends from abroad who have come to participate in this seminar, commemorating the 40th year of our Independence.

A famous verse from the Rigveda, our most ancient text presages our approach to Nonalignment:

"Sanghachadvam, Samvadadvam, Sambhomanasi janatham"

"Let us come together, Let us speak together, Let us proceed together in unison."

Thank you.

DIA USA YUGOSLAVIA NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA ALGERIA ZIMBABWE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU SRI LANKA ICELAND CHAD OMAN

Date: Aug 07, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Remarks by Pakistan Uncalled For

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 20, 1987:

We are mystified at the Pakistan Foreign Secretary's carping criticism of the homage and respect paid by the Government and people of India to Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. Given the Frontier Gandhi's stellar role in the subcontinent's struggle against foreign domination, the love and affection bestowed by the people of India upon him as exemplified by the medical attention and care provided to him in India, the award of the nation's highest honour and the despatch of a high level delegation to accompany him to Peshawar was only natural and fitting. One wonders whether such criticism stems from a sense of shame and guilt in having failed to do likewise?

The denial of involvement with extremist activities directed against India and of a weapons oriented nuclear programme are of a piece - utterly incredible! There is a wealth of evidence to indicate that Pakistan has been encouraging and assisting extremist activities against India both overtly and covertly. Such assistance has taken many forms including supply of weapons, setting up of training camps, abetting incidents of hijacking, use of the media for inciting terrorism, etc. Ample evidence has been furnished to Pakistan on this account and they have not been able to rebut it.

As regards Pakistan's nuclear programme, its clandestine nature and non-peaceful dimensions are now clearly established and well

documented. The Parvez affair and the Nazir Vaid case when Pakistani nationals have been caught redhanded while smuggling nuclear triggering -274>

switches, maraging steel and beryllium used for manufacturing nuclear weapons from the USA, have fully exposed the nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme. It is an exercise in futility for the Pakistan Foreign Secretary to endeavour to cover up Pakistan's single minded drive to acquire nuclear weapons by making false and baseless allegations about India's nuclear programme. India's nuclear programme is an open book and has been commended the world over for its peaceful orientation.

The Pakistan Foreign Secretary's remarks about the India-Sri Lanka agreement are entirely uncalled for as it has secured universal acclaim and has brought peace to the area. Above all, Pakistan has no locus standi in casting aspersions on this agreement which has been concluded between two sovereign countries. It may be pointed out that the despatch of Indian troops to Sri Lanka was only at the invitation of the Sri Lankan Government. To draw a parallel between the situation in Sri Lanka and some States in India is quite unwarranted as the objective conditions on the ground in both countries are entirely different. Indeed, such comments are tantamount to an interference in our internal affairs and it is a pity that Pakistan should choose to do so. Pakistan would do well to remember that India has scrupulously avoided any reference to the conditions prevailing in Sind and Baluchistan, apart from such issues as the plight of the Pakhtoons and the Qadianis.

KISTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA RUSSIA SRI LANKA

Date: Aug 20, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Central American Accord

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 20, 1987:

We are happy to learn of the signing of the Accord in Guatemala City by the Presidents of the Republic of Costa Rica, El Salvador Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on the procedure to establish a firm and durable peace in Central America. India has consistently supported the efforts of the Contadora Group to restore and preserve peace and stability in Central America. We appreciate the steps taken by the countries of the region to initiate an authentic regional agreement and express the hope that the process of negotiation and dialogue will result in a just and lasting settlement, based on the respect for the right to self-determination of each country of the region and ensuring the security, sovereignty and independence of all States of the region, free of external intervention or threat of such intervention.

DIA GUATEMALA COSTA!!EL SALVADOR CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC HONDURAS NICARAGUA USA

Date: Aug 20, 1987

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE

Banquet in Honour of Chairman Yasser Arafat - Prime Minister's Speech

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 03, 1987 of the speech by the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the banquet hosted in honour of His Excellency Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation:

In welcoming Your Excellency to our country, we welcome you to your "second -275>

home", as you yourself have described India. You are to us much more than an honoured guest; you are a brother and a friend. We recall with pleasure your earlier visits to our country. This visit further cements the special relationship and understanding which exists between the people of Palestine and the people of India.

Our great leaders who fought for the freedom of our country regarded the struggle for our freedom as integral to the larger worldwide struggle for the restoration to all subjugated peoples of their right to self-determination and of their right to an independent homeland, Gandhiji proclaimed:

"Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same sense that England belongs to the English or France to the French"

and went on to describe the deprivation of Palestine from its Arab inhabitants as "a crime against humanity", condemning the outside settlers as "co-sharers with the British in despoiling a people who have done no wrong to them." And presaging the stand which independent India would take, Jawaharlal Nehru wrote in 1938 that:

"Palestine is an Arab country and Arab interests must prevail there."

Thus, the genesis of the close ties which bind our two peoples lies in our respective freedom movements, our joint concerns and the pressures to which we are subjected.

Mr. Chairman, we reaffirm that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the true representative of the Palestinian people. Thanks to your inspiring leadership and wise guidance, the inherent strength and unity of the Palestinian people has been maintained in the face of external pressures and outside intervention. It is a tribute to your people's trust and confidence in your leadership that the recent meeting in Algiers of the Palestine National Council demonstrated once again that the PLO is the sole, authentic and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

For decades, the Palestinian people have been subjected to hardship and injustice, oppression and repression. They have been uprooted from their homes. Their lands have been expropriated. Their rights have been trampled upon. One of our great freedom fighters, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, galvanized the nation when he proclaimed:

"Swaraj (self-rule) is our birth right - and we shall have it."

In the same spirit we affirm:

"An independent homeland is your inalienable right - and you shall have it."

It is not for any lack of international concern or effort that the Palestinian problem has eluded a solution. It is primarily due to the obduracy of Israel. And, in turn, Israel's intransigence has been encouraged by the external support it receives. Israel must pay heed to international opinion. It must halt its aggressive and expansionist policies. It must concede the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Repressive measures cannot silence the voice of freedom. Israel must withdraw totally and unconditionally from all occupied Arab territories. The Palestinian people must secure their inalienable right to self-determination and an independent State. That is the only basis on which a durable, just and comprehensive settlement

of the problems of the region can be achieved.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

We, for our part, will continue to support and promote the national aspirations of the Palestinian people in all appropriate international forums. Bilaterally, we will continue to extend our full cooperation and assistance to our Palestinian brothers.

So long as the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are denied, the situation in West Asia cannot but remain -276>

tense and unstable. There is, perhaps, now a somewhat greater international awareness of the importance for global peace of freedom and justice for Palestine. This is reflected in the growing consensus in favour of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East. It is indispensible that the PLO and all parties concerned must participate in such a Conference. World public opinion strongly favours a just and peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question. Any failure to understand and accommodate legitimate Palestinian aspirations through the process of negotiations at an international conference can only result in the intensification of the armed struggle to assert and secure Palestinian rights.

The Iran-Iraq war has inflicted incalculable harm on both nations. The damage to material resources has been stupendous. The loss of human life is tragic. The danger of the conflict spilling over into other countries of the region has never been greater. The threat of external intervention has never been more grave. This is a matter of deep concern to the international community as a whole, but most particularly to we who live in the neighbourhood of the conflict and are fellow-members of the Nonaligned Movement. We shall persist in our efforts to bring about an early end to this disastrous conflict.

The situation in South Africa remains explosive. Human rights are cruelly abrogated and human dignity denied. Apartheid survives on the succour it receives from its links with the powerful economies of the developed world. Sanctions are needed to cut that umbilical cord. Pretoria also receives sustenance from the same sources in its continuing illegal colonial occupation of Namibia. Meanwhile, it subjects the Front-line States to relentless political and economic destablisation. The AFRICA Fund is playing an active role in coordinating economic support for the beleagured States of the Front-line.

Mr. Chairman, in our region the rivalries among outside powers and the massive induction of sophisticated arms threaten the security and stability of the region. Scarce resources are being diverted from economic development to a spiralling arms race. We firmly believe that enduring peace cannot be secured through an

escalation of arms but only through the development of friendly and cooperative relationship. The resolute pursuit of this objective has opened up imminent prospects of a political cooperation:

Ladies and Gentlemen, I invite you to join me in raising toast to the health and wellbeing of our distinguished guest and brother, His Excellency Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation; to growing friendship and cooperation between the Palestinian and Indian peoples; and to the early success of the Palestinian revolution.

DIA USA FRANCE ALGERIA ISRAEL IRAN IRAQ SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Aug 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE

Parliamentarians for Removal of Apartheid Prime Minister's Inaugural Address

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 17, 1987 of the speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, while inaugurating the Global Preparatory Meeting of Parliamentarians for Removal of Apartheid:

As Parliamentarians, you are the representatives of your peoples. You represent the dignity of your people. You represent the rights of your people. You are the voice of your people. In South Africa, the blacks have no voice. They have no rights. They have no dignity. It is cruelly denied to them by the system of apartheid.

"Parliamentarians Action for Removal of Apartheid" fulfills the key task of any responsible and representative democracy. By bringing together Parlia--277>

mentarians from India, and progressively, Parliamentarians from all over the world and building a global forum for action to resist apartheid, will bring about an awareness right across the globe where it matters most, where Governments can be influenced - an awareness about apartheid, the costs of apartheid in South Africa, and for the rest of the world. It can, perhaps, best the illustrated by a small quotation from a book of essays by South

African children. A young boy of eight has written:

"When I am old, I would like to have a wife and two children - a boy and a girl -and two dogs, and freedom."

We owe it to that lad, to every child, to every youth, to every woman, to every man, who is a victim of that inhuman brutality of apartheid, to join together in destroying that system, which has become a system to incarnate evil in South Africa.

Apartheid is a blot on our civilisation. It is a crime against humanity. It has become a structure of institutionalised terror, sustained by racist domination and economic exploitation. Apartheid means a small bigoted minority overwhelming and holding a majority by bondage, keeping thousands in prison every year. Even children are imprisoned and kept in savage tyranny. The media is muzzled and controlled and the world gets only a partial glimpse of the atrocities that are being perpetrated in Southern Africa.

MAHATMA AND MENDELA

The people of South Africa have shown rare courage and perseverance. The symbol of their struggle is Nelson Mendela. A symbol of the shame of apartheid is his incarceration. The symbol of the undaunted battle of the people of South Africa, their certainty of victory, is that after a quarter century of incarceration, Nelson Mendela's spirit is still unbroken. Nothing will diminish his will or the will of his people, not prison, not torture, not unspeakable cruelties. Nelson Mendela has said, and I quote:

"During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the idea of democratic and free society, in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunity. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

It is that spirit which will lead the blacks of South Africa to victory.

Nelson Mendela has carried forward to our generation the struggles launched by Mahatma Gandhi, at the turn of the century in South Africa. We in India regard the struggle against apartheid as an extension of our own freedom struggle. Neither we nor the people of the world can be fully free till the struggle that Mahatma Gandhi started, the struggle that Nelson Mendela carries forward today, reaches its triumphant conclusion.

It is a foregone conclusion that the people of South Africa will eventually find justice. Victory will be theirs. No one and

nothing can deny that victory. The only question is: Will that victory come in a short time with relatively little bloodshed or will that victory be delayed and come over a long period with bloodshed comparable to that in the Second World War.

The Commonwealth Group of Eminent persons gave an unambiguous answer: "The termination of apartheid with relatively less upheaval is possible provided all economic and military sustenance to Pretoria ceases." Apartheid survives because of economic infusion from some developed countries. It survives because Pretoria is integrated into the global political and defence strategies of certain countries. It survives because conscience has been subordinated to other considerations. All, all over the world, must realise that by not cooperating in ending apartheid, they are not in the long run serving even their own geopolitical, military or economic ends. They -278>

are jeopardising those very interests by their support to Pretoria today.

We have seen over these years that it is not possible to persuade Pretoria to change. It is not possible to cajole the racists. It is not possible to compromise with racism. We must uproot, we must cast away apartheid. For this, it is essential that we have comprehensive mandatory sanctions under Chapter-VII of the UN Charter. South Africa has shown that it is a danger to peace in the region. The world must take action.

Apartheid is a foundation of the colonialism in Namibia, its invasion, its destabilisation, the assistance that is being given to puppets and mercenaries in the Frontline States. In terms of the UN Charter, Pretoria presents a clear and present threat to peace in South Africa, Southern Africa, Namibia and the Frontline States. The Africa Fund is an earnest of our commitment to resisting invasion, colonialism and apartheid.. The Fund is a reality with pledged assistance of two hundred million US dollars with contribution from the Non-aligned countries and from non-nonaligned countries. All those who have collaborated in realising the Fund have the same objectives in mind, whether they are non-aligned countries or non-nonaligned.

The priorities are very clear. The programmes project to assist the Southern African countries in strengthening their economies to face up to South Africa, to face up to the pressures that Pretoria is putting on them. We have established a list of priorities under the Africa Fund. While we would like countries to help directly through the Fund, we realise that sometimes this can be difficult, and we have kept an option open for countries directly assisting the Frontline countries in these same projects - the projects that the Africa Fund has chosen - so that our programmes can be completed whether directly through Africa Fund or through bilateral aid directly from donor-countries to the

countries that are involved.

Across the world, slavery has been finished. Human dignity has been restored. Human rights have been restored. The final battle, the last vestige, is in South Africa. This battle has to be fought not just in South Africa, it has to be fought across the world. The battle has to be fought in Parliaments across the world, because it is in Parliaments that policies are made. It is in Parliaments that governments decide to support or help Pretoria. It is in these Parliaments that this battle must be fought, to withdraw that support and to isolate Pretoria so that victory can be ours.

We have seen that half measures do not work with Pretoria. We have seen that talking, cajoling and other methods have only helped Pretoria buy time. It is time that we put our foot down and come forward with stronger measures. We feel the only measures that will bring Pretoria around are comprehensive mandatory sanctions, and this is the time to bring them about. The people of India are with you in your efforts to promote an effective and collective Parliamentary action against apartheid.

We welcome you to Delhi. You are a symbol of the continuing struggle against colonialism. I give you my best wishes. It has given me great pleasure to inaugurate this Conference.

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DIA USA OMAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA

Date: Aug 17, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

New and Higher Levels of Indo-Soviet Cooperation in Science and Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 21, 1987 of the speech by Shri K. R. Narayanan, Minister of State for Science and Technology in Leningrad:

India is determined to achieve breakthroughs in knowledge and know-how and to acquire the highest technologies that are available in the world today. This was stated by the Minister of State for Science and Technology, Shri K. R. Narayanan, who was speaking on the occasion of inauguration of science and technology exhibition in Leningrad.

The Minister said that Indo-Soviet cooperation would rise to new and higher levels of science and technology. The future programme in this field encompasses thrust areas on the very frontiers of science and technology, basic areas in selected fields of science and other areas. Some of the identified areas are biotechnology and immunology, materials science and technology, lasers, catalysis, space science and technology, sychrotron radiation source, water prospecting, computers and electronics.

Speaking on the occasion the Minister added that Soviet cooperation with India in heavy industrialisation and in advanced areas of technology came at a period of critical need for our country. It helped us in laying the foundations of our economic self-reliance at a time when the technological gap between developed and developing countries has actually been widening.

Shri Narayanan said that science and technology are not something apart from society and culture. Rather they are the sharpest edge of culture which has to be used effectively as well as with wisdom.

The Minister recalled that Jawaharlal Nehru had talked about scientific humanism as the appropriate creed for the modern age. Both Lenin and General Secretary Gorbachev have also emphasized the humanistic objectives involved in the pursuit and application of science and technology.

DIA USA

Date: Aug 21, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Shri Rajiv Gandhi Inaugurates ISD Service between India and SriLanka

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 24, 1987 of the inauguration of the ISD between India and Sri Lanka:

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi inaugurated here today, (August 24, 1987) International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) between India and Sri Lanka. The Prime Minister made the inaugural call to Sri Lanka by speaking to President Jayawardene at Colombo. Sri Lanka is the third SAARC country after Bangladesh and Nepal to be

brought on to the ISD map of India.

With the opening of ISD to Sri Lanka, subscribers in over 400 cities in India will now be able to directly dial subscribers in important cities in Sri Lanka, viz. Colombo -280>

(1), Galle (9), Kandy (8), Katunayake Airport (30), Moratuwa (72), Negombo (31), Panadura (46) and Jaffna (21). For dialling such calls subscribers will first dial the International access code '00' followed by the country code of Sri Lanka which is '94' and then the area code of the city in Sri Lanka e.g. '1' for Colombo as above, and finally the local telephone number of the desired subscriber.

The first telecommunication link between India (Bombay) and Sri Lanka (Colombo) was established on November 1, 1967 with the opening of manual telex circuits over high frequency (HF) radio system. The links were gradually expanded to include the telephone and public telegraph services. Reliable telephone service from Bombay to Colombo became available from June 1976 with switch over from HF to Satellite link. Both New Delhi and Madras are also directly linked to Colombo through Satellite.

Besides conventional telephone, telex and telegraph services, radio photo service was cut into service from March 15, 1973. Recently, modern fascimile service for digital transmission of documents between India and Sri Lanka has been introduced from December 1986.

In order to strengthen economic relations with the neighbouring SAARC countries, special tariff has been extended. Charging will be on the basis of one local call for every two seconds uniformly throughout day and night.

Until early December 1985, subscribers in only four metropolitan cities at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras were able to make ISD calls to just six countries of the world. A concerted drive was launched to extend the ISD facilities to a large number of subscribers in India as also to several countries of the World. In a short span of a year and half subscribers in over 400 important cities in India can now directly dial their calls to subscribers in 57 countries all over the globe including Sri Lanka to which ISD service has now been opened.

I LANKA INDIA USA BANGLADESH NEPAL

Date: Aug 24, 1987

Volume No

SRI LANKA

India and Sri Lanka to Resume Ferry Service

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 24, 1987 on the resumption of ferry service between India and Sri Lanka:

Ferry Service between Rameshwaram in India and Talaimannar in Sri Lanka will resume with effect from January 1, 1988 as part of Indo-Sri Lanka Accord.

This was decided at a meeting held here today between the Minister of State for Surface Transport, Shri Rajesh Pilot and H.E. M.H. Mohammed, Minister of Transport of Sri Lanka.

The inaugural service on January 1, 1988 will be inaugurated by Shri Pilot from Rameshwaram and his counterpart H.E. Mr. Mohammad from Talaimannar.

This service will be provided by the Shipping Corporation of India.

The visiting Minister said that soft loan from India should be provided to purchase about 400 buses. Shri Pilot told the delegation that the Government will look into the matter and try to help them out.

Both the Ministers agreed that tourism facilities should be improved between the two countries by providing smaller and luxurious ships. They agreed that the officials of both the countries will discuss modalities for expansion of tourism in both the countries.

It was agreed in the meeting that both the countries will cooperate in transport and shipping sector. -281>

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date: Aug 24, 1987

Volume No

SRI LANKA

Indo-Sri Lankan Cooperation in Railways

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 25, 1987 on Indo-Sri Lanka cooperation in railways:

All necessary steps will be taken at the earliest to bring about restoration of free flow of passengers and cargo between India and Sri Lanka. This assurance was given by the Minister of State for Railways, Shri Madhavrao Scindia at a meeting with the Transport Minister of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. M. H. Mohammed, when the latter called on Shri Scindia here today. Rehabilitation of railway tracks in Sri Lanka including supply of sleepers and other track materials from India was also discussed at the meeting.

The details of cooperation in the field of railways will be discussed by the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission on Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation which is likely to meet in the near future. A team of officials from Sri Lanka is also expected to visit India in early September, 1987 in this connection.

The Transport Minister of Sri Lanka was accompanied by Mr. Illaya Peruma, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport, Sri Lanka.

I LANKA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA PERU

Date: Aug 25, 1987

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Indo-Swedish Textile Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 27, 1987 on the signing of the Indo-Swedish textile agreement:

India and Sweden have signed a bilateral Textile Agreement under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA-IV), which governs the world trade in textiles. The Agreement was signed here today by Dr. J. K. Bagchi, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Textiles, on behalf of the Government of India and by Mr. Axel Edelspam, the Swedish Ambassador in India, on behalf of Sweden. The Textile Secretary, Shri Shiromani Sharma, was present at the signing ceremony.

The present level of India's textile trade with Sweden is around Rs. 40 crores. With the exemption of handloom made-up products from quantitative restrictions under the Agreement signed today, it is anticipated that the exports of handloom products to Sweden would pick up. The better access to Indian textiles provided for in the Agreement is also expected to result in increased exports to Sweden.

The main features of the Agreement are:

- (i) Reduction in product coverage on a progressive pattern. As against 10 product-groups subject to restraint in the earlier agreement, only 6 groups will be subject to restraint by 1st January, 1990. The products that are phased out of restraint, during the life of the agreement are shirts, table linen, curtains/ bedspreads/ furnishing and omnibus products classified under Rest Group.
- (ii) Indian items will continue to be exempted from restraints, while -282>

for the first time handloom made-up products have been freed from quantitative restrains. For handloom garments, additional quotas have been provided over and above the quotas for the corresponding mill-made garment categories.

- (iii) Better flexibilities have been provided and increased growth rates on an escalating basis have also been provided.
- (iv) The agreement incorporates safeguard provisions in regard to protection of historical access as well as protection in the case of additional trade measures.

On the occasion of the signing, Shri Shiromani Sharma, Secretary, (Textiles), stated that the new agreement was a marked improvement over the previous one. He expressed his happiness on the fact that the new agreement does not restrict the export of handloom fabrics and made-ups to Sweden. He hoped that the textile trade between India and Sweden would increase substantially on account of the new agreement.

This agreement is a result of two rounds of negotiations between India and Sweden. The earlier agreement was to expire on December 31, 1986. As per the agreement reached between the two countries, the old agreement was extended upto June 30, 1987. The new agreement signed today is valid from July 1, 1987 to December 31, 1991 with a provision for extension for one more year, subject to consent by both the sides.

EDEN INDIA OMAN USA

Date: Aug 27, 1987

September

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Date: Sep 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

AUSTRIA

International Speed Post Service to Austria

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 14, 1987 on the extension of the International Speed Post Service to Austria:

The International Speed Post Service is now being extended to Austria from September 15, 1987. The International Speed Post Service, with this addition, is now available for Austria, the U.K., the Federal Republic of Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, the United States of America, Baharain, Belguim, Egypt, France, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Macau, Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

STRIA USA INDIA GERMANY HONG KONG JAPAN UNITED KINGDOM EGYPT FRANCE GREECE IRELAND OMAN PAKISTAN PORTUGAL SWEDEN SWITZERLAND TUNISIA TURKEY

Date: Sep 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

BURMA

Banquet Speech by Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari in Honour of the Foreign Minister of Burma

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 14, 1987 of the speech by the Union Minister of Finance and Commerce, Shri N. D. Tiwari at a banquet hosted by him in honour of the Foreign Minister of Burma H.E. Mr. U Ye Goung:

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming you and members of your delegation to India on this momentous occasion of the exchange of instruments of ratification of the Maritime Boundary agreement that our countries had signed in December, 1986. I take this opportunity to recall the kind hospitality which the Burmese Government had so graciously extended to me and to my colleagues then and it is indeed a pleasure multiplied for me, because I signed the agreement as Minister for External Affairs and have now exchanged the instruments of ratification with Your

Excellency.

The agreement has now came into force, heralding the beginning of a new era in our bilateral relations which have traditionally been marked by warmth, cordiality and mutual understanding. India and Burma share historical bonds of culture and tradition. Having both suffered through long periods of alien rule, we are now engaged in the challenging task of nation building.

With so much in common, it is but natural that both India and Burma should cooperate with each other to their mutual advantage. Much more needs to be done to expand and consolidate bilateral cooperation in every field. There should be more cultural exchanges, increased pace of -285>

economic relations, expanded trade and greater industrial cooperation.

It was the vision of the founding fathers of our countries, Pandit Nehru and your great leader Aung San that the two neighbouring countries should cooperate to build a brighter future for the peoples of both the countries. We should strive to fulfil this vision through closer multidimensional cooperation.

Through many trials and tribulations, India has over the last forty years achieved a large industrial infrastructure, has reached self-sufficiency in food-grains and has built up a vast reservoir of technical expertise. We are ready to share our knowledge and experience with our Burmese brethren. We would also wish to learn from your experience of development. We have much to give to each other and this can only be done if there are greater exchanges at all levels between the two countries.

The spirit of mutual understanding and accommodation which has marked the signing of the maritime boundary agreement reflects our mutual desire for closer cooperation. We shall build on this to strengthen our relationship even further.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, let us raise our glasses and drink a toast to the health of His Excellency, the Foreign Minister of Burma, and to the continued peace and prosperity of the people of Burma. May Indo-Burma friendship grow. Long live Indo-Burma friendship.

RMA INDIA USA

Date: Sep 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

BURMA

Burmese Foreign Minister Meets Shri H. K. L. Bhagat

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 14, 1987 on the meeting of the Burmese Foreign Minister with Shri H. K. L. Bhagat, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Food and Civil Supplies:

His Excellency U Ye Goung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma called on the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Food and Civil Supplies, Shri H. K. L. Bhagat here today.

H.E. U Ye Goung and Shri Bhagat referred to the age old friendship between India and Burma and hoped that the friendly relations between the two countries would be further strengthened.

Shri Bhagat apprised the Burmese Foreign Minister of the functioning of India's Public Distribution System, the largest in the world, and its effectiveness in supplying essential commodities to millions of people, especially of weaker sections. He also briefed him about India's Food Management Policy, Buffer Stocks, Storage of Foodgrains etc.

Shri Bhagat informed the visiting Minister about record sugar production in the current sugar season and made enquiries about sugar industry in Burma.

He also offered to extend India's expertise in the field of storage of foodgrains, an activity beneficial to all developing countries, if Burmese Government so desired.

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RMA INDIA USA

Date: Sep 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

EAST ASIA

Indian Exports

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 27, 1987 on the Indian exports to East Asia:

India's exports to the East Asia region in 1986-87 are estimated to have increased to Rs. 2566.51 crores from Rs. 2062.44 crores in 1985-86. Exports to this region covering, among others, Japan, China, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Hong Kong, have thus doubled from a level of Rs. 1286.90 crores in 1980-81 and compared to the level of Rs. 1553.74 crores in 1982-83 the increase is estimated at 65%.

According to the provisional trade figures available with Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), exports from India to Japan in 1986-87 have increased from Rs. 1190.97 crores in 1985-86 to Rs. 1340.90 crores; to Hong Kong from Rs. 231.34 crores to Rs. 398.85 crores; to Australia from Rs. 124.53 crores to Rs. 147.09 crores; to Singapore from Rs. 143.04 crores to Rs. 220.02 crores; to Thailand from Rs. 27.34 crores to Rs. 65 crores: Indonesia from Rs. 15.05 crores to Rs. 22.33 crores; DPR Korea from Rs. 8.50 crores to Rs. 24.45 crores and to the Republic of Korea from Rs. 92.89 crores to Rs. 110.16 crores. New Zealand and the Philippines accounted for Rs. 20.56 crores and Rs. 6.87 crores in 1986-87 compared to Rs. 15.82 crores and Rs. 5.97 crores respectively in 1985-86. Exports to China and Malaysia in 1986-87 were lower compared to the previous year, being placed provisionally at Rs. 14.33 crores and Rs. 104 crores respectively.

East Asia as a whole accounts for about 16 to 20% of India's global exports and 16 to 19% India's global imports.

India's total trade turnover with East Asia in 1986-87 was Rs. 7489.45 crores, comprising exports from India worth Rs. 2566.51 crores and imports valued at Gs. 4922.94 crores, the balance being thus adverse for India. While the balance of trade was favourable upto 1978-79, it thereafter turned adverse due bulk imports of palm oil and rubber (from Malaysia), electronic items, ships, oil drilling equipment, cement, fertilisers, coking coal, iron ore, raw wool, lead, zinc, steel structurals and railways axles and wheels. At the same time, exports have also shown a sizeable growth because of good demand for Indian textiles, garments, cotton, ores and concentrates, tea, coffee, marine products, leather and leather manufactures. A recent encouraging trend has been the upward trend in exports of engineering goods to developed markets like Japan and Australia and the considerable potential for future growth in the chemicals sector.

With a view to bridging the deficit and stepping up exports to the region, the Commerce Ministry has been evolving suitable strategies geared to specific thrust markets. This includes identification of thrust commodities with good export potential, frequent exchange of trade delegations and participation in fairs and greater interaction at the level of Joint Trade Committee and Joint Business Councils to promote commercial exchanges. Efforts are on to promote joint ventureswish buy-back arrangements with some of these countries and to explore possibilities in the area of project exports, including projects funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank.

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DIA JAPAN AUSTRALIA CHINA INDONESIA KOREA MALAYSIA THAILAND USA HONG KONG REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE NEW ZEALAND PHILIPPINES RUSSIA

Date: Sep 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

India and Nepal to Cooperate in Joint Ventures and Projects

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 14, 1987 on India and Nepal to cooperate in joint ventures and projects:

India and Nepal have agreed to promote bilateral economic and commercial relations through greater cooperation in the fields of joint ventures and projects. A Workshop is to be organised during the Indian Exhibition at Kathmandu in April, 1988 to discuss the possibilities of promoting joint ventures and further Indian investment in Nepal. Both sides have also agreed to explore the scope for greater Indian participation in projects in Nepal in various fields, including power stations, transmission lines and cement. This is indicated in the Agreed Minutes of the 9th Indo-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee Meeting held in Nepal from September 9 to 12. The Indian delegation at the meeting, headed by the Commerce Secretary, Shri Prem Kumar, included the concerned Joint Secretary in the Commerce Ministry, Shri Ravi Sawhney and representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Surface Transport and External Affairs as well as MMTC and the Project and Equipment Corporation (PEC).

There are at present 11 Indian joint ventures and 2 wholly owned subsidiaries in Nepal. Of these 11 joint ventures, 7 are in the manufacturing sector, 2 in the field of exploration of minerals and one each in hotels and tourism. The trade turnover between India and Nepal in 1986-87 increased to a level of Rs. 206.19 crores, showing an increase of 7.4% over the turnover in 1985-86.

This included exports of Rs. 142.71 crores to Nepal and imports worth Rs. 63.48 crores. While the balance of trade has been in favour of India continuously, imports from Nepal have also gone up from Rs. 36.47 crores in 1983-84 to Rs. 64.48 crores in 1986-87, the main items of import being feeding stuff for animals, some chemicals and related products and textile fabrics.

According to the Agreed Minutes, India has also offered to assist Nepal with the procurement of its essential requirements through third countries.

India's trade with Nepal is regulated by the Indo-Nepal Treaties of Trade, Transit and Agreement for Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade, 1978, which is, after renewal, valid upto March, 1988. Under the provisions of the Treaty, bilateral trade is conducted in Rupees, import of primary products from each other is exempt from basic customs duties as well as from quantitative restrictions and the government of India provides access to the Indian market for Nepalese manufactured articles containing not less than 80% Nepalese or Indian materials, free of basic customs duties and quantitative restrictions.

The meeting reviewed the issues of bilateral trade and the progress of followup on the points raised in the last meeting of the Committee. During the review, it has also been decided to set up a Working Group to sort any operational problems relating to the preferential entry to Nepalese exports to India.

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PAL INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Sep 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

India and Netherlands Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Telecommunications Development

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 20, 1987 on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of telecommunications between the Government of India and the Government of Netherlands:

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and Government of Netherlands in the field of telecommunications was signed here on September 19, 1987. The Union Minister of

Communications, Shri Arjun Singh who signed on behalf of the Government of India expressed his firm belief that the Memorandum would further strengthen the co-operation between the Department of Telecommunications of the Government of India and the Netherlands PTT. Shri Arjun Singh also said that the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had identified telecommunications as one of the five basic thrust areas of development.

Her Excellency Mrs. Neelie Smit Kroes, Minister of Transport and Public Works of the Government of Netherlands who signed the MOU said that there were several projects of interaction between India and Netherlands. She hoped that the excellent cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened in the field of telecommunication technology and development.

DIA USA

Date: Sep 20, 1987

Volume No

1995

NORWAY

Indo-Norway Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 10, 1987 on the agreement between India and Norway on the avoidance of double taxation:

India and Norway have entered into a Convention for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital.

Under the Convention, business profits, derived by an Indian or Norwegian enterprise will be taxed only in the country of its residence, unless the enterprise carries on business in the other country through a "Permanent Establishment" situated therein. The Convention restricts allowance of Head Office Administrative Expenses of Norweigian enterprises in India to limits laid down in our domestic law. Gross income from fees for technical services, dividends and interest will be taxed at concessional rates. The Convention determines the respective taxing rights of the two countries on income from profession, pension, salaries, etc., and also in respect of profits from off-shore activities in connection with the exploration or exploitation of the seabed and subsoil and their natural resources.

Under this Convention, double taxation on income shall be avoided generally by the credit method, according to which the country of residence will allow credit for the taxes paid in the country of source -289>

in respect of the doubly taxed income, against its own taxes. The business profits earned by Norwegian enterprises through permanent establishment would be exempted from tax in Norway. Further, interest received by Norwegian enterprises would entitle them for credit of Indian taxes at the rate of 15 per cent even though, no tax may be paid by them in India. Norway would not only give credit for taxes levied in India but also for taxes which would have been levied but for exemptions and deductions provided under specified incentive provisions in the Indian Tax Laws.

RWAY INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Violence in Sri Lanka Condemned

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 14, 1987:

We are deeply distressed and grieved at the recent incidents of violence in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka involving various Tamil groups which have resulted in the tragic deaths of several Tamils and others in Sri Lanka. These incidents could have been avoided if the residual arms held by the Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups had been handed over as envisaged in the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement. The Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement whose implementation is progressing satisfactorily has restored peace and is aimed at promoting reconciliation and harmony in Sri Lanka. It provides for political issues to be resolved according to the wishes of the people by the ballot and not by the bullet. It is accordingly our hope that the groups involved in the violence will be motivated by the considerations of the larger interests and long term welfare of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka and not by narrow, short term group interests.

Date: Sep 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bangladesh

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 17, 1987:

Government of India have seen news reports from Bangladesh alleging that Kuwaiti and Turkish over-flights carrying relief material for Bangladesh were delayed because flight clearances had not been given by Indian authorities.

The High Commissioner of India in Dhaka has already issued a press release making it clear that far from delaying these flights, the Government of India had gone out of its way to expedite clearances. The Embassy of Turkey in New Delhi has already issued a press release on the 14th September confirming that Indian authorities granted overflight and technical halt facilities with great speed even though the papers had to be processed on holidays. We have also received a note from the Kuwait Embassy here denying that any delays were caused by delayed clearances from Indian authorities.

As far as the Kuwaiti overflights are concerned, requests were made on the -290>

3rd for flights starting on the 5th. After clearances were promptly given permitting these flights, the Kuwaiti authorities filed revised requests on the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th September. These were processed equally quickly.

Normally, any request for an overflight clearance would be filed a fortnight in advance. Because of the nature of these flights, the Government of India waived its regulation and accorded clearances, even during week-ends, within a day or two of receiving the requests. As the Bangladeshis have themselves noted, a very large number of relief flights from various countries have overflown India in the last few weeks. All were cleared with the same sense of urgency. We expect no thanks for

this, since we consider it a duty as a good neighbour to help the people of Bangladesh who have been hit by such major floods. We certainly do not, however, expect to be criticised for going out of our way to help.

NGLADESH INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC KUWAIT USA TURKEY

Date: Sep 17, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 18, 1987:

It is understood that the Government views with concern the events over the last few days when it has become quite evident that the LTTE is using all sorts of devices to prevent movement forward on the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

The bloody violence over the weakend and the simultaneous declaration of use of non-violent means - fasts unto death, the picketing of government offices, forceful closure of police stations and the use of school children and girls to block movement of IPKF vehicles - are quite unwarranted and evidence of LTTE's attempts to block implementation of the agreement.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 18, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Violence in Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 20, 1987:

We are deeply shocked and distressed at the recent incidents of violence which have resulted in the deaths of well over 100 Tamils and others in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka.

These killings and other acts of intimidation and coercion which have taken place in Sri Lanka in recent days have produced a sense of shock and revulsion in India and the international community, especially as they have come in the immediate aftermath of a historic agreement between India and Sri Lanka, which provides for the restoration of peace harmony and reconciliation in Sri Lanka, while guaranteeing that the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil people in the Island are fulfilled.

The killings of innocent Tamils which have taken place in Sri Lanka have been unfortunately largely engineered by the LTTE which after the brutal killings has now undertaken what it claims is a peaceful Gandhian movement. We have taken due note of the attempts made by the LTTE to divert attention from the fratricidal killings of fellow Tamils that it has indulged in by undertaking such measures and by endeavouring to blame the Government of India for the situation which has -291>

arisen by its resort to violence and coercion.

The implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement which has been proceeding smoothly in such areas as discussions on the devolution of powers requires all concerned to refrain from the use of arms to settle political issues in Sri Lanka.

The Indo-Sri Lankan agreement specifically recognises that Sri Lanka is a pluralistic, multiethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual society in which all citizens can live in equality, safety and harmony. It is our hope that in recognition of this all concerned will duly lay down their arms as envisaged in the agreement and extend cooperation to the Government of India in implementing its terms.

The faithful implementation of the terms of the agreement free from coercion or violence will ensure that "the Tamils in Sri Lanka can live with freedom and dignity as equal citizens in the Island.

I LANKA INDIA USA **Date**: Sep 20, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

US-USSR Agreement

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 24, 1987:

Recent announcement in Washington following the meeting between Secretary of State Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze that USA and USSR have in principle agreed to eliminate short and medium range missiles is indeed a welcome development. The conclusion of an agreement on this subject and its implementation will be the first nuclear disarmament measure after the introduction of nuclear weapons. It will still leave the bulk of nuclear arsenal of the nuclear weapon states intact. However we see it as a positive first step in the direction of ridding our world of the menace of nuclear weapons. It shows that given political will, nuclear disarmament does not pose any insurmountable obstacle either in terms of security doctrine or practical difficulties such as verification etc. It is our hope that results of these negotiations would spur the two countries to make quick advances towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

A INDIA

Date: Sep 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India Condemns Army Take Over in Fiji

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 25, 1987: We are deeply disturbed to learn that the armed forces have again seized power in Fiji. We strongly condemn this. It is particularly tragic that this should have happened at a time when the negotiating process between the political parties was taking Fiji on the path of national reconciliation. The Government of India hopes that better sense will prevail and that the process of reconciliation will be resumed in order to restore peace and harmony in the country.

JI INDIA

Date: Sep 25, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pak Nuclear Bomb

The following is the text of the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 28, 1987:

The Pakistan Prime Minister has claimed in the USA that Pakistan neither had the capability nor the intention of manufacturing nuclear weapons. This assertion is quite contrary to what Gen. Zia has been saying in the past. Only a few months ago, Gen. Zia told the Time Magazine (March 30, 1987) in an interview that "you can virtually write today that -292>

Pakistan can build a bomb whenever it wishes". In fact, as far back as November 1981, Gen. Zia claimed in an interview to a Turkish daily that Pakistan did have the capability to manufacture the nuclear bomb. Indeed, Dr. A. Q. Khan, flaunted as the "Father of the Pakistani Bomb", went a step further in an interview with the Observer, London (March 1, 1987) and boasted that "Pakistan has the Bomb". On several other occasions, Dr. A. Q. Khan indicated that Pakistan had the capability to manufacture the bomb. Thus, the claim of the Prime Minister of Pakistan about Pakistan's nuclear capability is contrary to the assertions of both President Zia and the Chief of Pakistan's nuclear enrichment programme.

The true nature of Pakistan's so-called 'peaceful' nuclear programme has been further exposed by the recent arrest in the

USA of Arshad Pervez, who has been charged with the attempted illegal smuggling to Pakistan of 50,000 lbs. Of maraging 350 Steel and an additional quantity of Baryllium. It is well-known that Maraging 350 Steel is used in making centrifuges for uranium enrichment plants and baryllium has application in fabricating internal components (neutron reflectors) of nuclear weapons. There is little doubt about the fact that maraging steel and baryllium were meant for Pakistanis military nuclear establishment. In fact, even Arshad Pervez has identified as his client' as one Brigadier Inam-ul-Haq, a Pakistani military officer said to be working in a firm called, Multinational Corporation, Lahore. Brig. Inam-ul-Haq is conveniently absconding though Pakistan had agreed to launch proceedings against him.

The case of Arshad Pervez is only the latest in a long series of revelations about clandestine procurement of nuclear materials, components, designs, and technologies by Pakistan for its nuclear weapons programme. We are all aware of nominal conviction of Nazir Ahmed Vaid, a Pakistani national in the USA in 1984 for attempted illegal export to Pakistan of 50 krytrone, which are high speed electronic switches used in nuclear weapons triggers. As in the Pervez case, Vaid also had definite links which were established by documentary evidence with Pakistan's military nuclear establishment. The Vaid episode was widely viewed as the "Smocking Gun" which left little doubt about Pakistan's intention to acquire nuclear weapons. More recently, we have seen reports about Pakistan's continuing efforts to steal components and designs with the help of a West German firm for setting up a second enrichment plant. Less than 3 months ago, two Californian residents, Mr. & Mrs. Mandel, and a Hong Kong businessman were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in California for illegal export to Pakistan of sophisticated electronic equipment which could be used in the nuclear weapons programme.

We have seen reports in the press about an insinuation made by the Pakistan Prime Minister that there was a link between India and Arshad Pervez. The Pakistan Prime Minister has reportedly claimed that Pervez had visited India earlier this year. Our preliminary enquiries do not show any evidence of Pervez having come to India earlier this year. However, even if he had passed through India, it is utterly ridiculous to suggest that India would assist him to smuggle highly controlled nuclear material to Pakistan for its weapon-oriented nuclear programme. We certainly desire good relations with Pakistan but have no intention of assisting the latter in its feverish quest for nuclear weapons through clandestine procurements abroad. Arshad Pervez has been arrested in the USA after meticulous investigations by the Department of Justice and was specifically charged with attempting to smuggle nuclear material to Pakistan in contravention of U.S. Laws, Mr. Junejo's insinuation that India was involved in the Pervez affairs and was thereby trying to encourage the US Congress to block the aid package to Pakistan, is therefore, an insult to the competence and capability of the

U.S. Department of Justice and to the intelligence of the U.S. Congress and the American people.

In response to further queries about Prime Minister Junejo's comments that -293>

Pakistan had no intention of manufacturing nuclear weapons, the Spokesman stated that in a recently published book the Pakistan's former Minister of Information and Broadcasting Maulana Kausar Niazi who is presently a senator had revealed that the entire Pakistani nuclear programme both with regard to reprocessing and enrichment were conceived in the early 1970 (well before India's PNE), as being weapons-oriented. The Spokesman also indicated that recent attempts by Pakistan to drag India into incidents involving smuggling of nuclear components and materials to Pakistan from North America and West Europe were essentially meant to divert attention on the obvious weapons-orientation of Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Spokesman also said that India's policies on nuclear disarmament were guided by global and not regional considerations.

DIA PAKISTAN USA RUSSIA UNITED KINGDOM LATVIA HONG KONG

Date: Sep 28, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAARC

SAARC Sub-Committee Meeting on Air Traffic Control and Communications

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 16, 1987 of the speech by Dr. S. S. Sidhu, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, at the SAARC Sub-Committee Meeting on Air Traffic Control and Communications:

Dr. S. S. Sidhu, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation said here today that it would be to the mutual benefit of all SAARC member states to co-operate to ensure optimum utilisation of the limited resources available for providing effective and safe air traffic control services, navigational and communication facilities in the region.

He was inaugurating the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Sub-Committee meeting on Air Traffic Control

and Communications.

This sub-committee is entrusted with the very crucial task of examining areas of co-operation in establishing air traffic services, deployment of manpower and equipment in search and rescue, the use of training facilities within the member states of SAARC and several fields of activities in which member states can cooperate to their mutual advantage.

Dr. Sidhu said that the growth in air traffic density and technological advance in airborne equipment would require commensurate advances in flight environment. Airport and Air Traffic Service capacity limitations will have to be tackled with computer based communication, navigation, surveillance and traffic handling systems. Developments in the navigational fields will provide better air space management. He said that at present, the National Airports Authority was in the process of formulating an ambitious programme for the modernisation of Delhi and Bombay airports. This project, when implemented, would permit both Delhi and Bombay airports to handle 30-40 movements per peak hour against the present capacity of 10-15 movements per hour. The project is estimated to cost around Rs. 195 crores and is expected to be completed by 1990. He added that thereafter, projects for the upgradation of Calcutta and Madras airports and important domestic airports are proposed to be taken up. -294>

The Secretary said that Civil Aviation has played a very important role in India during the last 50 years. Air services have provided an essential supplement to other means of transport and have made a very significant impact on the socioeconomic development of the country. A modest beginning was made in the 1930's and this has increased to an extent that Civil Aviation is today a vital link in the country's overall transportation system. A country with the continental dimensions of India and vast tracts of inaccessible regions with difficult terrain make provision of air transport imperative for the country's development. Despite constraints and severe competition, the volume of passenger and cargo traffic has increased substantially, and with it the modernisation of international and domestic airports, which include the latest equipment of navigational, communication and air traffic service facilities being made available. There has been a special impetus in the development of civil aviation during the last two years which has resulted in the creation of the National Airports Authority, the Helicopter Corporation of India and the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academy.

Dr. Sidhu said that appreciating the importance of air transport and the need for long term perspective planning, a planning group on 'Civil Aviation at the turn of the Century' was set up to formulate a long term perspective plan and determine the role of civil aviation in the total transport infrastructure of the

country. This Group has covered all aspects of the development of air transport including application and adoption of new technologies, infrastructural facilities at airports and requirements of communication and navigational infrastructure for the safe operations of aircraft. The Report indicates vast possibilities for the growth rate of 11.5% in passenger traffic and 11.2% in cargo traffic for Indian Airlines and international passenger traffic growth at an annual rate of 6%. The Group is of the view that to meet this projected growth rates in traffic and investment of about Rs. 15,000 crores for aircraft replacement and Rs. 3,000 crores (approximately) for the development of airports and airport facilities would be required by the turn of the century.

Though similar studies may not have been carried out for the South Asia Region as a whole, it would be to the mutual benefit of all SAARC member states to cooperate to ensure optimum utilisation of the limited resources available for providing efficient and safe air traffic control services, navigational and communication facilities in the region.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Sep 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOUTH KOREA

Sixth Meeting of Indo-South Korean Trade Committee

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 03, 1987 on the Sixth Meeting of Indo-South Korean Trade Committee in New Delhi.

South Korea has agreed to consider sending buying missions in the near future to explore possibilities of enlarging its purchases from India. This has been indicated in the Agreed Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the Indo-Republic of Korea Joint Trade Committee which ended here today. The minutes were signed on behalf of the Government of India by Shri Ravi Sawhney, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and by Mr. Yu Deuk Hwan, Director General of the International Trade Promotion Bureau in the Ministry -295>

of Trade and Industry of the Republic of South Korea who led the Korean delegation. During its three-day deliberations, the

Committee reviewed the present status of bilateral trade and discussed possibilities for the further expansion of bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The Indian side requested the Korean delegation to sponser buying missions which would help them in identifying new items of imports from India. It has been suggested that two South Korean Missions could visit India during the current financial year.

Bilateral trade between India and South Korea has increased substantially from a level of only Rs. 22.4 crores in 1976-77 to Rs. 432.48 crores in 1986-87. However, the balance of trade has been against India since 1977-78, largely on account of imports of iron and steel items. The two sides recognised the need to bridge the growing imbalance in trade and agreed that only a balanced expansion would be to the mutual advantage of both the countries.

Items of export interest to the two countries and scope for increasing commercial exchanges were discussed. India's exports to South Korea in 1986-87, valued at Rs. 110.16 crores, included iron-ore, coffee, finished leather, copper concentrate etc. Recently, there have been significant increases in exports to South Korea of animal feed and manganese ore and a beginning has been made in the export of number of non-traditional and manufactured goods such as switches, floppy disc drives and graphite electrodes. The Indian delegation expressed keenness to further enlarge exports of non-traditional items which have already found acceptance in terms of both quality and price in the international market.

The two sides also expressed interest in cooperation in Joint Ventures which could serve as an efficient tool for increasing bilateral trade. Manufacture of leather products, aquaculture and deep sea fishing are some areas offering good possibilities for increasing cooperation. The Indian side suggested greater equity participation by Korean companies in joint ventures preferably with buy-back arrangements or re-export to third countries.

While the Korean side expressed interest in exporting larger quantities of items like iron and steel to step up the two-way trade, the Indian delegation raised the issue of restrictions on some items like granite which were of export interest to India and suggested the removal of such restrictions to enable Indian companies to increase their exports. The Korean side agreed to consider this request favourably.

The Committee agreed to strengthen bilateral trade through increased exchange of trade information and active participation in each other's trade and fairs. It has also been decided that an agreement between trade institutions of the two countries such as Katra and TDA would be concluded for regular exchange of information and personnel.

It noted that the Joint Business Council between the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) had done good work and it was hoped that the deliberations of the forthcoming meeting of the Economic cooperation Committee between Federation of Korean Industries and the Confederation of Engineering Industries (CEI) to be held in New Delhi on September 8, 1987 would lead to tangible results for further industrial cooperation between India and South Korea.

In the area of international trade, the Committee has recognised the need for closer cooperation in international forums such as GATT, Uruguay and GSTP negotiations to ensure that interests of the -296>

developing countries are fully reflected in the formulation of global trade policies. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the cordial atmosphere in which the current deliberations were held and agreed that the next meeting of the Indo-South Korean Joint Trade Committee would be held in Seoul in 1988.

REA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA RUSSIA URUGUAY

Date: Sep 03, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Cooperation in Civil Aviation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 21, 1987 on the Indo-Soviet Union Cooperation in Civil Aviation:

India has shown interest in certain U.S.S.R. aircraft and airport equipment to meet immediate as well as futuristic requirements of Indian Airlines, Air India, Vayudoot and National Airports Authority.

In order to evaluate such aircraft and equipment, an Indian official delegation led by Shri P. C. Sen, Joint Secretary, in the Ministry of Civil Aviation is scheduled to leave for Moscow on September 22, 1987. Other members of the delegation include. Chairman, National Airports Authority and the Managing Directors,

Indian Airlines and Vayudoot.

The possibility of leasing of aircraft by Air India and Indian Airlines from USSR will be kept in view by the delegation while doing its evaluation work. Vayudoot is also considering purchasing of 17 seater aircraft which could also be considered for caliberation purposes by the National Airports Authority and for Air-Taxi Operations. The visiting delegation would also attempt to evaluate a suitable helicopter for the Directorate of Agricultural Aviation and M/s. Pawan Hans Ltd. for pipeline surveillance.

The equipment for the N.A.A. to be evaluated by the visiting delegation would include primary and secondary radars for airfields and air route surveillance and runway approach aids.

The visit of the present Indian delegation to U.S.S.R. would be a follow up of an earlier visit by an Indian delegation led by the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and a number of meetings between the officials of the two countries.

DIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Sep 21, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Adult Education

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 26, 1987 on the agreement on adult education:

A team of Indian educationalists will visit the Soviet Union to study the application of Science & Technology in the field of adult and continuing education. An agreement to this effect was signed in Moscow recently by Shri M. Varadarajan, Secretary, Department of Culture and Mr. I. A. Rogachev, Soviet Vice Foreign Minister.

Under the Agreement, Soviet Union will extend expert help in documentation for the Indira Gandhi National Centre for -297>

Arts and also provide expert advice for a Panorama exhibition to commemorate the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi to be organised by the Trade Fair Authority of India.

The Agreement also provides for visit of 12 Museum experts to USSR for studying of conservation of works of arts. In addition, a few selected persons will undergo a two-year study of Russian language. A team of Indian jurists will also be visiting the Soviet Union.

Soviet expertise will be provided in the prevention of deafness among children in India.

USSR will also reprint in Russian language three of Jawaharlal Nehru's works as part of the Nehru Centenary Celebrations.

DIA RUSSIA USA

Date : Sep 26, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

USSR-India - Facets of Friendship

The following is the text of interview given by the Prime Minister to "IZVESTIA":

QUESTION: According to the decision of the Non-aligned States Foreign Ministers Conference held in Delhi between the 9th and 13th of February, 1981, the world celebrates on Sep 01, 1987 the day of Non-aligned Movement. The role of India in that Movement is of special importance. How do you, Mr. Prime Minister, estimate the importance of the principles of the Delhi Declaration for the activities of the Non-aligned Movement?

ANSWER: The Non-aligned Movement has from its very inception been on side of peace and disarmament. The late Smt. Indira Gandhi had once described the Non-aligned Movement as "history's biggest peace movement". Therefore, there is a close link between the Non-aligned Movement's dedicated struggle for peace and the "Principles for a Nuclear-Weapon Free and Non-Violent World" inscribed in the Delhi Declaration.

I would indeed stress the importance of the principles of the Delhi Declaration not only for the Non-aligned Movement, but for the activities of all peace-loving peoples, institutions and movements. At this critical juncture in human civilization when nuclear weapons threaten to annihilate all life on earth, I cannot overemphasise the importance of the need, spelled out in the Delhi Declaration, to build a "nuclear weapon-free civilisation".

QUESTION: The Non-aligned Movement has achieved many successes. At the same time, we believe, there are certain difficulties even failures. What activities of the Non-aligned countries would you refer to as positive achievements at the international arena? What do you believe, are the main problems of the Non-aligned Movement?

ANSWER: The achievements of the Nonaligned Movement must be judged in the larger global context. The actions of others, outside the non-aligned community, also affect the environment in which nonaligned countries function. Non-aligned nations for the most part are not rich. Nor are they militarily strong. We need all our inner strength to resist pressures.

Seen against these constraints, the contribution of the Non-aligned Movement to international peace and cooperation has indeed been substantial. Perhaps the most abiding of its achievements has been the successful propagation of an alternative vision of international relations based on independence, national sovereignty and peaceful coexistence in the peace of the concept of power blocs and confrontation. Non-aligned countries have with growing success challenged the validity of domination, whether military, political or economic.

The Non-aligned Movement has given a certain impetus to the international efforts for disarmament, for elimination of apartheid and vestiges of colonialism.

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Though major challenges lie ahead, non-aligned countries are on the right path. There are other areas where non-aligned countries have made sustained efforts, for example global cooperation for development. It is difficult to speak of successes and failures in any final sense in what is an evolving process.

You have spoken of problems of the Non-aligned Movement. It would be idle to pretend that there are no differences among us. What is important, however, is that we have learnt to accommodate different shades of opinion, emphasis and nuance in the larger framework of unity and cohesion of purpose and objective. Sometimes, despite our best efforts, we have not been able to prevent or end conflicts among non-aligned countries themselves. But this is as much due to involvement and interference of outside powers as it is due to bilateral conflicts among NAM members, some of which are the legacy of colonial days.

QUESTION: There are traditionally friendly relations between India and the USSR. In less than one year, two top level Soviet-

Indian meetings took place. How have they influenced the Soviet-Indian relations?

ANSWER: The practice of Indo-Soviet summit level meeting is by now a well-established tradition. It has significantly contributed to the stability and maturity of Indo-Soviet ties of friendship and cooperation. My recent meetings with General Secretary Gorbachev have been valuable links in the long chain of Indo-Soviet bilateral contacts. They have enabled us not only to evolve common understanding on important bilateral, regional and international issues but also to identify the areas of mutual interest which require specific attention of the leadership at the highest level. It is a matter of particular satisfaction that Indo-Soviet relations have acquired a new vigour.

QUESTION: It is common knowledge that this year the internal political situation in India is complicated. What measures does your Government intend to take in order to overcome the difficulties?

ANSWER: India is an ancient society undergoing a rapid process of industrialization and dynamic development. It is natural for such transformation to be accompanied by accentuation of latent social tensions. The situation is further complicated when, in an open, democratic, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society such as ours, obscurantist and regressive forces of different hues try to take undue advantage of socio-economic ferment. In this they are helped by outside forces. We are taking determined measures to meet this challenge to the unity and integrity of the country. We are harnessing the political consciousness of the people, promoting inter-religious and communal harmony, accelerating the process of socio-economic development and ensuring a fairer and more equitable distribution of national wealth.

Another daunting task has been set to the nation by the failure of the monsoon affecting more than two-thirds of the country. In some areas it is the fourth successive year of drought. Government, both at the Centre and in the States, have drawn up plans for providing work, food and even drinking water for the people and fodder for cattle. We are also busy helping farmers to grow alternative short-term crops wherever possible. Fortunately we have large buffer stocks of foodgrains and we are in a position to meet the situation squarely.

Indians are a hardy people, who do not give in. We shall overcome all difficulties.

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DIA USA

Date: Sep 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

Shri K. Natwar Singh's Statement in the U N General Assembly

The Minister of State for External Affairs Shri K. Natwar Singh made the following statement in the UN General Assembly on Sep 09, 1987:

Mr. President, your election to the Presidency of the 42nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly reflects your personal eminence and distinction and our confidence in the guidance and leadership you will provide to our deliberations. We are particularly happy since you come from a country with which India has warm and fraternal relations. We congratulate you on your election and look forward to our working together.

Allow me also, Sir, to pay tribute to our esteemed friend and neighbour from Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhry, for the effective manner in which he conducted the proceedings of our last session.

We greet also our distinguished Secretary-General, and wish him well in the discharge of his many exacting responsibilities.

Mr. President, 1987 has a special significance for us in India. Four decades ago our people won freedom from colonial bondage through a unique non-violent struggle. Independent India took its rightful place in the comity of nations. We have sought to strengthen the foundations of new India by keeping what is best from our own tradition and by assimilating what is admirable from other civilisations. The fundamental concepts of tolerance, non-violence and equality have conditioned our tolerance and non-violence are embedded in our policy of peaceful co-existence and principles of Panchshila. Equality lies at the root of our belief in democracy and in sovereign equality of all nations, a principle that is embodied in the charter of this August body, the United Nations.

Mr. President, even before our Independence, the people of India reposed great faith in this organisation. We were present at its creation. The founder of modern India, our first Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, proclaimed that India's attitude towards the United Nations was one of whole hearted cooperation, and of unreserved adherence, both in letter and spirit, to its charter. It was in this spirit that he promised that India would "participate fully in its varied activites and endeavour to

assume that role in its councils to which her geographical position, population and contribution towards peaceful progress entitled her."

In our own way, we have endeavoured to fulfil this promise. Though the organization has gone through many ups and downs in its short and chequered history, our commitment to it has never wavered. We are happy that it has been resistant enough to withstand the attempts of retreat from multilateralism and the financial and budgetary pressures brought to bear upon the organisation.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mr. President, my delegation welcomes the significant understanding between the US and the USSR to eliminate intermediate range nuclear forces. Even though these forces constitute only a very small fraction of the world's nuclear arsenals, we see the significance of the understanding in the prospects it has opened up for more wide-ranging agreements which could eventually lead to meaningful nuclear disarmament.

This understanding vividly demonstrates that given political will disarma--300>

ment measures can become a reality, it is imperative that this momentum towards peace and disarmament be sustained. While the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament rests with the United States and the Soviet Union a decision by other nuclear weapon powers to eliminate nuclear weapons would be an important contribution to promotion of peace.

Mr. President, not so long ago, on May 22, 1987, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi joined with leaders of Argentina, Greece, Mexico, Sweden, and Tanzania in emphasising that "For too long, fear and mistrust have prevented progress on disarmament. Arms and fear feed on each other. Now is the time", they said, "to break this vicious circle and lay the foundation for a more secure world". It may perhaps be premature to believe that the "vicious circle" is broken, but it has perhaps been dented and we hope that the momentum will not be lost.

DELHI DECLARATION

A historic event in this continuing struggle to save humanity from a nuclear holocaust was the signing of the Delhi Declaration on principles for a nuclear weapons free and non-violent world in New Delhi last November. Its importance lies in the fact that a major nonaligned country, India, to announce 10 principles that could pave the way to a nuclear weapons free civilisation. We are happy that beginning has been made by the super powers towards translating at least some of the principles of Delhi Declaration

into concrete action.

Mr. President, the International Arms Race and its deleterious effect on the world economy was the focus of a conference earlier this month. The international conference on the relationship between disarmament and development threw into stark relief the deplorable dilemma of massive global expenditure on arms on the one hand and the non-availability of resources for meeting the basic needs of a large portion of the world's population on the other. An overwhelming majority of nations took part in it. I had the privilege of presiding over this conference which reaffirmed, at the political level, the relationship between disarmament and development, it is important that follow up steps are taken quickly so that the conclusions of that conference are translated into action. May we now hope that those who have stayed away from these discussions would participate in this effort?

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Mr. President, I now turn my attention to Southern Africa where the struggle for freedom and equality continues to this day. The racist regime in pretoria violates every norm of civilised conduct. It's policy of apartheid is an affront to the conscience of mankind. The pretoria regime remains in illegal occupation of Namibia and continues to carry out acts of aggression against the frontline states. It is thus the root cause of tension, instability and conflict in the region, endangering international peace and security. It has rejected every initiative for a peaceful resolution of the problems of the region.

In the face of the intransigence of the racist regime, the only peaceful alternative before the international community is to impose comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against South Africa. The alternative is a violent upheaval.

We reiterate our full support for the freedom struggle of the people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO. The only basis for a peaceful settlement of the Namibian question lies in security council resolution 435 of 1978 without bringing in any "lingages."

The non-aligned countries, at their summit meeting in Harare, decided to set up the Africa Fund, with the object of assisting the frontline states and national liberation movements in Southern Africa against the depredations of the racist regime. India is privileged to have been chosen to chair the fund. The fund has become operational with wide support from the International community. Those of us who believe in the moral need to work for peaceful resolution of Southern African -301>

problems have a duty to support and contribute to the fund.

AGREEMENT WITH SRI LANKA

Mr. President on the 29 July, President Jayawardene of Sri Lanka and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed a historic agreement which has brought peace and tranquility to Sri Lanka after four years. We have throughout stressed the importance and necessity of a political settlement to the ethnic conflict that had plagued Sri Lanka since 1983. I would like to pay tribute to the distinguished President of Sri Lanka in signing this agreement. This agreement is a manifestation of the fact that non-aligned countries can resolve their problems without outside interference. Bearing in mind the recent history of the conflict, there are inevitably hitches and problems.

There are inevitably minor hitches and problems which are not insurmountable. But given the existing understanding and goodwill between the two countries, these shall be resolved sooner rather than later.

SITUATION IN WEST ASIA

The situation in West Asia is gravely worrying. The core problem is the palestinian question. The people of Palestine are still denied their inalienable national and human rights, including the right to establish an independent state in their homeland. We support the struggle of the Palestinian people led by the Palestine Liberation Organisation. We urge that the International Peace Conference on the middle east be convened at an early date, under the auspices of the UN and with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO.

The continuing hostilities between Iran and Iraq concern us greatly. We have close historical ties with both countries. Our heartfelt desire is to see these two nations live in peace. The conflict between two important members of the non-aligned movement taking place as it does in a region which is in our immediate neighbourhood has consistently engaged our attention. The United Nations has been deeply involved in seeking ways and means to end the war. The UN security council has unanimously adopted resolution 598. The Secretary General has been engaged in important consultations related to its implementation. We commend and support these continuing efforts in the hope that they will bring about a negotiated mutually acceptable settlement of this tragic conflict.

Mr. President, India supports the efforts of the Secretary General and his special representation to secure an early and peaceful solution to the situation in Afghanistan.

INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

The military presence of great powers in the Indian Ocean is ominous. Such presence has unfortunately intensified in recent months. The heightened military presence of outside powers is in conflict with the declaration of 1971 on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. It demonstrates vividly that the main objective behind the 1971 declaration is as valid today as it was when the declaration was made. What is more, it shows the futility of efforts to dilute the thrust of the primacy in the objective of the declaration, which is to tackle the external threat in the Indian Ocean. It is in this context that we believe that, for the proposed international conference on the Indian Ocean to achieve meaningful results, it would be necessary to ensure that all big powers with military presence in the Indian Ocean participate.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

I now come to another neighbouring region of ours with which we have very close historic and cultural links. As we have always advocated in conflict situations, the South-East Asian question can only be resolved through a political dialogue. The legitimate interests and concerns of the countries in the region must be taken into account. We are encouraged by the fact that all countries in the region want a peaceful solution and are engaged -302>

in finding a formula for a regional dialogue. We have seen possibilities of common areas of understanding emerge after the recent meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Vietnam. I have myself recently visited all the ASEAN and Indo-China states. We believe that such contacts must be strengthened in finding a formula for a regional dialogue. We have seen possibilities of common areas of understanding emerge after the recent meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Vietnam. I have myself recently visited all the ASEAN and Indochina States. We believe that such contacts must be strengthened and more widely established among the countries of the region.

The Korean Peninsula continues to remain divided. We support the desire of its people for peaceful reunification.

There have been encouraging developments in Central America. Following the invaluable work of the contadora and support groups, the Central American States have taken a regional initiative of great importance. We warmly welcome the Guatemala Accord and the subsequent follow-up action. We trust that all parties, both within and outside the region, will cooperate fully to ensure the success of this regional initiative which offers the prospect of peace, progress and stability in Central America.

Mr. President, we reaffirm once again our solidarity with the people of Cyprus whose country remains divided with part of it under foreign occupation. We reaffirm our support for the unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty, independence and non-alignment of Cyprus - a country with which we have traditionally had close and friendly relations. We support the efforts of the

Secretary General to bring about a satisfactory resolution of this issue.

RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN FIJI

Mr. President, the events in Fiji have been deeply distressing. It is particularly tragic that, at a time when the political parties representing the people of Fiji had come to an agreement which could have taken the country on the path of national reconciliation, the armed forces have dealt a severe blow to this process by seizing power for the second time.

Attempts to deprive citizens of the country of their legitimate rights merely on the basis of their racial origin are against all tenets of democracy and human rights and are contrary to the U.N. Charter. What is happening in Fiji has distinct and unacceptable racial overtones. This development is reprehensible. We believe that the path to peace and prosperity in Fiji lies in restoration of democracy and the rule of low.

Mr. President, this year India achieved the unique distinction of becoming the first registered pioneer investor under the U.N. Regime of the Oceans, with the allotment of a deep seabed mine site in the Central Indian Ocean. An equivalent minesite has been reserved for International Exploration and exploitation. We believe that this historic event has set in motion the International Regime of Deep Seabed Mining and has strengthened the Rule of International Law.

WORLD ECONOMY

Mr. President, the world economy continues to be in a state of deep disarray. The rates of growth of even developed countries are historically very low. All future projections indicate even lower rates of growth for these countries. Per Capita incomes of many developing countries have dropped to levels lower than a decade ago. Commodity prices in real terms have collapsed to their lowest levels in 50 years. Despite the launching of the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations, proliferation of protectionist measures continues unabated. Interest rates continue to be high in real terms. International liquidity suffered a sharp contraction both in relation to the volume of trade and the needs of developing countries. The pattern of trade balance is extremely skewed with unsustainable surpluses in some countries and deficits in others. Exchange rates continue to show wide fluctuations.

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It is now widely recognised that the world economy faces a structural crisis which cannot be overcome within the framework of the system institued after World War-II. There is an urgent need for evolving cooperative strategies informed by the explicit recognition of increasing global interdependence. We require

concerted and comprehensive policy measures in the inter-related area of money, finance debt, trade, resource flows and development. Mr. President, the current crisis of the world economic system can be overcome only if we work towards a New International Economic Order.

In the area of International Trade, the highest priority must be given to the preservation and strengthening of an open multilateral trading system, particularly to translating into practice the of repeated commitments on standstill and roll-back. It is important to ensure that the Uruguay round of negotiations lead to the emergence of a truely International Trade Regime conducive to growth and development, with a clear recognition of the needs of developing countries. Multilateralism and Non-discrimination must form the basis for the sustained expansion of trade.

In the area of commodities, we have reaffirmed in UNCTAD-VII the continued validity of the integrated programme for commodities. We trust that with the new ratifications, the commend fund would be operationalised before the end of 1987. We also hope that the new round of consultations on commodities not covered by existing agreements and arrangements would be initiated soon.

The flows of financial resources from developed to developing countries should be increased substantially and the resources of International Financial Institutions should be augumented so as to enable them to play a leading role in development finance. We are disappointed that the Eight Replenishment of the International Development Association is no larger in real terms than the Sixth Replenishment. We are, however, encouraged by the recent move towards reaching an agreement on a general capital increase of the World Bank.

The External Debt Crisis is one of the most serious problems afflicting the developing countries today. The solution to the debt crisis has to be equitable, flexible and development oriented, based on the concept of shared responsibility and political dialogue. For the success of such a strategy, the promotion of parallel actions, such as increased access to markets for exports of developing countries, lower interest rates, strengthened and stabilised commodity prices, more stable exchange rates and more vigorous and growth oriented macroeconomic policies in major developed countries, is indispensable.

Against the generally dismal state of the International Economic dialogue, the recent UNCTAD VII must be viewed as a modest success. In at least some areas, progress was achieved viewed against the background in which the conference was held its major significance lies in the reaffirmation of the validity and mandate of UNCTAD.

The report of the World Commission on Environment and Development

is a major contribution to the subject. We are glad to note that the distinguished chairman of the Commission, Prime Minister Brundlandt, in her address to UNCTAD VII, sought to allay apprehensions that environmental concerned could be used for imposing additional conditionality in the lending policies of the International Financial Institutions. The Brundlandt Report clearly demonstrates the importance and urgency of tackling environmental issues on a global level. If we seriously want to attach high priority to this objective, the International Community must find additional resources for sound environmental measures. Any diversion of existing resources from growth-focussed to environment - focussed disbursement will be counterproductive. Poverty pollutes. Any slowing down of development can only aggravate environmental problems in developing countries.

Mr. President, we meet here each year in the month of September to deliberate on what ails humankind. Does looking back on the past nine months fill us with hope or despair? This is a time for stocktaking, self criticism, introspection. The International horizon presents a dark and sinister picture. Here and there and all too as if a break in the clouds is visible, otherwise we seem to be looking at the clouds without a silver lining.

Some weeks ago the world population crossed the Five Billion mark - a sobering event. The drain on sources of energy is unabated. The affluent are burning their candles at both ends and in the middle too. The daily onslaught on the environment continues. The economic scene is not cheering. Terrorists and fanatics disturb the peace and repose of nations.

The United Nations does not offer salvation, but it has, it can, pave the way, create the atmosphere, provide the venue, propose the agenda for peace. While it cannot perhaps negotiate for the world, it can help the world to negotiate.

Thank you, Mr. President. -305>

DIA BANGLADESH USA ARGENTINA GREECE MEXICO SWEDEN TANZANIA SOUTH AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SRI LANKA IRAN IRAQ AFGHANISTAN INDONESIA VIETNAM CHINA KOREA GUATEMALA CYPRUS FIJI URUGUAY

Date : Sep 09, 1987

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Date: Oct 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

ALGERIA

Launching of the Great Algerian Revolution - Messages of Greetings from President, Prime Minister and Minister of State

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 31, 1987 on the messages of greetings from the President, Prime Minister and Minister of State for External Affairs on the occasion of the Thirty Third Anniversary of the Launching of the Great Algerian Revolution:

The President, Shri R. Venkataraman, the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro have sent messages of greetings to H.E. Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president, and Secretary General of FLN Party, H.E. Mr. Abdelhamid Brahimi, Prime Minister and H.E. Mr. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Foreign Minister of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria on the occasion of the Thirty Third Anniversary of the Launching of the Great Algerian Revolution.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"On the occasion of the Thirty Third Anniversary of the Launching of the Great Algerian Revolution, I take pleasure in conveying to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government and people of India and on my own behalf, our warm felicitations and good wishes.

The excellent ties between our two countries reflect our common desire for further enhancing mutual cooperation for the benefit of both our peoples and for the cause of world peace and progress. I am confident that in the years to come the ties between our two countries will be further strengthened to mutual advantage.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for the continued progress and happiness of the friendly people of Algeria, and for Your Excellency's good health".

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

"On the auspicious occasion of the Thirty Third Anniversary of the Launching of the Great Algerian Revolution, I have great pleasure in conveying to Your Excellency, cordial congratulations and good wishes on behalf of the Government and the people of India as well as on my own behalf.

Algeria and India have a long tradition of close and friendly relations, I am confident that in the years to come these ties will be further strengthened to the mutual advantage of our peoples and indeed of world peace.

My best wishes for Your Excellency's personal health and wellbeing and for the further progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Algeria."

MINISTER OF STATE'S MESSAGE

"On the occasion of the Thirty Third Anniversary of the Launching of the Great Algerian Revolution I have great pleasure in conveying my felicitations to Your Excellency.

I am confident that the friendly relations and cooperation already existing between India and Algeria will continue to be further developed for mutual benefit of our people.

I also convey my best wishes for Your Excellency's personal health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Algeria".

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GERIA INDIA CHAD USA

Date: Oct 31, 1987

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1995

CANADA

Canada gives Rs. 164 Crore Development Assistance to India -Indo-Canadian Aid Agreements Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 16, 1987 on the Indo-Canadian aid agreement for Rs. 164 crores development assistance aid to India by Canada:

Canada will provide Canadian dollar 164 million equivalent to approximately Rs. 164 crore assistance to India. Two agreements to this effect were signed by Shri S. Venkitaramanan, Finance Secretary and Mr. James G. Harris, Canadian High Commissioner in India. This amount will be used for oil seeds development project and the development of oil and gas sector.

Under the first Agreement, Canada will provide a grant of C.\$ 89 million (equivalent to Rs. 89 crore) in support of National Dairy Development Boards' (NDDB) Oil Seeds Development Project, Phase II over a five year period. This support will essentially be in the form of Commodity Assistance. Canola/Rapeseed oil will be supplied to India and the rupee funds generated by the sale of this oil would be used to support the oil seeds development projects managed by N.D.D.B. This project supports farmer oil seed cooperatives and will form part of an integrated oilseed production, processing and marketing system owned and operated by cooperatives.

Under the Second Agreement, the Canadian International Development Agency will provide a line of credit of C.\$ 75 million (equivalent to Rs. 75 crore) for financing the procurement of goods and services required for the development of the oil and gas sector. This amount, which will be in grant form, will be utilised in combination with a C.\$ 123 million (equivalent to Rs. 123 crore) loan to be provided by the Export Development Corporation of Canada.

NADA INDIA USA

Date: Oct 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

COMMONWEALTH

Prime Minister's Statement at the Opening Session of the Commonwealth Summit

The following is the text of statement by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the opening session of the Commonwealth Summit at Vancouver on Oct 13, 1987:

Mr. Chairman, Heads of State and Government, Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we of the Commonwealth are delighted to be in Vancouver for this family gathering. May I thank our good friend Brian Mulroney and the people of Canada, always so friendly, so open-hearted, for their warm welcome and wonderful hospitality. My colleagues from Asia join me in congratulating you, Prime Minister, on your election as Chairman of this meeting. In you, -308>

our concerns find an eloquent exponent. Our cause is safe in your hands.?

Canada has had much to do with the evolution of the Commonwealth. Its Prime Ministers have consistently and energetically promoted peace and justice among nations. Nearly forty years ago, on his first visit to Canada, Jawaharlal Nehru declared: 'I am revealing no secret when I say that our point of view and that of Canada are identical, or very near to each other, on almost every issue.' That line echoed in my mind as I listened to your forceful and forthright address. You have given expression to what I feel, what we all feel.

A shared history created the Commonwealth. Commitment to peace and justice holds it together. Our support goes out to initiatives for peace and endeavours that challenge injustice.

Apartheid in South Africa dominated Nassau. We stood by the people of South Africa in the struggle for basic human rights, for freedom, equality and human dignity. We asked the racist regime to recognize the writ of history. To put pressure on Pretoria we agreed upon a minimum programme of measures to curtail economic relations and end all military cooperation. We had also agreed that if no progress resulted, these measures would need to be strengthened. The Eminent Persons Group was set up to examine the issues in depth.

The group produced a meticulously documented report, graphic and moving, bringing out the political terror, the moral horror and the human tragedy in South Africa. They clearly established that there is no scope for further dialogue. The only way to destroy apartheid without a terrible bloodbath is by imposing sanctions. In London, we endorsed this view and adopted additional measures. Commonwealth countries are now applying sanctions - comprehensively, like India, or on a more limited basis. The Commonwealth actions influence others. We have welcomed the measures taken by the US Congress. Our Non-aligned Movement has established the AFRICA Fund. Our task here is to take stock of what has been done, to assess the effects, and determine what more needs to be done. Nassau set the direction. London set us firmly on the path. Vancouver must carry the process forward.

Yet the impression has gained ground that, apartheid has been put on the back burner. Let Vancouver show that our loyalty to principles and to declared objectives is not fickle, that our resolve to end racism in South Africa is not negotiable.

The African National Congress has just celebrated its 75th Anniversary - a reminder of how long-drawn-out the quest for freedom has been.

Years ago Nelson Mandela declared:

'We are working in the best interests of all people of this country - black, brown and white - whose future happiness and well-being cannot be attained without the abolition of white supremacy and the winning of liberty, democracy and equality for all the people of this country'.

Let us remember that in the final reckoning it is not we who will bring about a change in South Africa, but the people of South Africa themselves. They will win - through their valour, their inflexible will, their infinite capacity for sacrifice. They have borne much. They will bear more. Let us not underrate the revolutionary might of the freedom fighters. We know from experience in India that the dawn breaks when the night appears at its darkest. Black, brown and white must unite.

As we meet, a new trouble spot erupts. Fiji is on the mind of everyone here. The adventurism in Fiji has shocked us all by its casual and cavalier repudiation of every democratic value, its blatant enthronement of the discredited doctrine of ethnic divine, and the attempt to rule by fear and not by law. We demand the restoration of -309>

democracy, harmony and civilian rule in Fiji.

Escalating hostilities in the Gulf are causing us all grave concern. A chain of action and reaction is drawing in outside powers, adding dangerous dimensions to the conflict. We support the efforts of the Security Council and the UN Secretary General to bring about a comprehensive, just and honourable settlement, acceptable to both the parties.

There is some good news too.

The Soviet Union and the United States are close to a treaty to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces. This is an exciting development. Peace may break out after all. Let us send good wishes to both General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan and urge them to build speedily on what they have begun.

In Sri Lanka, President Jayewardane's courage and statesmanship

have opened the door to peace and ethnic harmony. India has taken on a special responsibility to assist in the solution of the ethnic conflict. The President and I are determined to ensure that the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement works, so that the unity of Sri Lanka is preserved and security and non-alignment in the region are strengthened.

The Commonwealth is not a military alliance. We have no foes. We are not a racial, regional, denominational organisation. We are not a seminar for comparing notes on the wonderful variety of English spoken around the globe. We are an important world organisation committed to peace, justice and equality, to harmony and progress, and to the unity of humankind.

Let this meeting demonstrate that we are a fighting organisation.

NADA USA BAHAMAS SOUTH AFRICA UNITED KINGDOM INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FIJI SRI LANKA

Date: Oct 13, 1987

Volume No

1995

COSTA RICA

Prime Minister Congratulates Costa Rican President

The following is the text of the message sent from Vancouver by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to the Costa Rican President, H.E. Mr. Oscar Arias Sanchez, for his being awarded the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize:

Warm congratulations on the award of Nobel Peace Prize to you. It is a tribute to the determination of the Central American peoples to live in amity and your own dedication and unremitting labours. India has always supported the contadora process. We are delighted at the worldwide recognition and support for what you have achieved.

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STA!!CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA

Date: Oct 13, 1987

Volume No

1995

ETHIOPIA

Cultural Exchange Programme with Ethiopia Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 27, 1987 on the cultural exchange programme signed between India and Ethiopia:

A cultural exchange programme between India and Ethiopia has been signed here today. Shri M. Vardarajan, Secretary, Department of Culture signed it on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Zewde Gurmu, the Vice Minister of Culture of Ethiopia signed on behalf of his Government. The agreement for the years 1988-90 provides for the cooperation between the two countries in the fields of art, culture, education (including Science and Technology), sports, public health, mass media of information and education (Radio, TV, Films and Press).

Under the Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 1988-90, the Indian side will offer three positions annually for training of Ethiopian personnel in the Technical Teachers Institute, Madras; 10 scholarships annually will be offered to Ethiopian nationals annually for pursuing studies training in Indian universities institutions; the Indian side will also provide to Ethiopia two specialists, one in Educational Planning and Project Preparation and the other in Agricultural Extension. Both sides will exchange information on the educational system of the two countries; promote academic cooperation between universities of the two countries; facilitate participation of 2-3 scholars in National International conferences seminars to be held in each others country and exchange two member delegation for familiarisation with each other's linguistic centres. Further, standard art publications and colour re-productions of masterpieces of art will be exchanged between the two countries. The National Libraries of the two countries will exchange important publications and bibliographies printed in the English language. The Indian side will also provide two six-month fellowships for the Ethiopian nationals in laboratory works for the restoration of cultural sites and monuments.

HIOPIA INDIA

Date: Oct 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

DISARMAMENT

Joint Statement by Six Nation Initiative for Peace and Disarmament

The following is the text of the joint statement issued by the Six Nation Initiative for Peace and Disarmament on the agreement between the USA and the USSR on the global elimination of all land-based intermediate nuclear missiles:

The six nation initiative for peace and disarmament warmly welcomes the agreement in principle of September 18, 1987, between the USA and the USSR, on the global elimination of all land-based intermediate nuclear missiles. This is a historic first step in the direction of our common goal, namely total nuclear disarmament. We sincerely congratulate President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, for the efforts they have made in order to bridge the gap separating their views.

In our last joint statement of May 22, 1987, issued on the third anniversary of our initiative we had stressed that "agreement to eliminate all intermediate nuclear forces from Europe" would be of considerable significance since it would constitute the crossing of an important psychological threshold within the framework of the nuclear disarmament dialogue. The significance of the agreement between the two superpowers goes beyond its objective since historically it will be the first agreement on the worldwide elimination of a whole category of nuclear weapons, thus reversing the trend prevailing so far in the nuclear arms race.

The world's expectations are now focussed on the next summit meeting between the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union. Expressing the aspirations of all peoples of the world, we believe that it would provide an ideal opportunity for the realization of the next important steps towards nuclear disarmament. Specifically, it is urgent to conclude agreements on the reduction of the strategic arms, the complete halting of nuclear tests and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The recent agreement proves that given political will, all obstacles can be removed.

We have consistenly campaigned for the achievement of total nuclear disarmament. We are determined to continue our efforts and to press by all possible means for a safer world, free from nuclear arms. H.E. Mr. Raul Alfonsin, President of the Republic of Argentine,

H.E. Mr. Andreas Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece.

H.E. Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, President of the United Mexican States.

H.E. Mr. Ingvar Carlsson, Prime Minister of Sweden.

H.E. Mr. Julius Nyerere, Chairman, Chama Cha Mapinduzi, Dar-es-Salaam.

H.E. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India.

A GREECE SPAIN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SWEDEN INDIA

Date: Oct 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Sports Protocol with GDR Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 16, 1987 on sports protocol signed between India and German Democratic Republic:

A new sports protocol on co-operation in the field of physical culture, and sports between India and German Democratic Republic for the years 1988-89 has been signed. Shri R. Gopalaswamy, Secretary Department of Youth Affairs & Sports and Dr. Guenther Heinze signed on behalf of the Government of India and the Government of GDR respectively. The sports protocol envisages provision of fellowships scholarships in GDR for Indian sports coaches and scientists in a variety of disciplines, deputation of sports science experts of GDR for short durations, provision of GDR coaches in swimming, track and field, judo and apparatus gymnastics and sending of sports teams from India in athletics and hockey.

The Indo-GDR co-operation in the field of sports took a concrete shape nearly -312>

seven years back with the signing of the first sports protocol between the two countries for the year 1981-82. Encouraged by the success of mutual co-operation, protocols were subsequently concluded for the years 1983-84 and 1986-87. The current protocol valid upto the end of 1987 was signed in Berlin on the 14th February, 1986 during the visit of Smt. Margaret Alva, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports to the German Democratic Republic from February 12-16, 1986. The implementation of this protocol particularly in respect of scholarships, fellowships, exchange of sports teams and deputation of coaches in various disciplines has been very successful.

At the invitation of the Government of India and in accordance with the provisions of the Indo-GDR sports protocol for the years 1986-87, a three member GDR sports delegation headed by Dr. Kuenther Heinze, Vice President of the Sports and Gymnastics Union of the GDR arrived in India on 13th October, to evaluate the progress of implementation. The visiting delegation held discussion with the Indian delegation led by Shri R. Gopalaswamy, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports on areas of cooperation for the years 1988-89.

The GDR delegation also visited Calcutta and held discussions with the officials of the National Institute of Sports on the development of the Eastern Centre of the Institute there. The leader of the delegation Dr. G. Heinze also called on the Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports on the 14th October, 1987.

DIA USA GERMANY

Date: Oct 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Visit of an Iranian Delegation to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 12, 1987 on the visit of an Iranian Delegation to India:

A 9-member Iranian delegation headed H.E. Dr. Mehdi Nawab, Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance and Director General of the Organization of Investment of the Islamic Republic of Iran is arriving in Bombay on October 13, 1987 on 8-day visit to India. During the visit the delegation will hold discussions with a highlevel Indian official team in New Delhi. The delegation is also scheduled to visit Kudremukh iron ore project before returning on the 20th of October 1987.

AN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Oct 12, 1987

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Indo-Italian Relations Discussed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 20, 1987 on the discussion of Indo-Iranian discussions:

His Excellency Senator Gilberto Bona Lumi, Minister of External Affairs of Italy called on Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs and discussed with him Indo-Italian relations. They also reviewed the situation in Asia with particular reference to South-East Asia.

On bilateral issues both the Ministers said that economic and commercial rela-

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tions including technical cooperation need to be further strengthened between the two countries.

The official delegation accompanying the visiting Minister will have discussions with officials of the Economic Affairs Department.

His Excellency Mr. Lumi will also call on Shri Narain Datt Tiwari, Minister for Finance.

ALY USA INDIA IRAN

Date: Oct 20, 1987

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Indo-Italian Cooperation in Power Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1987 on the Indo-Italian Cooperation in power projects:

Italy has shown interest in strengthening cooperation with India in the energy sector. This was indicated by the visiting Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy, H.E. Senator Gilberto Bonalumi, when he met the Minister of State for Power, Smt. Sushila Rohatgi here.

At present, Italian assistance is being availed of for supply of steam generators for stage II (2x500MW) of the Farakka super thermal power station and for Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore for its various programmes.

Smt. Rohatgi said that India expected to double its installed capacity in the power sector by the end of the century. At present it was about 50,000 MW. Plans were being formulated to increase power generation to meet the rising energy demand of the people, she added.

The Italian Minister was informed that India was keen to avail of bilateral offers for implementing power projects for which it did not have adequate resources. However, it was necessary that these offers should meet about 75 per cent of the total project cost and provide credit at soft interest rates.

Smt. Rohatgi said that besides increasing power generation, greater emphasis was also being given to improve transmission and distribution systems to cut T&D losses. India would welcome any assistance from friendly countries in this direction, she added.

The Power Secretary, Shri M. M. Kohli, and Shri Arun Bhatnagar, Joint Secretary, took part in the discussions.

ALY INDIA USA

Date: Oct 21, 1987

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Indo-Italian Joint Ventures in Vital Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 23, 1987 on the Indo-Italian joint ventures in vital sector:

Italy will provide financial support to joint ventures with India, concessional credit to public financial instruments and support for research and development aimed at the transfer of suitable technologies. These will be in sectors like fertilisers, tele-communications, transport and particularly energy.

Agreement to this effect was reached in high level official discussions between the two countries here, subsequent to the meeting the Italian Foreign Minister Senator Gilberto Bonalumi had with the Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari on Wednesday.

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Italy has also offered procurement of commodities and to support drought alleviation programmes on an emergency basis.

Italy will also provide technical assistance to India in the area of leather technology and packaging for creating export capability. More technical projects in priority sectors of agriculture, health and vocational training will be implemented.

An Italian Technical Co-operation Unit will also be set up at New Delhi to formulate plans to expand the scope for technical co-operation and to identify more projects.

The two sides will meet again in the first half of 1988 to discuss issues emerging from these agreements.

ALY INDIA USA

Date: Oct 23, 1987

Volume No

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Meets Prime Minister of Japan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on the meeting of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, with the Prime Minister of Japan on Oct 10, 1987:

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had a warm and cordial meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone at the latter's official residence on October 10, 1987. Upon his arrival at the Prime Minister's residence, Shri Rajiv Gandhi was received by Mr. Nakasone and Mr. Sakurauchi, former Foreign Minister of Japan and now the President of the India-Japan Association.

The talks between the two Prime Ministers lasted for an hour. Both bilateral relations and international issues were covere.

Prime Minister Nakasone announced a special credit of US \$ 200 million to India in support of measures against drought and also for balance of payment support. He appreciated the policies which had made possible progress in India in industrial and other fields.

Prime Minister Gandhi thanked Prime Minister Nakasone for the assistance given by Japan and also expressed his appreciation of the role Nakasone had played in enhancing the international role of Japan and for giving a dynamic thrust to world economy. Our Prime Minister said that we would appreciate greater efforts on the trade side so as to reduce the trade imbalance which is in Japan's favour.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the holding of the Japan Month in India and the Festival of India to be held in Japan next year. Prime Minister Nakasone invited our Prime Minister to visit Japan for the Festival of India. Our Prime Minister said that he would try to do so.

Our Prime Minister also asked for for support from Japan in the area of technology transfer. He mentioned that India's industrial growth rate had been 8.7 per cent last year despite various difficulties.

Amongst the international issues discussed were the current situation in Sri Lanka, the Kampuchean situation and the increase of tensions in the Persian Gulf.

Upon Prime Minister Nakasone's request, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi gave an assessment of the current developments in Sri Lanka and the steps being taken by India to deal with the situation. Prime Minister Nakasone praised the India-Sri

Lanka Agreement as an act of statesmanship and courage on the part of our Prime Minister and President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka, and expressed the hope that the Agreement would result in lasting peace in Sri Lanka.

There was also a general exchange of views on Kampuchea and the situation in the Gulf. The two sides agreed to remain in touch with each other concerning developments in these two regions. The meeting though brief was productive and substantive and held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Participating in the talks from the Indian side were Foreign Secretary, Shri K.P.S. Menon, Information Adviser to Prime Minister, Shri H. Y. Sharada Prasad, Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office, Dr. M. S. Ahluwalia and Joint Secretary in Prime Minister's Office, Shri R. Sen, Ambassador of India to Japan, Shri A. Mahadevan was also present.

Prime Minister Nakasone was assisted by Mr. K. Fujita, Director General of the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry and Ambassador Noda, Ambassador of Japan to India.

PAN INDIA USA SRI LANKA

Date: Oct 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Shock Over Killings by the LTTE

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 02, 1987:

We have learnt with deep shock and revulsion of the wanton and brutal killings of innocent men, women and children by the LTTE in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka since last night. These senseless killings follow acts of intimidation, violence and coercion by the LTTE in which it killed over 100 fellow Tamils following the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

The Government of India have made every possible attempt to make the LTTE renounce the cult of violence and resort to democratic means to ensure the welfare and well-being of the Tamils which it claims to represent. The recent acts of LTTE, however, clearly demonstrate that it is determined to resort to violence, indiscriminate killings, coercion and intimidation.

The LTTE also seems to be determined to prevent the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement which is designed to meet the legitimate aspirations of the Tamils in Sri Lanka while acknowledging the multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and pluralistic character of Sri Lankan society.

The Government of India strongly condemns these wanton acts of killings of innocent men, women and children. We are determined to implement the provisions of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement and will use all the force at our command to preserve peace and communal harmony. The government of India will not hesitate to use the strongest of measures to deal with all those who seek to undermine the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement. The IPKF has accordingly been instructed to take all necessary measures to deal with the situation that has arisen. The IPKF's strength has been suitably augmented in recent days for this purpose.

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DIA SRI LANKA USA

Date: Oct 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Reports of Mr. Prabhakaran's Messages to Political Leaders in Tamil Nadu

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 14, 1987:

We have seen press reports that Mr. Prabhakaran is sending letters and messages to various political leaders in Tamil Nadu hinting that he would be ready to negotiate if the Government of India calls a halt to the current military operation. They very fact that these messages are being sent to political leaders in Tamil Nadu makes it clear that the objective is purely propaganda, to try and generate support for his activities. If his messages were genuine, they could easily be sent directly to the Government of India.

It must be remembered that Mr. Prabhakaran had every chance for nearly two and a half months to negotiate sincerely. He only used this period to prevaricate, to carry on false propaganda and try to whip up mass hysteria against India, the IPKF and the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. Even when all his demands were accepted, he merely put forward further demands. The sole objective was to sabotage the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and to grab exclusive power for himself. In pursuit of these motives, the LTTE under his leadership has, since the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement, mercilessly killed over 100 Tamils belonging to other groups and over 200 Sinhala civilians.

Government of India has always attached the highest priority to peaceful persuasion. The whole objective of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement is to ensure the return of peace and normalcy to that country and to secure the legitimate interests of the Tamils. As the Prime Minister has stated, we still hope that the LTTE will even now join this process and start working for the interests of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka rather than pursue its own self-aggrandisement. For this purpose, Mr. Prabhakaran should ensure that LTTE surrender all arms in terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and declare his full support to the Agreement, as all other Tamil groups and organizations have already done.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SRI LANKA

Date: Oct 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Report of Unconditional Surrender by Tiger Official Misleading

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 20, 1987:

During the last night, the IPKF consolidated its position and established control of the coastal road. The IPKF has sealed off escape route of the LTTE towards Jaffna Lagoon. The IPKF has also established full control over the Navatkuli-Jaffna axis and has now firm position astride the railway line. The IPKF has firmly sealed off all exists from the Navatkuli area.

In the Kopai North-Jaffna axis, Palaly-Jaffna axis and Kanesanturai-Jaffna axis, the IPKF has now consolidated its

position and is poised for further advance to Central Jaffna.

In all these operations, the IPKF has exercised utmost restraint and care to avoid civilian casualties.

We have received during the day several enquiries on the basis of the report published in the Times of India of today quoting AP that a Tiger official sent a note to Indian and Sri Lankan officials reportedly offering to meet the Indian demand of unconditional surrender but there was no response from India. This report is misleading and appears to be deliberate disinformation spread by the LTTE.

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DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SRI LANKA

Date: Oct 20, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Large LTTE Ammunition Dump Captured

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 24, 1987:

The Indian Peace Keeping Force has secured more areas of the Jaffna city during the last 24 hours. The column moving from Kopai South has entered the city from the north and reached the Nallur Temple. Another column is about a km. away from the Jaffna University. The IPKF has also secured Gurunagar area in the south eastern part of Jaffna city. Intelligence reports indicate that the members of the LTTE are trying to slip away in small batches from Jaffna by boats. Four such boats were sunk in Jaffna Lagoon yesterday by the IPKF.

The IPKF is now in full control of the Town Hall, bus stand, Hospital, railway station, Girls College, Katcheri Residency, Nallur Temple besides some other areas of the Jaffna city. The IPKF is now engaged in removing mines and booby traps. Sniper fire is still however being directed against the IPKF in these areas. Because the area is heavily built up the IPKF would take some time to fully clear the area of the snipers.

The IPKF has removed the booby traps from the large LTTE

ammunition dump captured near the Kacheri Residency. Over three tonnes of ammunition and mines and explosive have been recovered from the dump. The ammunition dump also contains a large number of mines including claymore mines. The explosives were being used by the LTTE to manufacture booby traps and claymore mines.

A LTTE radio intercept has stated that Santosham, regional LTTE Commander of Jaffna has been killed along with 60 supporters.

In yesterday's fighting, the IPKF casualities were 3 killed and 5 wounded.

A local newspaper has reported that Maj. Gen. Harkirat Singh, GOC 54 Infantry Division has been replaced. This is incorrect. As clarified earlier, Maj. Gen. Harkirat Singh has been called to Army Headquarters for operational consultations and will be returning to his post soon.

DIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Oct 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Interim Administration Council Plan

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 25, 1987:

It has been reported in a section of the press that the Interim Administrative Council plan may be dropped. The report is speculative. The Scheme which was drawn up for the Interim Administrative Council could not be finalised because the LTTE had gone back on its commitment. Once the present phase of the IPKF operations is over, the matter will be discused with the concerned authorities.

DIA USA

Date: Oct 25, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Civilian Officers to Help Civil Administration

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 25, 1987:

There are reports in a section of the press about civilian officers being posted to Jaffna. The IPKF will need some civilian advisers to perform the task of looking after the requirements of the local population in the matter of civil administration. The government will be sending a few civilian officers to Jaffna to help in this task.

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DIA

Date: Oct 25, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

LTTE Militants Impeding Relief Efforts

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 26, 1987:

Having taken Jaffna City, the Indian Peace Keeping Force are clearing the area of extensive mines and booby traps laid by the LTTE. Mopping up operations are underway to eliminate sporadic fire from snippers. The IPKF is now also instituting relief and rehabilitation operations. There are approximately 56,000 refugees at some fifteen locations. The largest concentration being in Nallur Temple and Hindu College. Relief is being organised for them on a regular basis. Medical supplies are also being regularly arranged by the IPKF at Nallur Temple, Jaffna Hospital and other locations. IPKF helicopters continue to air drop food packets for Tamil refugees in Nallur Temple and other areas inspite of hostile fire. The sniper fire is being directed

from buildings around the Nallur Temple.

LTTE militants seem bent upon impeding the relief and rehabilitation efforts of the IPKF. Having lost their bastion in Jaffna the LTTE heirarchy is desparately trying to keep the civilian population under its coercive domination. In today's operations, the IPKF has captured huge ammunition and explosive dumps from two houses adjoining the Nallur Temple. A large quantity of spare parts of weapons have also been captured at the dumps. In yesterday's operations, the IPKF suffered five killed and twenty eight wounded. Most of these casualties have been in mine blasts. The LTTE suffered twenty killed.

DIA USA

Date: Oct 26, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Half Burnt Bodies of IPKF Personnel Recovered

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 28, 1987:

The Indian Peace Keeping Force has captured three more ammunition and explosives dumps of the LTTE near the Nallur Kandaswamy temple, the University and the Kucheri residency in the last 24 hours. A large number of mines, mortar bombs and explosives have also been discovered by the IPKF. During the mapping up operations the IPKF came across sporadic sniping. Intelligence sources in dicate that the LTTE leaders have fled the city with the lower LTTE cadres left to fend for themselves. Near Kokuvil the IPKF recovered half burnt bodies of 13 IPKF personnel. These personnel, who were recorded as missing seems to have been killed by the LTTE before they fled the city and their bodies put to fire. This brutal act gives lie to the recent statement made by the LTTE Deputy Leader, Mahatiya in an interview that the persons taken by them would be treated as "prisoners of war".

The LTTE has been trying to ferment trouble in the Eastern Province as well. An IPKF post in Batticaloa was fired on yesterday. Reports indicate that the LTTE is trying to consolidate their positions in Mannar, Vavuniya and Batticaloa.

Relief measures by the IPKF are continuing vigorously. Two more

medical teams have been sent to Jaffna in addition another twenty four medical teams are standby in Madras to avoid any delay. The Deputy Director of Medical Services of the Southern Command himself performed operations on civilians in Jaffna Hospital. 120 Civilians were provided medical aid at Veeranaagr in Trincomallee district yes-

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terday, where two medical aid posts have been established 10 tons of rations were also distributed to the refugees. Two buses for operations by the Red Cross have also been provided. In yesterday's operations ten personnel of the LTTE were killed bringing the total number of LTTE Cadre killed to 740.

DIA USA

Date: Oct 28, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement on the Dalai Lama

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 08, 1987:

The Dalai Lama is a religious and spiritual leader. When he came to India he was given asylum on humanitarian consideration. He was advised that no activity of a political nature may be conducted from the Indian soil. We have repeatedly requested him to respect our wishes in this regard. This has been our stand and this is the position today.

We have in the recent past drawn attention to the fact that we regard Tibet as on autonomous region of China and we do not come in China's internal Affairs.

DIA USA CHINA

Date: Oct 08, 1987

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement on Fiji

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 10, 1987:

The Government of India has learnt with shock and dismay of the seizure of power for the second time by the Armed Forces in Fiji and the subsequent announcement by Col. Rabuka declaring Fiji a republic.

The Government of India condemns these developments in unequivocal terms. It does not recognise any government established by Col. Rabuka and continues to regard the Governor General as the legitimate authority in Fiji by virtue of his position under the 1970 Constitution and as the representative of the Head of State in Fiji.

The abrogation of the 1970 Constitution, which was arrived at after painstaking negotiations between the political parties representing Melanesians, Fijians of Indian origin and the Government of UK, will have serious repercussions on peace, stability and racial harmony in Fiji. Attempts to deprive a majority of the citizens of their legitimate rights merely on the basis of their origin are against all tenets of democracy and human rights and are reminiscent of a similar abhorrent practice followed elsewhere. The Government of India believes that the path to peace and prosperity in Fiji lies only through negotiations and respect for democracy and the rule of law and not through force and reiterates the hope that the military regime will review the dangerous path on which it has embarked.

The Government of India voices its concern for the safety and welfare of Indian citizens in Fiji and expects the military authorities to ensure that they come to no harm.

The Government of India has decided to suspend trade and technical cooperation with Fiji.

The Government is watching the situation carefully and may take further measures in the light of developments.

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JI INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Oct 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

International Subscriber Dialing Facility between India and Pakistan Inaugurated

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 06, 1987 on the opening of International Subscriber Dialing Facilities between India and Pakistan:

International Subscriber Dialing (ISD) between India and Pakistan was inaugurated here today by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. Shri Dev spoke to Sardar Fateh Mohd. Hashani, Pakistan's Minister of State for Communications at Islamabad. His Excellency, Dr. M. Humayun Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan was present on the occasion.

With the opening of ISD to Pakistan, subscribers in over 400 cities in India will now be able to dial directly subscribers in 64 important cities in Pakistan, viz. Islamabad (51), Lahore (42), Karachi (21), Peshawar (521), Faislabad (411), Gujranwala (431), Hyderabad (221), Mirpur Khas (23), Multan (61), Quetta (81), Rawalpindi (51) and Sialkot (432) etc. For dialing such calls subscribers will first dial the International access code '00' followed by the country code of Pakistan which is '92' and then the area code of the city in Pakistan e.g. '51' for Islamabad as above, and finally the local telephone number of the subscriber.

A reliable telecommunication link between India and Pakistan was first established in October 1985 with the opening of Coaxial link between Amritsar and Lahore. The link was later on extended to Islamabad in May, 1987.

Besides conventional telephone and telegraph services, telex service was also earlier introduced between New Delhi to Islamabad from January, 1987.

KISTAN INDIA

Date: Oct 06, 1987

Volume No

Economic Co-operation between India and Poland to beStrengthened

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 15, 1987 on the strengthening of economic cooperation between India and Poland:

Wide ranging talks have been held between India and Poland to further consolidate and expand mutually beneficial economic cooperation keeping in view growing economic and industrial potentials of both the countries.

New areas have been identified, besides further strengthening the existing ones for accelerating the development of Indo-Polish cooperation in the economic, trade, scientific and technical fields at the recently held discussions in Warsaw of the Indo-Polish Joint Commission, co-headed by the Minister of Energy, Shri Vasant Sathe, and the Polish Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Władysław Gwiazda.

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During his stay in Warsaw, Shri Sathe had discussions with the Chairman of State Council of the Polish People's Republic, Mr. Wojoiech Jaruzelski, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Zoigniew Messner. He also had discussions with the Polish Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Metallurgy and Engineering Industries and Mining and Energy.

Both sides noted with satisfaction that the trade turnover for 1987 could reach a level of about Rs. 325 crores which would mean an increase of more than 70 per cent as compared to the one achieved in 1985. It was assessed that exports from India to Poland in 1987 would reach a level of Rs. 200 crores which would be a record

In the field of industry, both sides agreed that there existed new possibilities of cooperation in areas like non-ferrous metals, electronics and automation, construction and earth-moving equipment, coal washing machinery and equipment, machine tools, ship building and agricultural machinery.

Both sides also noted with satisfaction the progress in cooperation in the coal mining sector and the attempts being made to strengthen it. Poland showed its interest in areas such as shaft sinking, mine construction, washeries, modernisation of rescue stations, mine electronification as well as in open cast mining and coal handling plants.

During the talks, the leader of the Indian Official delegation, Shri A. N. Varma, Secretary (Coal), said the coal sector in India had to be developed very fast. Coal production was required to be raised to the level of 400 million tonnes by the century end.

Referring to the proposal of Polish side about turn-key approach for projects like Satgram and Dhemomain coal mine project (BCCL), it was pointed out by the Indian side that turn-key approach envisaged total coverage of all stages right from initial planning and designing to the full capacity coal production in one single contract. The contractor will also be required to accept full responsibility for implementing the whole project with a fixed price, in a fixed time span in compliance with the pre-determined technical parametres, besides ensuring the performance guarantees.

It was also stressed that in considering such turn-key contracts, imports were to be allowed only where items were not available in India or where bilateral financial assistance became available for imported goods. Moreover, the firm contract price offered should be competitive.

LAND INDIA USA

Date: Oct 15, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAARC

SAARC Women's Workshop for the Development of Rural Women

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 01, 1987 on the SAARC Women's Workshop for the Development of Rural Women from October 12-18, 1987:

A SAARC Women's Workshop on training of the senior personnel for the development of rural women will be held at the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (Gujarat) from October 12-18, 1987. The week long workshop first of its kind will be inaugurated by Smt. Margaret Alva, Minister of State for Women and Child Development at Anand on October 12.

The prime objective of the workshop is to sensitize and strengthen the capabilities of personnel of SAARC countries in the planning and management of development programme for rural women by providing knowledge and skill related to rural women's development and exchange of ideas and concepts regarding women's

issues and policies in the SAARC countries.

The eight day workshop will consist of 24 sessions, which also include field visits to the rural areas. The workshop will be primarily focussed on two major areas i.e. "Women's Development" and "Women in Management". The women in development will deal issues of rural women in development, Government policies, mechanisms and machineries for women and role of non Government organisations in the development of women. On the management side, the workshop will highlight on the role and identity of women, home and work interface, managerial role profile and project management.

The senior personnel from Government and non-Government organisations responsible for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development programmes for women, and personnel responsible for training programmes in the field of women's development will participate from the seven SAARC countries namely, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

DIA USA BANGLADESH BHUTAN MALDIVES NEPAL PAKISTAN SRI LANKA

Date: Oct 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Regional Cooperation in Development of Agriculture - ShriDhillon Opens SAARC Technical Committee Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 05, 1987 on the inauguration of the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Committee on Agriculture on October 5, 1987:

The Agriculture Minister, Shri G. S. Dhillon today called upon the SAARC nations to develop through joint efforts stability in agriculture by free exchange of information, new technologies and materials.

The Minister who was inaugurating the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Committee on Agriculture of the SAARC here said that agriculture was dominant component of the economy of the seven member nations sustaining more than 62 per cent of their population. They had diversity of crops, livestock and marine resources and their problems were common to the member countries.

The Minister said that the region had a rich heritage of natural germplasm of crop and livestock species which had to be protected from unplanned exploitation and used judiciously for long-term benefits of the people.

Referring to drought and floods in parts of the region, Shri Dhillon said that the future will be bleak if we did not manage resources of land, water and forests and protect the sensitive ecology through massive input of science and technology and cooperative efforts.

The Agriculture Minister called for development of water resources and the river systems in the region by protecting forest cover and urged member nations to increase agricultural productivity in rainfed and dryland areas. Productivity of rice under upland, low land and deep water situations and productivity of wheat in hilly areas had to be pushed up, he added.

Shri Dhillon also called for increased production of horticultural crops and said that new varieties and hybrids of fruits and vegetables could be developed from the available genetic diversity of these crops.

Shri Dhillon regretted that no serious organised effort had been made to exploit the available germplasm of indigenous breeds of livestock and poultry and said that rich heritage of germplasm should be exploited and conserved for the future.

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The Minister said that the Technical Committee had made substantial progress in forging closer alliance and develop understanding of the common needs which could be tackled effectively through regional cooperation. A Regional Agricultural Information Centre was expected to be established soon as the first SAARC institution in agriculture. It would pave way for similar facilities to be established in the region in other priority areas.

The Minister promised India's continued support to the development of agriculture in the region and said that all possible assistance needed in this regard would be provided.

DIA USA

Date: Oct 05, 1987

Volume No

Smt. Margaret Alva Inaugurates Third SAARC Technical CommitteeMeeting on "Women in Development"

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 08, 1987 on the inauguration of the third SAARC Technical Meeting on 'Women in Development' in New Delhi by Smt. Margaret Alva, Minister of State for Women and Child Development:

The Minister of State for Women and Child Development Smt. Margaret Alva has urged for regional cooperation among the SAARC member countries to awaken the conscience of the community in the region to fight for justice and for more resources for women's developmental programmes.

Inaugurating the third SAARC Technical Committee meeting on 'Women in Development' here today, Smt. Alva said that women formed half the population of the region and therefore we must concentrate on raising the status of our women and make their developmental needs and priority on our resources, for building a new society for the better future of our people. The Minister further said that we have to utilise all possible energies in our regions to make our governments and societies more aware of, and more sensitive to, women's problems and priorities. Using the SAARC framework to achieve this objective was therefore the main challenge facing the member countries, she added.

The Minister said that unlike men, women in our societies still faced a multitude of problems in their day-to-day life. The vast majority of women were far from achieving economic independence due to lack of education and skill training among them. The work participation rate among women was still very low and inspite of various legislations, they also faced wage discrimination at all levels, Smt Alva added.

Deliberating upon the status of women Smt. Alva said that the social problems like dowry, child marriage, abandonment and destitution made the woman's life very difficult. Religious sanction to many practices which degraded women and an effort for reviving many out-dated customes and practices in order to perpetuate her subjugation, made the task of woman's development even more difficult.

In the field of health and nutrition too, Smt. Alva said that women obtain a lesser share of services than men although they share a heavy burden not only as bearers of children and unpaid workers in their house-holds yet they have to undertake agricultural operations and jobs like fuel gathering, water collection and other survival task. Inspite of their hard work, our society still relegates women to inferior status. As such we must ensure equal status and equal citizenship to women through the developmental process, Smt. Alva added.

The two day SAARC Technical Committee meeting will review the progress made on the recommendations of the last Technical Committee meeting held in Bangalore in May, 1987. It will also re-

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view the calendar of events which has been agreed upon by all the seven SAARC countries.

Since the last Technical Committee meeting, an exhibition of handicrafts and designs by women was organised during July in Maldives. A training Workshop of SAARC Countries of Senior Personnel for the development of rural women will be held at the Institute of Rural Management at Anand (Gujarat) from October 12 to 18, 1987. Besides India will also be hosting a Workshop on the 'female child' during February, 1988.

DIA USA OMAN MALDIVES

Date: Oct 08, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Soviet Assistance for New Power Projects of 3000 MW AggregateCapacity

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1987 on the Soviet assistance for new power projects of 3000 MW aggregate capacity:

India and the Soviet Union have recognised that considerable scope exists for enlarging their cooperation in the construction of new thermal and hydro power stations and transmission and distribution systems.

The Soviet Union has offered to extend assistance for new power projects in India of an aggregate capacity of 3000 MW, on which work could start before March, 1990. These projects would yield benefits in the Eighth Plan period. The Indian side will examine the Soviet offer so as to identify suitable projects for further cooperation in the power sector.

The Soviet offer was made at the recently held meeting of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on Power in Moscow. The Indian delegation was led by Shri M. M. Kohli, Secretary, Department of

Power, and the Soviet side by Mr. A. Poddubsky, Deputy Minister for Power and Electrification of the USSR.

It was felt that cooperation between the Hydro Project Institute, Moscow, considered to be one of the premier organisations in the world, and the concerned Indian organisations in the area of design and engineering of hydroelectric projects would be of mutual benefit.

The Group reviewed the progress of construction of the Vindhyachal (6x210 MW) and Kahalgaon (4x210 MW) super thermal power projects and the Vindhyachal-Jabalpur-Itarsi transmission line. Supplies for Units 3 and 4 of the Vindhyachal Project would be largely completed this year and for Units 5 and 6 in 1988. The supplies of equipment for Units 1 and 2 have been completed. Most of the materials and equipment for the Vindhyachal-Jabalpur-Itarsi line have been supplied and the balance quantity of insulators and hardware will be delivered by the end of the year.

In regard to the construction of the Kahalgaon super thermal power project, the Indian delegation emphasised that all efforts needed to be made to commission the first unit by December, 1990. The concerned organisations of both sides will hold review meetings once in four months. A joint committee has also been constituted to effectively settle the issues relating to documentation, packing, project scheduling, etc.

A preliminary master schedule has been jointly finalised in respect of the Tehri -325>

hydro power complex (2400 MW) according to which the project works could be completed between December, 1996 and December, 1998. The final report on Appraisal of Design Documents of Rockfill Dam and Spillway will be jointly discussed in India next month.

During the discussions, the Indian side indicated that all the data required in respect of preparation of detailed project report and designs for the construction of the Dulhasti-Kishenpur-Srinagar transmission line may be completed at the earliest as this line will be a vital link for power supply to the Kashmir Valley.

The working group also discussed cooperation in the field of maintenance, repair and modernisation of equipment of Soviet-make which is installed at various power stations in India. Both sides agreed to identify new areas of cooperation, including scientific and technical, in the power sector.

It may be recalled that cooperation between the Soviet Union and India in the field of power development dates back to 1957 when an agreement was concluded for the setting up of the Neyveli

Lignite Thermal Power Project. At present, about 11,000 MW of thermal capacity, based on Soviet design, is installed in India.

DIA RUSSIA USA

Date: Oct 21, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-USSR Protocol on Water Management

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1987 on the signing of the protocol between India and USSR on water Management:

The Soviet Union is giving India six drilling rigs and 35 pumps as a drought relief contribution. These high powered rigs will be free of charge. Soviet experts will also be deputed to help the Central Ground Water Board to operationalise the drilling rigs.

This decision was conveyed to the Union Secretary of Water Resources, Shri Naresh Chandra, by the Soviet Government in Moscow recently during the visit of the Indian delegation for the meeting of the Indian-Soviet Working Group on Cooperation in the field of Irrigation and Water Management.

A protocol signed between the two countries after the meeting includes Work Plan for the year 1988-89.

Under the economic and technical cooperation transfer of technology has been proposed in the areas of directional blasting for the construction of dams and canals, the designing of hydraulic structures on unstable soils, the design and the construction of high dams in areas prone to seismic activity. Technology will also be transferred for siltation control in reservoirs and ground water exploration and drilling.

Joint research activities will be undertaken by the two countries in areas of physical and mathematical modelling of hydraulic structure and systems, automated operation of irrigation canals systems, drainage for effective control of waterlogging and land salinization and ground water recharge and control of ground water pollution.

The Indian delegation visited some of the water projects in the

Soviet Union.

The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in March next year.

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A INDIA RUSSIA LATVIA

Date: Oct 21, 1987

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Minister of State for External Affairs' Visit to Sri Lanka

The following is the text of the statement of Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs on his visit to Colombo, on Oct 28, 1987:

I came to Colombo yesterday and am leaving for Delhi this afternoon. During my visit I have had a series of discussions with Mr. ACS Hameed, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister for Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development, Mr. Ronnie De Mel, Minister for Finance and Mr. S. Thondaman, Minister for Rural Industrial Development. I also had the privilege of having a detailed exchange of views with H.E. President Jayewardene lasting over two hours.

- 2. My visit and the discussions that I have held with Sri Lankan leaders, is part of a process of on-going consultations and cooperation between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka on the implementation of various provisions of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of July 29, 1987. It was also the objective of the visit to take stock of the developing situation in the North and the East as the Indian Peace Keeping Force have completed an important phase of their operations in the discharge of their responsibilities under the Agreement. The visit was also aimed at making a joint assessment of further steps that will need to be taken by the Governments of India and Sri Lanka to expedite the process of restoring normalcy and ushering stability into the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka including inter alia the return and rehabilitation of refugees, the establishment of democratic political and administrative structures as envisaged in the Agreement.
- 3. My discussions with Sri Lankan leaders were detailed and wide

ranging, covering bilateral economic and cultural cooperation and matters which may come up for discussions at the SAARC Summit at Kathmandu next week when my Prime Minister is scheduled to meet H.E. President Jayewardene. The discussions were constructive, useful and were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. I am deeply appreciative of H.E. the President receiving me at such short notice and of the detailed exchanges which I have had with Ministers of His Government.

I LANKA USA INDIA NEPAL

Date: Oct 28, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

British Naval Chief Calls on Defence Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 05, 1987 on the visit of British Naval Chief to India:

The First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff of the Royal Navy (U.K.), Sir William Staveley called on the Defence Minister, Sri K. C. Pant here this morning, where matters of professional interest were discussed. Earlier the visiting Admiral laid a wreath at Amar Jawan Jyoti.

Admiral Staveley also met the three Service Chiefs and the Defence Secretary, Sri S. K. Bhatnagar. The visiting dignitary will also visit Service establishments in Bombay, Goa and Wellington (Nilgiris). During his visit to the Western Naval Command, Bombay, he will be received on INS Viraat, the Navy's recently acquired second aircraft carrier.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA NEW ZEALAND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Oct 05, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Vice President Meets Princess Alexandra

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 17, 1987 on the meeting of Vice President with Princess Alexandra:

The Vice President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma received Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra of the United Kingdom here this morning.

Expressing her keen interest in Indian art and culture, Princess Alexandra informed the Vice President about her visits to various art centres in the capital. The meeting lasted thirty minutes.

DIA USA

Date: Oct 17, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Environment and Development - Prime Minister's Address at U.N.General Assembly

The following is the text of the address by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi on Environment and Development at U.N. General Assembly, New York, on Oct 19, 1987:

The miracles of modern science and the towering achievements of technology have given us a measure of mastery over nature. Economic progress has, however, engendered a callous disregard of the harmony within the ecological system. Therefore, we have to consciously remind ourselves, we are a part of nature. We are a strand in the single fabric whose warp and woof link together all that is of the earth and the water, the air.

We have learnt to our cost that development which destroys the environment eventually destroys development itself. And we have learnt to our benefit that development that conserves the environment conserves also the fruits of development. There is, thus, no fundamental dichotomy between conservation and growth.

Yet, striking the right balance between the environmental imperative and the demands of developments is not that simple.

Conservation imposes an escalation in costs. When resources are limited, the increased cost of any one project necessarily means less investment for others. This appears to imply a curtailment of economic growth. When the environment is not protected, damage to the environment will extract its price - from those living in the vicinity, from others at a distance, or even from coming generations.

We do not know enough about the impact on the environment of development decisions. We also do not know enough about how best to offset damage to the environment. There are no easy solutions. Yet, we cannot ignore environmental considerations. We have to strive for the optimum mix through increased knowledge and increased awareness.

In India, we are seeing a growing awareness of the symbiotic relationship between the protection of the environment and sustainable development. There is the renowned Chipko Movement in the Himalayas, where women prevent the wanton felling of trees by throwing themselves protectively around tree-trunks. Island communities join hands to stop the coral -328>

mining which destroy their lagoons. Villagers band together to stop goats from grazing on the bramble planted to halt the advance of the desert. Environment groups are active. In our Parliament, Members are increasingly receptive to environmental concerns. They are beginning to demand that the conservation of the environment be guaranteed before major development projects are undertaken.

At one time, environmental issues related mainly to the quality of life of the affluent. Today, in developing countries like ours, we are primarily concerned with the lives of the poorest. When village ponds and wells go dry, it is the poor who trek to ever more distant sources for water. When forests are destroyed, it is the poor who go farther and farther afield in the search for fuel wood. As lands are degraded and forests recede, it is the poor and their animals who, in the dry season, trudge hundreds of kilometers in search of grazing lands. It is the livelihood of the poor, and their hopes, that shrivel in the arid anguish of drought and are drowned in the raging fury of floods.

It is also the poor who suffer most from pollution. When water borne epidemics strike the urban slums, it is the poor who are afflicted by disease and even death. When factories spew harmful gases into the air, it is the workers in the nearby housing colonies who suffer the contagion, when industrial units discharge their effluents into the rivers, it is the poor fisherfolk who are deprived of their incomes.

Although they bear the brunt of environmental damage, the poor are themselves little responsible for any of that damage. For

centuries they have lived in harmony with nature. The problem is caused by large scale commercial exploitation, which garners the profits but escapes the consequences. Yet, when laws are passed and rules are made to conserve the environment, the burden falls on those who have gained the least and suffered the most. The people of the forest cannot suddenly be cordoned off from its bounty. Fuel and building materials must be made available at prices they can afford. Shepherd and cowherds must be found alternative pastures or provided fodder. To be effective, conservation must , be humane. That is the challenge before us.

A large number of animal and plant species are seriously threatened. Apart from the ethical and aesthetic case for protecting these disappearing species, it is possible answers to unsolved problems of health and survival might be found in the yet undiscovered secrets of these gene pool reserves.

We in India are now developing mechanisms to control pollution and check the deterioration of the environment. We assess the environmental impact of development work so as to harmonize development with the environment. We carry out research and take the results out to the field. We promote environmental awareness among the people. We hope this will lead to greater vision, concern and care in the planning, designing and implementation of development projects. We learn as we go along.

We are trying to integrate these complex environmental issues into our design of development. There are no easy or ready-made answers. In principle, we would wish to give equal priority to development and conservation. In practice, there are major gaps in knowledge, many intangibles and unknown quantities. Experts disagree and assessment vary.

Conservation is not a national task alone. Even as peace is indivisible, so is the world environment. The one world which Jawaharlal Nehru spoke of so often from this very forum is a world which already exists in the physical laws governing the environment. The environment everywhere is jeopardized by the noxious fumes and life-killing wastes of industrial pollution. The poisoning of the rivers and the seas deprives and endangers all of us, all over the world. The accumulation of -329>

carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the threat to the ozone layer put the innocent at as much risk as the polluters themselves.

Worst of all is the passing on of pollution and environmental hazards beyond one's boundaries. There is no political boundary which delimits the spread of poisonous gases, no line on a map which radiation cannot cross, no national frontier at which effluents can be turned back. All those affected by such transnational consequences of environmental damages must have an

equal say in the resolution of problems. We must also keep the global oceans and space free of environmental depredation. The conservation of the earth's environment has to be ensured through democratic discussions and decisions in International forums.

The conservation of the world's environment also requires concerted international action to reduce disparities between countries. The compulsions of development and limitations of financial resources tempt many developing countries to exploit their natural resources beyond endurance, ignoring environmental safeguards. If the world economy is to move to more sustainable paths of development, the crucial requirement is to widen the options available to developing countries for growth.

A world economy which denies itself the benefits of interdependence is both unjust and inefficient. Growth in the developing countries is being hampered by protectionism, by the deteriorating real terms of trade, by the unfavourable conditions for the transfer of technology and by the curtailment of the flow of development assistance.

Programmes of conservation must, therefore, address themselves to inequities in the international economic order. For example, the lion's share of the world's natural resources has been preempted by a few countries. The average citizen of the industrialised countries consumes ten times more fossil fuels and mineral than the average citizen of the developing world.

The world's resources just cannot sustain such profligate consumption of energy and materials.

Neither can developing countries be denied the right to develop nor are the world's natural resources sufficient for all to follow the greedy path to growth. What then is the answer to the conundrum? The answer lies in more rational patterns of consumption, more efficient utilization of depletable resources by the developed countries, and more equitable access to these resources for the developing.

The international community must also address itself to safety measures in high-risk industries. Bhopal, Seveso and Chernobyl have shown how vulnerable we are. It is incumbent on the management of such industries to ensure the utmost vigilance in design, operations and maintenance. Valuable lives cannot be lost to inefficiency, indifference, negligence or worse.

All other environmental dangers pale in comparison to the ever-accumulating stockpiles of nuclear weapons. We must remove the threat of thermonuclear war wiping out, in a wink of history, life as we know it from our common planet. All nuclear weapons must be dismantled.

The report, our common future, is both a document of high

technical excellence and a call for concerted political action. The report reminds us that "the earth is one, but the world is not". We must recognize that even as development which degrades the environment is self-defeating, so do impediments to development endanger the environment. We must also recognize that environmental issues are closely linked to the larger issues of peaceful co-existence and international cooperation, disarmament and development. Any unidimensional perspective on environment would be gravely misplaced. Environment as an international issue, to be placed in the context of international cooperation, to be pursued through international institutions, to be linked to all as--330>

pects of international relations. Conservation is each nation's task, but a task which can be accomplished only in the setting of a cooperative world order.

In one of his most famous slokas, Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of the Sikh religion, sang:

"Air is the vital force, water the progenitor: The vast earth is mother of all".

The verse sums up the Indian tradition of respect for nature, respect for all that gives us life, respect for the sources of our well-being on earth. In our tradition, there is no arrogance towards nature, no desire to dominate it. Our ancient wisdom teaches us to seek harmony with all creation. All creation is interdependent.

The core of the Brundtland Report is recognition of that interdependence. Everything in our experience, from the centuries-old teaching of our seers to our contemporary experiments in development endorses the essence of the message given to us by Prime Minister Gro-Harlem Brundtland and her colleagues. We thank them in all sincerity for the deep insights and sage advice.

The report of the commission is the culmination of an important phase of the task. The international community will have to carry forward this work. As experience grows and lacunae in knowledge are filled, answers will slowly be found to the complex questions of development and the environment. The search for the right answers must go on relentlessly. It is a worldwide endeavour to which India pledges unstinting support.

A INDIA TOTO CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FRANCE

Date: Oct 19, 1987

Volume No

UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Prime Minister's Remarks at the Inauguration of UNICEF Building

The following is the text of remarks by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the inauguration of UNICEF building in New York, on Oct 19, 1987:

A child comes to the world with eyes - black, brown or blue - which can see the world's colours and peer at the planets and the stars. It comes with feet which can ride the surf or scale the Everest. It comes with hands which can grow grain, build houses, draw and paint. The same hands can stab and throttle and construct the nuclear bomb. The same feet can trample on blood. The same eyes can witness man turning into beast. It is for us parents to see that the child grows up in a world of love and not in a world of hate.

My mother, who was so involved in national and international children's organisations, was fond of a moving line of the poet Rabindranath Tagore, who said that each child that is born is a reminder that God has not lost hope in man. Are we doing enough to justify that hope?

How many millions of children die in the cradle, not reaching even their first birthday? How many go without milk and the minimum of food. How many are denied schooling and the chance to learn crafts and trades which give them the pride of being productive and add to the world's wealth?

It is not only in poor countries that children are deprived. In rich countries too, they suffer from lack of love and care and the company. They have toys but no joy. They are surrounded by plenty but miss the sense of belonging.

Many of the newly free, developing countries have taken up special programmes for child care and child development. We stress smaller families, immunisation, schooling, nutrition. We want every child to feel wanted, valued.

A child must be taught to love its family, its country, but also to love the whole world and look upon it as one family. Parents must be taught to look at children of other countries as entitled to the same consideration as their own.

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That, I take it, is the spirit animating UNICEF.

UNICEF stands for children's rights and elders' responsibilities.

Its activities have supported the efforts that nations are making to put more milk and vitamins in children's bodies, wipe their cheeks of grime, comb their hair and teach them to read and sing. It has undertaken worldwide campaigns against the ailments and epidemics that afflict children. Its imaginative activities have brought the children of the world closer together. UNICEF is one of the more dynamic of our international organisations. I salute it on its work and wish it more achievement.

I am glad that UNICEF has a home of its own. I have great pleasure participating in this ceremony. May UNICEF function with greater vigour and good cheer.

A CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Oct 19, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Shri Narasimha Rao to Lead Indian Delegation for UNESCO GeneralConference

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 19, 1987 on the participation of the Indian Delegation at the 24th session of the General Conference of UNESCO at Paris:

The Human Resource Development Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, will lead the Indian delegation to the General Conference of UNESCO. The 24th session of the General Conference of UNESCO will be held in Paris from October 20 to November 21, 1987. The main agenda of the Conference is to consider and approve the Draft Programme and Budget of UNESCO for the biennium 1988-89 and the election of a new Director General of the Organisation. Sardar Swaran Singh, former Minister for External Affairs, India's nominee to the Executive Board of UNESCO, will be the alternate leader.

India also proposes to move a resolution for the UNESCO's association with the celebration of Jawaharlal Nehru's birth-centenary which falls in 1989 so that a befitting tribute is paid to the memory of one of the most outstanding statesmen of the current century to whom the values which permeate the spirit of UNESCO were the dearest.

The Draft Programme and Budget for 1988-89 is in the final stage in the execution of the Second Medium-Term Plan for 1984-89 which

attempted a penetrating analysis of the world problems leading to the identification of UNESCO's five main tasks and fourteen major programmes. The total budget proposals of UNESCO for the biennium 1988-89 amount to US \$ 348,833,000, which constitutes an increase of about 20 per cent on the budget approved by the General Conference of UNESCO for the previous biennium.

India generally supports UNESCO's programmes in the field of education, science, culture and communication included in the Draft Programme and Budget for 1988-89. The Indian delegation will move a number of draft resolutions at the forthcoming General Conference of UNESCO with a view to highlighting India's own viewpoint and priorities as well as those of other developing countries. The resolution to be submitted by India lay emphasis on such areas as universalisation of primary education and eradication of illiteracy, co-ordination between formal and nonformal education, equality of educational opportunity for girls and women, development and improvement of higher education, co-operation in key areas in science and technology and social and human sciences, improvement of access to information management of water resources, preservation and presentation of the cultural heritage, etc.

The other members of the delegation are: Prof. Yash Pal, Chairman, University Grants Commission; Mrs. Vyjayanthimala Bali, MP; Shri Anil Bordia, Secretary -332>

Department of Education; Shri M. Vardarajan, Secretary, Department of Culture; Shri Kireet Joshi, Special Secretary, Department of Education; Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; and Ms. Arundhati Ghose, Ambassador Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO.

DIA FRANCE USA

Date: Oct 19, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNFPA's Executive Director Visits India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 01, 1987 on the visit of UNFPA's Executive Director's visit to India:

Dr. (Mrs.) Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, UNFPA called on the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi on October 1, 1987. She held discussions with him regarding ongoing UNFPA-funded projects in India. She noted with satisfaction at the perceptible and attitudinal change among the people and officials associated with Family Welfare Programme in India.

The Minister apprised her of the concerted efforts being made to secure greater involvement of the people in the family welfare programme so that it became a popular movement. He said that voluntary agencies were being encouraged to come forward to give it a wider popular base. People's representatives were also being involved in the programme. He referred to the increasing consciousness among the people resulting in the success of the Programme in States like U.P. in recent years, where progress had been relatively slow in the past.

The Minister felt that viable method of assessment and evaluation of the Programme, which could be replicated on a large scale must be evolved. Underlining the important role of motivation, the Minister stressed the need for creating consciousness, which in turn would not only create greater awareness among the people, but would also help in evolving self-generating motivational mechanisms.

Dr. Sadik, who is currently on a week's visit to India, also visited Varanasi and Jaunpur, where she saw some field units engaged in Family Welfare work and held discussions with local officers and field workers.

DIA USA

Date: Oct 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Special Stamp on International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 05, 1987 on the issue of a special multi colour stamp on International Year of Shelter for the Homeless by the Department of Posts:

The Department of Posts will issue a special multi colour stamp on International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

The United Nation's General Assembly has designed the year 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Government of India attaches the highest importance to the provision of shelter to the shelterless. Our Five Year Plans have always included provision of shelter as a priority item. In the new 20-Point Programme launched in 1982, attention is given on providing shelter and improvement of environment for poor people.

In pursuance of IYSH, 1987, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations who are responsible for the implementation of the housing schemes have been requested to identify demonstration projects and implement the same. Most of the States have taken steps in this -333>

direction and schemes have been launched for alleviating housing shortage with particular emphasis on providing shelter to the homeless population. 187 projects under IYSH have also been sanctioned by HUDCO which will benefit a million persons.

Indira Awas Yojana launched in 1985 envisages construction of 10 lakh houses for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes rural areas. So far about 3.25 laks units have been sanctioned.

The five rupee stamp which is being released today shows huts for the homeless

First Day Cover and Information Sheet will be available for sale at all Philatelic Bureaux and other selected Post Offices at rupee one each.

DIA USA

Date: Oct 05, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Relations 1947 Commemorative Conference - PrimeMinister's Inaugural Address

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 02, 1987 of the speech by the prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, while inaugurating the Asian Relations 1947

Commemorative Conference in New Delhi:

What brings together so many distinguished scholars and statesmen from so many countries of Asia to this ancient city is a common allegiance - an allegiance to Asia, to Asia's honour, to Asia's freedom, to Asia's prosperity. We thank you for being with us.

A unique event took place in New Delhi forty years ago: the Asian Pelations Conference. The distinguished personalities who participated in it were men and women leading their countries to freedom, fighting injustice, fighting arrogrance. We are honoured that some of them are with us today.

We meet on a specially hallowed day. It is the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. He not only liberated India from political bondage but showed all humankind how to liberate itself from fear and hate, from untruth and injustice. No omens marked him out when he was born. An ordinary child, he shaped himself into an extraordinary man. A simple vow he took, while still a young man of refusing to be pushed from the path he thought right - enabled him to tap the eternal strength within his being. He taught millions to find their inner strength. The result was history's largest mass movement.

The First World War put an end to empires in Europe. But imperialism continued in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership the struggle against imperialism gathered new strength. The imperial bastion crumbled in the space of a mere two decades, a tribute to the toil and the faith of the freedom fighters of our lands. We salute them.

At the dawn of civilization in India, our ancient sages enjoined us: Uttishtha, Jagrata: Arise and Awake. At the darkest hour of colonialism, a great reformer, Swami Vivekananda exhorted India: Arise and Awake. And at the Asian Relations Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru proclaimed: Asia is arisen, Asia is awake.

Asia is one of the great cradles of civilization, the birthplace of the great religions, the fountainhead of the message of truth and non-violence, of love and compassion. That Asia was crushed by centuries of colonialism. It lost much of its old glory - its renowned centres of knowledge, its science and technology. its flourishing industries. The Asian economies were plundered and impoverished, reduced to servitude, compelled to subordinate their own needs to the demands of their colonial masters. The catastrophic

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consequences of colonialism were pervasive. They affected us all, whether we fell directly under colonial domination or retained a semblance of sovereignty.

Colonialism also isolated the countries of Asia from one another.

Where for centuries we Asians had looked to each other, imperialism oriented our minds, our hearts and our economies to the West.

The Asian Relations Conference symbolised the end of that long period of quiescence. Inaugurating the Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru said:

"We stand at the end of an era and on the threshold of a new period of history. Standing on this watershed, which divides two epochs of human history and endeavour, we can look back on our long past and look forward to the future that is taking shape before our eyes".

Forty years of that future now belong to our past. Something of what was envisaged in that spring of 1947 has come to pass. Other matters have taken a different turn. Some of the challenges they then faced are still with us. Some of the challenges we face today could not have been anticipated then.

We have succeeded in revitalising our economies. Signs of progress are everywhere. There are striking examples of Asian countries finding their own solutions to problems, successfully harnessing modern science and technology to their particular needs and specific conditions. We have demonstrated our resilience in the face of the most serious world economic crisis since the Great Depression. As a continent, our economic growth is well over five percent.

Inflation has been kept well within the single-digit range. The Asian economies have continued their record of outperforming the rest of the developing world. There are, of course, wide variations in levels of prosperity and rates of growth in Asia. But, by and large, we have vindicated the hopes of those who had gathered here 40 years ago.

Yet, they were perhaps a little too sanguine about the extent to which political interdependence translated into freedom of action. We continue to be a coveted continent, coveted for our vast and varied natural resources, coveted for our huge potential markets, coveted for the wealth of our lands and the genius of our peoples. The preservation of our independence is a continuing challenge. It is easier to recognise and deal with direct threats to our independence. It is more difficult to recognise and resist temptations and blandishments. There are easy ways preferred by those who would suborn our freedom. Easy ways lead to debt traps, to the mortgaging of our interests, to domination by outside presences. The hard way is often the slower way. But it is the surer way. We in Asia have by and large coped well with both the threats and temptations. But we have done so mostly by individual effort. We have not learnt to look to each other. There remains immense scope for increasing our knowledge of Asian experience and Asian expertise, for turning first to each other before we

turn to the world outside. Beginnings have been made through arrangements such as SAARC and ASEAN, and the Gulf Cooperation Council. Larger Asian Cooperation however, remains a distant prospect.

We have also learnt that our efforts are not the final detriment of our performance. Our economic prospects are so closely tied in with the international economic environment that maladjustments in the world economic order have seriously impeded our domestic efforts. We have reasoned with the developed world. We do not seek our prosperity at their cost. Indeed, we believe that their prosperity can be neither stable nor sustained without high rates of growth in the developing world. We believe that they spite themselves when they cut access to their markets, when they deny technology, when they restrict the flow of development assistance. Those who -335>

had gathered in New Delhi, in March 1947, saw clearly that global economic interdependence meant that our poverty was a drag on world prosperity, that the rich nations jeopardized themselves by curtailing the prospecst of the poorer and the weaker. Asia has borne up well to the vicissitudes of global economic dislocation. We could have done much better, and would have contributed much more to the world economy, had the developed recognized the symbiotic relationship between their prosperity and ours.

Over the last 40 years, Asia has found itself frequently drawn into the rivalries of others. Ours has been amongst the most seriously afflicted areas of conflict by proxy. At one time, much of Asia was carved into alliances and pacts. Now, most of the countries of Asia are non-aligned or otherwise distanced from great power military arrangements. Yet, uninvited military presences in our area have grown and assumed increasingly dangerous proportions: The challenge before us is to put an end to all outside intervention and intereference, and not allow our countries to become the cockpit of conflicts engineered from outside, at the behest of others and in the interest of others. It has been the Asian experience that outside meddling usually complicates matters, prolonging disputes and confounding solutions.

The Asian Relations Conference was convened on the morrow of the atom bomb which devastated two great Asian cities. Nehru said: "Even now, the day after a terrible war, there is talk of further wars in the atomic age that is upon us. In this atomic age Asia will have to function effectively in the maintenance of peace. Indeed, there can be no peace unless Asia plays her part." Let us remind ourselves that the millennial Asian path is the path of peaceful coexistence. As the only continent to have experienced nuclear horror, Asia must dedicate itself to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

The theme of One World inspired much of the deliberations at the Asian Relations Conference. Nehru emphasised:

"We seek no narrow nationalism. The freedom that we envisage must spread out over the whole human race. It must be the freedom of the common man everywhere and full of opportunities for him to develop."

It was in this spirit that he urged support for the United Nations. Those who came to New Delhi in 1947, would have been pained to see how far the reality of international relations has drifted from the ideal envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations. The United Nations is the only forum where all the countries of Asia meet together as a group. It is there that the Asian identity acquires a certain dimension. Our work together there will have an important bearing on keeping the international community together in striving towards the great universal goals of peace, development and disarmament. We must recall the inspiring wisdom of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike who told the Asian Relations Conference: "Asia may well hold the key to the new world situation. If Asia is free, strong and united, future conflict may well be averted. If she is weak, disunited and unfree, then there is not much hope either for her or for the world. The only remedy is for us to make a supreme effort to achieve unity and harmony in Asia."

In the last 40 years, much has changed in Asia. We are now sovereign, independent nations. In all our countries, there has been visible, tangible economic growth and technological progress. Epidemics have been banished; death-dealing famines ended. Where once illiteracy was taken for granted and education denied we now have schools and universities. Where once there was deliberate deindustrialization we now have factories and laboratories. We have hospitals for the sick and playfields for our children. The Asian drama continues, a drama of swift change, a drama of self-discovery and self- assertion. The Asian dilemma also continues, the dilemma of modernization without sacrificing what is valuable in our tradition. The essential Asian challenge lies in reconciling change with continuity.

At the Asian Relations Conference, Nehru brushed aside apprehensions that, that gathering of Asians was directed against any other continent or people. In the most famous passage of his speech, he pointed out:

"For too long, we of Asia have been petitioners in Western Courts and chancellories. That story must now belong to the past" and he added:

"We have no designs against anybody; ours is the great design of promoting peace and progress all over the world."

It is that same message which we send again to all the continents of the world as we gather together at this commemorative Conference.

In that dawn of freedom when Asians first gathered in New Delhi, there was promise of peaceful co-opeartion amongst newly liberated countries. Asia has proved too vast and complex to build institutions of all Asian cooperation. But there are common elements to help us safeguard our independence and to ensure peace, security and progress.

Our disputes should be resolved peacefully amongst ourselves. We do not need the involvement of outside powers. Better far that we seek common ground among ourselves to remove misunderstandings and reconcile differences.

Barren confrontation and unrelenting rivalry leads only to continuing conflict and escalating violence. We have much to lose from war. We have much to gain from sharing.

Asia must be kept free of outside military presences. The Indian Ocean must be a zone of peace. Our sovereign lands must not be used for the military purposes of others.

Our mutual economic cooperation must be reinforced. Bilateral economic ties, regional and sub-regional arrangements and the global schemes of South-South cooperation must be strengthened. We must work together to realise our new potential. We must work together to make our voice heard. Together we must forge a new consensus for the management of the world economy. To these tasks, I invite your attention.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Oct 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

India Elected Chairman of Asia Pacific Telecommunity

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 05, 1987, on the inauguration of the Seventh Annual Session of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (A.P.T.), Bangkok, by Shri D. K. Sangal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications:

The seventh Annual Session of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (A.P.T.) Bangkok, being held here has elected Shri M. G. Kulkarni, DDG of the Department of Telecommunications of Government of India as its Chairman for a period of three years.

Shri D. K. Sangal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunication inaugurating the Session outlined various steps taken by Government for accelerated growth and spread of telecommunications in the country, development of rural telecommunications, introduction of new telecomtechnologies and promotion of indigenous manufacture of telecommunications equipments. He mentioned of consultancy services provided by India to other developing countries in the region and hoped that the Indian experience in these areas could prove beneficial to other developing countries. Shri Sangal reiterated India's continued cooperation with the A.P.T. providing training facilities to trainees from other member-countries at the Advanced Level Telecommunication Training Centre (ALTTC), Ghaziabad, providing services of Indian telecommunication experts and -337>

consultancy services. Recalling the origin of international cooperation in 1865, when the International Telecommunication Union was established in the context of operation of international telegraph line in Europe, he stated that but for this spirit of international cooperation, the present stage of world-wide telecommunication could not have been reached.

The A.P.T. was established in May, 1979 as a regional telecommunication organisation under the auspices of the United Nations Economic & Social Communication of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) by an inter-governmental agreement. The A.P.T. with its Headquarters at Bangkok maintains close cooperation with relevant U.N. bodies/agencies like the I.T.U. international and regional organisations. The main objective of the A.P.T. is to ensure balanced development of telecommunications in the ESCAP region, at a pace commensurate with the economic and social development.

The A.P.T. comprises of 21 Member countries (including India), 2 Associate members and 11 Affiliate members in Asia Pacific Region. India had taken a leading role in the founding of the A.P.T. as well as in its activities since its formal inception in 1979.

The Study Groups recommendations promote regional cooperation and standardisation of telecommunications systems, their operation in the region. The Study Groups also provide a forum to arrive at a regional consensus in relation to major world issues affecting telecommunications in the region. The Study Groups Meeting in New Delhi will finalise a programme of technical questions to be studied during 1988-1990 period.

Date: Oct 05, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Conference of Lead-Zinc Producing Countries at Vienna

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 14, 1987 on the participation of the Indian delegation at the 32nd session of the International Lead and Zinc Group at Vienna:

The 32nd session of the International Lead and Zinc Study Group opens at Vienna tomorrow. A high level Indian delegation headed by Shri P. K. Lahiri, Additional Secretary, Department of Mines, has already left for the Austrian capital to attend the session. About 32 lead and zinc producing countries, which are members of the Study Group, are expected to attend the week-long session.

Various subjects which will come up for discussion in the session include review of the current lead-zinc situation, lead and zinc market situation, national statements by the Member-Governments and consideration of reports submitted by the various committees of the Study Group. Standing Committee, Economic Committee and Statistical Committee will also hold separate meetings during the session. The Economic Committee of which Shri Lahiri, the leader of Indian delegation is the Chairman, will discuss production and consumption of the lead-zinc metals and various national and economic policies affecting production and use of these metals. Some of the latest applications of these metals are also scheduled to be discussed at the meetings. Besides, changes and improvements made in processing technology would come up for discussion.

The International Lead and Zinc Study Group is a forum which forecasts and evolves a strategy for the industry on a long-term basis.

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STRIA INDIA USA

Date: Oct 14, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Statement at White House Lunch

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's statement at the White House, after lunch with President Ronald Reagan on Oct 20, 1987:

It it always a pleasure to be at the White House. Thank you, Mr. President, for your invitation and for your warm words. May I at the outset wish Mrs. Reagan the speediest recovery. We know what a source of strength she is to you. Mr. President, in your work for your country and the world. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the people of the United States on the 200th anniversary of the Constitution. It is one of history's momentous documents which has made the United States grow to greatness. Your Constitution has been an inspiration to us in our struggle for freedom and liberty.

As the President informed you, we have had a good and most useful meeting. We spoke of world peace and our concern for the well-being of humanity. And we spoke of the relations between our countries. We agreed upon further methods of strengthening our mutual friendship.

The relations between our two countries have always held much promise. In recent years we have made notable progress towards realizing that promise. Your personal attention and interest, Mr. President, have contributed greatly to our expanding partnership. We have agreed to collaborate at the frontiers of technology. We have reaffirmed the tradition of scientific interaction which has been the hallmark of our relationship. The growth in high technology trade and transfers has been a source of considerable satisfaction. I hope that the United States would recognize India not just as a market but as a partner in technological progress. In the field of bilateral trade and investment, we have agreed that much can be done to expand the present level of activity. We will encourage increased interaction between our trading entities. Having successfully launched our cooperation for the light combat aircraft project, we have now agreed to explore other avenues in the field of defence. This is yet another step forward. I am confident that after our talks today, we will be able to place our relationship on a more enduring basis.

We share not only aspirations and values. We sometimes face common threats as well. We have each recognized the dangers to our societies posed by terrorism and narcotics. I mentioned to you today our determination to fight these problems. I am aware of your personal concern about narcotics - the price they extract in the form of blighted youth and wasted resources. I would like to reiterate, once again, our commitment to cooperate with you to this end.

Turning to international issues, I should first like to applaud the statesmanship demonstrated by you. Mr. President, and by General Secretary Gorbachev in pursuing the vexing and complex issues of Nuclear Disarmament. Your endeavours have given a glimmer of hope to a world threatened by imminent nuclear holocaust. An INF agreement will be a historic step. For the first time an operational nuclear weapon system will be withdrawn and dismantled. We hope that this will be the beginning of the elimination of nuclear weapons altogether - an objective to which you are dedicated. I sincerely wish you, Mr. President, and General Secretary Gorbachev every success in these endeavours. All humankind is with you.

Our deliberations today also covered the situation in Afghanistan. We agree on the need for an early political settlement there and support the efforts of the U.N. -339>

Secretary General. I believe that a just solution must ensure sovereign independent and non-aligned Afghanistan. Foreign intervention and interference must cease. The Afghan refugees must be allowed to return to their homes in honour, dignity and security. We would welcome any earnest efforts in this direction.

We had a frank discussion on the dangers of nuclear proliferation. Both horizontal and vertical. My country has consistently recognized that a secure world order cannot be built on nuclear weapons. Our actions have spoken louder than any words in expressing our commitment. We do not have nuclear weapons. We do not want nuclear weapons. And we certainly do not want nuclear weapons in our neighbourhood.

We have watched with concern developments in our immediate vicinity. Nuclear stockpiles have multiplied. Yet another country now seems on the threshold of fulfilling a long time ambition of acquiring nuclear weapons. On our part, let me assure you, Mr. President, and the people of your country that we have no intention of producing nuclear weapons unless constrained to do so.

Mr. President, you and I have discussed these matters and expressed our mutual concerns. Time is not on our side. We are faced with critical decision on issues which need to be addressed urgently.

We appreciate your support to the effort to end the ethnic

conflict in Sri Lanka. Mr. President, in particular to the July 29 Agreement which I signed with President Jayawardene. We are determined to ensure that full implementation of its provisions as it represents the best hope for peace in the region.

I thank you, Mr. President, once again, for your hospitality. Our discussions have been most productive and I leave Washington confident and optimistic about the future of our relationship.

A INDIA AFGHANISTAN SRI LANKA

Date: Oct 20, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Jodidi Lecture at HarvardUniversity

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Jodidi lecture at Harvard University on Oct 18, 1987:

I thank the President and the organizers of the Jodidi lectures for their invitation to this great centre of learning. It is good practice for universities to invite persons in public affairs - in the hope of educating them. I spent some years at Cambridge, with how much profit, I do not know, but with great deal of pleasure. It is interesting to be at the other Cambridge.

To every Henry Adams, his own education being in Harvard, it is my pleasant duty to recall the debt India owes to the earlier Harvard men who told America about our civilization; Emerson, Thoreau and Lanman. Indeed, both Walden Pond and Thoreau featured in our initial contacts. Large blocks of ice cut from Walden Pond were exported all the way to India to slake the thirst of our colonial masters. Thoreau, on the other hand, slaked a deeper thirst in our people: the thirst for freedom. He was an early influence on Mahatma Gandhi. The architect of India's Independence described him as "one of the greatest and most moral man America has produced."

Since the days of those pioneers, India and Harvard have maintained a strong bond of scholarship. Numerous Indians owe this university a debt for their learning. Scores of Americans from these portals of excellence have made India a special field of study.

I have chosen to talk about democracy in India. Its existence is widely known. Yet, the way it works is inadequately -340>

appreciated. Also, because we compliment each other on being democracies, but do not seem to get much beyond this mantra. I have also chosen this subject because I am an unyielding proponent of democracy, rare though it is in our world today.

My conviction derives from the pathbreaking work of our founding-fathers and India's experience of the last 40 years. Independence was no gift of the British: it was won by the biggest mass movement in history. It was a battle which sought to spill no blood. Yet, was as tenaciously fought as any other. The freedom struggle started with reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, whose egalitarian ideas began a process of democratising our society.

The movement culminated in Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent, peaceful, mass satyagraha which overthrew the colonial order. For the men and women who fought for our freedom, there was never any doubt that Independent India could only be democratic. My faith in their vision is renewed by my experience in Government. In the past three years, I have been travelling extensively around India. Everywhere I go, I am struck above all by one-thing, the people I meet, no matter how poor or deprived, are articulate, even vociferous. They demand work, roads, schools, hospitals. They demand their rights, regardless of political affiliation.

It is a tremendous endorsement of the democratic spirit, when people stand-up and tell the Prime Minister: "We matter" this is tangible expression of the proclamation which prefaces both our constitutions: "We the people...."

In this gathering, I am sure that those who doubt the value of democracy are greatly out-numbered by the true believers. It relieves me of the need of embark on a lesson from first principle. Still. I am also aware that there are those who tend to qualify their "Yes" with a "But" or to sacrifice a bit of freedom some say, and your economy will grow faster. You cannot have democracy with illiteracy, others tell us. Democracy takes time and you have not got time enough to plod your way through social change, we are admonished.

I am unable to accept such advice, India's experience leads me to a different conclusion. I would like to set-out certain prepositions to some. These may be self evident. They are to us in India. But, in a world where authentic democracies are in a small minority, they need to be stated and re-stated.

ILLITERACY NO HANDICAP FOR DEMOCRACY

My first preposition is that a lack of literacy does not come in

the way of genuine democracy. India's experience amply demonstrates that illiteracy does not handicap the voter in knowing where his interest lies. The voter recognises that there is a choice. And that the choice is a meaningful one. He exercises his options with an informed awareness of the issues. This political consciousness derives from the experience of generations who were swept up in the Independence struggle. It is reinforced by a free press, the largest in the world, aggressive, investigative, unfettered.

It is wisdom that matters, not literacy.

Since 1952, we have held eight National Elections and scores of lower level elections. There are scholars here who have analysed these elections. Their outcome may not always have been to the satisfaction of my party, but that is what democracy is all about. Indian elections are momentous: in sheer size and logistics, they know no equal. In the last National Election, there were 380 million registered voters, 241 million cast their votes. No less than 5319 candidates contested the 1984 National Election, an average of 10 per constituency.

These figures demonstate the magnitude of the process. Moreover, any interested by stander can see that Indian elections are vibrant intense and participatory, successful at doing what elections are supposed to do: give the people the Government they choose.

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They have often come-up with surprises. They have discarded the Government in power several times in the States and twice in the National Elections. Indira Gandhi and the Congress Party lost in 1977. Less than three years after, in 1980 she was voted back with an even larger majority. Indian voters have also effectively balted the prophets of doom.

There were those who wondered: After Nehru who? After Nehru what? Democracy provided the answer.

When Indira Gandhi was felled by a hail of bullets, the country once again turned to the voter. At a distressing and uncertain time, Indian democracy returned an unambiguous verdict in favour of stability.

DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

My second proposition is that democracy is no way incompatible with economic development. Perhaps growth has sometimes been faster under a different system. But our own experience is that break-downs are fewer, course correction faster and discontinuties avoided when there is debate and dissent than when

there is unquestioning conformity.

We are concerned with a much larger set of values than the merely economic. Rooted in India's freedom movement was a great concern for equality. There were many reasons why a handful of aliens from a distant island were able to subjugate us for two centuries. A fundamental reason was the rigid hierarchies into which Indian society was divided. Both our society and our policy were fragmented. This inhibited the growth of a common civic consciousness. It prevented an ancient civilization from evolving into a modern nation-state.

The makers of modern India were champions of equality. They were powerfully influenced by the European Enlightenment and the American Revolution, by thoughts of liberty, equality and fraternity, by the stirring idea of the rights of man. When Mahatma Gandhi assumed the leadership of our freedom movement, millions identified national freedom with their own emancipation.

The Mahatma they heard and followed was the Mahatma who declared:

"I know the conditions in the villages. I tell you that pressure from the top crushes those at the bottom. All that is necessary is to get off their backs".

And again:

"I will state the purpose. It is complete freedom from the alien yoke in every sense of the term. And this for the sake of the millions. Every interest that is hostile to their interests must be revised".

Freedom to Mahatma Gandhi was the uplift of the lowest and the last. This idea was carried forward by Jawaharlal Nehru. He recognised that in a country as poor as India there were limits to what private enterprise could achieve. Structural transformation was necessary to accelerate growth. Social justice had to be consciously promoted for political democracy to be vibrant and meaningful. Inherited privileges had to be abolished and income better distributed. Laissez-faire would have promoted neither equality nor growth. Economic planning was needed to direct economic activity and discipline the inegalitarian play of market forces.

Contrary to the impression that some might hold, this has not impeded development. Our economy was stagnant before independence, per-capita income was virtually stationary, famines were frequent. Democratic India transformed its economy. Stagnation gave way to growth as production expanded in all sectors. Some of this growth was absorbed by the rising population but per-capita income also increased steadily.

The pace, modest at first has accelerated impressively over the

past decades. Performance in the 80's has been espe--342>

cially robust, with GDP growing at an average rate of 5 per cent per year. These have been difficult years for the world economy. Most developing countries slowed down. Many experienced falling income levels. Despite the difficulties, India's economic growth accelerated during the period.

The capacity of the Indian economy to mobilise its own resources is growing. Ninety-three per cent of the resources invested in development are our own. We have a healthy capital market. These are important building blocks in the pursuit of industrial modernisation.

Behind the summary statistics is the important process of transforming a metro-politin-dependent colonial structure into a modern, dynamic, self-reliant economy. At the heart of this transformation was the agricultural sector. We dismantalled over 500 princedoms - some, as large as France and Spain - and integrated them into the Indian Union. We abolished the chiefdoms known as zamindarees which through the permanent settlement imposed by the British had so totally oppressed the cultivators that agricultural growth was virtually stifled.

We instituted other land reforms. We carried the fruits of scientific research and modern agronomic practices to the farmer in the field. We sparked with help from the United States - a Green Revolution

The results are there for all to see. Two decades ago, when parts of Northern India were hit by drought, we had to turn to the United States and others to staveoff famine. We had to import a seventh of our food requirements. This year's drought is even worse. And our population is larger by half, yet, there is enough food to meet our greatly enhanced needs. It was once fashionable to forecast that India in the 70's would not be able to feed itself. Instead, we have moved from recurring deficits to food self sufficiency.

In industry too, there is impressive evidence of transformation. We have built a highly diversified industrial base, involving high levels of technology. Some of these technologies we have ourselves developed. We now produce everything from pins to power stations, from silicon to steel.

Ours' is a mixed economy. The public sector has played a crucial and catalytic role. It has boldly expanded into new areas of production. It is pioneered the opening up of the backward areas. The private sector has also expanded and diversified. It is no longer the preserve of the few industrialists. We now have a broad base of industrial enterpreneurship and large pool of technical and managerial skills.

These achievements are well recognised. But it is also said - with some justice - that industrial growth could have been higher. We need to increase the efficiency and raise productivity. We need to lower costs and improve quality. This is being done. From the mid 70's India's industrial performance has shown clear signs of acceleration.

In the past three years, industrial growth has averaged nearly 9 per cent per year. I have no doubt that the years ahead will show that our industrial sector has indeed matured and is now capable of sustained rapid growth.

DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AND MODERNISATION

My next proposition is that it is only democratic system that can foster participatory modernisation of its traditional society.

Our society was ridddled with atavistic practices, prejudice and discrimination. Much has been done to drive out superstition and inculcate the scientific temper. There are throw backs from time to time. But, by and large, the people have welcomed the modernisation of mental attitudes. We have done a great deal to tear our society away from the caste stereotypes, to deliberately promote opportunities for those who have suffered centuries of discrimination. Women are being -343>

assisted in acquiring income and assets of their own, commensurate with their enormous contribution to the economic life of the nation.

Never before has there been as much social mobility as in recent years. Our burgeoning middle classes estimated to number over 100 million people. Education is reaching into every village. There is a cultural renaissance in the air. All this is not change imposed from above, it is change through popular involvement, change through people's participation.

Explaining why India had chosen the democratic process, Nehru said:

"Because we think that in the final analysis it promotes the growth of human beings and of society. Because, as we have said in the Constitution, we attach great value to individual freedom, because we want the creative and adventurous spirit of man to grow. It is not enough for us merely to produce the material goods of the world. We do want high standards of living, but not at the cost of man's creative spirit".

The focus of our attention is this creative spirit. Growth, employment, income, housing are important, but there is much more to life than the economic dimension alone. The object of

development is to go beyond the satisfaction of material wants to the full flowering of the human personality.

Nehru had in mind India's awesome complexity. India is indivisible but it contains the frictions of a continent. Imagine for a moment that Europe were one nation, that one Government had to face turmoil in Ulster, the Basque separatists, the Red Brigades and Baader-Meinhofs. Imagine also that it had to contend with millions of refugees and illegal immigrants, border problem, linguistic, regional and religious frictions.

FLEXIBILITY TO ACCOMODATE PRESSURES

Yes, India does have problems with its languages, its communities, castes and ethnic identities and its religions. Only democracy is flexible enough to accommodate such pressures, tenacious enough not to be deflected off-course, mature enough to celebrate the manyfold diversities of its cultures. As Indira Gandhi once observed by permitting small out-bursts, democracy staves-off major explosions. Social ferment is only to be expected in a democratic society. It is an expression of change, of growth. In an open society such as ours, nothing is hidden. Our problems are freely ventilated. This stands to magnify the impression of tensions and disruptions. Infact it is a sign of strength, not weakness, a sign of self-confidence not despair.

This brings me to my final proposition which is that democracy is the only form of government that can ensure India's unity. Like you, we do not concede to any part of our Union the right of secession. In four decades of Independence, we have confronted several secessionist movements: in Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Mizoram and now in Punjab.

These were serious challenges. The solutions when they came, were negotiated. They were democratic. They brought the rebels back into our fold. Some of their leaders even became Chief Ministers of the States.

The last three years have strengthened my belief in dialogue with all who abjure violence and respect the Constitution. For five years, there was a debilitating agitation in Assam. It took thousands of lives. We resolved it by talking to those who led it. The insurgency in Mizoram lasted two decades. With firmness, patience and perseverance we were able to end violence, negotiated a settlement and restored democracy.

To some it may appear that the democratic technique of negotiation and persuasion has not worked in Punjab. That would be a very short term view. The major political task is to isolate the terrorists and separatists from the main body of public opinion. The Accord of July -344>

1985, was a conscious effort in this direction. Its initial success was demonstrated by a peaceful election with a heavy turnout of voters with complete disregard for the extremist call for a boycott.

There are two pre-conditions for a dialogue to restore peace and stability. The Constitution must be respected. Violence must end. And we must rally the people against the exploitation of religion for political ends. These are not sequential processes. They go hand in hand. That is what we are doing. We shall persevere. I do not minimise the inherent problems. But the path we have chosen is the right one, long and difficult though it might be. We shall ensure that reason and reconciliation prevail over bullet and bombs.

We are not a people to shy away from our imperfections. On the contrary, we tend to exaggerate them. In Western democracies your articulate middle-class, your more vocal segments are not consumed by politics. In India, politics is close to being an obsession. Some of us live politics and those who do not live politics, talk and breath politics, we make instant judgement and would consider ourselves less than evolved if we did not have a snap opinion to offer on every issue.

Popularity polls are now a major adjunct of contemporary politics. They have created the impression that elections are held not once in four or five years but every day. Politicians are judged not by their essentiality and eventual benefit but the instant popularity. Modern electronic media multiply these tendencies many times over.

Television gives people the illusion that because they have seen an event for a few seconds, they know its whys and wherefores. All these leads to a certain superficiality, perhaps even a trivialization, of political debate. Media pressures are also rapidly changing our value system. The Indian tradition stressed detachment. Advertising promotes the opposite; the values and outlook of consumerism.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL CHANGE

India does not lend itself to snap judgements. Consider what is being attempted. Centuries of progress are being compressed into a few decades - with centuries co-existing. New technology is enabling us to leapfrog stages of development. It is in the nature of change that its results are often uneven. Some will benefit more or sooner than others. So points of social conflicts proliferate. Groups feel they are left out. They ask for more.

Rapid social change tends to break down identities and heighten uncertainties. In a country of abiding faith and tradition, it is only natural to look for anchor of stability in the familiar concepts of the past. While Indians are religious people. India is

a secular state. It believes that Government and religion are separate, that religion is the personal affair of individuals.

Though the partition of India at Independence was painful it did not shake our allegiance to secularism. But Indian secularism has not had an easy passage. The recent rise of fundamentalism Hindu, Muslim, Sikh - remains a challenge to the basic tenets of Indian nationalism. We have to fight many more battles before the political use of religion is overcome.

Electoral dynamics seems to have given a new lease to parochialisms of religion, caste and language. In the competition for votes, group loyalties are invoked which stress, even encourage the belief: my region, my religion, right or wrong. It is a big test for Indian democracy. Fortunately, these tendencies have been kept at bay in national elections; they worry us more as random eruptions from time to time.

Your country is a federation of States which came together to form a union. In the process, they surrendered certain rights and powers of decision making to the federal authority. In India, the process worked the other way. The Consti--345>

tution we gave ourselves in 1950 assigns certain rights and duties to the States. Responsibilities and rights are thus distributed between the Union Government and the State Governments, but questions concerning the sharing of power and resources remain. I foresee long years of debate before it is realized that regional progress cannot be obtained at the cost of national strength.

I believe that the answer to these problems lies in strengthening our democratic institutions. The verdict was a verdict for reform. The election of 1984 of gave us a powerful mandate for change. I am carrying out that mandate in the face of adament opposition from the vested interests whose apple-carts are being upset. Our judiciary, administration, legislatures and political parties have an impressive history going back several decades.

But, all too often, they have not kept pace with the growing demand being made on them. Too frequently, they lack vitality and their concern seems to be out of touch with reality. We are undertaking a thorough-going programme of reforming our institutions, refurbishing them, bringing them up-to-date, rendering them relevant to contemporary needs, enabling them to cope with the changing circumstances.

TOWARDS GREATER PROGRESS.

The widespread debate in your country about public morality, public purpose and public life shows that such debate is integral to the healthy functioning of democratic society. Each democracy has to find its own way of confronting such challenges and resolving their problems. In our effort to remove the obstacles to greater progress, nor will we repeat the mistakes of the past. Forty years of independence have taught us valuable lessons; we intend to apply them. We are poised for rapid growth; we will not slow down. Our society is being modernised; the pace will be quickened.

We shall develop the technologies of the future, where we need new technology, we will get it. Where there is inefficiency, it will be weeded out. Where our institutions are weak, they will be strengthened. We shall overcome our weaknesses and resist those who seek to exploit them.

Our experience convinces us that democracy in India is durable and effective. It is for scholars such as yourselves to analyse why democracy flourishes in some societies and whithers away in others. I am content to affirm that, while there are other ways of organizing societies, developing the economy, and governing the nation, I know of none that I would prefer, or would willingly be part of.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FRANCE SPAIN LATVIA

Date: Oct 18, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Prime Minister's Address at Lunch Hosted by the Foreign PolicyAssociation, Asia Society and the India Chamber of Commerce inNew York

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's address at the lunch hosted by the Foreign Policy Association, Asia Society and the India Chamber of Commerce in New York on Oct 19, 1987:

The subject of my talk today covers such a wide canvas that I am reminded of the professor who concluded: "Now, I would like to sum up my views" and proceeded to do so in 10,000 words. The task before me is to sum up, in a few minutes, the connection between our present concerns and 5,000 years of heritage.

History is a blessing. History is a burden. There can be no undertsanding of contemporary India without tracing in our history the roots of our world view. Very early in our

philosophical quest, our seers recognised and emphasized the transience of earthly power. They emphasized the eternal values of detachment and compassion, of non-violence and love. These themes were explored through the epics and the fables, through different schools of philosophy, through interaction with streams of thoughts that flowed from outside. But, above all, this quest was

exemplified in the lives of the great practitioners; Lord Mahavira and the Buddha, the Emperor Ashoka, the Bhakti Saints and the Sufis.

Mahatma Gandhi was not India's first practitioner of non-violence. He was merely the latest in a distinguished line. Millions responded to his charisma. This response was possible because he sounded the depths of the soul of India, a little bit of which lies within each of us.

So, when India became independent, our foreign policy aimed at placing before humankind a vision of the human family drawn in the light of our millennial quest. We sought a world order based not on the oscillations and fluctuations of temporal power, but on the profound truths of non-violence, compassion and right means to right ends.

Against this background, independent India came upon the international scene at the conjunction of three events almost unique in human history.

THREE UNIQUE EVENTS

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First, India wrested her freedom by methods of political struggle that were virtually without precedent in history. The world has known empires that have risen, grown and fallen, their armed might matched by the armed might of their rivals. Under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership, the power of an unarmed people was pitted against the military strength of perhaps the most powerful empire ever. Gandhi persuaded millions of the weakest and the poorest to withdraw their cooperation from the machinery of governance.

Second, the political emancipation of India marked the beginning of the transformation of the world political order. A system of colonies and colonizers became an international community of independent states. The charter of the United Nations gave expression to the fundamental principles of the new order. These principles reflected in very large measure the world vision of the founding fathers of the modern Indian state - a cooperative world of equal partners at peace and in harmony with each other, united in a sense of belonging to a single human family.

Unfortunately, the vision embodied in the charter was quickly buried in the debris of the cold war. As virtually the first of

the ex-colonial countries to step into the new order in contemporary times, it fell to India to articulate the aspirations and the concerns of the newly independent countries.

The era of empire had made the world Euro-centric. The task before the post colonial world was to fashion a new order based on the revival of all the world civilization to give voice to peoples silenced for countries, to tap all the sources of human genius. Instead, the world congealed into the rigidities of the cold war.

Thirdly, India emerged from the colonial shadow just as the world was going under the nuclear shadow. Both Gandhiji and Jawaharlal Nehru instantly recognised that Hiroshima and Nagasaki had carried the science of warfare into an altogether new dimension. The nuclear weapon powers did not comprehend that the awesome power of nuclear fission and fusion had rendered obsolete the resort to war as an instrument of policy. Instead, they sought to exploit their mastery over the atom by extending traditional concepts of the balance of power into new doctrines of nuclear deterrence.

These three epochal events - the successful completion of history's first major nonviolent struggle, the ushering in of the post-colonial era, and the dawning of the nuclear age - constituted the setting for the elaboration of independent India's foreign policy.

FOR A COOPERATIVE WORLD ORDER

Emerging India chalked out an alternative design for the conciliation of national rivalries in the nuclear age. We had experienced and demonstrated the efficacy of nonviolence, we had shown that

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violence need not be met with violence, nor anger with anger, nor hatred with hatred. Therefore, the pacific resolution of conflict through dialogue, discussion and negotiation appeared to us to be more valid and enduring basis for inter-state relations than imposing one's views on others by force of arms. From this fundamental ethical and political perception evolved our conviction that peace is best assured by peaceful co-existence. Peace that rests on a balance of power is inherently unstable because the adversaries do not aim at maintaining the balance. They try to tilt it to their advantage. Peace that rests on peaceful coexistence turns adversaries into partners. It fosters a search for accommodation and cooperation.

In the post colonial era, the main characteristic of the newly independent countries is that, while they are equal to all others in the attribute of sovereignty, they are disadvantaged by major disparities in almost every other respect. We came to

independence in a world frozen into the power blocs of the cold war. To have become an appendage of either bloc would have been to trade in our newly won independence. The security that military alliances offered was illusory, since it was neither durable nor based on any intrinsic internal strength. We wished also to be free to adopt internal and external policies of our choice. We depended on ourselves for our security. Therefore, our perspective on world affairs was radically different to the prevailing doctrine: We sought no allies, only the dissolution of all alliances.

In place of barren confrontation and unending rivalry, we urged a cooperative world-order in which all nations, big and small are assured of their freedom - an International Democracy in which all have an equal say. We also urged cooperative international action for economic development, stressing that development was a global responsibility, in the common interest of those that had forged ahead and those who were trying to catch up.

When these ideas were first articulated by Jawaharlal Nehru they were dismissed as immoral by those who were infuriated. Even those who sympathized, put the ideas aside as visionary. Today, forty years on, nearly every newly emancipated country has accepted the philosophy of non-alignment and even the adherents of the hostile camps of yeasteryear have accepted, or at least admitted, the validity a legitimacy of non-alignment. From a nonconformist idea, non-alignment has grown into a movement, embracing 101 countries or two-thirds of the international community.

Through the Delhi Declaration of November 1986, the Soviet Union have affirmed that "non-violence should be the basis of community life". They have endorsed the view that "violence and intimidation ... are immoral and impermissible." They have called for a "nuclear weapon free world, free of violence and hatred, fear and suspicion." In the United States, and the West in general, there is a gathering momentum of opinion in favour of peaceful co-existence and of going from mere detente to entente. We are encouraged that the new thinking in the power blocs reflects in substantial measure the first principles and basic perceptions of the movement.

NEED FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The original sin was the belief that the power of nuclear explosives qualified them for use as weapons of war. We insistently pointed out that any use of nuclear weapons would constitute a crime against humanity. There could be no role whatsoever, in any circumstances for any resort to nuclear arms.

Nuclear weapons have not kept the peace. The great military powers have merely transferred to others in the last four decades, hundreds of wars by proxy, which have taken millions of lives and devastated entire countries. One mistake on the part of the nuclear weapon powers - and all life, as we know it, will be irrevocably destroyed.

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There is only one answer to the menace of nuclear war - and that is to dismantle all nuclear weapons, terminating the nuclear arms race on earth and preventing a nuclear arms race in space.

Over the last forty years, we have built friendship with both the United States and Soviet Union. The United States is the only democracy comparable to us in size and reach. It is true that our shared perceptions of democratic values have not always translated into shared perceptions on international issues. Yet, dialogue has always been possible and differences have not inhibited the deepening and diversification of our bilateral relations. We are grateful for the assistance you gave our green revolution. In education, science and culture our cooperation has been fruitful and significant. You are an important source of high technology. Your investments in India are growing. You are our largest trading partner.

The Soviet Union remains a tried and tested friend. They have always been with us in moments of crisis. Their cooperation has been generous in building key sectors of the economy. Their cooperation has also been significant in building our defence capabilities, yet has not stood in the way of our diversifying our sources of defence procurement. They have consistently respected our views. Our relations are a model of a peaceful coexistence.

We welcome the recent agreement, in principle, between the United States and the Soviet Union to conclude a treaty on the elimination of short-range and medium range missiles. When this happens, it will be the first instance of dismantling an operational nuclear weapon system. That would be an important threshold to cross. Let us hope it will be crossed irreversibly. But let us remember that when such an agreement is reached, it would cover no more than five per cent of the nuclear arsenals of the two countries. It would cover an even smaller percentage of all nuclear arsenals. The three other nuclear weapon powers still remain outside the disarmament process. Some even rule out nuclear disarmament as an objective. There is a long path still to tread. It requires a time-bound and phased programme of nuclear disarmament.

These initiatives in the direction of nuclear disarmament represent a certain responsiveness to the concerns expressed by India for the non-aligned movement, by the Parliamentarians for global action, at whose behest India and five other countries have launched the six-nation five continent peace initiative. It represents also a responsiveness to widening popular understanding in all countries of the catastrophic consequences

of nuclear confrontation. People everywhere are more aware now than ever before of the pitfalls and risks inherent in the strategic and security doctrines which have fuelled the nuclear arms race.

COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Sadly, there has not been anything like the same responsiveness to the concerns we have expressed about international cooperation for development. Development is in the common interest of all nations. Our growth will only strengthen and stabilize your present prosperity. India has prevailed over the present world economic crisis, but most developing countries are stagnating or even sliding back. Does this not jeopardise the prospects of the economically advanced countries?

There is need for international cooperation in every sphere in the prevention of nuclear war, in promoting global development, in halting the degradation of the environment, in resolving problems of energy, food and population. Fortunately, we have the United Nations, the only universal system, fashioned not only to eliminate the scourge of war but also to better manage the global polity, the global economy and the global ecology.

MOOD OF CAUTIOUS CONFIDENCE

India enters the fifth decade of its freedom in a mood of cautious confidence. The confidence rests on our having flouri-349>

shed as a democracy where so many have succumbed to authoritarianism. Through these four dangerous decades, we have preserved our unity, strengthened our security, and wrought a social transformation without the upheaval of a revolution. Our confidence also derives from our steadily rising rates of growth. Our economic preformance in the eighties has been commendable. We have accelerated our development in the face of the most serious world economic crisis in half a century. Contrast this with the stagnation of the Indian economy during the colonial era. Colonialism ushered in the famine of 1770, which wiped out a third of the population of Bengal. Colonialism culminated in the famine of 1943, which killed of three million people in Bengal alone. This year, we have coped with the severest drought in a hundred years with our own resources, with foodgrains stocks which we have ourselves built. We have shown that drought need not mean famine.

The caution in our confidence stems from the recognition that there are many problems left unresolved. Solutions are not easy to find, we have yet to translate political independence into opportunity for all. We have raised hundreds of millions of our poor above the poverty line. But that still leaves upwards of three hundred million people who are desparately poor.

Unemployment among youth is becoming a source of serious tension. They have to be found work. Their disillusionment and scepticism must be staunched.

By and large, our people have remained profoundly secular. Their deep religiosity only fosters an abiding respect for all faiths. Yet, fundamentalists and fanatics, revivalists and reactionaries do succeed, from time to time, in stocking the embers of communal violence. The unity of the country has held, but there are disquieting parochialisms of language and region. There is also the relatively new menace of terrorism. In at least one state Punjab, terrorism has succeded in temporarily derailing the normal processes of democracy. But we are making headway against the terrorists. It is an ardous struggle with many upsetting reverses, many disheartening setbacks. Yet, the direction is clear. Terrorism is being smashed, normalcy is being restored.

Our expectations are not misplaced. Some problems that were considered intractable have yielded to our politics of conciliation, consensus and concord. In Assam, the student agitators of yesterday have, through the ballot box, become the ruling party in the State. In Mizoram, twenty years of insurgency have given way to a much desired peace and much cherished democracy.

We have attempted to build bridges with our neighbours. The most difficult and complex of our relationships in the region is with Pakistan. Despite the grave problems that have bedevilled our relations, the goodwill and affection which our people have for each other is really quite extraordinary. It provides a solid base for building an enduring friendship.

INDIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS

We share a subcontinent. It must be kept free of outside presences. The induction of non-regional presences drags our subcontinent into rivalries to which we are not a party. It makes us a potential battle ground for the quarrels of others. It undermines our independence of thought and action. It makes our freedom hostage to the interests of others.

We need from Pakistan a demonstrable, proven commitment to abjuring nuclear weapons. Instead, we see Pakistan engaged and determined to acquire nuclear weapons by any and every means. Twice on the soil of America, its agents have been caught redhanded. Its drive to acquire nuclear weapons must be halted.

A major foreign policy development has been our agreement with Sri Lanka. It is a path breaking demonstration of bilateral cooperation for the restoration of peace, the promotion of ethnic harmony, and the preservation of the unity of one of our closest neighbours. The agreement

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also reinforces non-alignment and, thus the security of the region. The declared commitment of all South Asian countries to the principles of non-alignment should be the strongest guarantor of regional security. Yet the region is not tranquil. Parts of our region are being drawn into the rivalry of others, and there is the imminent, growing danger of nuclear proliferation in our neighbourhood.

Thus it is appropriate that our confidence should be mixed with caution.

Three years ago, when I become Prime Minister after my mother was assasinated, there was a large question mark over our future. The democratic process found the solution. The country held together, the people held together. My party was returned with the largest majority in our parliamentary history. There was a kind of euphoria in the air. I said then that I found the people's expectations a little scary.

We are now at the mid-point of our mandate. The stability we have given to the country has enabled the institutions of democracy to resume their fractious ways. The Press is, as it should be, a stern taskmaster. The opposition in Parliament picks its cue from the Press and in a curious reversal of roles, reports to Parliament what the Press has to say.

We have experienced reverses in some State elections. But it must also be noted that we have won almost all bye-elections to the Lok Sabha. The Presidential election saw our candidate win, with all our votes, with the votes pledged to us by others, and of even a few more thrown in as a bonus. Opinion polls cause more discomfiture to our opponents than to us. Our dissenters have their dreams and our soothsayers their nostrums, our mandate is from the people, their writ runs.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

We have achieved much in these last thirty months. I have already mentioned our impressive growth rates. Inflation has been kept in check despite the pressures of massive expenditure on disaster relief. We have persisted with the modernisation of the economy. Tax rates are lower but tax revenues are bouyant. Investment has picked up. There is a new consciousness of the need for greater efficiency in industry - by way of higher productivity, lower costs and better quality. Sectors of the economy have done exceptionally well, in particular, the infrastructure industries. Public sector performance has been the best in years. Labour relations have rarely been better.

Reflecting our priorities, we have greatly enhanced budgets for anti-poverty programmes. We have also identified thrust areas for technology missions designed to meet the basic needs of the poor such as drinking water, immunization and the eradication of illiteracy. The complaints we hear are from private enterprise protesting that the winds of competition should not become tornadoes. We will protect them adequately from outside competition but they must learn to stand on their own feet, and domestic competition must be encouraged.

The anti-defection act and the legalization of company donations constitute the state of a programme of electoral reform which we propose to carry much further forward within the party. We will have organisational elections soon. The revitalization of the party, proclaimed at the Congress centenary two years ago, has been slower and more difficult to effect than we had initially thought. The preparatory work is now nearly over. We are poised to rejuvenate the party. We have given a new emphasis to the development of our human resources. People are at the core of the development procss. We aim to give content to our concept of development as relating to the totality of human life and values, not economic growth alone. The new education policy is one element of this programme. The new emphasis on women's rights, women's emancipation and the full participation of women in the productive process is another. We have put in place innovative -351>

programmes for the dissemination of our cultural heritage to the people. India's contemporary cultural upsurge is one of our proudest achievements. The crux of the challenge before us is to surge forward while remaining true to the values which have given our civilization stability and continuity.

India is on the right track, I sense this as I move around the country. There are signs of progress everywhere. There are reminders too of how much remains to be done.

I thank you for your interest in India. -352>

A INDIA JAPAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN SRI LANKA

Date: Oct 19, 1987

November

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1995

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Date: Nov 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Czechoslovak Parliamentary Delegation Meets Shri Bhagat

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 23, 1987 on the meeting of Czechoslovak Parliamentary Delegation with the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Food and Civil Supplies, Shri H. K. L. Bhagat:

A 15-member Czechoslovak Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Alois Indra, Chairman of the Federal Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic called on the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Food and Civil Supplies, Shri H. K. L. Bhagat here today.

H.E. Mr. Alois Indra and Shri Bhagat expressed their happiness over warm and friendly ties between India and Czechoslovakia and hoped that these would be further cemented.

Shri Bhagat explained to the delegation salient features of Indian Parliamentary democracy based on adult franchise and the functioning of the two Houses of Parliament. The Minister said that democracy in India started from the village level and the elected representatives were directly responsible to the people. He informed the delegation about various committees particularly Consultative Committees attached to various Ministries. Shri Bhagat said that democracy in India had firm roots as it was based on the principles of secularism, religious tolerance, selfreliance, peace and non-alignment.

H.E. Mr. Alois Indra hoped that ties between the two countries would grow further and suggested that there should be more cooperation in cultural, scientific, technological and economic sectors. He also explained in brief the functioning of the Federal Assembly in Czechoslovakia.

RWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA USA

Date: Nov 23, 1987

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

FRG to Share Information on Terrorism and Drugs

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 20, 1987 on the willingness by FRG to share with India information relating to terrorism and drug traffic:

The Government of West Germany has expressed its willingness to share with India information relating to terrorism and drug traffic. This was indicated by Dr. Herst Waffrschmidt, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany during a meeting with Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Home Affairs here today.

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RMANY INDIA

Date: Nov 20, 1987

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

West German Minister Calls on Shri Tiwari

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 23, 1987 on the meeting of Dr. Johannes Rau, Minister President, North Rhine Westphalia (FRG) with the Union Finance Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari:

Dr. Johannes Rau, Minister President, North Rhine Westphalia (Federal Republic of Germany) called on the Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, here today. Shri Tiwari thanked Mr. Rau for the West German drought aid of DM 10 million amounting to about Rs. 70 million, this year. Shri Tiwari acknowledged that West Germany has been giving generous assistance to India and has also been gradually improving the quality of aid during the last three years. West Germany was the biggest bilateral donor for India during 1987 with total German aid amounting to DM 652 million equivalent to about Rs. 450 crores.

The Finance Minister also referred to big trade deficit of about Rs. 9750 million between India and West Germany. He hoped that Indo-German Joint Commission Ministerial level talks which will take place in near future, will help in reducing this gap.

RMANY INDIA USA

Date: Nov 23, 1987

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Indo-FRG Cooperation in Energy Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 21, 1987 on Indo-FRG Cooperation in energy sector:

The Minister of Energy, Shri Vasant Sathe, has said there is a vast scope for cooperation between India and the Federal Republic of Germany in power and coal sectors.

Shri Sathe expressed this view when the visiting Minister President of North Rhine Westphalia of FRG, Dr. Johannes Rau, held discussions with him in New Delhi.

The Energy Minister said the demand for power was outstripping supply and there was a likelihood of a gap of 10000 MW by the Seventh Plan end. As such, India was keen to take up more power projects including with bilateral assistance from friendly countries. There was a number of power projects on the shelf which could be taken up quickly as soon as bilateral assistance was tied up in order to make up the gap between demand and supply of power, he added.

Referring to the need for increasing hydel generation, Shri Sathe said the Brahmputra basin alone had the potential of over 20,000 MW.

The Minister of State for Power, Smt. Sushila Rohatgi, said the energy sector had been given a high priority in the Seventh Plan as one-third of total public sector outlay had been earmarked for it. Of this, power sector alone accounted for a major share, she added.

Smt. Rohatgi pointed out that the power generation would have to be increased to over 1 lakh MW by the century end from the present installed capacity of 51500 MW. This required tapping of various avenues including bilateral assistance, she felt.

Dr. Johannes Rau, who is leading an industrial delegation, said the companies from his country were keen to explore avenues of economic cooperation with India. Energy sector was a vital area where such cooperation could be enlarged and strengthened, he said.

Shri M. M. Kohli, Secretary (Power) and Shri S. Varadan, Secretary (Coal) also took part in the discussions. -354>

RMANY INDIA USA

Date: Nov 21, 1987

Volume No

1995

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Sixth Meeting of Indo-GDR Group of Planning Experts

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 12, 1987 on the signing of agreed minutes by the leaders of India and German Democratic Republic delegations:

The four-day deliberations of the Sixth Meeting of the Indo-GDR Group of Planning Experts concluded here today with the signing of agreed minutes by the leaders of the two delegations. Shri Hiten Bhaya, Member, Planning Commission signed on behalf of the Indian side, while Mr. Herald Rost, Deputy Chairman, State Planning Commission of German Democratic Republic, signed on behalf of the visiting team.

The Indo-GDR Group of Planning Experts was set up in 1982. It meets once a year alternately in the Capital cities of the two countries. The Group provides a common forum for technical discussions on planning techniques and methods, operational problems and exchange of information and experiences. The Sixth Session of the Indo-GDR Group discussed in detail a variety of matters. These related to the annual and five year plans of the two countries, finance and price planning for public enterprises, applications of high technology, rational utilisation of energy; and planning of human resources.

The discussions were useful and mutually beneficial; and a number of areas were identified for expert level exchanges in the future.

DIA USA

Date: Nov 12, 1987

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Hungary to Observe Nehru Centenary Celebrations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1987 on the signing of a Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Hungary:

Hungary will be paying tributes to Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in a befitting manner by observing Nehru Centenary Celebrations. During the Centenary Celebrations, it proposes to arrange a round table Conference on Nehru, and translation of some of the important works of Nehru in Hungarian language will also be undertaken.

A Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Hungary was signed in Budapest to this effect on November 4, 1987. Shri M. Vardarajan, Secretary, (Department of Culture) signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of India, while Dr. Jozsef Benyi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs signed on behalf of Hungary.

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NGARY INDIA

Date: Nov 13, 1987

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Prime Minister's Message to Afro-Asian Peace Conference

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 27, 1987 of the message sent by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi to the Afro-Asian Peace and Solidarity Organisation Conference at Tashkent:

General Secretary Mikhail Sergyevich Gorbachev and I signed the Delhi Declaration on the principles for a Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-violent World in November 1986. This was born from our understanding that peace not war, non-violence not force, co-existence not mutual annihilation hold the key to the continued advancement of humankind, indeed its very survival.

The Delhi Declaration is a passionate cry for peace, a reasoned and lofty exhortation to the conscience of man, and a determined act of political will. It articulates the hope for a fulfilling life not only of the peoples of India and the Soviet Union but of billions others, who innately realise that peace and the eradication of resort to war are the imperative needs of the hour.

The agreement on intermediate range and short range nuclear forces due to be signed between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan next month will be a development of great moment. It will be vivid demonstration of the relevance and timeliness of the Delhi Declaration as an expression of the need

for new thinking in international relations. I hope that this agreement will be the harbinger of universal and complete nuclear disarmament.

I wish the Seminar organised by the Afro-Asian Peace and Solidarity Organisation success in their endeavour to spread the message of peace and non-violence contained in the Delhi Declaration.

DIA UZBEKISTAN

Date: Nov 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Finance Minister Inaugurates Seventh General Meeting of the Association of Development Research Training Institutes of Asiaand Pacific

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 02, 1987 of the speech by the Finance Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari, while inaugurating the Seventh General Meeting of the Association of Development Research and Training Institutes of Asia and Pacific in New Delhi:

The Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari has called upon the developing countries to make joint development efforts in the area of infrastructural development. Inaugurating the seventh General Meeting of the Association of Development Research and Training Institutes of Asia and Pacific in New Delhi, today, the Minister warned that the recent world stock markets developments may seriously destabilise the economy of developing countries and there is need to study the policies operating in different countries of Asia Pacific region and identify areas of coordination and cooperation. He argued that there is plenty of scope for increasing trade turn over and joint industrial ventures, particularly as the world economy should now witness large scale reallocation of industry, in the coming years.

Shri Tiwari called for a serious commitment on the part of the developed countries to increase flow of funds to the developing world. Praising Japan which has offered 20 billion dollars partly soft

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terms united aid to the developing countries, he asked the other industrialised nations to follow the example.

The Finance Minister said that the impact of world wide recession on the developing countries will be serious as most of them are passing through intermediate stage of development. They have similar development problems and have a common stake. In the world economic order, they face an unjust and uncertain export market due to selective restrictions and depressed prices. These adverse trends include unstable and misaligned exchange rates of the major industrial countries, high interest rates in the international capital markets and unsustainable macro economic imbalances of the major industrialised countries. These have led to misallocation of savings and investments thus constraining the flow of funds to the developing countries.

The Finance Minister said that India has always stood for South-South Cooperation. Asia and Pacific region accounted for about one fourth of India's exports and imports in 1985-86. He hoped that India's trade relations with the region will be intensified in the coming years. He asserted that the growing market of the region is its biggest strength. Even during the period of 80s when the world economy and trade became sluggish, the region showed a continuous rise in real domestic absorption. He felt that it is necessary to deliberate on the validity of economic relationships and themes which can help us overcome threat posed by the present economic situation.

DIA USA JAPAN

Date: Nov 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

World Bank President Calls on Planning Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 06, 1987 on the meeting of the World Bank President, Mr. Barber B. Conable with the Union Minister for Planning and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Shri P. Shiv Shanker:

The World Bank President Mr. Barber B. Conable today called upon the Union Minister for Planning and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Shri P. Shiv Shanker. Mr. Conable evinced keen interest in planning process in India and enquired about the coordination between the Centre and the State Governments in respect of allocation of funds and implementation of projects. The Indian side gave broad outline of the planning process in the country. He was informed that mainly public sector budget of Centre and State Governments was finalised by the Planning Commission in consultation with the respective Ministries and the State Governments. He was also told that there was close interaction between the Planning Commission and the Union Finance Ministry.

DIA

Date: Nov 06, 1987

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

World Bank President Calls on the Finance Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 06, 1987 on the meeting of the World Bank President, Mr. Barber B. Conable with the Union Finance Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari in New Delhi:

The World Bank President, Mr. Barber B. Conable had an hour long meeting with the Union Finance Minister, Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari here today. The meeting was also attended by the Finance Secretary, Shri S. Venkataraman, Secretary Banking, Shri Bimal Jalan and some other senior officers of the Finance Ministry.

Mr. Tiwari and Mr. Conable discussed the general economic situation in the country. Mr. Conable appreciated India's efforts in poverty alleviation programmes and reiterated World Bank support to India's efforts in this regard.

DIA USA

Date: Nov 06, 1987

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Co-Employment and Structure Adjustments - Minister for Labour's Statement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 25, 1987 of the statement by Minister of Labour, Shri P. A. Sangma at the International Labour Organisation held at Geneva:

Shri P. A. Sangma, Minister for Labour said at International Labour Organisation (ILO) that the insufficient flow of capital on appropriate terms to developing countries and the imbalance in trade caused by rising protectionism and non-tariff barriers were the major factors that affect the rate of growth of employment and success in alleviation of poverty by the developing countries.

Participating in a high level meeting on Employment and Structural Adjustment held in Geneva, Shri Sangma said that inter-dependence of national economies inter-locking into the world economy was an inescapable fact. Any falling in industrialised market economies had particularly unfortunate consequences for the developing countries. If they recorded poor rate of growth or set their policies without sufficient coordination without taking into account the impact of their policies on employment in other countries, there were adverse effects on the poor elsewhere.

A INDIA SWITZERLAND

Date: Nov 25, 1987

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Indo-Italian Cooperation in Agriculture Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1987 on the meeting of the Minister of State for Foreign Trade of Italy with the Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Yogendra Makwana:

The Minister of State for Foreign Trade of Italy, Mr. A. Rossi, today called on the Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Yogendra Makwana and discussed with him possible avenues of greater cooperation between the two countries in the agriculture sector.

During their discussion, the Italian Minister said that the two countries could consider joint ventures in the area of food processing. He also offered Italy's expertise in tuna fishing for which a draft Memorandum of Understanding has already been forwarded by Italy.

The other areas of interest could be rearing of honeybees and cultivation of durum (hard) wheat. The two Ministers also discussed the ongoing agricultural projects for fruit growing in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and -358>

Kashmir, in which Italy is assisting India. The integrated agriculture development project for cultivation of rice, sorghum and fruits in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa was also reviewed.

Expressing his satisfaction at the increasing Indo-Italian trade, the visiting Minister invited India to participate in the coming Verona International Agriculture Fair early next year.

ALY INDIA USA

Date: Nov 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

KUWAIT

Indian Airlines Permitted to Operate Services to Kuwait

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 30, 1987 on the agreement to increase the frequency of air services between India and Kuwait:

The delegations of India and Kuwait which met in Kuwait on November 28 & 29, 1987 to review the existing bi-lateral air services arrangements have agreed that there should be increase in frequency of operations from the present 7 to 10 services per week in each direction with any type of equipment including supersonic aircraft. This enhancement is subject to capacity

limitation of 2,800 seats per week in each direction. Both governments have agreed that for this additional capacity there should be commercial arrangements.

Moreover, Indian Airlines have been permitted as the second carrier to operate services to Kuwait within the revised capacity entitlements. Both governments have also agreed to strengthen aviation security measures.

WAIT INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Nov 30, 1987

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

India to Contribute Rs. 2 Crores for Lumbini Project at Nepal

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 17, 1987 on the contribution by India of an amount of Rs. 2 crores towards the construction of a museum under the Lumbini Development Project in Nepal:

India would contribute an amount of Rs. 2 crores towards the construction of a museum under the Lumbini Development Project in Nepal. Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha would be developed as an international centre of religions learning, cultural activities and tourism. An International Committee had been set up in 1970 for the over all development of Lumbini, which include improvements in environments, gardens, bridges, canals, construction of Museum auditorium etc. The national committee set up by the Government of India decided to finance the scheme for the construction of the Museum building. Accordingly, India has already paid three instalments of 50 lakh -359>

each to the Lumbini Development Trust, Nepal between 1984 and 1987. The project is expected to be constructed by the middle of 1989.

The permanent representative of Nepal to the United Nations is the acting Chairman of the International Committee of the Lumbini Development Project, while 13 countries namely, Afghanistan, Burma, India, Pakistan, Indonesia Japan, Kampuchia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand are its members.

PAL INDIA USA AFGHANISTAN BURMA INDONESIA JAPAN LAOS PAKISTAN MALAYSIA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE SRI LANKA THAILAND

Date: Nov 17, 1987

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Nepalese Rashtriya Panchayat Delegation Calls on Shri Bhagat

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 27, 1987 on the meeting of the Nepalese Rashtriya Panchayat Delegation with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Food and Civil Supplies, Shri H. K. L. Bhagat:

A 17-member Nepalese Rashtriya Panchayat Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Nava Raj Subedi, Chairman, Rashtriya Panchayat of Nepal called on the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Food and Civil Supplies Shri H. K. L. Bhagat here today.

H.E. Nava Raj Subedi and Shri Bhagat expressed their happiness over very close and friendly cultural and social ties between India and Nepal. Shri Bhagat also referred to the spiritual affinity existing between the two countries since time immemorial.

Shri Bhagat briefed the Visiting Delegation about the functioning of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Question Hour and quorum etc.

PAL INDIA

Date: Nov 27, 1987

Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

Netherlands to Provide Rs. 131.20 crore Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1987 on providing Rs. 131.20 crores assistance to India by Netherlands:

The Netherlands Government will provide Dfl 204 million, amounting to approximately Rs. 131.20 crore financial assistance to India during the year 1988. The Agreed Minutes to this effect were signed here today by Mr. J. J. de Roos, Director, Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands Government and Shri Kamalesh Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India.

The Annual Consultations on Development Co-operation between the two countries which concluded today included the areas of Rural Development, Shipping & Transport, Environment, Forests and Wildlife, Women's issues, Water Resources, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Agricultural credit and import of Edible Oils and Caprolactum.

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DIA THE NETHERLANDS MALDIVES

Date: Nov 13, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 01, 1987:

The Indian Peace Keeping Force has received an appeal from Mr. Sivagnanam, former Municipal Commissioner of Jaffna for a ceasefire for 48 to 72 hours to give a chance to the LTTE to come to the negotiating table and invoke the amnesty which they fear has been revoked by President Jayewardene. Mr. Sivagnanam has stated that he is confident that if a cease fire is ordered, the LTTE will surrender arms. We find that this appeal has already been published in the Press.

The Government of India appreciates the effort of Mr. Sivagnanam. There is no indication, however, that the message is authorised by the LTTE. Also his message is silent on the willingness of the LTTE to handover arms or support the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

The Government of India has repeatedly stated that once the LTTE surrender arms and supports the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement, negotiations could start.

It is reiterated that those who surrender arms will be given amnesty and the IPKF will guarantee their safety. At present the IPKF is engaged in restoring of civic amenities in Jaffna and providing essential supplies and medical aid. The LTTE has been actively trying to impede the relief supplies from reaching the needy people and is hindering the normalisation process.

I LANKA INDIA MALI **Date**: Nov 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

LTTE Changed Unilaterally Their Offer to Release Members of IPKF

The following is the text of the statement made by the Official Sbokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 15, 1987:

The LTTE had indicated on Thursday that they were prepared to hand over 18 members of the IPKF, held by them at a mutually agreed location in the presence of a group of journalists. This suggestion was accepted by us.

The LTTE had also indicated that the soldiers, held captive, would be released yesterday. We had accordingly assembled a group of journalists yesterday, including those whose names had been specially requested by the LTTE, to proceed to Jaffna.

The LTTE thereafter unilaterally changed their offer. They insisted on a number of new conditions which, they claimed had to be fulfilled in order to assemble the captive soldiers at a given location. These new conditions included freedom of movement in a wide area for LTTE vehicles and their personnel carrying arms, while in effect restricting the freedom of movement of the IPKF.

The LTTE have been informed that the proposal earlier put forward by them did not involve any such preconditions. The IPKF was prepared to receive the captive soldiers held by the LTTE in different specified locations in the presence of the journalists.

It has been pointed out to the LTTE that the simplest procedure for handing over these personnel would be for them to establish direct contact with the nearest IPKF post at each of the places where the captive soldiers are kept.

It appears to us that rather than sincerely make an effort to hand over the -361>

captive soldiers, the LTTE may in fact be merely buying time to seek propaganda and tactical advantage in the face of increasing public pressure in Jaffna for them to cease their armed operations and hand over their weapons.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Nov 15, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

LTTE Urged to Lay Down Arms

The following is the text of the Statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 22, 1987:

It would be recalled that in an announcement in Parliament on November 20, Mr. Natwar Singh, Minister of State, had stated that in response to the belief and conviction of a number of well-meaning people that the LTTE needs time to hand over weapons and declare support to the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement, the Government of India has decided that for 48 hours starting on November 21 at 7 a.m. the IPKF would not fire on its own initiative.

It was hoped that in the larger interests of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka the LTTE would use this opportunity to hand over its arms and unequivocally support the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. It may be mentioned that among those well meaning persons who had told us that the LTTE would respond to the unilateral halt in firing by the IPKF was Mr. Sivagnanam, the well known Administrator and one of the nominees for the position of Chief Administrator for the then Interim Council. We were informed by Mr. Sivagnanam on November 10 that he was making the appeal based on what the LTTE constitutional adviser, Mr. Tilagar had said to

him. The LTTE deputy leader, Mr. Mahatiya had spoken on similar terms to Brigadier Dhillon of the IPKF recently.

We deeply regret that after the announcement made by Mr. Natwar Singh in Parliament, the LTTE has not responded positively and is now insisting on a number of unacceptable pre-conditions prior to its considering the question of its laying down arms.

We would again urge the LTTE to lay down arms and cooperate in the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

The Government of India cannot jeopardise the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and the long-term security and safety of the Tamils in Sri Lanka by permitting the LTTE to retain its arms and ammunition under a cover of professed good intentions.

The reason why we are saying that the possession of arms jeopardises the safety and security of Tamils in Sri Lanka follows from the fact that in the last months the LTTE has used its weapons in a brutal and cold-blooded manner to kill unarmed fellow Tamil militants and also to massacre members of the minority community that is the Sinhalas and the Muslims.

The killing of the minority communities has ex-acerbated communal tensions and jeopardised the security and safety of the Tamils elsewhere in Sri Lanka because of the possibilities of a communal backlash.

We are committed to the totality of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and again urge the LTTE to hand over arms and participate in the domocratic process with faith and courage. Failure to do so would only confirm that it lacks the political and moral courage and confidence to face the people of the Northern and Eastern Provinces in a free and fair election.

DIA SRI LANKA USA LATVIA

Date: Nov 22, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement on the LTTE Leader, Mr. Prabhakaran's Message

The following is the text of the statement made by the Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 22, 1987 on the LTTE leader, Mr. V. Prabhakaran's message of November 19, 1987:

On November 20 the Minister of State, Mr. Natwar Singh, announced in Parlia--362>

ment that the Government of India have decided with effect from 7 a.m. on November 21 that the IPKF would not open fire on its own initiative for a period of 48 hours.

Mr. Natwar Singh had called on the LTTE to join the mainstream of political life and play a constructive role in the future democratic set-up of Sri Lanka. He had also urged the LTTE to hand over arms and unequivocally support the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

In the meantime, the LTTE has released the text of a statement purported to have been issued by its leader. Mr. V. Prabakaran, in which he has claimed, amongst other things, that the LTTE had laid down a majority of its arms.

Also referring to the fast of Mr. Thileepan, he has given his own explanation of the circumstances leading to the IPKF's actions to disarm the LTTE which commenced on October 9-10.

Mr. Prabakaran's assertion that the LTTE laid down a majority of its arms is not only astonishing but a blatant falsehood. The fact is that the LTTE only laid down a small proportion of its arms. It deliberately chose to retain not only a substantial proportion of rifles, machineguns, rocket-propelled grenade-launchers, but also an overwhelmingly large proportion of its ammunition, grenades, rockets, mines and booby traps. It also continued with its illegal fabrication in Jaffna of grenades, mines, booby traps and mortar barrels even after signing of the Agreement.

We also have reliable reports that even after the Agreement was signed and the LTTE promising to lay down arms it received consignments from abroad clandestinely by sea.

The circumstances leading to Mr. Thileepan's fast are well known. The whole world was appalled when in September this year LTTE cadres from the Northern Province under instructions of Mr. Prabakaran deliberately and ruthlessly massacred around 100 unarmed fellow Tamil militants from other groups and even denied the mother of one of the slain Tamil militants an opportunity to see her son's body before cremation.

Mr. Thileepan's fast was undertaken at Mr. Prabakaran's behest primarily to divert attention from this brutal massacre of fellow Tamils.

We had urged Mr. Prabakaran that new demands at that stage would require careful consideration by us in consultation with the Sri Lankan Government and he should accordingly ask Mr. Thileepan to discontinue his fast.

He deliberately chose not to do so in order to divert attention from the revulsion that followed from the brutal and cold blooded murder of Tamil militants. While Mr. Prabhakaran called his move Gandhian, he conveniently forgot that Mahatma Gandhi and other respected leaders in India did not ask the young followers to fast and die or swallow cyanide pills on their behalf to cover up acts of ruthless violence.

LTTE cadres who have given themselves up to IPKF have informed it that 100 LTTE militants wounded have been forced to take cyanide pills by the leadership against their wishes.

All talk of Mr. Prabakaran that he loved India is belied by the fact that there are posters appearing in Jaffna threatening all those who cooperated with the IPKF.

In his statement, Mr. Prabakaran conveniently glosses over the fact that after the massacre of fellow Tamil militants the violence unleashed by the LTTE in the Eastern Province where over 300 members of the Sinhala and Muslim community perished produced communal tensions which seriously jeopardised the security and safety of the Tamils elsewhere in the island.

Only after it became clear that the continued possession of arms by the LTTE not only prevented the implementation of -363>

the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement but endangered communal amity, safety and security of Tamils elsewhere in Sri Lanka that the IPKF was compelled to take firm measures to disarm the LTTE.

We regret that while we have given Mr. Prabakaran and the LTTE every opportunity to join the democratic process he seems disinclined to replace his belief in the bullet by faith in the ballot.

DIA SRI LANKA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: Nov 22, 1987

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India-China Bilateral Talks

The following is the text of the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 17, 1987:

The Eighth Round of talks between India and China took place in New Delhi from 15th to 17th November, 1987. The Chinese delegation to talks was led by H.E. Liu Shuqing, Vice Foreign Minister in the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Indian side was led by the Foreign Secretary Shri K. P. S. Menon.

Talks were held in positive cordial and friendly atmosphere. During the talks discussion took place on various aspects of bilateral relations including the Boundary Question. Both the delegations reaffirmed their desire to improve relations in all fields and continue their efforts to reach a peaceful negotiated settlement of the India China Boundary Question. Both the delegations also stressed that pending settlement of the boundary question peace and tranquility should continue to be maintained all along the border. Both sides agreed to make endeavours to further develop friendly relations and expressed their optimism about the prospects of the future development of bilateral relations. Both the delegations had a useful constructive exchange of views on the International situation. The Leader of Chinese delegation called on the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri K. Natwar Singh. During the meeting discussions on matters of mutual concern took place. It was emphasized during the talks that it is the intention of Government of India to reconstruct its relations with China and to build a favourable climate of mutual trust and cooperation between the two countries. Both delegations emphasized that friendly relations between India and China are important and vital for the maintenance of peace in Asia and that there is much scope for strengthening and diversification of cooperation and interaction between the two countries in several fields. The Chinese delegation also stressed that their Government attaches importance to development of friendly relations with India and hopes to establish a relationship of friendship and mutual trust with India.

INA INDIA USA PERU **Date**: Nov 17, 1987

1995

POLAND

Indo-Polish Trade Protocol for 1988 Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1987 on the signing of Trade Protocol between India and Poland:

Trade turnover between India and Poland is proposed to be stepped up to Rs. 594 crores in 1988, indicating a growth of 19.6% over the level of trade turnover during the current year under the Indo-Polish Trade Protocol for 1988. Exports to Poland in 1988 are projected at a level of Rs. 295 crores and imports at Rs. 299 crores.

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This was indicated during discussions when the Polish Secretary of State for External Economic Cooperation, Mr. Andrzej Wojick called on the Commerce and Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, here today to discuss bilateral trade matters and plans for raising the turnover substantially in the coming year.

According to the Trade Protocol, which was later signed here today, in the presence of the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. R. Dasmunshi, there will be increase in exports of tea, coffee, cotton yarn, cotton textiles, machine tools, textile machinery and electronic components to Poland. In addition, it is proposed to export alumina, printing machinery and chemicals also explore the possibilities of exporting machinery for manufacture of bicycle components and boilers. The trade structure is also proposed to be diversified further by identifying new items of export and import during the year.

The Trade Plan also provides for increase in import of Polish machinery and equipment particularly in sectors like shipping, petroleum and coal, steel products and ball bearings.

LAND INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Nov 13, 1987

Volume No

1995

Prime Minister's Statement in Parliament

The following is the text of the Suo moto statement made by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi in Parliament on Nov 11, 1987 on his visits abroad since the last session of Parliament:

I would like to apprise the House of my visits abroad since the last session of Parliament.

On my way to the Commonwealth Summit in Canada, I made a brief transit halt in Tokyo on the 12th October for an exchange of views with Prime Minister Nakasone. The Prime Minister expressed Japan's full support to the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement. We discussed matters of mutual interest and a soft united Japanese credit equivalent to \$ 200 million was announced.

The Commonwealth Summit was held in Vancouver from the 13th to the 17th October.

The Summit took place amidst growing speculation that the Commonwealth had run out of steam in its campaign against the apartheid in South Africa. This was proved wrong. All the Commonwealth countries, with the exception of Britain, agreed that sanctions were beginning to have the desired effect. We, therefore decided to intensify the pressure and expand the scope of sanctions. We undertook to work for wider international acceptance and better implementation of the Commonwealth sanctions programme.

Several new suggestions, including those made by us, were accepted. We agreed to undertake, on a continuing basis, an evaluation of the impact of sanctions. We also agreed that any effort to frustrate these sanctions should be identified and brought to light. We concurred on the need for an expert study to examine the implications of Pretoria's relationship with the international financial system for the maintenance of the apartheid regime. We will take further action, including additional sanctions, in response to the situation as it evolves. The Programme of Action relating to sanctions on South -365>

Africa was adopted by all Commonwealth countries, with solitary exception of Britain.

All of us initiated a programme of coordinated Commonwealth assistance to the Frontline States. A Special Fund was established to provide technical assistance to Mozambique. Commonwealth assistance to the victims and opponents of apartheid will be expanded. We agreed to give high priority to efforts aimed at removing censorship in South Africa, because it is such censorship which hides the truth about South Africa from world public opinion. To provide high level impetus and guidance for

achieving these objectives, the Summit set up an eight member Committee of Foreign Ministers. The Committee will be chaired by Canada and includes India.

The events in Fiji figures prominently in our discussions in Vancouver. In my Statement at the inaugural session, I expressed our serious concern about the racist overtones of recent developments and the undermining of democracy in that country. Fiji has ceased to be a member of the Commonwealth. The Summit decided that the question of Fiji's readmission would be taken up only when circumstances so warrant and in keeping with the basic principles that have guided the organisation. We also agreed that the Commonwealth would be ready to offer its good offices to contribute to a solution of the problems in Fiji.

The Vancouver Commonwealth communique continued a strong endorsement of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. The Agreement was acclaimed as an act of the highest statesmanship.

An important achievement of the Summit was the Vancouver Declaration on World Trade, which brings together on a common platform representatives of developed and developing countries drawn from all continents. The Declaration expresses our concern at rising global protectionist practices and calls for the implementation of the Punta-de-Este commitments on "standstill" and "roll back" of protectionist measures. The Declaration recognises the disadvantaged position of the developing countries in international trade and, in view of this asymmetry, the need to give special consideration to their interests in the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations.

We Launched the Commonwealth programme to promote distance education, that is, the use of new communications technologies to bring learning within the reach of large numbers through a system of non-formal education. India is well placed to both contribute to this initiative and benefit from it.

Within the parameters of the differing perceptions of the sovereign governments represented in the Commonwealth, the agreements reached at the Vancouver Summit confirmed the dynamism and relevance of this organisation in international affairs. Not withstanding the single discordant note on the issue of sanctions, the Summit welded together a large section of world opinion on key issues of peace and stability in the world. I would like to record our appreciation of the meticulous care with which arrangements were made by the Government of Canada. I would also like to commend the important and imaginative role played by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada, in steering the Conference to a successful conclusion.

While in Vancouver, I had bilateral discussion with Prime Minister Mulroney. I also had meetings with a number of other leaders including the Presidents of Bangladesh, Guyana, Maldives, Tanzania and Zambia, the Sultan of Brunei, and the Prime Ministers of Australia, Britain, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore and Zimbabwe, and the leader of the Nigerian, delegation.

On the 18th October, at Harvard University, I delivered the Jodidi Memorial Lecture on India and Democracy.

The following day I participated in a special debate in the United Nations General Assembly on the Report on environment and development presented by the Commission headed by the Norwegian Prime Minister, Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundt--366>

land. The President of Maldives and the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Norway and Zimbabwe also participated in the debate.

I addressed a luncheon meeting jointly organised by the Foreign Policy Association, the Asia Society and the Indian Chamber of Commerce in New York. I spoke about India's foreign policy and the contemporary political scene.

I undertook a working visit to Washington at the invitation of President Reagan. We attach great importance to our relations with the United States. We believe that a continuing dialogue between our countries is indispensable for a better understanding of each other and to expand mutually beneficial cooperation in bilateral and international affairs.

I had a breakfast meeting with Congressional leaders, including the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate Majority leader. As a result, there is now a greater recognition in the United States of the gravity of Pakistan's unrelenting quest for nuclear weapons.

President Reagan and I had a wideranging and useful exchange of views on regional and international matters. The US reaffirmed its full support to the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. I reiterated our serious concern over Pakistan's weapons oriented nuclear programme.

Our discussions covered other vital issues of the day. I welcomed the prospect of the agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States to eliminate short and medium-range nuclear forces.

We discussed the strengthening of bilateral ties. The agenda drawn up during my 1985 visit has largely been completed, and a new agenda has now been put in place. We agreed to extend the Science and Technology initiative, which has shown positive results, for another three years beyond 1988. We also decided to extend the scope of cooperation to the frontiers of science and technology.

Projects have been identified for cooperative research in ocean

science development, in water management, and in arid-zone agriculture. Development fellowships are being instituted to place our scientists in premier American institutions for research in areas of specific interest to both countries.

We agreed to increase our cooperation in trade and investment. We will expand our work in curbing drug abuse and drug trafficking. We will strengthen our ties in culture and education. We are exploring avenues of cooperation in defence-related technologies. Members will be glad to learn that we agreed on the importance of greater interaction between legislators of the two countries.

On my way back to Delhi, I met Prime Minister Lubbers at Amsterdam airport.

From the 2nd to the 4th November, I was in Kathmandu for the Third Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). In my statement to the House after the 2nd Summit in Bangalore, I had said that during India's Chairmanship we would endeavour to consolidate and diversify regional cooperation.

At Bangalore, we had put forward New Ideas for close people-to-people interaction. We also took several steps to give regional cooperation more meaningful substance. We decided to set up a Group of Legal Experts to work out a framework for cooperation in combating terrorism. We discussed the idea of a SAARC Food Security Reserve. We sought to extend regional cooperation in new fields such as the prevention of drug trafficking and drug abuse, disaster management, forestry and ecology, and trade, industry, money and finance. We agreed to draw up common principles, procedures and rules for the establishment of regional institutions. And finally, we decided to take action to make the SAARC Secretariat functional.

I am glad to inform the House that we have achieved these objectives and discharged our obligations.

During our Chairmanship, as many as 100 events - almost two per week - -367>

were held. Out of these, India alone hosted 45.

All the new ideas agreed upon in Bangalore have now been translated into projects. The SAARC audio-visual exchange commenced with direct telecast of the inaugural session of the Kathmandu Summit. The programme of SAARC fellowships, chairs and scholarships is scheduled to begin in the academic year of 1988.

At Kathmandu, the SAARC Food Security Reserve was established. This is the first time that countries of the region have decided to pool resources to help one another in an emergency.

The SAARC Regional Convention on the Supression of Terrorism was signed at the Summit. The stage had been set when experts from SAARC countries met in Delhi in March this year and identified extraditable offences which are terrorist and not political in nature. The Convention is a breakthrough. It demonstrates the desire of all countries in our region to come together to fight the menace of terrorism.

Deep concern was expressed at the recurrence of drought, floods and tidal waves in our region. Following our initiative to bring disaster relief management within the scope of South Asian Cooperation, we agreed at Kathmandu to commission a study on the protection and preservation of the environment and on the causes and consequences of natural disaster in our region.

India believes that South Asian Cooperation should move towards incorporating the core economic sectors of trade, industry, money and finance. This view is gaining acceptance. At Kathmandu, we decided to undertake studies in this direction. We hope these studies will encourage countries in the region to move confidently towards cooperative ventures in these areas. During the Summit, I visited the SAARC Secretariat and saw it at work. It is creditable that within an year of its establishment, the Secretariat is well on the way to discharging its functions fully.

The Kathmandu Summit gave me the opportunity of having an informal exchange of views on bilateral and international issues with other leaders present.

Before concluding, I would like to express our appreciation of the excellent arrangements made for the Conference by His Majesty's Government of Nepal. The success of the Summit owed much to the distinguished leadership of our Chairman, His Majesty the King of Nepal.

A CANADA JAPAN SRI LANKA SOUTH AFRICA MOZAMBIQUE INDIA FIJI URUGUAY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BANGLADESH GUYANA MALDIVES BRUNEI TANZANIA ZAMBIA AUSTRALIA MALTA NEW ZEALAND REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE NIGER NIGERIA ZIMBABWE DENMARK NORWAY PAKISTAN THE NETHERLANDS NEPAL

Date: Nov 11, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Prime Minister's Remarks at the Inaugural Session of the ThirdSAARC Summit at Kathmandu

The following is the text of the remarks by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Chairman of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation at the inaugural session of the Third SAARC Summit held at Kathmandu on Nov 02, 1987:

Your Majesties, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are delighted, Your Majesty, to be in your beautiful capital. We thank you and the people of Nepal for the warmth of your welcome and your generous hospitality.

In the year since Bangalore, South Asian regional cooperation has grown in strength, in range, in content, and it has grown in relevance to our peoples' aspi--368>

rations and needs. At Dhaka, we were a new-born Association. At Bangalore, a fledging. Our Association has now taken wing.

We had built on the momentum generated by our first Chairman, President Ershad. During the last year, nearly a hundred events have been held under the aegis of SAARC. We have elaborated the institutional infrastructure of our Association. We have expanded the scope of our cooperation. We have discharged the mandate of Bangalore.

We have agreed upon five new ideas to foster people-to-people contacts. All these ideas have been translated into fully operational schemes. Today, we inaugurated the broadcast and telecast, throughout the region, of programmes under the SAARC Audio Visual Exchange. 1988 will see the beginning of our academic exchange programme. A new category of tourists, SAARC tourists, will start travelling within the region. Preparations are well advanced to launch the Youth Volunteers Programme. The SAARC Documentation Centre will soon be established.

We are also steadily progressing towards a framework of cooperation for combating terrorism. A useful beginning has been made in preventing traffic in drugs and drug abuse. Our planners have made interesting suggestions which have a crucial bearing on the future development of regional cooperation. Something has been done to translate discussions at seminars and workshops into collective action in the field. The South Asian contribution to the success of the Seventh UNCTAD owed much to the exchange of views and harmonization of positions which we undertook at Dhaka on the eve of the Conference.

We have succeeded in nurturing South Asian regional cooperation because it is firmly grounded in the realities of our region. Our methods of work make our Association a democracy of sovereign equals. We have adhered to the principle of unanimity. Each of us has an equal sense of sharing in this great endeavour. This has fostered in each of the confidence to cooperate. Ours is a concord for cooperation, not a concourse for controversy.

I now have the honour to request His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal to inaugurate the Opening Session of the Third Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

PAL USA BANGLADESH

Date: Nov 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Prime Minister's Address at the Third SAARC Summit

The following is the text of address by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the Third SAARC Summit held at Kathmandu on Nov 02, 1987:

We thank our gracious hosts for affording us the opportunity of meeting in this lovely Himalayan valley. Kathmandu, nestling in the lap of these majestic mountains, reminds me of the moving description of the Himalayas by our own renowned poet, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar:

For ages:

unvanquished, unfettered, set free For ages: proud, head high, erect, ever great

The Himalayas have been the fountainhead of so much that has gone into the heritage of each of our countries. Nepal is the birthplace of that great seer of compassion, Gautama the Buddha. Nepal is the land that has inspired many of the myths and legends around which are wrapped the abiding traditions and values of our peoples. To meet here in Nepal is to return to some of the most sacred sources of our ancient glory.

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When we gathered at Dhaka in December 1985, it was an event of pathbreaking significance: the first-ever Summit of the Seven of South Asia. Bangalore consolidated that relationship. We come to Kathmandu with a confidence born of experience.

We have forged a regional grid of relationships that are breaking the barriers that have kept us apart. It has been a meeting of minds, a meeting of hearts, a meeting of peoples. South Asian cooperation is gradually entering our collective conciousness.

The significance of our cooperation lies in bringing together our peoples. What matters is the people, their creative interaction, their growing awareness of the possibilities and potential of working together.

Experts and expertise have been pooled together. Hundreds of scholars and scientists have got to know each other. Poets and writers have met. Artistes and artisans have discovered one another. Athletes and players have encountered each other in friendly rivalry. Men and women of eminence have shared their thoughts and beliefs. Ordinary people are beginning to see something of each other. Common problems and common solutions have been explored. Hopes and aspirations have been shared.

The problems we are addressing are real. There are the key economic areas of agriculture and rural development, transport and communication. There are the social sectors of health and education, youth and sports. There are the sectors related to our heritage and our appreciation of each other: art and culture, archaeology and archives. It is good that the problems of women are getting much needed attention. The full and equal participation of women in our national life, is a duty we owe ourselves. We are also making headway in dealing with the problems of drugs. There is then the menace of terrorism. We have the Final Act. We should soon conclude the regional convention we have been working on. The SAARC Food Security Reserve is an important achievement in regional cooperation.

We must consolidate the gains already achieved. We should also move forward.

The environment is an area where cooperation is indicated. Development and the environment are interlinked. The Report presented to the United Nations by Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland has confirmed what we have learnt from experience: the problems of degradation spill across national frontiers; equally, the benefits of conservation spread across political boundaries. The development of each of our economies is likely to be more sustained through regional cooperation which preserves and improves the environment.

There is also much more we can do in the area of culture, especially forms of culture which draw in large numbers of people as participative spectators. We might consider a South Asia Festival which brings together from all parts of our region a diversity of arts and crafts, poetry and songs, dance and drama, and traditional sports.

Our planning experts have foreseen the advantages of cooperation and trade and industry, money and finance. It would be useful to authorise studies on the scope and modalities of cooperation in these sectors. We could make an objective determination later as to whether the balance of advantage lies in our entering these fields.

The broad spectrum of activities we are undertaking indicates that we envisage development as comprising much more than mere economic growth. People should be kept at the core of the development process. It is not merely our economies which grow but our people who develop. Our material needs are important and many areas of our cooperation impinge directly on building our infrastructure for growth. But development concerns the total human personality the nurturing of all our human resources. -370>

Therefore, the multi-faceted cooperation we have evolved under SAARC is a practice we must continue and shape into a tradition.

These formal sessions are the visible part of our Summit meetings. The Summits also provide annual opportunities for meetings and outside the conference premises. These are by no means confined to questions of regional cooperation, but range freely over bilateral and international issues. None of us underestimates the value of these meetings. The SAARC Summit has become an important fixture in our calendar for bilateral discussions and the exchange of views.

The implications of our regional cooperation go well beyond the stipulated sectors. Foremost, it fosters a sense of regional identity, a sense of shared destiny. This adds a second common dimension to our respective foreign policies. The first, of course, is the membership of each of our countries in the Nonaligned Movement. SAARC is thus taking shape as a factor in determining our place in the world, collectively as a region and individually as independent countries. In a broad perspective, such regional understanding is a positive political development.

The world has need of us. We are witnessing the slow thawing of attitudes frozen in the postures of the Cold War. There is the imminent prospect of a treaty on intermediate nuclear forces, which would constitute a significant beginning, the first-ever dismantling of an existing nuclear weapons system. Powers that a few decades ago scornfully rejected the Non-aligned view of the world are now coming around to seeing that there is much virtue in the fundamental principles of peaceful coexistence, the basic moral and ethical postulates we have espoused.

It was at Lumbini, but a short distance from here, that one of the greatest sons of Asia was born. The Buddha's message of compassion, non-violence and tolerance was no mere enunciation of philosophic precepts. After two and a half millennia, his philosophy remains a practical policy of profound contemporary relevance. Indeed, it is perhaps ever more relevant in this nuclear age than at any previous time. The great Hindi poetess, Mahadevi Verma, put our present need for this message more beautifully than mere prose can convey:

The world stands at our gates, a mendicant Asking for alms of love and compassion. Open with a smile your kind offerings The boon of your heart, my companion.

Thank you.

PAL USA BANGLADESH

Date: Nov 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Prime Minister's Address at the Closing Session of Third SAARCSummit

The following is the text of address by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the closing session of the Third SAARC Summit held at Kathmandu on Nov 04, 1987:

It has been pleasant and richly rewarding to refresh ourselves once more at the springs of our friendship in these salubrious surroundings. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to you, Your Majesty, to Her Majesty, to the Government of Nepal, and to the cheerful people of this lovely land for the care and affection bestowed on us.

I would also wish to commend the good work done by Secretary General -371>

Abul Ahsan and his enthusiastic band of hard-working colleagues. For a Secretariat that has been in existence for only a few months, they have shown administrative ability of a high order.

Our senior officials and Foreign Ministers had, before our arrival, consolidated the results of the work on South Asian cooperation undertaken over the past twelve months. At the Summit itself, we have concentrated on the broader perspectives and new directions. In both respects, our meeting in Kathmandu will leave

an indelible impression on the future evolution of our Association. We owe much to Your Majesty for guiding our deliberations so sagaciously and purposefully.

Our experience over the last few years has shown that national action can be reinforced by regional initiatives. It has also shown that regional initiatives can help promote national action.

The regional seminar held in India in Hyderabad was to add enhanced awareness of the need to concert efforts to deal with natural disasters afflicting our member-States. Natural disasters are an aspect of environmental degradation. At the Opening Session, we heard from President Gayoom a riveting account of the implications for the Maldives of a marginal increase in the height of the sea-level. Such serious environmental questions have to be examined in depth to establish the causes and consequences. If such a calamity were to happen, it would affect not only the Maldives but also Sri Lanka, the islands of India in the Andaman and Nicobar group and Lakshadweep, as also thousands of kilometres of seacoast in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. It would also lead to major climatological changes extending well beyond the immediate hinterland of the seas, even as far as our landlocked neighbours - Bhutan and Nepal.

His Majesty King Birendra and President Ershad drew attention to the rampaging fury of the floods. In India, vast areas of Bihar and West Bengal wer inundated. So was much of the Brahmaputra valley in Assam. While we faced the disaster of floods in these parts of India, elsewhere in the country we have been confronting the consequences of the severest drought in a century. Environmental degradation is probably the single major cause of such natural disasters. Specifically, it is rampant deforestation which inflicts both floods and drought. Every such disaster is a setback for development.

In our region, as elsewher in the world, development is the chief casualty of degradation and disruption of ecological systems. Often, neither the causes nor the consequences are confined to national boundaries. Therefore, suitable measures of regional cooperation are required to supplement national action. Only so can we ensure sustained development through the conservation of the environment.

At the same time, it is to be recognised that the different elements of ecological systems are closely interlinked. We cannot deal in isolation with only one aspect of the problem. The approach has to be holistic.

Therefore, through a suitable framework of regional environment cooperation, we might expect to move towards better conservation for more sustained development, a more rational utilisation of the region's natural resources, and the mitigation of recurring natural disasters. For effective conservation, national action

has to be re-inforced by regional cooperation, and both placed in the framework of global cooperation. Our aim is to bring about an integrated approach extending across all these three tiers.

It was at Dhaka that we first took cognization of the need for regional cooperation to suppress the menace of terrorism. At Bangalore, work began in earnest. During our Chairmanship of SAARC, the regional convention was taken forward to the point where an agreed draft could be submitted to the Heads of our Summit in Kathmandu. The Convention constitutes a major landmark in the worldwide struggle against the scourge of terrorism. We have set an example for other regions to follow.

As a result of the consolidation of cooperation that has been promoted during the year since Bangalore, we are now poised to consider the further development of our cooperation in a long term perspective. We are also in a position to examine the extension of our cooperation to core economic sectors. We are greatly encouraged by the positive response in SAARC to these new directions. It is true that there are in our region significant disparities in size. There are also differences in levels of development, within the region as a whole and within the countries that constitute the region. The diversification of the economy is more pronounced in some member-countries than in others. There are also directions and nuances of sovereign economic policies which must, of course, be respected. Some of these diferences reflect not incompatibilities but complementarities in our economies. None of these differences is fundamental. Regional approaches can be devised in the light of specific sensitivities and on the principle of unanimity.

SAARC has started looking at totally new areas and forms of cooperation. We have so far worked in areas where there has been a broad similarity of approaches in our respective countries. Now we will be looking at prospects which will call for a greater measure of harmonisation of policies. There will also be greater need to concert action. This is an exciting new venture, calling for careful stewardship. With confidence we cast upon His Majesty and His Majesty's Government of Nepal the onerous responsibility of steering our course through these uncharted waters.

It is indeed ironic, as His Majesty the King of Bhutan reminded us, that we were till recently more isolated from each other than from the rest of the world. Happily, that is now changing. Lack of knowledge is giving way to valuable shared experience. Unfamiliarity is yielding to a lively appreciation of each other's concerns. Elements of suspicion and mistrust are slowly being blown away. We should neither force the pact nor let the momentum slacken.

In the two years since Dhaka, our Association has come a considerable way. Regional cooperation is getting ingrained in

our habits of thought. The nature of such cooperation is moving from contacts and studies to action which touches our societies and the lives of our people.

The action we have taken in areas like the struggle against terrorism is of pathbreaking significance. The work we are embarking upon in regard to the environment could give a lead to the entire international community. And now, as we move into the crucial economic sectors, South Asian Cooperation arrives at the threshold of becoming a major force in our region and, therefore, in the world.

The Association has taken wing. We shall glide through narrow gorges with practised ease. We shall soar with confidence above the peaks. And we shall alight upon a distant perch which today falls beyond the horizon.

PAL USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA MALDIVES SRI LANKA BANGLADESH PAKISTAN TOTO PERU BHUTAN

Date: Nov 04, 1987

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Rs. 50 Crore Saudi Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 02, 1987 on providing of Rs. 50 crore Saudi assistance to India:

Saudi Arabia will provide an assistance of SR 141 million amounting to about Rs. 50 crores to meet part of the expenditure on the Township of the Nhava Sheva Port Project (NSPT). The loan is repayable in 20 years including a grace period of five years. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi today, by the Union Finance Minister, Shri -373>

Narayan Datt Tiwari and H.E. Sheikh Mohammad A. Al-Sugair, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Saudi Fund for Development.

The first Saudi fund development loan was in 1977 for SR 353 million (US Dollars 100 million) for the Srisailam Nagarjunasagar Power Project. Since then they have extended a loan of SR 103.2 million (US Dollars 30 million) for the Koraput Rayagada Railway

Line Project, SR 172 million (US Dollars 50 million) for the Ramagundam Thermal Power Project Stage II. With this loan for NSPT, the total loans so far extended adds to SR 769.2 million.

UDI ARABIA INDIA USA

Date: Nov 02, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Implementation of Indo-USSR Cooperation Programme in Scienceand Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 19, 1987 on the implementation of Indo-USSR Cooperation programme in Science and Technology:

The Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology signed between General Secretary Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, is coming under active implementation. Two meetings of the National Coordination Committee appointed by the Prime Minister has already taken place under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Science & Technology. All modalities of nodalising the work of around 60 Indian Institutions, Agencies and organisations through Area Coordinators, Institutional Coordinators and individual workers vis-a-vis the Soviet counterparts have been worked out. This information was given by Dr. Vasant Gowariker, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, while addressing a press conference in Moscow yesterday.

A INDIA RUSSIA

Date: Nov 19, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 21, 1987 on the inauguration of Indian Science and Technology Exhibition at Moscow on November 19, 1987:

Shri Arjun Singh, Minister for Communications, inaugurated the Indian Science and Technology Exhibition at Moscow on November 19. Through the exhibition an attempt has been made to convey the importance of science and technology for the development and uplift of Indian people and also to portray country's major achievements in different fields. The exhibition also conveys the significance and magnitude of growing Indo-Soviet relationship in this area.

Speaking at the occasion Shri Arjun Singh recalled the pioneering role which Mrs. Gandhi played in further strengthening the strong foundation of Indo-Soviet friendship laid by Jawaharlal Nehru. He also said that Indo-Soviet long-term cooperation programme in Science & Technology signed in July by Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Gorbachev is a step in further strengthening and enriching the deep bonds of friendship that bind two countries together. This programme encompasses thrust areas on the very frontiers of Science and Technology.

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Some of the identified areas in this programme are of vital importance for the economic growth of both our countries.

The Minister added that India is determined to acquire knowledge and knowhow of the highest technologies that are available in the world today. He also said that Science and Technology was inseperable from social justice and cultural enrichment. Science and Technology, to him, was the fittest instrument to fulfil the deep urges and aspirations of our people in their quest for a better and richer life.

Shri Arjun Singh also hoped that through this exhibition a new era for negotiations between two countries will be opened and they will be able to cooperate in many more fields which so far have remained unprobed.

Present on the occasion were Shri Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Technology Missions, Smt. Najma Heptulla, Member of Parliament, Dr. Vasant Gowariker, Secretary DST and Dr. K. P. Mitra, DG CSIR. Mr. G. I. Marchuk, Academician along with senior members of USSR State Committee for Science and Technology were also present.

DIA USA RUSSIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Nov 21, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Two Major Art and Sculpture Exhibitions Inaugurated

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 23, 1987 on the inauguration of two major Art and Sculpture exhibitions in New Delhi:

H.E. Mr. V. G. Zakharov, Minister for Culture, USSR, inaugurated two major exhibitions of "Art Born of the October Revolution' and "Soviet Sculpture from the Tretyakov Gallery (Moscow)", at the National Gallery of Modern Art, here today in the presence of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister for Human Resource Development.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Shri Narasimha Rao said that there has to be a healthy balance between artistic liberty and social objectives. The artist has to be conscious of the aspirations of the people and the Soviet artist while displaying their creative power have kept this in view. They give first preference toward the portrayal of soldiers, peasants, workers and technicians who are the real "architects of progress and creators of history", Shri Rao added.

The Minister further said in their expositions there is a synthesis of great human values, artistic abilities and technical competence. One of the important features is that these artists preferred to achieve "monumentality in art" similar to those of the great masters of the Renaissance and Post-Renaissance period who were the pioneers of Classicism and Romanticism. The Soviet artist has tried to imbibe those values in a similar way highlighting the heroism of the people and quest of man for Peace, the Minister added.

Shri Rao expressed the hope that this exhibition would establish deeper bonds of friendship and goodwill between India and the USSR through the medium of art and the commonality of artistic perceptions. The great October Revolution of 1917 has changed the course of human history. It was a new and significant approach to the reconstruction of society and political establishments.

Earlier, in her welcome speech, the Minister of State for Education and Culture, Smt. Krishna Sahi said that these exhibitions will provide new inspiration to the artist in India.

Recalling that in 1905, Mahatma Ghandi had started a new resurgence among the youth in India and shortly thereafter in 1917, the great October Revolution in Soviet Russia similarly brought about the momentous change in the course of human history. She further said that the exhibitions now being held in Delhi, would also be shown later at Bombay and Calcutta.

The exhibition, "Art Born of the October Revolution", allows the viewer to -375>

see the variety of artistic styles used by Soviet artists and to trace the entire course of the development of Soviet visual arts closely connected with the life of the Soviet state. The exhibition, containing 145 paintings from 15 Soviet museums, vividly demonstrates the main direction of Soviet art with its affirmation of humanistic ideals and Peace on our planet. These best works of Soviet painters also enable the viewers to see how a new socialist system emerged out of the flames of the October Revolution and the battles of the Civil War.

The exhibition, "Soviet Sculpture from the Tretyakov Gallery (Moscow)", presents over fifty works by sculptors from various national republics of the Soviet Union. It conveys the Soviet artists' close ties with their homeland, concern over vital world problems and their involvement in the USSR's peace campaign. Many Soviet artists were inspired by Lenin's words: "Art belongs to people".

DIA USA RUSSIA OMAN

Date: Nov 23, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Unveiling of V. I. Lenin's Statue - Speech by the PrimeMinister

The following is the text of speech made by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the unveiling of V. I. Lenin's statue in New Delhi on Nov 21, 1987:

Today India pays her tribute to Vladimir Ilyich Lenin - visionary, revolutionary, towering figure of history, founder of the world's first Socialist State. His words lit up the minds of people. His deeds ushered in a new epoch. Lenin gave practical

shape to a new system of social organisation. He was a genius who left his impression not only on his time but on succeeding generations. These qualities he shared with another great revolutionary thinker of our century, Mahatma Gandhi, who was only a year older.

As the Soviet Union celebrates its 70th anniversary, Lenin continues to be relevant to the complexities of contemporary realities and a source of inspiration to all those who seek a betterment of the human condition.

Lenin's humanism, his spirit of sacrifice and thirst for emancipation had a fundamental influence on the minds of those who fought for India's freedom. As Jawaharlal Nehru wrote, "by his amazing power of will, Lenin hypnotised a nation and filled a disunited and demoralised people with energy and determination and the strength to endure and suffer for a cause.

It is through his inspiration that the Soviet Union is today a mighty nation engaged in mighty undertakings.

Lenin closely followed the Indian people's fight against colonialism. He viewed India as the citadel of the revolution of the Orient. Though our paths of national liberation differed, yet both our peoples were actuated by the same motive of breaking the shackles of bondage and creating resurgent, egalitarian, peaceful and independent societies.

For Lenin peace and progress were organically linked. He wrote: "An end to wars, peace among nations, the cessation of pillaging and violence, such is our ideal". To Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders of India's independence movement, peace, and not war, harmony not discord, and friendship not enmity were the ideals on which nations should order their relations.

The very first international document of the Soviet Republic - Lenin's Decree of Peace - laid down the basic principles of Soviet foreign policy including peaceful co-existence between States with different social systems. Indo-Soviet friendship is unique example of this shared vision of our two great leaders.

We are glad that a statue of this historic personality has come up in this -376>

historic city of New Delhi. We are grateful to His Excellency, Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, for unveiling it. The statue will be a constant reminder of a man who through his vision and his herculean toil outlined new horizons for humanity.

Date: Nov 21, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Exhibition of Carpets from USSR

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 23, 1987 on the opening of an exhibition of carpets from the USSR in New Delhi:

An exhibition of the "Carpets of the People of USSR" and Carpets designed by the famous artist, Mr. K. Aliev was inaugurated by Mr. N. A. Ponomarev, Chairman of the Union of Artists of the USSR here today. Mr. Zakharov, Minister of Culture of the USSR, was also present. This exhibition organised by the Festival of India and the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) is a part of the return Festival of USSR being held in India during 1987-88.

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NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA INDIA

Date: Nov 23, 1987

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Date: Dec 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Prime Minister's Message on the 75th Anniversary of AfricanNational Congress

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 01, 1987 of the message sent by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the African National Congress:

We salute today seventy five years of unrelenting struggle, seventy five years of undaunted courage, seventy five years of unflinching sacrifice.

The African National Congress today completes three quarters of a century of principled perserverance in the cause of basic human dignity and fundamental human rights. They have been fighting for justice against barbarism, for the freedom of humanity against imprisonment in racist prejudice and racial discrimination. Great as is the cause of the liberation of South Africa, greater still has been the cause of the ANC. For their struggle is the struggle of all humankind to break the mental barriers which divide people from people and humanism from humanity.

Nelson Mandela is not only the leader of his people. His will of steel in the face of the most evil oppression has made him a symbol of deep dedication and profoud patriotism for all of us everywhere, for all time to come. A regime which inoarcerates such a man for over two and a half decades is a regime without the least vestige of moral sensibility.

The end of apartheid is in sight. It survives on a lung machine furnished by its powerful economic and military benefactors. Let them remember the lesson they were taught by Mahatma Gandhi. That no power is greater than the power of the soul. The victory of the soul of South Africa is assured. The annihilation of the atavism of apartheid is certain.

We have stood by the African National Congress since its very founding, blessed by Mahatma Gandhi, who had himself been working in South Africa, since nearly twenty years earlier, for the freedom of all the people of that great country.

In the name of the Mahatma, the people of India pay their highest tribute to their brothers and sisters in South Africa. We pledge our continuing support to your cause. We shall stay with you all the way.

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DIA USA SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Dec 01, 1987

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Navigation and ConservancyCharges

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 10, 1987, on the signing of the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Navigation and Conservancy Charges:

The Protocol between Indian and Bangladesh had been signed on November 4, 1987 renewing the arrangements for a further period of two years from October 4, 1987 to October 3, 1989.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Surface Transport, Shri Rajesh Pilot in Lok Sabha today in a written reply to a question by Shri Yashwantrao Gadakh Patil.

He said that under this each country would maintain the river routes falling within its territory in a navigable condition and provide all the essential pilotage and conservancy services including hydrographic surveys and supply of charts etc.

The Minister further said that the conservancy charges payable to Bangladesh Government, as agreed upon are 90 lakh Takas for the first year and 100 lakh Takas for the second year for maintenance of two waterway stretches in Bangladesh which are primarily used by Indian vessels.

NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date: Dec 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

BURMA

Presentation of Manuscripts of Gen. Mahabandoola

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's message on the occasion of the presentation of manuscripts of Gen. Mahabandoola to the Burmese President, Mr. San Yu in Rangoon on Dec 15, 1987:

I have a pleasant task to perform. On behalf of the people of India, I have the honour to return to the people of Burma the Manuscripts of one of your great national heroes, General Mahabandoola. We are also returning the despatches on palm-leaf from General Maha Mingyi Kyawtin and the Governor of Tamu-Khampat.

General Mahabandoola's march over the Arakan Ranges at the height of the Monsoon with over 60,000 troops to go to the rescue of Rangoon was a feat perhaps surpassed only by Hannibal's crossing of the Alps. His loyalty, patriotism and courage made Burma one of the most powerful kingdoms of its time. His immortal defiance of the British General, Cotton, rings through the corridors of history.

"If you wish to see my country, come to us as friends and I will show it to you. And if you come to us as enemies, land."

For over a century, these manuscripts have been in India. They were take to Calcutta by the British. They have been preserved by the Victoria Memorial Museum with all the care due to documents of high historical importance. Today as a token of our friendship for Burma, we restore to you these treasures. We hope -380>

the return of these priceless manuscripts will prove the catalyst for much closer cultural interaction between our two countries.

We ourselves have irreplaceable items of our national heritage scattered over the world, where they were taken away when we, as a colony, were powerless to prevent it. Those who have these treasures are unwilling to part with them. This is a fate that other old cultures have also suffered. All the more reason then for us to share what we have, particularly when, as in the case of Burma and India, we share an unbroken cultural tradition.

Friendship between India and Burma is based on a shared history,

elements of a common culture and profound mutual respect. We wish to learn from Burma's experience, we are willing to share with Burma our experience. It is this sharing that enriches us. It is only as we expand our knowledge that we become citizens of the world. It is only by affirming our common humanity that we keep at bay the forces that seek to divide and destroy.

History, as T. S. Eliot said, is not the "pastness of the past but its presence". A good deal of experience of earlier ages dwells within the spirit of the peoples of Burma and India. Heritage influences our action in subtle ways. Instinctively, our people turn away from the transient victories of temporal might to things of greater value, which are more durabletranquillity of the soul, calm composure, the spirit of detachment. The Dhammapada abjures us to:

Conquer anger through gentleness Unkindness through kindness Greed through generosity And falsehood by truth."

RMA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALAYSIA SEYCHELLES

Date: Dec 15, 1987

Volume No

1995

DENMARK

Rs. 50 Crore Danish Aid to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 23, 1987 on the signing of an agreement for Rs. 50 crore Danish aid to India:

India has signed an agreement with Denmark for a Grant-in-aid amounting to Danish Kroner 250 million (approximately Rs. 50 crore). The funds will be used to finance purchases in Denmark of Danish goods and services for various Indian projects.

A major portion of the Grant (D. Kr. 165 million) will be used for the setting up of windmill farms for generation of electricity. Other projects to be covered by the financing agreement are a moulded paper plant, Jagdishpur Fertilizer Plant, Soya milk production and a feasibility study on renovation of three fertilizer plants.

The Danish International Development Agency had earlier this year taken the decision that all future aid to India would be in the

form of tied and untied grants, in stead of the loans being offered earlier. This is the first tied Grant to be signed in persuance of this decision.

The agreement was signed yesterday by Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, on behalf of the Indian Government and Mr. Stefan Kovacs, Charge d'Affairs, Royal Danish Embassy.

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NMARK INDIA USA MALDIVES

Date: Dec 23, 1987

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Indo-French Centre for Advanced Research Identifies Areas of Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 13, 1987 on Indo-French Centre for Advanced Research:

The Scientific Council of the Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR) has recommended 13 priority areas for research as long-term joint projects. These are:

- i) pure and applied mathematics:
- ii) theoretical computer sciences;
- iii) cellular and molecular biology/genetics (genetic

engineering, biotechnology-application to medicine and agronomy);

iv) medical sciences (epidemiology, immunology, virology,

development of new vaccines and new drugs, bio-medical engineering etc.);

- v) chemistry of natural products with special reference to biologically active compounds and agrochemicals;
- vi) catalysis (science and engineering);
- vii) liquid interface science;
- viii) material science and engineering (advanced ceramics, composites, polymers, etc.);
- ix) rare earths;
- x) astrophysics and radio astronomy;
- xi) seismic data processing;
- xii) remote sensing applications (ground water prospecting,

forestry, etc.); and

xiii) water treatment and distribution.

The project proposals will be submitted and examined by mid-1988.

The Scientific Council of IFCPAR has four Indian and four French members nominated by the respective governments for a period of two years.

The Indian members are; Prof. M. M. Sharma, University of Bombay; Dr. S. K. Joshi, Director, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi; Prof. R. Narasimhan, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay; and Dr. P. M. Bhargava, Director, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

The French team comprises Dr. Jean. Claude Lehman, Scientific Director, French National Centre for Scientific Research; Prof. Claude Quivoron, Director, French National Institute for Advanced Studies in Chemistry, Paris; Prof. Jacques-Henri Weil, Head, Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Strasbourg; and Mr. Aigrain, former Minister and Adviser to the Thomson industrial group.

The Indo-French Centre has been established in India to promote cooperation between India and France in advanced areas of fundamental and applied scientific research and to identify scientists and scientific institutions of the two countries for cooperation in the fields chosen by mutual agreement.

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ANCE INDIA USA

Date: Dec 13, 1987

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Assistance for Drought Relief

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 11, 1987 on the receipt of foreign assistance by India for drought relief:

Government has received offers of assistance for drought relief from ten countries and organisations so far. The foreign currency assistance, equivalent to Rs. 800 crore, is in the form of grants or long term loans at low interest rates.

Stating this in Rajya Sabha in a written reply to a question, the Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Yogendra. Makwana said

that the World Bank has offered \$ 350 million (Rs. 450 crore) out of which \$ 200 million comes through its soft loan window, the International Development Agency. The assistance will provide balance of payment and budgetary support to meet the additional costs imposed by drought.

The Minister said that Japan has offered yen assistance equivalent to Rs. 270 crore for import of edible oils and drought related commodities. Offers have also come from the European Economic Community (Rs. 30 crore), Sweden (Rs. 10 crore), the USSR (approximately Rs. 10 crore), the USA (Rs. 8-10 crore), France (Rs. 8 crore), West Germany (Rs. 7 crore), Italy (Rs. 6.5 crore) and Belgium (Rs. 30 lakh) for import of edible oils, milk products, rigs and pumps and as cash assistance.

DIA JAPAN SWEDEN USA FRANCE GERMANY ITALY BELGIUM

Date: Dec 11, 1987

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Asian Development Bank Aid to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 23, 1987 on Asian Development Bank aid to India:

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will give between \$ 450 to \$ 500 million aid to India in 1988. This was disclosed by the ADB Vice President, Mr. M. Narasimham when he called on the Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, here last evening.

In 1987, the ADB sanctioned loans amounting \$ 377 million for three development projects in India. Ports Development Project received \$ 87.6 million, credit to IDBI was \$ 100 million and Railway Modernisation Project got \$ 190 million during 1987.

The Bank's lending to India commenced in 1986. The projects assisted in 1987 were ICICI for \$ 100 million and North Madras Thermal Power Project for \$ 150 million.

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DIA

Date: Dec 23, 1987

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Asian Development Bank Vice President, Impressed with Strengthof Indian Economy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 24, 1987 on the meeting of the Vice President of the Asian Development Bank with the Minister for Planning and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Shri P. Shiv Shanker:

The Vice President of the Asian Development Bank, Mr. M. Narasimham, called on the Minister for Planning & Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri P. Shiv Shanker, here last evening. Mr. Narasimham evinced keen interest in drought management programme of the Indian Government and said that he finds a lot of resilience and strength in the Indian economy to withstand adverse effects of the drought.

Mr. Narasimham said that he was happy to know that there was no distress signals in the Indian economy and the growth rate is reasonably good. The Asian Development Bank has an optimistic view of the growth prospects of India, he added.

The Planning Minister said that despite severe drought conditions, we have been able to minimise the adverse impact by better management of available financial allocations and by raising more resources to provide effective and timely relief to the drought affected areas.

Shri P. Shiv Shanker told the ADB Vice-President that rabi prospects in the country are quite encouraging. He expressed the hope that agricultural production during the next crop year would make up for the shortfall in the Kharif yield in the current year. He said that the Central sector schemes are progressing satisfactorily and effective steps have been taken to keep the tmpo of development.

DIA

Date: Dec 24, 1987

Volume No

IRAN

India and Iran to Step Up Trade and Industrial Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 24, 1987 on the stepping up of trade and industrial cooperation between India and Iran:

The visiting Iranian delegation, headed by the Minister of Heavy Industries of Iran, Mr. Belizad Nabavi, called on the Union Commerce and Finance Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari, here today and discussed the possibilities of enlarging cooperation between India and Iran in various fields. The Minister of State for Petroleum, Shri Brahm Dutt, also participated in the discussions. Both sides expressed keenness to strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties, particularly cooperation in the industrial field. It was indicated that during official-level discussions over the last few days the two sides had identified several new areas of industrial cooperation and a number of leading Indian companies had entered into agreements with their Iranian counterparts for supply of technical know how and machinery and equipment to Iran. Shri Tiwari suggested that the details of these agreements should be worked out to ensure speedy implementation. It was mentioned -384>

that about 23 proposals for industrial cooperation relating to items like machine tools, power equipments etc. had been discussed. The Iranian side agreed to ensure follow up of these proposals.

Shri Tiwari also referred to the deficit faced by India in its trade with Iran over the last several years. In 1986-87, trade turnover between the two countries was of the order of Rs. 182.24 crores which included imports from Iran worth Rs. 134.95 crores and exports valued at Rs. 47.29 crores. In this context, the Minister urged Iran to purchase more from India. He said it would be of mutual advantage of both the countries to rectify the existing imbalance and ensure a more balanced flow of trade. He assured the Iranian side of all support in implementing cooperation agreements in the industrial and other fields with a view to further enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Nabavi emphasised his country's keenness to strengthen mutual cooperation in the field of petroleum as a traditional supplier of crude oil to India, which accounts for the bulk of Indian imports from Iran. At the same time, he said Iran would also be interested in diversifying its purchases from India. Shri Brahm Dutt referred to the capabilities of Indian organisations such as

Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) in the area of oil refineries, project monitoring and control services etc. and suggested that possibilities in this field could. be explored.

Shri A. N. Varma, Commerce Secretary, Shri M. R. Sivaraman, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and representatives of the other concerned Ministries were present during the discussions. The Iranian delegation said they had a fruitful exchange of views during their visit on areas of future cooperation, particularly in the context of the technology and expertise available in India in the industrial and economic fields and hoped this would form the basis for expanding the traditional ties between India and Iran.

AN INDIA USA

Date: Dec 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Japan Gives Rs. 270 Crore Loan to India for Drought Relief

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 16, 1987 on the Japanese loan of Rs. 270 crores to India for drought relief:

Japan will provide 29.5 billion Yen amounting to Rs. 270 crores to India in order to tackle the problems created by the drought situation in the country. An agreement to this effect was signed here today by Shri S. Venkitaramanan, Finance Secretary and Mr. Eijiro Noda, Ambassador of Japan to India. The loan is being extended in the form of commodity loan and is in addition to the annual ODA commitment of 68.4 billion Yen earlier sanctioned by Japan in September this year.

The loan has a repayment period of 25 years including a grace period of 7 years and carries interest at the rate of 2.75 per cent per annum. An additional feature of this loan is that it is untied for procurement from all OECD and Developing countries. The sanction of this loan would, therefore, enable India to import edible Oils and other essential commodities like pulses according to India's needs to cover payment for imports of these commodities. The loan would be given retrospective effective from August 3, 1987.

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Date: Dec 16, 1987

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

India and Malaysia to Double Bilateral Trade Turnover by 1990

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 04, 1987 on the agreement between India and Malaysia to double bilateral trade turnover by 1990:

India and Malaysia will strive to double their bilateral trade turnover to Rs. 1300 crores by 1990 with the objective of enlarging the two-way flow of trade as well reducing the existing imbalance in bilateral trade. This was agreed to at the Ministerial level trade talks between India and Malaysia which ended here on Wednesday. The Indian delegation was led by the Finance and Commerce Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari and the Malaysian delegation by Mr. Daim Zainuddin, the Malaysian Finance Minister and Dr. Lim Kong Yaik, Minister of Primary Industries of Malaysia. The current annual trade turnover between the two countries is Rs. 656.28 crores with exports to Malaysia in 1986-87 estimated at Rs. 104.14 crores and imports worth Rs. 552.14 crores. The balance of trade has thus been adverse for India.

Following the talks, Malaysia has offered to give 3 new projects to Indian companies. These relate to construction of three new steel bridges, supply of spares for 3 years for their frigate and construction of an Airport at Sibu in Malaysia.

The Malaysian side has also agreed to take up with the concerned authorities allotment of projects to India in the fields of rehabilitation and conversion of Coal Fired Thermal Station, Gas Thermal Stations and Accelerated Transmission System.

During the talks, Shri Tiwari had expressed concern over the growing imbalance in bilateral trade with Malaysia and stressed the need for strengthening collaboration in the area of projects. India has been pressing consistently for allotment of projects in Malaysia to Indian companies on a negotiated basis in view of the growing imbalance in trade over the years. A Consortium of Indian firms with the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) as nodal agency had earlier identified project possibilities

covering a number of fields including Railways and power generation.

The Malaysian side has also agreed to pursue with the Sabah Gas Industries (SGI) the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company (KIOCL) and the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation (MSTC) under which the Malaysian Company was to purchase iron ore pellets in exchange for import of hot briquette iron by MSTC.

The Malaysian Ministers extended an invitation to Shri Tiwari to visit Malaysia at the time of the exclusive Indian Trade Fair scheduled to open at Kuala Lumpur next month.

The Malaysian delegation will be returning to Kuala Lumpur today. -386>

LAYSIA INDIA USA LATVIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Dec 04, 1987

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Indian Musical Instruments for Mauritius

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 31, 1987 on the supply of musical instruments by India to Mauritius:

India has supplied over 700 sets of Indian Musical Instruments to Mauritius consisting of Harmonium, Jhal Dholak, Tabla, Manjira and Ghungroo on a 50:50 per cent cost as envisaged in the Indo-Mauritian Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 1987-89.

During the visit of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister for Human Resource Development, to Mauritius in 1986 and the return visit by Mr. Armoogum Parsuraman, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture of Mauritius, possibility for the supply of Indian musical instruments to Mauritius, was discussed in depth and subsequently it was included in the Indo-Mauritian Cultural Exchange Programme wherein India agreed to supply 1000 sets of musical instruments. The total cost involved for the supply of musical instruments is about Rs. 50 lakh and this would be shared by the two Governments on 50:50 per cent basis.

Date: Dec 31, 1987

Volume No

1995

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Prime Minister's Statement on the Agreement between SecretaryGeneral Gorbachev and President Reagan on Nuclear Disarmament

The following is the text of the statement made by the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, in Parliament, on Dec 09, 1987, regarding the agreement on elimination of land based intermediate nuclear missiles concluded on December 8 between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan:

The agreement on elimination of land based intermediate nuclear missiles concluded yesterday between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan represents a truely momentous development.

It is true that it envisages the elimination of only around three per cent of the combined nuclear arsenals of the United States and the USSR.

But its historic significance is that it is the world's first nuclear arms reduction agreement.

It is also the first time that the United States and the USSR have agreed to completely eliminate an entire category of nuclear weapons.

This agreement has vividly demonstrated that, given the necessary political will, technical problems, such as verification, can be overcome.

This agreement is not, and should not be considered, as more than a beginning an historic beginning, a vital beginning, but still only a beginning.

The survival of humanity depends on the nuclear weapon powers travelling all the way down this road to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

The world will be really safe only when, as the Delhi Declaration puts it, "the balance of terror gives way to comprehensive international security".

A

Date: Dec 09, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Kampuchea

The following is the text of the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 04, 1987 in response to queries from the press about Prince Sihanouk's meeting with Mr. Hun Sen in Paris:

The Minister of State, Shri Natwar Singh had a meeting with Prince Sihanouk in New York on October 5. In his meeting with Mr. Natwar Singh, Prince Sihanouk recalled the positive role played by India in the International Control Commission (ICC) in Indo-China in the Fifties and Sixties and suggested that India could be a guarantor and Chairman of another Commission, if such a body emerged from the current talks.

In the meeting with Mr. Natwar Singh, Prince Sihanouk sought India's assistance to arrange a meeting with the Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen. We had conveyed this message to the Kampuchean Government. We had also kept the Governments of Vietnam, Indonesia, USA, USSR and China informed about our initiative. It may be recalled that Mr. Natwar Singh had visited the Indo-China states and the ASEAN countries earlier this year. India welcomes this process of dialogue between Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen. It is in keeping with our policy of seeking a possible solution to the Kampuchean issue as enunciated by the government in Parliament.

DIA FRANCE UNITED KINGDOM USA CHINA VIETNAM INDONESIA

Date: Dec 04, 1987

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

U.S. Senate Sub-Committee's Recommendations on South Asia

The following is the text of the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 04, 1987:

India's stand on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons has been consistent and India has often reiterated its opposition to both vertical and horizontal proliferation. India has not accepted, and does not intend to accept, safeguards on all its peaceful nuclear activities unless a regime of international safeguards is applied uniformly and without discrimination to all nuclear activities in all countries. It is because such a regime has not been devised that India did not sign the N.P.T. The N.P.T. is clearly discriminatory. It legitimises the possession of nuclear weapons by a few countries. Nuclear weapons proliferation is a global issue and not a regional one. India is prepared to join any effort at the global level to end both vertical and horizontal proliferation - in other words, to eliminate nuclear weapons everywhere and for all time to come.

The senate sub-committee's recommendations are inexplicably focussed against a sub-region, namely, South Asia. By implication, it condones proliferation, including horizontal proliferation, elsewhere - in West Asia, in South Africa, in Latin America and in the NATO Alliance countries.

The recommendations appear to give Pakistan an alibi to continue with the non-peaceful dimensions of its nuclear programme. More than a decade ago, India carried out its peaceful nuclear explosion. In spite of this, India has unilaterally chosen to utilise its nuclear programme for peaceful purposes only. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has stated categorically in Washington recently that India has no intention to producing nuclear weapons unless constrained to do so.

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The recommendations of the Senate sub-committee are based on the untenable premise of equating India's open and peaceful nuclear programme with Pakistan's covert efforts to acquire a nuclearweapons capability.

The substance and focus of these recommendations are totally misplaced.

A INDIA SOUTH AFRICA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Dec 04, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Acapalco Declaration

The following is the text of a press release issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 12, 1987:

The Heads of Mission of Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Venezuela met Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs today (December 12, 1987) and handed the text of Acapalco Declaration signed by 8 Latin American Presidents on November 29, 1987. They requested the Government of India's support for the Declaration which calls for a solution to the conflicts in the region and the debt problem and for greater inter-regional cooperation and understanding. They emphasised that the signatories of the Declaration who are all democratically elected leaders represent the will of more than 80% of the population of Latin America.

The Acapalco Declaration for Peace, Development and Democracy calls for greater regional economic integration, a restructuring of the huge external debt of the Latin American countries on equitable basis and a solution of the Central American conflict on the basis of the agreement signed in Guatemala by the 5 Central American Presidents on August 7, 1987. It also deals with other regional issues such as restoration of Argentina's sovereignty over Malvinas/Falklands and the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty.

Shri Faleiro observed that India had close and friendly relations with Latin America and had consistently supported all efforts for solution of its problems. He welcomed the initiative of the leaders expressed in the Acapalco Declaration and assured them of India's full support for their efforts. The Ambassadors expressed their gratitude for India's consistent and principle support.

GENTINA BRAZIL MEXICO PANAMA PERU VENEZUELA INDIA GUATEMALA USA

Date: Dec 12, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Recent Acts of Repression - Israeli Occupation of Gaza Stripand West Bank

The following is the text of the statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 17, 1987:

The Government of India is deeply concerned and grieved at the loss of innocent lives and the injuries caused to several others resulting from the current Israeli repressive action against the unarmed Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza strip. The Government of India condemns these senseless acts of violence and strongly urges that they should be halted forthwith.

We have been in touch with PLO and some Arab countries on these developments, Yesterday PLO Ambassador Mr. Khalid Sheik met the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro. Thereafter Ambassador of seventeen Arab countries (the entire Arab League) had met the Minister of State today morning and these developments were discussed. Shri Eduardo Faleiro expressed his concern at these developments and India's continued solidarity and support for the Palestinian cause.

RAEL INDIA USA

Date: Dec 17, 1987

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

AFRICA Fund

The following is the text of a press release issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 24, 1987:

In response to the Prime Minister's letter dated February 28, 1987 enclosing the Action Plan of the AFRICA Fund and the appeal

for contribution, the Ambassador of Bulgaria called on the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro on 18.12.87 and handed over to him a letter from His Excellency Mr. Todor Zhivkov, President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, addressed to the Prime Minister.

2. President Zhivkov has stated in his letter that Bulgaria is prepared to render assistance amounting to 1,100,000 levs (approximately US \$ 1.375 million) to AFRICA Fund.

LGARIA USA

Date: Dec 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Indo-Pak Delegations Discuss Trade and. Economic Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 10, 1987 on the Indo-Pak delegations' discussions on trade and economic cooperation:

A 4-member Pakistan delegation led by Mr. Rafiq Akhund, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Mr. Tariq Siddiqi, Secretary, Ministry of Planning visited New Delhi from 7-10 December, 1987.

Mr. Rafiq Akhund held talks with Shri A. N. Varma, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. They discussed a number of practical proposals to expand bilateral trade. They reaffirmed that their objective was to conduct trade between India and Pakistan in conformity with the commitments/obligations and safeguards under the GATT. As a step towards this the Pakistan side offered an enlarged list of items for import by private sector from India.

Mr. Tariq Siddiqi, Secretary, Planning, held discussions with Shri J. S. Baijal, Secretary, Planning, Government of India. They exchanged views on the planning process in the two countries. They agreed on the need to set up institutional mechanisms for exchange of information. They also reviewed the progress made in the expansion of cooperation in the fields of Agriculture, Telecommunication, Industry, Railways, Science and Technology etc. and agreed that effective measures for early implementation should be taken.

The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. -390>

KISTAN USA INDIA

Date: Dec 10, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Protocol on Indo-Soviet Joint Textbooks Programme Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 23, 1987 on the signing of a protocol on Indo-Soviet Union joint textbook programme:

An Indo-Soviet protocol on joint Textbook programme was signed here today by Shri Anil Bordia, Secretary, Department of Education, and Prof. N. S. Egorov, Soviet Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Specialised Secondary Education.

Under the Joint Indo-Soviet Textbook Programme, standard Soviet University level text and reference books are selected, translated and made available to Indian students in low priced editions. So far 600 Soviet books evaluated by the Indian experts in the fields of Science, Technology, Medicine and Agriculture have been brought out in English and other Indian languages. Since June, 1985, 227 more books have been evaluated and 130 books recommended for publication.

A five-member Soviet delegation led by Prof. N. S. Egorov, arrived here on December 17, 1987 to participate in the 16th meeting of the Board of Indo-Soviet Text Books to finalise the protocol on Indo-Soviet Textbook Programme.

The Board has decided to further strengthen the programme relating to bringing out books on Science, Technology and particularly in the new emerging fields - such as Electronics, Space Research, Computer Software, Bio-Technology, etc. The Board has also decided to strengthen the Co-author Programme for writing textbooks in Indian languages for the students of Soviet Universities.

India and the USSR agreed to undertake a Joint Indo-Soviet Textbook Programme in 1965. Under the Programme, Standard Works in the sphere of higher education in different subjects fields published in the USSR were to be made available in moderately priced editions for the use of Indian students. As a follow up, a Joint Indo-Soviet Board was constituted with the Secretary of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) as Chairman and Deputy Minister for Higher & Specialised Secondary Education of the USSR as Co-Chairman. The Board consists of ten members, five each from India and Soviet Union, to decide matters of policy regarding the translation, adaptation, publication and distribution of Standard Soviet Educational Works in INDIA. The Board meets periodically to review the progress of the Programme from time to time. The meetings are held alternately in Moscow and Delhi. The last meeting was held in Moscow in June, 1985.

The question of co-authoring/adaptation of books by Indian and Soviet authors has also been considered so as to make the Soviet books more suited to the Indian curricula. Since the writing of new books generally takes about three years, it has been decided that a start may be made by adapting selected Soviet titles to meet the requirements of the Indian University curricula. It has also been decided that the method of adaptation should be decided separately in each case.

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DIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Dec 23, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Soviet Delegation Calls on Planning Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 24, 1987 on the meeting of the Soviet delegation with the Planning Minister, Shri P. Shiv Shanker:

A six-member delegation led by Deputy Chairman, USSR State Commission for International Economic Relations, Dr. I. G. Ivanov, today called on the Minister for Planning & Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri P. Shiv Shanker. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest.

The Planning Minister observed that India and Soviet Union have special friendly relations which are more important than trade relations. He said that the trade between the two countries is

increasing at a rapid pace and we hope to achieve the target of reaching a level of 21/2 times the current volume of trade by 1992.

Dr. Ivanov stressed the need for longterm perspective plan for closer cooperation and coordination between the two countries. He said that so far as Soviet Union is concerned India enjoys the status of a privileged trading partner which is proposed to be maintained in the future. He suggested more frequent exchange of views and ideas between the two partners to keep up the tempo of trade as also to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the peoples of two countries.

DIA USA

Date: Dec 24, 1987

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Protocol on Non-Ferrous Metallurgy Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 18, 1987 on the signing of a protocol on non-ferrous metallurgy between India and Soviet Union:

An Indo-Soviet protocol for co-operation in various areas of non-ferrous metallurgy between the two countries was signed here on December 18, 1987. The protocol was concluded after 5-day talks of the Eighth Meeting of the Working Group on Non-ferrous Metallurgy of Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. The Indian delegation was led by Shri B. K. Rao, Secretary, Department of Mines, while Soviet team was headed by H.E. Mr. I. V. Prokopov, Soviet Deputy Minister for Non-Ferrous Metallurgy.

Both sides discussed the feasibility report prepared jointly by the Soviet and the Indian organisations for construction and operation of bauxite mining complex to be set up in Andhra Pradesh for export of 2.3 million tonnes bauxite per annum to Soviet Union. After discussing various alternatives including the financing package, it was agreed that NALCO and the appropriate Soviet organisation will meet in February, 1988 for continuing negotiations to evolve a mutually acceptable pricing formula and to identify steps that are necessary for ensuring economic viability of the project.

Both India and USSR agreed to continue cooperation for development in the field of gallium, and super purity aluminium and also reviewed the progress of implementation of the project for energy conservation in alumina - calciner at Korba Aluminium Project.

The protocol provides for cooperation between Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., and Soviet organisations in high speed shaft sinking. Programme for cooperation between National Aluminium Company Ltd., and Soviet organisations for aluminium -- silicon alloys production was also discussed.

The Soviet side made available preliminary information on a number of ad -392>

vanced technologies developed in USSR for processing non-ferrous metal ores and concentrates and expressed their willingness to receive and Indian technical team for visit to research institutes and plants in USSR to study these technologies.

The Soviet side also suggested exchange of visits by teams of both sides in copper, lead and zinc production to identify areas for possible cooperation including scope for establishing direct links at enterprise level between the two sides.

Referring to the scientific and technical cooperation, the protocol took note of the progress of the three working programmes for development of representative sampling methods, benefication and development of flotation reagents under implementation jointly by the Indian Bureau of Mines and Soviet organisations. Proposals for training of Indian specialists in USSR in the field of non-ferrous metallurgy were also discussed.

Both sides exchanged suggestions on programmes of cooperation in non-ferrous metallurgy upto the year 2000 and agreed to consider and coordinate these programmes during the next meeting of the Working Group. Referring to the new forms of economic, scientific and technical cooperation it was considered feasible to study the possibilities for establishment of direct links and setting up of joint ventures as well as new forms of cooperation.

A INDIA

Date: Dec 18, 1987

Volume No

UNITED KINGDOM

Indo-British Cooperation in Energy Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 04, 1987 on the Indo-British cooperation in energy sector:

The British Minister for Overseas Development, Mr. Christopher Patten, today met the Minister of Energy, Shri Vasant Sathe and discussed matters of mutual interest in the power and coal sectors. The two Ministers felt that there was a big scope for cooperation between India and the United Kingdom in these sectors.

Shri Sathe said that India had taken up a number of projects in the power and coal sectors with British assistance. India would like to take advantage of latest mining technologies from friendly countries.

He further said that when the projects were undertaken on turnkey basis, the performance of machinery should be ensured. As there was need to cut the cost of infrastructure inputs, projects should be implemented without incurring time and cost over-runs.

Minister of State for Power, Smt. Sushila Rohatgi, who participated in the discussions said that India had given a high priority to energy sector. As such it would require to double its installed capacity in next 15 years or so.

Mr. Patten said that energy sector was of priority in partnership between the two countries. His country would like to enlarge its cooperation with India in this sector.

Shri M. M. Kohli, Secretary (Power), Shri S. Varadan, Secretary (Coal) and Shri Bahadur Chand, Chairman, Central Electricity Authority, participated in the discussions.

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DIA USA

Date: Dec 04, 1987

Volume No

UNITED KINGDOM

British Overseas Development Minister Calls on Shri Tiwari

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 04, 1987 on the meeting of the British Overseas Development Minister with the Union Finance Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari:

The Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari has called for narrowing down of trade gap between India and the UK. Talking to the British Minister for Overseas Development, Mr. Christopher Patten, who called on him, here today, the Finance Minister said that from 1980-81 to 1986-87 Indian exports to the UK grew by 86 per cent from Rs. 394 crore to Rs. 736 crore. During the same period imports from UK went up by 121.8 per cent from Rs. 731 crore to Rs. 1622 crore.

The Finance Minister acknowledged that during 1986, India's overall exports were higher as compared to 1985. There was stable growth in respect of items like cashewnuts, spices, marine projects, tea, rice, chemicals and allied products, the Minister noted.

The British Overseas Development Minister referred to the three year programme 1987-90 for integrated project development and marketing between the two countries. The UK will also help India in setting up hallmarking facilities for gold jewellery in Bombay and Delhi. Containerisation is another area being covered under this programme.

Mr. Christopher Patten, the British Minister who will visit India upto December 13, 1987, will also visit projects like the Fertiliser Education Project, in UP, the Rihand Super Thermal Power Station of NTPC, the Amroli Coal Mines, Urban Development and Primary Education projects in Andhra Pradesh, the Singareni Colliery in Ramagundam and the Zinc Lead Mines and Smelter Project of Hindustan Zinc Ltd., in Rampura Agucha, Rajasthan.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Dec 04, 1987

Volume No

1995

Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs made the following statement regarding the Senate Committee Recommendations on South Asia, on Dec 07, 1987 in Parliament:

Last week the US Congress has considered some actions on South Asia which, if enacted, would have adverse implications for our bilateral relations with the United States.

We would not like to pre-judge the final outcome of the congressional proceedings nor, in normal circumstances, would government have commented on them. Yet the circumstances of congressional action have made it imperative to emphasize that improvement in Indo-US relations requires a better appreciation of India's point of view. Financial flows or technology transfer are not the totality of the relationship nor can they be used as levers to force policy changes upon us. A healthy relationship between two sovereign democracies has to be built on mutual interest, trust and confidence. Devoid of these elements our relationship with the -394>

U.S. cannot retain its present level much less prosper.

India made a commitment many years ago not to develop nuclear weapons. We have kept our word. Our nuclear materials and facilities are dedicated to peaceful uses. We are against both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. But for reasons which we have stated openly and unequivocally, India is not prepared to accept a discriminatory non-proliferation regime. We stand by this position, and nothing will persuade or compel us to change it. It is regrettable that the Senate Committee has thought fit to equate India's peaceful nuclear programme with Pakistan's relentless pursuit of a weapons-oriented programme. We cannot, and will not, accept this distorted view of the reality in our part of the world.

We have conveyed our strong feelings to the US Government at all levels. The Prime Minister has conveyed our concerns to President Reagan. I too have told the US Ambassador that the consequences of the proposed congressional actions should be viewed in the perspective of our bilateral relations and remedial measures should be considered urgently.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, we are now dealing with the recommendations of a Committee of the Senate. We shall await the final outcome. We have noted that President Reagan is very concerned about the South Asia part of the Senate Committee's recommendations. Both India and USA have striven to establish a productive bilateral agenda for the future. We shall formulate our considered response in the light of further developments.

Government would like to assure the House that we will not allow pressures from any direction to alter our basic policies.

A INDIA PAKISTAN

Date: Dec 07, 1987

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES

Indo-US Collaboration in Agriculture

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 07, 1987 on the Indo-U.S. collaboration in agriculture:

The Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri G. S. Dhillon said here today that there was need for active collaboration between India and the United States in the field of agriculture, particularly in the development of dryland farming, water management and underground water resources.

The Minister was responding to the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Orville G. Bentley who is leading the American delegation to the fifth Meeting of the Indo-US Subcommission on Agriculture now in session here. Mr. Bentley called on the Minister this afternoon.

Mr. Bentley said that it was important that cooperation between the two countries continued in agricultural research and extension.

Shri Dhillon referred to the October visit of Prime Minister to the U.S.A. and said that new areas such as cooperative research projects in arid zone agriculture, water management and ground water resources evaluation had been identified. Our emphasis, the Minister said, would be in these areas.

A INDIA

Date: Dec 07, 1987

Volume No

UNITED STATES

Indo-US Science & Technology Initiative -- Joint ReviewIdentifies New Programmes

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 23, 1987 on the joint review of new areas by the Senor Scientific panel(SSP) of India and US Over-View Panel (OVP) on the Indo-US S & T Initiative (STI):

The Senior Scientists Panel (SSP) of India and its counterpart US Over View -395>

Panel (OVP), on the Indo-US S&T Initiative (STI) have jointly reviewed five areas, namely, Agriculture, Biomass, Engineering and Solid State Sciences, Health, and Monsoon. The Indian side was led by Dr. Vasant Gowariker, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, while the US side was led by Prof. W. E. Gordon.

The joint investigations have shown that nearly 20,000 children become blind every year due to Vitamin A deficiency. The scientists all over the world have come to the conclusion that Vitamin A rehydration therapy reduced the risk of blindness in children with measles and diarrhoea, and hence it has found world-wide acceptance.

The Indo-US panel has cleared the deck for new initiatives programmes under STI and recommended that those projects which are to continue, for example, those on leprosy and reproductive physiology, are to be updated to incorporate new contemporary foci. It also recommended termination of those PTI projects which have achieved their goals, or where progress was not satisfactory.

The panels also took note of this year's drought in India and its various aspects: i) Climatic, including the effect of the world's oceans, especially tropical; ii) Hydrological, including groundwater, run-off and water management; iii) Plant Response to water stress especially under rain-fed conditions; and iv) Conservation aspects related to floods, drought and desertification.

Under monsoon research, the panels have recommended a major diagnostic study on the globally interdependent features and conditions, preceding and leading to this year's drought in India. The study would use satellite and conventional data as well as atmospheric and oceanographic data.

Biotechnological research in agriculture is another programme to

be considered. The Molecular Biological aspects of the continuing programme on Nitrogen Fixation are also to receive enhanced attention along with new facets dealing with the basis of drought tolerance in rain-fed crops, and the Plant Factor in the effectiveness of Nitrogen Fixation. Significance has been attached to exploring and taking up new projects on Novel Processing Techniques including engineering ceramics.

In view of the fruitful experience with the STI process and mechanisms, the panels have recommended retention and development of key elements characterizing STI. Both panels agreed that the bilateral STI mechanisms needed consolidation, development, and reassertion in the coming years to launch new endeavours. -396>

A INDIA PERU

Date: Dec 23, 1987