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ALGERIA

Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Calls on Shri P. Shiv Shanker

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 29, 1988 on Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister's Call on Shri P. Shiv Shanker, Minister of Planning and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission an economic cooperation between India and Algeria:

A 3-member delegation led by the Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi, today called on the Minister for Planning and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri P. Shiv Shanker. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest and exchanged views on bilateral relations particularly in respect of close economic cooperation.

Shri P. Shiv Shanker said that India was looking forward to the proposed.visit of the Algerian President to this country. The two leaders expressed satisfaction over traditionally close friendship between the two countries and growing economic ties. They also discussed recent trends in economic development and expressed the hope that the forthcoming meetings of the Joint

Economic Commission of the two countries would further strengthen these ties.

GERIA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 29, 1988

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ALGERIA

Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Calls on Shri Narayan DattTiwari

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 29, 1988 on Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister's call on Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, Finance Minister, on Indo-Algerian trade cooperation:

The Algerian Foreign Minister, Dr. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, called on the Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, in New Delhi on January 29, 1988.

The Finance Minister, in his meeting with Dr. Ibrahimi felt that the level of trade between India and Algeria is not commensurate with the trade potential of both the countries as well as the goodwill and excellent relations that exist between them. India's share in the overall trade of Algeria is hardly .01 per cent.

Shri Tiwari said that India is capable to meet all the requirements of Algeria in all the categories of their imports - industrial machinery, consumer durables as well as consumer goods. India has also developed adequate capacity to assist Algeria in the setting up of projects in various fields and can also offer consultancy services. He made special mention of a track renewal agreement signed by IRCON with SNTF on Thenia-el Essman Sector in Algeria, Second Blanket Factory in Algeria by M/s Star Industrial and Textile Enterprises, Silk Mill Management Contract associated with the National Industrial Development Corporation and Star Industrial and Textile Enterprises Ltd., Tebassa Fertilizer Project, Oberoi's offer for Hotel Management Contract in Algeria and some smaller Hydro Projects.
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GERIA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 29, 1988

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CANADA

Indo-Canadian Cooperation in Urban Transport Discussed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 28, 1988 on Indo-Canadian Cooperation in urban transport:

India and Canada have expressed their desire to identify areas of cooperation and coordination in the field of urban transport and other related issues.

A Ministerial-level meeting was held here today between the visiting Canadian delegation headed by Mr. John C. Crosbie, Minister of Transport of Canada and the Indian side led by Smt. Mohsina kidwai, Union Minister of Urban Development.

The Canadian Minister offered to participate in India's efforts to expand its urban transport system and said that they would look forward to long-term association in this field and also in regard to having joint ventures and transfer of technology. He said that his country would be happy to organise a visit by an Indian delegation to Canada to assess the system of transportation and related technologies and suggest modalities for mutual cooperation.

Smt. Kidwai referred to various measures taken to improve and expand the transport system in this country and said that a Task Force set up by the Government to evaluate different modes of mass rapid transit system for urban transport in Delhi had recommended that the two systems that would meet the requirements of the city were the conventional rail based rapid transit system (LRT) and the magnetic levitation system based on permanent magnets (M-Bahn System). She said that her Ministry was looking after the specific subject of integrated planning and coordination of the city and metropolitan transport and it proposed to evolve a consortium funding approach in dealing with the development of transport system at the State and city level.

Smt. Kidwai said she would welcome any suggestion and cooperation in solving the problem of environmental pollution caused by massive use of buses and other fuel-consuming urban transport modes.

The Canadian side appreciated the need or integrated planning in transport sector in India and said that they were prepared to provide any assistance in introducing mass rapid transit system in Delhi and other cities.

NADA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 28, 1988

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CANADA

India and Canada Discuss Cooperation in Civil Aviation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 29, 1988 on Indo-Canadian Cooperation in Civil Aviation:

India and Canada today exchanged views on co-operation between the two countries in the field of Civil Aviation when Mr. John Crosbie, the Canadian Minister of Transport, met Shri Jagdish Tytler, Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism. The. Canadian Minister of Transport is presently leading a high-level delegation to India for discussions in the field of transportation. The meeting was also attended by Shri S. K. Misra, Secretary, Ministries of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

During half an hour long discussions, the two leaders exchanged views on Canada's offer of a 50 seater aircraft for possible use by Vayudoot, flight simulator for Indian Airlines, the air-services agreement between India and Canada and co-
<pg-02>

operation in the field of airport security. Shri Tytler assured the visiting dignitory that Canada's offer of an aircraft for possible use by Vayudoot would be given fullest consideration while taking the decision on the subject. He suggested that officials of the two countries should meet to work-out any impediments in the functioning of air-services between the two countries.

NADA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 29, 1988

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CUBA

Independence Day of Cuba

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1988 on the messages of greetings from the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs on the occasion of Independence Day of Cuba:

President Shri R. Venkataraman, Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro have sent messages to His Excellency Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State and Government, Republic of Cuba on the Independence Day of Cuba.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In his message, the President has said: "On the happy occasion of the National Day of Cuba I have great pleasure in extending to Your Excellency and to the Government and people of Cuba my sincere congratulations and best wishes. I am confident that the tradition of friendly relations between our two countries and peoples will be further enriched in the years to come."

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi in his message has said: "On the happy occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Cuba, I send my warm felicitations to Your Excellency and to the people of Cuba.

The traditional friendship between our two countries has grown and diversified in recent years. I am sure that these links will be further strengthened in the years ahead.

My best wishes for Your Excellency's personal health and wellbeing and for the happiness and prosperity of the friendly people of Cuba."

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS' MESSAGE

The Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro has sent message to H.E. Isiddro Malmierca Peooi, Minister for External Relations. He said: "On the occasion of the National Day of Cuba, please accept my congratulations and best wishes for Your Excellency's personal wellbeing and for the continued

prosperity of the friendly people of Cuba.

It is with particular pleasure that r cherish the memories of my recent visit to your great country and the warm hospitality so kindly extended by you.

I am confident that the friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead."
<pg-03>

BA INDIA

Date : Jan 11, 1988

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DENMARK

Denmark to Provide Rs. 2.13 Crore for Farm Women's Training

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 06, 1988 on Danish assistance for Farm Women's Training:

Denmark is to provide assistance of Rs. 2.13 crore for a project to improve skills of farm women in Orissa.

The project 'Orissa Farm Women Training' will operate in Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Purl and Ganjam districts.

The project aims at improving agricultural and horticultural skills of farm women, maximising utilisation of compound and backyard lands and strengthening teaching capacity of lady training, officers and demonstrators.

The project is expected to increase agricultural production and minimise loss of crops and produce through upgradation of skills of farm women.

NMARK INDIA

Date : Jan 06, 1988

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DISARMAMENT

Nuclear Disarmament - Prime Minister's Replies to Questions byMoscow News"

The following are the replies given by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi to the questions posed by "Moscow News" on January Jan 11, 1988:

QUESTION: What's your assessment of the outcome of the Soviet-American Summit meeting in Washington?

ANSWER: It is an event of historic significance. This is the first time that we have an agreement actually to reduce nuclear weapons and in fact eliminate an entire category of such weapons. Though the elimination of Intermediate Range Land Based Missiles touches only around 4% of the nuclear arsenal of the USA and USSR, it has shown that it is possible to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race and to fashion a world free from the fear of extinction. Thanks to the summit, this is no longer a utopian vision but a tangible possibility.

QUESTION : What are, in your opinion, the main obstacles On the way to the elimination of nuclear forces, and what could the USSR and USA do to remove those obstacles?

ANSWER: Scientific ingenuity untempered by humanism has led us to fashion instruments of our own destruction. While we live in the nuclear age, our thinking remains grounded in the outmode concepts of balance of power and spheres of influence. We need to realise that nuclear weapons have fundamentally altered the parameters. We must learn to co-exist peacefully or else we are doomed to perish together. A supreme exercise of the human will is called for to contain the use of violence.

In concrete terms we feel that the Soviet Union and the USA must now rapidly move on to conclude an agreement
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to reduce their strategic arms by 50 per cent and prohibit the development of space weapons. At the same time, there should be an agreement not to upgrade nuclear technology or produce new categories of nuclear weapons. For instance, the entire purpose of the INF agreement would be defeated if the number of sea-based and bomber-based intermediate range weapons are increased, even as intermediate range land based missiles are eliminated. The 50 per cent reduction should be followed by steps leading to further

reductions not only in the nuclear arsenals of the USA and USSR but also encompassing the arsenals of the three other nuclear-weapons powers until all nuclear weapons have been eliminated.

QUESTION: What can be, in your opinion, the real contribution of India to the cause of nuclear disarmament?

ANSWER: We have consciously chosen not to make nuclear weapons. Even though we are non-nuclear, our people could become the potential victims of a nuclear holocaust. The nature of nuclear war is such that there are no bystanders beyond the zone combat. We have, therefore, actively campaigned for nuclear disarmament in the United Nations and the Non-aligned Movement and through the Six-Nation Peace Initiative. This is an issue of the utmost priority to us for on it depends not only our future but the future of humanity.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 11, 1988

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DISARMAMENT

Opening Session of Six-Nation Peace Initiative - PrimeMinister's Speech

The following is the text of the speech of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the opening session of the Six-Nation Five-Continent Peace Initiative on Jan 21, 1988 at Stockholm:

We have come together in the New Year, a year which begins with a breath of hope for the survival of life upon our planet. We are gathered in a city known for its love of peace and harmony. In this bracing winter afternoon, Stockholm seems suffused with the freshness of a new stirring in the air. We thank Prime Minister Carlsson and the friendly people of Sweden for giving us an opportunity in this beautiful city to reflect upon the distance we have covered and the horizons that lie ahead. As Dag Hammarskjold. said:

"Only he who keeps his eye fixed on the horizon will find his right road."

When Olof Palme, Indira Gandhi and our distinguished colleagues in the Six-Nation Five-Continent Peace Initiative issued their first Appeal in May 1984, the dialogue between the nuclear powers

had collapsed into accusations of ill faith and mutual recrimination. When we met in New Delhi three years ago, the dialogue had just resumed, At Ixtapa, there was a glimmer of hope. Now, we have a treaty on the complete elimination of a category of nuclear missiles.

Something of the credit for this must go to the good sense of ordinary people, whose hopes and aspirations we have sought to articulate. Millions across the globe, including those in the nuclear weapon States and the military alliances, have instinctively perceived the incompatibility between nuclear confrontation and lasting peace. The Six-Nation Five-Continent Peace Initiative has given voice to their perceptions.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

We sincerely congratulate General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan on their vision and on the sensitivity they have shown to the need to dismantle and destroy nuclear weapon systems. The INF Treaty is a historic beginning - historic ' certainly, but, equally certainly, just a beginning. . There can be no relapsing into the comfortable complacency of coexisting with the instruments of our own destruction.
<pg-05>

What has been achieved will prove a Pyrrhic victory unless it leads irreversibly and without interruption to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The process may involve the phased reduction of levels of nuclear weaponry. But the goal must remain the dismantling of all nuclear arsenals, as the precursor- to general and complete disarmament.

Warheads have been uncoupled from missiles in one class of nuclear weapons. This is not enough. Warheads must be eliminated. Equally, the pursuit of peace must be uncoupled from strategies of nuclear deterrence, and such strategies must be universally repudiated. The militarization of international relations must end. The international order must be based on peaceful coexistence. We have to have a world free of nuclear weapons. Indeed, eventually, we have to have a world free of all weapons.

It is disturbing that, in certain quarters, there is a strident assertion that disarmament is not only utopian but dangerous. We must change the thinking of establishments reared in the theology of nuclear deterrence. They argue that nuclear weapons keep the peace. This is false. If nuclear weapons exist, they will one day be used, as they were in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as all weapons have been throughout history. And, on that last day, it will make little difference whether their use was by design or by accident. The nuclear debris will bury all hopes of reprieve. There will be no going back, no survival, none to tell the tale. There will be no lessons to be drawn for the future for there will be no future.

Therefore, even as we congratulate the United States and the Soviet Union, we seek assurance that the treaty they have signed in Washington constitutes the commencement of a time-bound process of nuclear disarmament. What has been covered so far is just a tiny fraction of the awesome armouries of global annihilation - 97% remains. Only the United States and the Soviet Union have initiated this small step.

This small step must lead to many more. The other three nuclear weapon powers must be inducted into the process. The process of global nuclear disarmament must be reinforced by those countries which are able to cross the threshold of not doing so. There must be no assistance, surreptitious or overt, to those trying to acquire nuclear weapons.

There must be no adding of new dimensions to nuclear weaponry. The Chimera of an impenetrable shield in space must be abandoned. There is no "ultimate defence" that can be devised by technology. The search for technological answers thwarts the real search for durable peace. There is no technological solution to the problems of war and peace. It is in the human mind that the defences for peace are built. Human destiny cannot be mortgaged to a machine.

All qualitative improvements in nuclear weapons must be forgone so that reductions in stockpiles are not offset by weapons of greater destructive power, more accurate and even more swift. Hence the ineluctable need for an immediate moratorium on all nuclear tests, to set the stage for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty,

Another great danger arises from new weapons systems and subtle refinements in sophisticated armaments. We should cry halt to this arms race in emerging technologies. The race is on in conventional and nuclear weapons. It is also insiduously penetrating totally new areas. We should identify these technological developments, debar their military applications, and prevent the emergence of new ways of dealing death,

What we need to end is the option of unleashing global devastation or holding the survival of humanity to ransom. We must protect humanity as much from the known dangers of extinction as from those that are still unknown.

There must also be radical reductions in conventional armaments. The process of conventional disarmament should begin where the bulk of such arms is concentrated and extend to other regions of the world, The ultimate objective should be general and complete disarmament.
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What we seek is not a marginal adjustment in the machinery of nuclear confrontation, nor a partial or temporary scaling down of

the arms race. What we seek is an effective structure of international security, a structure that discards obsolete mindsets, dangerous delusions, and destructive strategic doctrines. Distant though the prospect of a nuclear-free world might seem, ft is a prospect. We must start giving thought now to the international order, we would like to see prevail in a world which is rid of nuclear weapons. We have to revert to first principles: to the principles of non-violence and tolerance, of compassion and understanding - of one world for one humanity. Coercion must give way to reason. Spheres of influence and special privileges must yield to a true democracy of nations. The cornering of resources for weaponry must be transmuted into the sharing of resources for global development. The pursuit of dominance must be replaced by coexistence and cooperation.

EDEN USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA JAPAN

Date : Jan 21, 1988

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DISARMAMENT

The Stockholm Declaration

The following is the text of the Stockholm Declaration which has been formally adopted at the open meeting of the Six-Nation Initiative on Jan 21, 1988:

During the last few decades, a handful of nations have acquired the capability of destroying not only one another but all others as well. Their war machines could terminate civilization and all life on Earth.

No nation has the right to use such instruments of war. And what thus is morally wrong should also be explicitly prohibited by international law through a binding international agreement.

All states have the responsibility to uphold the rule of law in international relations. The respect for its basic principles is a fundamental pre-requisite, for creating a just and stable world order and for making disarmament possible.

These principles are being trampled upon at this very moment. International disputes are more and more dealt with through resort to force. The dangerous delusion that might is right is, particularly in the nuclear age, one of the most threatening

features of our world.

Crucial decisions to prevent the ultimate catastrophe lie with those who possess nuclear weapons. It is their responsibility to live up to the objective of eliminating all of them. But the rest of us, the non-nuclear weapon states, have a legitimate interest in the abolition of these awesome weapons. We demand it. We owe it not only to ourselves, but also to future generations. The fate of weapon systems which can spread death and destruction regardless of national borders must not be left in the hands of only a few states.

When the Six Nation Initiative was launched, more than three years ago, prospects for disarmament looked grim. Virtually all negotiations were at a standstill. Since then, we have welcomed the resumption of the dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States. The signing in Washington on December 8 of the INF Treaty can be seen as a historic first step. It shows that given political will all obstacles can be removed, including verification which ostensibly has been the principal obstacle for so long. Indeed, the Treaty's provisions on verification provide useful guidelines for future agreements. But much more remains to be done. The arms race has not even been halted, let alone reversed. New nuclear weapons are still being constructed and tested. The INF Treaty will not reduce the total number of nuclear weapons by more than a few percent. The Treaty is, however, significant evidence that a reversal is possible. No time must now be lost before
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more far-reaching nuclear disarmament agreements are achieved.

Even after the implementation of the INF Treaty, thousands of tactical nuclear weapons will still remain in Europe and elsewhere. In fact, these weapons could actually be the ones to trigger a nuclear holocaust.

We urge that also these tactical nuclear weapons be completely abolished, without delay. In this connection, the need for substantial reductions in conventional forces must also be considered on a priority basis.

The strategic nuclear weapons pose a mortal threat all over the world. They form the core of the present overkill capacity. It is our firm conviction that they must be totally abolished before we witness a catastrophe which might occur even by mistake.

The agreed principle of 50 per cent reductions in the strategic arsenals of each superpower must be honoured. We urge that a treaty on such reductions be signed by the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union in the first half of 1988. Such a treaty would constitute a decisive step towards the ultimate elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Military competition must not be introduced into new fields. Space belongs to us all, and the number of countries growing more and more dependent on the benefits of the peaceful utilization of outer space is increasing. It must not be used for destructive purposes.

There is still time to prevent an arms race in space. We call on the parties to the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty to strictly abide by that Treaty. We also reiterate our call for a complete banning of antisatellite weapons. Specifically, and as an interim measure, we propose an agreement banning the testing of such weapons.

Agreements to reduce existing nuclear arsenals must be backed up by decisive measures to check the unbridled development of new generations of ever more dreadful and sopnisticated nuclear weapons. The single most effective measure would be to end all nuclear weapon tests, by all states. Such a step would be of crucial importance not only for achieving this objective, but also for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to countries which have so far refrained from acquiring them.

The United States and the Soviet Union have started bilateral negotiations on gradually establishing lower limits on nuclear tests. Any agreement that leaves room for continued testing would not be acceptable. We stress once again that a comprehensive test ban is already long overdue. Pending that, we reiterate our call for an immediate suspension of all nuclear testing, by all states.

An effective test ban must be universally observed. This requires multilateral negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament. We, as representatives of non-nuclear weapon states, are ready to contribute in working towards a speedy adoption of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Our offer to assist in the monitoring of any halt in nuclear testing still stands In this connection, our group of experts will shortly convene in Sweden a conference with wide international participation to take stock of global efforts so far undertaken to develop the most efficient test ban verification measures.

The Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, should be strengthened and made a more effective instrument for achieving nuclear disarmament and for the elimination of all other weapons of mass destruction. A convention for the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons should be urgently concluded. It would also provide an example for future efforts in the multilateral field.

Verification of compliance with disarmament agreements is an

issue of
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concern to all nations. We all want to be certain that agreements to destroy weapons, or to refrain from their development, are strictly complied with. We therefore, see a strong need for international verification in the field of disarmament.

To that end, we recognise the need for the establishment of an integrated multilateral verification systems within the United Nations as an integral part of a strengthened multilateral framework required to ensure peace and security during the process of disarmament as well as in a nuclear weapon free world. Our six countries will jointly propose at the United Nations Sessions on disarmament this year that the United Nations promotes the establishment of such a system.

The total abolition of nuclear weapons, and the rapid movements towards that end, is a fundamental and moral imperative for humankind without qualification by reference to any other struggle for justice and development in the world. Even so, it is impossible to consider any questions relating to disarmament without being appalled by the waste of human and material resources now being devoted to weapons of death and mass destruction.

The current instability in the world economy has deeply affected the poorest and most indebted countries. The arms race, particularly between the superpowers, greatly contributes to the worsening of the situation.

The first ever UN Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development took place in New York last year. It reached an understanding on the complex relationship between disarmament, development and security, and brought non-military threats to security to the forefront of international concern.

The world's resources are finite. We have to choose. The sufficient manufacture of ploughshares calls for a reduction in the manufacture of swords.

As we have always maintained, the issue of nuclear disarmament is of concern to all nations. We have been greatly encouraged by the support which we have received from other non-nuclear weapon states, from parliaments and non-governmental organisations, from peace movements and individuals throughout the world. We look forward to their continued support.

Mutual confidence and disarmament should replace mistrust and overarmament as a prevailing pattern of 'International relations. Recent developments give rise to hope. It is now of utmost importance that the opportunity be utilised to halt and decisively reverse the arms race. Creating a nuclear weapon-free

and non-violent world calls for even greater imagination, energy and determination.

The nuclear threat remains real. Our world order is still built on the edge of the nuclear abyas. As we move into the last decade of the twentieth century, the goal must remain not only to avert the holocaust, but ultimately to eliminate all nuclear weapons.

Each and everyone can and must play a part in safeguarding our survival, strengthening our security and creating the conditions for a life in dignity.

We urge the nuclear weapon states to fulfil their obligation to pursue the process of nuclear disarmament.

We, on our part, pledge to do all we can to make that process irreversible.
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EDEN USA RUSSIA

Date : Jan 21, 1988

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

EEC Agrees to Step up Cotton Yarn Imports from India

The following is the text of a press "release issued in New Delhi on Jan 19, 1988 on import of cotton yarn by EEC:

The European Economic Community (EEC) has agreed to import 30,000 tonnes of cotton yarn annually from India following the recent official level consultations between India and the EEC in Brussels. This is substantially higher than the entitlement under the 5 year Indo-EEC bilateral Textile Agreement valid upto 1991. It is also three times more than the provisional limit of 11,000 tonnes fixed by the Community for India earlier and fully safeguards the requirements under the Multifibre Arrangements (MFA). It is estimated that the higher entitlement agreed now will open up export possibility of Rs. 120 crores worth of cotton yarn annually as against the level of Rs. 24 crores in 1986.

The Community has agreed to distribute the annual limit of 30,000 tonnes among the EEC member countries according to the pattern of trade flows as against the usual burden sharing formula which

would have created problems of utilisation. The member states are the Federal Republic of Germany ((FRG), France, Italy, Banelux, UK, Ireland, Denmark, Greece, Spain and Portugal.

Further, for the period 18th November to 31st December, 1987 a limitation of 3,432 tonnes of cotton yarn will also be allocated among the different regions of the Community. It has also been agreed that should difficulties arise in respect of the operation of the above limits for the period November 18 to December 31, 1987 the two sides will consult each other with a view to finding appropriate and mutually acceptable solutions within the provision of the bilateral agreement.

The need for consultations arose because the EEC had expressed concern over the sudden surge in exports of cotton yarn from India in 1987 and imposed unilateral provisional limits since cotton yarn is classified as a sensitive item. Diplomatic, initiative was taken by the Textile Minister, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha and the Commerce Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari to resolve the issue through consultations. The official delegation at the recent 3-day consultations (January 11-13) was led by Dr. J. K. Bagchi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and on the EEC, side, by Mr. Hoffman, Chief Negotiator for the Community. India has reiterated her concern over the adverse balance of trade with the EEC and the need to redress this imbalance in view of the large volume of India's imports from the Community, particularly of machinery and equipment required for the technological upgradation of the industry.

DIA BELGIUM USA FRANCE GERMANY ITALY DENMARK GREECE IRELAND PORTUGAL SPAIN UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jan 19, 1988

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FRANCE

Indo-French Cooperation in Coal Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 02, 1988 on Indo-French Cooperation in Coal sector: India and France have agreed to strengthen their cooperation in coal sector.

This was agreed to at the end of two-day talks of the Indo-French Working Group on Coal which identified new areas of further

cooperation and reviewed the progress of existing coal projects undertaken with French assistance.
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The Coal Secretary, Shri S. Varadan, and the French Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, Mr. Pierre Francois Couture, signed the protocol.

Among the coal projects being undertaken with French assistance are Chora, Kottadih, Parasea in Raniganj coalfields' Ananta and Nandira in Talcher coalfields and GDK-10 of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.

The Indian side has proposed a new project in Wardha Coalfields to be taken up with the French assistance and they have agreed to examine the proposal.

Referring to the formidable task of achieving coal production of over 400 million tonnes in the country by the year 2000 A.D., Shri Varadan underlined the significance attached by India to the induction of new technologies, efficient project implementation and increase in productivity so as to ensure cost effective capital investments in this crucial sector. Referring to the large potential for French contribution to the development of Indian coal mines, Mr. Couture fully shared the need for expeditious action in respect of the identified projects.

ANCE INDIA USA

Date : Jan 02, 1988

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1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Prime Minister's Republic Day Message

The following is the text of Prime Minister's message on the occasion of the Republic Day 1988:

Since its tryst with destiny, India has built a society which is absed on the principles of democracy, justice and equality and which gives primacy to the people. Our laws have done away with ancient social disabilities and are providing the fullest opportunities to the people of all religions, castes and classes to secure their advance and development. We are using science and modern technology to overcome economic backwardness. At the same

time we are intent on preserving and deepening our cultural and spiritual roots.

Republic Day provides an occasion for Indian associations abroad to recall the glory of India's history and heritage, as well as to take stock of our achievements and our challenges. We have in 40 years developed the strength to solve our problems. And we seek to do this in cooperation with other countries, making our own contribution to the building of a friendlier and more peaceful world.

On Republic Day 1988 1 send my good wishes to Indians and people of Indian origin abroad as well as to all friends of India.

DIA USA

Date : Jan 02, 1988

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HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Prime Minister's Tribute to Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan

The following is the text of Prime Minister's message on the death of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan:

The last of the towering giants of our Freedom Movement has gone. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was one of the tallest of Mahatma Gandhi's associates. He was respected and loved for his uncompromising integrity, courage and sacrifice. Rugged as the mountains where he was born, Badshah Khan became a byword for his steadfast devotion to nonviolence. The transformation of the fiery Pathans into
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Khudai Khidmatgars under his leadership is a great saga in the history of the human spirit.

Badshah Khan's message of communal harmony and brotherhood and his example of uprightness will remain an inspiration to the People of the subcontinent for generations to come. We in India feel specially touched that he was so recently in our midst.

I offer my sympathy and condolences to Badshah Khan's family and followers.

DIA

Date : Jan 02, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Increase in Overseas Employment

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 08, 1988 on increase in overseas employment:

There has been seven per cent increase in the number of workers going to foreign countries for employment during 1987. The number of Indian workers granted emigration clearance reached to 1.22 lakhs, as against 1.14 lakhs in 1986.

The trend of decline in demand since 1982 has been reversed in 1987 with the deployment of skilled, highly skilled and technically trained manpower. They are going in large numbers for operations and maintenance of infrastructures already developed in the Middle-East.

DIA

Date : Jan 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

USSR Officers in NDC Course

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 04, 1988 on foreign attendance in NDC Course:

Sixtyfive officers from the All India services, including 17 from friendly foreign countries are attending the 28th course of the National Defence College which began here today. For the first time officers from USSR are also attending the course.

A INDIA

Date : Jan 04, 1988

Volume No

1995

IRAQ

Al-Muthanna Railway Project in Iraq Completed Ahead of Schedule- Another Landmark by IRCON

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 06, 1988 on completion of Al-Muthanna Railway project by IRCON:

The Al-Muthanna Railway Project in Iraq costing Rs. 133 crores has been completed by the Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd. (IRCON), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, ahead of schedule.

The Al-Muthanna Project covers the entire spectrum of railway construction, a High Speed Standard Gauge track with a number of bridges, Signalling & Telecommunication Works, a big Housing Complex with all ancillary facilities.

This Project was awarded to IRCON by the Government of Iraq in appreciation of the high quality of work executed in the completion of Rs. 400 crores Samawa Railway Project handled by IRCON earlier. The Al-Muthanna Project has been completed ahead of schedule despite war conditions.
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AQ INDIA USA

Date : Jan 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Banquet in Honour of Italian Premier - Shri Rajiv Gandhi'sSpeech

The following is the text of the speech made by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the banquet hosted by him in honour of H.E. Mr. Giovanni Goria, President of the Council of Ministers of Italy on Jan 08, 1988:

We are delighted to have you and Signora Goria with us. The people of India join me in extending a warm welcome to both of you.

Italy and India have known each other for centuries. Every few months, new evidence comes to light of the links that existed between ancient Rome and India - a statue, a coin, a cask. The interaction between our two countries was an interaction between two of the great creative civilizations of the world, for Italy is to Europe very much as India is to Asia: a fount of ideas, values and schools of thought, a great centre of religion, art and culture.

Through history, the cities and kingdoms of Italy have been the abode of some of the world's greatest painting and architecture, poetry and music. Yours has been a land of profound intellectual exploration and path-breaking political concepts. Italy has had a long tradition of maritime adventure and geographical discovery. Most notably, Italy has been the home of many advances in modern science. No wonder one of your poets described your country as:

"The garden of the world, the home of all that Art and Nature can decree."

It was in Italy that the Renaissance arose, propelling all of Europe and humankind itself into the modern age.

Yet, after the Roman Empire waned, Italy remained fragmented. It took patriots of the nettle of Mazzini, Garibaldi and Cavour to unite the Italian people into one State. Their trials and tribulations, their profoud love of country, and their spirit of self-sacrifice became an inspiration to other peoples, like the people of India, striving for freedom, unity and self-government. My grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, has described how he felt when, as a schoolboy, he read of Garibaldi's feats:

"Visions of similar deeds in India came before me, of a gallant fight for freedom, and in my mind India and Italy got strangely mixed together."

India attained independence forty years ago. Free India secured the integration into one united country of the hundreds of political fragments into which we had been earlier divided. Freedom enabled us to undertake several transformations at once - the political, the economic and the technological.

We owe it to Mahatma Gandhi that our freedom was won through non-

violence and our long struggle did not leave behind any rancour or bitterness or hate. We owe it to Jawaharlal Nehru that we have built institutions of participatory democracy to usher in the processes of economic and social change. And we owe it to the ancient traditions of modern India that we have learnt to use our remarkable diversity to strengthen our unity.

Writing about Italy a few decades ago, the poet W.H. Auden wondered whether there was any other country in Europe where the character of the people seemed so little affected by political and technological change. Post-war Italy has been one of the great economic success stories. You have risen to somewhere near the top of the league of industrialised nations. And, all the while, you have continued to give the world artistes, inventors, designers and film-makers who set the trend for other nations.

India too confounds its critics and surprises its friends. The same Indian
<pg-13>

peasant who was disparaged for his sloth and lack of enterprise, has been responsible for tripling the nation's food output in the space of a mere generation. A land pictured as the home of fakirs laying on beds of nails has set up its own nuclear power stations and sent indigenously-built satellites into space.

India's Non-alignment derives from the three cardinal principles of our civilization: truth, non-violence and the concept of one humanity. Reborn as an independent nation in a world which has just entered the nuclear age, our leaders quickly understood that in this new age there was no place for barren confrontation and the pursuit of dominance. There had to be peaceful coexistence among different economic and social systems. Initially, theirs was a lonely voice, derided and even denigrated. Now it has become the language of two-thirds of the international community represented in the Non-aligned Movement. The spread of its influence is even greater because it has begun to leave an impress upon the minds of those who belong to military alliances. With the rest of the world, India hails the Agreement signed recently in Washington to eliminate a whole class of nuclear weapons. We hope that this will be the first step in a steady journey towards general and complete disarmament, beginning with nuclear disarmament.

We must also promote cooperation for development. This is as much in the interest of those who are developed as of those in the path of development because accelerated growth in the developing countries will only assure greater stability in the economies of the industrialised countries. The logic of peaceful coexistence on this planet must embrace cooperation for development.

Signor Presidente, this is the first ever State visit to India by a head of the Italian Government. We hope that despite the

brevity of your stay, we will be able to give you a glimpse of both our old achievements and our new endeavours. You will see how genuine is our desire for friendship and all-round cooperation with Italy. There is scope for extensive interaction in the economic and technical fields for our mutual benefit. There is also much scope for intensifying and deepening our cultural and intellectual exchanges,

Ladies and Gentlemen-, may I request you to raise your glasses to the health and success of our distinguished guest, Signor Giovanni Goria, President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Italy; to the health of Signora Goria; and to growing friendship and cooperation between Italy and India.

ALY USA INDIA OMAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jan 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Indo-Italian Collaboration in Fertilisers - Shri Prabhu Callson Italian Prime Minster

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 09, 1988 on Indo-Italian Collaboration in fertilizers:

The Minister of State for Fertilisers, Shri R. Prabhu, today had a 25 minute meeting with the Italian Prime Minister, Mr. Giovanni Goria at Rashtrapati Bhavan when he called on him.

Shri Prabhu discussed with the visiting Prime Minister, general aspects of the cooperation between India and Italy in the field of fertilisers.

Italy has aided in the setting up of fertilisers plants in India right from 1958 when the first plant was set up in Sindri. The newer plants set up with the Italian technology at Trombay V, Phulpur, GNFC and the gas based plants at Thal and Hazira are working well with high capacity utilisation and minimum break downs.

Three more plants with the same Italian technology, coming up along the HBJ pipeline at Vijaipur, Aonla and Jagdishpur, have been completed on time without any cost over-runs.
<pg-14>

Italy has also extended financial assistance in the form of grants, soft loans and export credits. The plant at Jagdishpur has Italian financial assistance in the form of Govt. loans and buyers' credit to the tune of $ 100 million which has been used for imported equipment.

FERTILIZER PLANTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

The possibility of setting up fertilisers plants in third countries, specially in the middle-east where gas is available at cheaper prices was also discussed. All these aspects were explained in detail to the Italian Prime Minister by Shri R. Prabhu.

The Italian Prime Minister was pleased to know that India was happy with the Italian technology used specially in the newer plants. He was also pleased with the idea of setting up projects in third countries with the collaboration of the two Governments. He also felt that in a country like India, which is basically an agricultural economy, the field of fertilisers and food stuffs was very important.

ALY INDIA USA

Date : Jan 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

ITALY

India and Italy Sign Memorandum of Understanding onConcessional Credit and Technical Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 09, 1988 on the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Italy on concessional credit and technical cooperation:
'

Three Memoranda of Understanding were signed in New Delhi on January 9, 1988 between the Governments of India and Italy.

The first Memorandum of Understanding pertains to an offer of US$ 250 million of credit at concessional terms in the energy sector. It was signed between Finance Secretary Shri S. Venkitaramanan and His Excellency Rineri Paulucci di Calboli, Ambassador of Italy. The other two Memoranda of Understanding pertain to technical cooperation in setting up the Maintenance Centre at the Regional Engineering College at Srinagar and to the grant portion

of the contract for supply of boilers to the Farakka Super Thermal Power Project of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). These Memoranda were signed by Shri Kamlesh Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance with His Excellency the Ambassador of Italy.

The Memoranda of Understanding were signed in the presence of Mr. Giulio Andreotti, Foreign Minister of the Government of Italy and Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

ALY INDIA USA

Date : Jan 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Indo-Italian Joint Ventures Discussed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 08, 1988 on Indo-Italian joint ventures:

Possibilities of further promoting the financial cooperation between India and Italy were discussed at length when Mr. Piero Barucci, President, Association of Italian Banks called on the Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, here today. Speaking at the occasion Shri Tiwari emphasised the need for increasing the tempo of cooperation, so that the scope could be enlarged earlier.

Shri Tiwari also discussed with Mr. Piero Barucci, the promotion of joint ventures and support to financial institutions.

Prior to the meeting a briefing on the Indian banking system was given to Mr. Barucci by Shri V. P. Sahni, Additional Secretary, Department of Banking.
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ALY USA INDIA

Date : Jan 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Review of India-Japan Cultural Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 15, 1988 on Indo-Japan cultural ties:

The India Japan Mixed Commission for Projects in the field of Art and Culture have reiterated the desire to strengthen their effort in conservation of cultural property. This was announced in the two-day meeting of the Commission which concluded in New Delhi on January 15, 1988. The Japanese delegation was led by Mr. Takashi Tajima, Director General, Cultural Affairs Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Japan. Shri Man Mohan Singh, Joint Secretary led the Indian delegation. An agreement to this effect was signed here today.

The Commission reviewed in detail the various exchanges that have taken place between the two countries in the field of sports including youth programmes, art and culture, audio-visual activities and also exchange of persons and Japanese studies in India. It was noted with satisfaction that these exchanges have led to greater appreciation of each other's cultural traditions. Both sides expressed the belief that events like the Japan Month in India and the Festival of India in Japan will lead to further strengthening of the cultural ties.

The Japanese side assured that ongoing programmes such as award of scholarships, cultural grant aid for cultural projects will be continued in future. Certain specific areas were identified for future collaboration such as preparation of Hindi-Japanese billingual dictionaries, exchange of art publications and reproductions, exchange of performing artists, art exhibitions, collaboration between radio and TV organisations. The Japanese side agreed to explore the possibility of assisting India in the development of Winter sports by sending experts. The Japanese agreed to consider supply of information to India on their educational system, text books and curriculum and audio-visual material.

The Commission will meet next at Tokyo towards the end of 1990 to take stock of the past activities and to plan future programmes.

PAN INDIA USA

Date : Jan 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Mauritius Keen to Expand Economic Ties

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi On Jan 08, 1988 on economic ties between India and Mauritius:

The Minister of Trade and Shipping of Mauritius, Mr. D. Gungah, met the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, here today to discuss possibilities of enhancing economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. The Mauritius Minister referred to the existing opportunities for joint ventures and investment in Mauritius and conveyed his Government's keenness to promote the establishment of more Indian joint ventures. At present there are 2 Indian joint ventures in operation in
<pg-16>

Mauritius while 2 more have recently been approved. They said the scope for the Indian industry to set up export-oriented units in Mauritius was particularly promising in sectors like garments, woollen knitwear, electronics, leather goods including leather garments and gems and jewellery.

Shri Das Munshi assured the Mauritius delegation that the efforts were being made to promote joint ventures as part of the country's overall export strategy and proposals for setting up joint ventures would receive favourable consideration within the parameters of this policy. He referred to the expertise available in India in diverse fields including engineering and agriculture and urged the Mauritius delegation to look at the possibility of diversifying their purchases from India to cover electronics, computer software and light and heavy engineering goods besides pharmaceutical and medicinal products. Mauritius has expressed interest in purchasing busses from India also. India's exports to Mauritius in 1986-87 amounted to Rs. 21.24 crores consisting mainly of machinery and equipment, chemicals and related products and textiles. India's imports from Mauritius are negligible because of the complementaries of trade. Credit arrangements for trade and scope for cooperation in tourism were also discussed. Line of credit of Rs. 1-0 crores was extended to Mauritius by the Exim Bank, last year.

Referring to quota restrictions on exports from Mauritius in

various markets the delegation also enquired about the manner of operating quotas in India and expressed keenness to share experience in this area. Shri Das Munshi said the Export Quota Distribution System for Garments was announced by the Government recently which spelt out the criteria for quota allocation in the textile sector.

URITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Jan 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

Rs. 142.8 Crore Netherlands Bilateral Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Netherlands bilateral assistance to India:

India will receive Dfl 204 million amounting to Rs. 142.8 crore as bilateral grant loan assistance from the Netherlands. The Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation, Mr. Piet Bukman who called on the Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari here today said that the Government of Netherlands will also provide assistance to non-Government organisations and other technical assistance programmes in addition to the bilateral loan assistance.

The Netherlands assistance covers several projects in the environment, irrigation, drinking water, women's welfare, water transport and other sectors.

The Finance Minister, Shri Tiwari acknowledged that the Netherlands Government has been following a relatively liberal policy to provide financial assistance to developing countries and is among the few countries whose development assistance is over 15 per cent of its net national income. Netherlands is also the first country to have agreed to the mechanism of pre-financing whereby payments for project financing are made in advance rather than on the basis of reimbursement. This practice of pre-financing has been adopted for ten rural water supply projects including the UP Tubewells Project.
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DIA THE NETHERLANDS UNITED KINGDOM LATVIA

Date : Jan 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bangladesh

The following is the text of the statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 01, 1988:

We are amazed to see the statement made by Mr. Shah Moazzem Hossain, Secretary General of the ruling party in Bangladesh, to the effect that the agitation in Bangladesh by the opposition parties started after a particular country was refused transit facilities for its troops. The reference is clearly to India. We have at no time asked Bangladesh for transit facilities for our troops, nor even hinted at any such possibility. The assertion is thus blatantly false.

If the insinuation is that such facilities are required to engage China, with which India is improving its relations, it is clearly the product of a fevered imagination.

We hope that these offensive and unfriendly allegations about India will stop. Unfortunately, this latest outburst is of a piece with others made by some Bangladesh leaders, all of which seek, without any basis in fact, to blame India for the domestic agitations against the present Government. It is an old ruse, but one which is patently ill-founded, to try to throw the blame for one's domestic problems on to another country.

NGLADESH INDIA USA CHINA

Date : Jan 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

AFRICA Fund

The following is the text of the statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 08, 1988:

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro has received on Friday, 8th January 1988 from Shri Anand Sharma, MP and Chairman of the World Youth Action Against Apartheid clothing and medicines worth Rs. 6 lakhs to the AFRICA Fund for supply to the African National Congress. Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State Shri Eduardo Faleiro thanked the Chairman and Members of the World Youth Action Against Apartheid for their generous contribution. It was a symbol of the commitment of World Youth Action Against Apartheid to support Frontline States and Liberation Movements in their fight against the apartheid regime of Pretoria to eradicate this evil system.

The consignment is being sent to Dares-Salaam and Lusaka as part of the Indian contributions to the AFRICA Fund to the African National Congress. The contribution to the ANC from India in the current financial year now stands at Rs. 1.56 crores.

DIA USA SOUTH AFRICA ZAMBIA

Date : Jan 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India-China Cooperation in Mineral Sector

The following is the text of the statement issued by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1988:

A Chinese delegation headed by Mr. Zhu Xun, Minister of Geology and Mineral Resources is currently on a visit to India at the invitation Of Minister of Steel and Mines, Government of India. The Chinese Minister and his delegation had a meeting with the Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri M. L. Fotedar in New Delhi on 11th January. The meeting was held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere. During

the discussions both sides expressed their desire to explore the possibilities of mutually beneficial cooperation in the mineral sector. Both sides briefed each other on the experiences gained in both countries in the field of mineral exploration and development.

During their stay in India, the Chinese delegation will be visiting organizations dealing with the geological surveys, exploration and also public sector production enterprises for ferrous and non-ferrous minerals and metals with a view to gain knowledge of India's progress and development in the mineral sector.

INA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Commonwealth Action against Apartheid

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 29, 1988:

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri K. Natwar Singh will lead the Indian delegation to attend the first meeting of the Committee of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa on February 12, 1988. The Minister, accompanied by Shri Prakash Shah, Joint Secretary (UN) will leave on January 30. He will meet with President Kaunda of Zambia during his visit.

The eight member Committee comprising of Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe under the Chairmanship of Canadian Foreign Minister has been set up by the Commonwealth leaders to provide high level impetus and guidance in furtherance of the objectives of the Vancouver Summit's Okanagan Statement on Southern Africa.

The Okanagan Statement represents a broad framework for the Commonwealth action in pursuit of the abolition of Apartheid. It is part of Commonwealth action against apartheid. India has been in the forefront of this Commonwealth effort, as part of its overall policy to combat apartheid at all levels and in all forums.

India attaches great importance to concerted international action for abolition of Apartheid. It remains fully convinced that only through such action can the Pretoria regime be pressurised into giving up the evil system of Apartheid. India has always utilised all international forums of which it is a member to achieve this objective. The Commonwealth has remained in the forefront of the struggle against Apartheid and India regards the Committee's work as a challenge in upholding this tradition.

This will be the first meeting of the Committee. The Ministers will review the entire programme outlined in Okanagan Statement for future action for the Commonwealth.

DIA ZAMBIA AUSTRALIA CANADA GUYANA NIGER NIGERIA TANZANIA USA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Jan 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Russian Delegation Calls on Shri P. Shiv Shanker

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 28, 1988 on Indo-Soviet economic cooperation:
A 7-member Russian delegation led by Mr. V. G. Kluev, Minister for Light Industries, Government of USSR, today called on the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Shri P. Shiv Shanker. The two sides discussed matters of mtuual interest.
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In his introductory remarks, Mr. Kluev recalled the close economic relations between the two countries and said that the Russians consider Indian people as their brothers. He said that Russia is interested in strengthening these relations further by setting up joint ventures in India for producing manufactured goods for use in USSR.

Shri P. Shiv Shanker welcomed the idea and said that this would prove beneficial for the people of both the countries. He said that these ventures can also be utilised for producing goods for export to hard currency areas. He said that in the context of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries from the 1987 level by 21/2 times by the year 1992 such ventures can play a vital role. Shri Shiv Shanker said that these ventures would

further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the people of two countries and provide immense economic benefits.

The Planning Commission Member, Dr. Y. K. Alagh said that the Indian textile industry was in the process of modernisation with the help of USSR. He said that there was scope for bigger cooperation between the two countries in various fields of economic activity.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 28, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Co-operation in Trade

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 15, 1988 on Indo-Soviet Cooperation in trade:

To further increase, the Indo-USSR Co-operation the entrepreneurs in both the countries are likely to enter into various joint-venture projects in coming year. More than hundred proposals have been processed by the Indian-USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry for transfer of technology from USSR and some of these relate to technologies in the frontier areas.

This was stated by Shri R. K. Jaichandra Singh, Minister of State for Chemicals and Petrochemicals while participating at the Conference on Indo-Soviet Cooperation held in New Delhi on January 15, 1-988.

As USSR was a significant exporter of technology to countries in Europe, the Minister said that Government of India considered necessary to send a high level delegation to USSR under the leadership of Mr. P. R. Latey, Secretary, Technical Development to make an on the spot survey on the potential USSR had in transfer of technologies in some of the critical areas for which India had been looking for modern technology.

The Minister said that the delegation had identified a large number of products for which contemporary technology was available from USSR for their use in India. The delegation identified a few industries for which there was scope to establish joint ventures in USSR. Some large industrial houses

had already submitted comprehensive project reports to the USSR Government on the possibilities of establishing joint ventures in USSR with Indian equity participation.

Referring to the trade with USSR, Shri Singh mentioned that current bilateral trade was approximately of the order of Rs. 4,000 crores and a target of Rs. 5,000 crores has been fixed for 1988-89. The substantial increase in the bilateral trade that was being planned for the next few years was part of Rajiv Gandhi-Gorbachev announcement to take this bilateral trade to Rs. 10,000 crores in a period of 3 to 4 years.
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DIA USA

Date : Jan 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

India and USSR Discuss Promotion of Tourism

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 22, 1988 on promotion of tourism between India and USSR:

India and USSR have agreed to take early steps to increase inflow and outflow of tourists traffic between the two countries.

This followed discussions held recently in Moscow by Shri S. K. Misra, Secretary, Ministries of Tourism and Civil Aviation. He was leading an official delegation to that country and during his stay there had discussions with the Soviet Minister of Tourism on this subject. It was agreed that a team of Soviet tour-operators will visit India shortly to exchange views with their counter-part here for promotion of tourism. Subsequently, a team of Indian tour-operators will also visit USSR fop similar purpose. It was also agreed that USSR will get training facilities for hotel management and catering technology in India whereas USSR will provide training facilities for Indian Guides in-learning the Russian language. USSR indicated its desire to set-up about 30 hotels in collaboration with India as joint-ventures, details of which will be worked out during the next six months. During his stay in Moscow, Shri S. K. Misra also inaugurated a photographic exhibition on India in the presence of the Dy. Minister of Tourism of USSR. The exhibition proved very popular

amongst art lovers.

Shri Misra, during his stay there had discussions with his counter-part on matters relating to lease I purchase of Soviet aeroplanes as well. USSR agreed to provide detailed data about different machines so offered and also to arrange for demonstration flights.

DIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Jan 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Banquet by Swedish Premier - Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Speech

The following is the text of Prime Minister's speech at dinner hosted by Swedish Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Karlsson on Jan 22, 1988 at Stockholm:

My wife and I thank you for your invitation and your hospitality. We bring you greetings from the people of India. In the two days we have spent in Stockholm we have been surrounded by friendliness and warmth.

Our two countries are so unlike - in climate, in history, in population profiles and levels of development. Yet how similar are the values we cherish and the goals we work towards. We are both democracies, believing in the individual's right to choose governments and policies. As Indira Gandhi said when she was here as Olof Palme's guest, both of us are inspired by "a vision of society organised around the human core of socialism." We strive for peace and for trust among nations.

Your country is known for its technological achievements and for its pioneering policies of social welfare. Your youth today have unlimited opportunities to blossom into scholars, artists and entrepreneurs. Yet only a century ago Sweden was not affluent. You looked to the human being, and the people built the nation.

In India, too, we stress the development of our human resources. Learning and economic power in our ancient society had long been a monopoly of the few. Today, because of our development plans,
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they are open to all people. Indian planning is a good experiment in development through consent. Some Swedish thinkers, like the redoubtable Professor Gunnar Myrdal, combined their sympathy for India with impatience. We are no less impatient as we battle with our problems. Our task is exacting. Sometimes even exasperating. But there is exhilaration in making the lives of our people a little better, a little brighter.

Indian agriculture is no longer a story of stagnation. Our farmers have been enthusiastic about using new technology. Yields have gone up. Dependence on imports is an old uncomfortable memory. Even this year, when the monsoon, failed for a second year, and drought affected two-thirds of our vast country, we coped. We ensured full supplies to the people.

The change in industry is even more marked in range as well as sophistication. As a result of continuing measures 'to stimulate production, investment, productivity and technological modernisation, our industrial growth rate has been a sustained 9 per cent in the last three years. Our exports have risen more than 20 per cent this year in spite of the recession in the world economy and increasing protectionism. Indian firms have won major contracts against competition from highly industrialised countries.

Strength comes from determination and effort. Our objective has been self-reliance. But self-reliance does not mean refusal to take advtange of technological innovations evolved elsewhere. Development succeeds best in a climate of international cooperation. Sweden has followed an enlightened outlook in international discussions on economic assistance to developing countries. We have benefited from Swedish aid.

Indo-Swedish industrial cooperation has a long history. And it has expanded in recent years. It should be our endeavour to strengthen this mutually beneficial relationship. The potential is vast.

It is not only through commerce that nations converse. Culture has an even more compelling appeal. The name of Sweden became known to vast numbers in India when Rabindranath Tagore and C. V. Raman were awarded the Nobel Prize. The films of Ingmar Bergman have many avid followers in India. I cannot forget or perhaps forgive - your tennis players who refused to let us take home the Davis Cup last month! The "Manifestations of India", which brought our musicians, dancers and artists here, gained us new friends. I thank the Swedish Government and the private organisations who made this festival possible. We are looking forward with keen anticipation to the festival which Sweden has kindly agreed to organise in India in 1990. Our people will, I am sure, extend an enthusiastic reception to the festival.

I referred earlier to the similarity in our international

outlook. Sweden and India cherish human dignity and equality. We have stood together in the struggle for human rights in southern Africa. The racist regime of Pretoria survives because of those who extend economic and military support to it. Apartheid is a disease of the mind that must be quarantined and isolated if it is to be cured. We appreciate Sweden's contribution to the work of the AFRICA Fund, our joint Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid.

In our particular ways, we have refused to be drawn into the confronting military. camps of the post-war world. We have remained true to the spirit of the United Nations Charter. India has consistently pointed out that the world can survive and develop only through coexistence and cooperation. We were one of the earliest proponents of non-alignment. Non-alignment has since then expanded its ambit to cover two-thirds of the international community. We and Sweden share a vision of peace. This vision finds expression in the Six-Nation Five-Continent Initiative which has found warm response in the hearts of people all over the world.

We must persist in our efforts to promote the processes of disarmament and peace. Even as we do so, our minds must make the imaginative leap forward to a
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world without nuclear arms. We must craft the international order of the future. For if we do not plan ahead, we run the risk of the international community slipping back to the barren ways which have already wreaked such havoc and threatened us with extinction.

Our ancients prayed for peace in the skies, peace in forests and peace in the human heart. Peace is not limited to the conclusion of agreements to limit the use of weapons. We must undertake a vast programme for the inculcation of the spirit of non-violence in the minds of all people. Only then can there be a halt to such senseless acts as the assassination of leaders like Indira Gandhi and Olof Palme and the outbursts of hate we see in various parts of the world.

We must say with Rabindranath Tagore:

"The same stream of life that runs through my veins night and days runs through the world and dances in rhythmic measures .....

"I feel my limbs are made glorious by the touch of this world of life. And my pride is from the life throb of ages dancing in my blood this moment."

I request you to join me in raising your glasses to; our gracious hosts, the Prime Minister of Sweden and Mrs. Carlsson; to the friendly people of Sweden; and to growing cooperation between our

countries.

EDEN INDIA PERU USA SOUTH AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jan 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

British Secretary of State for Defence Calls on DefenceMinister Shri K. C. Pant

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 08, 1988 on Indo-British bilateral cooperation in Defence:

Mr. George Younger TD, MP, Secretary of State for Defence, U.K., called on the Defence Minister, Shri K. C. Pant, in the latter's office here today. Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Minister of State for Defence and the Defence Secretary, Shri S. K. Bhatnagar were also present. The visiting dignitary was accompanied by the British High Commissioner to India, Mr. David Goodall. They were together for about 15 minutes. '

Later they joined formal discussions in the Ministry of Defence. The Indian delegation to the talks also included the three Service Chiefs and the Secretaries in the Department of Defence Production and Defence Research & Development. The UK delegation also included Brig WRW Pike, Defence Adviser UK High Commission, Mr. N. Bevan, Under Secretary, Ministry of Defence, and Mr. C. M. Chandler, Head of UK Defence Export Services.

The two sides had a useful exchange of views covering international strategic issues as well as the various possibilities for further Indo-British bilateral cooperation in Defence and Defence procurement fields. The meeting lasted about 90 minutes.

Mr. George Younger, who is on a six-day visit to this country, earlier during the day, visited Rajghat, Shakti Sathal and Amar Jawan Jyoti and laid wreaths there.

During his stay in India, Mr. George Younger is scheduled to visit HALe Bangalore and Mazagon Docks, Bombay. He will also visit places of interest at Agra and Lucknow before leaving for London on Tuesday, January 12, 1988.
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DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Jan 08, 1988

February

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Date : Feb 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

ALGERIA

Indo-Algeria Industrial Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 27, 1988 on the Indo-Algeria Industrial Cooperation:

Indo-Algeria cooperation in the field of Chemicals, Petro-Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and fertilizers will be considered during the visit of H.E. Mr. Hadj Haoussine, Algerian Minister for Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals. The Indian delegation will be led by Shri M. Arunachalam, Minister of State for Industrial Development.

Algeria has expressed a desire for assistance in these fields and has offered certain specific areas. The Minister will call on Shri J. Vengala Rao, Minister for Industry and will have meetings with Shri P. R. Das Munshi, Minister of State for Commerce and Shri R. Prabhu, Minister of State for Fertilizers.

At the last meeting of the Joint Commission between the two countries, it was agreed that continuous steps be taken to diversify the composition of trade and for long term contracts.

The level of trade between India and Algeria is not commensurate with the potential offered by both the countries. India's share in the overall trade of Algeria, is hardly 0.1 per cent.

Since 1977, India have secured 27 consultancy and project contracts. Projects include setting up of electric substations, gas and water meter plants, construction of railway lines, designing and eventually construction of airports and a blanket factory.

The Minister is arriving here on February 29, 1988 for seven days visit.

GERIA USA INDIA

Date : Feb 27, 1988

Volume No

1995

BAHRAIN

Indo-Bahrain Industry and Trade Talks

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 22, 1988 on Indo-Bahrain Industry and Trade Talks:

Ministerial level talks between India and Bahrain took place on wide ranging topics at Udyog Bhawan in New Delhi today.

Mr. Yousif Amhed Al Shirawi, Minister of Development and Industry, and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Bahrain who is on a six day visit to India from February 21 to 26, 1988 as Head of a High Level Delegation had detailed discussions with the Union Industry Minister, Shri J. Vengala Rao.

The Bahrain Minister referred to the historical ties between the Gulf countries and India going back to 5000 years. Since their independence in 1971, they had un-
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dertaken many programmes for the general development of their country, in particular industrial and infrastructural development. The Minister said it was realised during the last 10 to 15 years that it would be mutually beneficial for the Gulf countries to have closer ties with India for transfer of technology, setting up of joint ventures in specific fields, training of their manpower and assistance in research and development.

The Bahrain Minister specified that they would be interested in

having joint ventures in setting up of a fertiliser plant in Bahrain using ammonia and methanol being produced by them as raw material. They would also be interested in importing alumina from India for their aluminimum smelter. He suggested that import of alumina from India can be linked to export of finished aluminium from Bahrain to take care of India's growing need of aluminium in future. He mentioned that they were now reviving their pelletisation plant for which they would require iron ore powder from India. He also suggested that pellet and scrap from India can be converted into steel in a joint venture in Bahrain utilising abundant energy available there. Bahrain is also interested in a joint venture for the manufacture of automobile tyres for which there is a growing demand in Gulf region. The delegation showed keen interest in Indian assistance in preparation of feasibility studies and setting up of units in the small scale sector for the manufacture of hand tools, exhaust fans, surgical instruments, etc.

Shri Vengala Rao, welcoming the Bahraini delegation, said that Government of India was well equipped to provide the necessary assistance in the areas of interest shown by the delegation. He specifically mentioned that India was fully capable to provide technology, manpower and machinery for setting up of joint ventures suggested by the Bahraini side. 'This will be followed up by the appropriate Indian organisation.

The Bahraini side also indicated interest in assistance in setting up research centre in aqua culture, fisheries and pearl culture. This was taken note of by the Indian side. They suggested that India should organise a floating exhibition of the products that it can supply to the Gulf region. They also requested for regular exchange of information and visits by delegations of officials and private delegations so as to strengthen the mutual ties of cooperation between the two countries.

HRAIN USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date : Feb 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

BAHRAIN

Bahrain Minister Meets Shri Tiwari

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

on Feb 22, 1988 on Bahrain Minister's meeting with Shri N. D. Tiwari:

Mr. Yousif Ahmed Al Shirawi, Minister for Development and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Bahrain called on the Union Finance and Commerce Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, here today.

Both sides expressed sense of deep satisfaction at the very smooth and cordial relations that exist between the two countries in the field of commercial and economic relations. The possibility of establishing more joint-ventures in Bahrain and in India was also discussed. Mention was also made of the forthcoming Indian exhibition in Bahrain to be held in March end, which would give greater exposure to the people in Bahrain about the Indian products.
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HRAIN INDIA USA

Date : Feb 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

BAHRAIN

Bahrain Shows Interest in Buying Iron Ore Concentrates andAlumina from India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 22, 1988 on import of iron Ore concentrates and alumina by Bahrain:

Bahrain has shown interest in buying iron ore concentrates from Kudremukh and alumina from National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO). This was disclosed by the visiting Minister of Development and Industry, H.E. Mr. Yousif Al Shirawi, when he called on the Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri M. L. Fotedar, here today. The Bahrain Minister said the alumina produced by NALCO is of very good quality.

The two Ministers also had a brief discussion on bilateral relations. Shri Fotedar said that India has good relations with the Arab world and the Indian people have always been supporting the Palestinian cause.

HRAIN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Feb 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

BAHRAIN

Indo-Gulf Air Services

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1988 on Indo-Gulf air services:

His Excellency Mr. Yousif Ahmed Shirawi, Minister of Development and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs in Bahrain today called on Shri Motilal Vora, Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Health and Family Welfare.

The two leaders exchanged views on furthering co-operation between the national air carriers of the two countries. The visiting dignitary requested for more airport facilitations for the Gulf visitors who visit India in millions as tourist or for business purposes.

HRAIN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 23, 1988

Volume No

1995

BAHRAIN

Indian Assistance for Fisheries Development Sought

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1988 on Indian assistance for fisheries development in Bahrain:

Bahrain has sought India's assistance in developing fish farming and pearl oyster culture in their country. The Bahrain Minister of Development and Industry, H.E. Mr. Yousif Ahmed Shirawi, who called on the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Bhajan Lal here

today, suggested that collaboration between the two countries for the development of fish farming on both commercial and technical basis could be considered.

The visiting Minister said that Bahrain would be glad to have Indian experts and there could also be technology transfer through the Research Council of Bahrain. Responding to the Bahrain Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal assured him that India would be willing to offer whatever expertise it could in developing shrimp farming in Bahrain. Indian experts were already assisting Bahrain in oyster culture and more experts could be provided if Bahrain required them.

Shri Bhajan Lal has also assured that India would be able to supply them as much of farm products like poultry, vegetables and fruits as well as mutton, as required by Bahrain which imported 94 per cent of its food requirements.
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HRAIN INDIA USA

Date : Feb 23, 1988

Volume No

1995

BHUTAN

Indo-Bhutan Telecom Coordination Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 09, 1988 on Indo-Bhutan telecom coordination meeting:

The Indo-Bhutan Telecom Co-ordination Meeting commenced here today to review the implementation of the decisions of the coordination meeting held at Thimpu in October 1986. Capt. Y. Dorji, Director (Telecom) of the Department of Telecommunications of Royal Government of Bhutan is the leader of the Bhutanese delegation. The Indian delegation is led by Shri M. G. Kulkarni, Deputy Director General (ML) of the Indian Telecom Board.

Shri Satya Pal, Member (TD) of the Telecommunication Board in his address expressed happiness over the various measures being taken to improve telecommunication links between the two countries.

The meeting will also discuss among other items the installaation of TDM VFT between Thimpu and Delhi for telex and ISD link between Bhutan and India.

UTAN INDIA USA
Date : Feb 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

BURMA

Burma to Buy More from India against Exports of Rice Indo-Burma Trade Talks Conclude

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 08, 1988 on Indo-Burmese trade talks:

Burma has agreed to import a variety of products from India against the funds to be generated by the proposed imports of rice from Burma. It has been agreed that officials from both sides will meet as soon as possible to work out the modalities and finalise the list of imports by Burma.

India and Burma have also agreed that projects valued at upto Rs. 100 million will be set up in Burma with Indian expertise under project grant from India offered during the Prime Minister's visit to Burma. The Burmese delegation has indicated that the earliest possible dates when the experts of the two sides can meet and finalise the matter will be announced soon.

This is indicated in the Agreed Minutes of the Indo-Burmese official talks which were signed here today by the Commerce and Finance Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari on behalf of the Government of India and by Mr. Khin Maung Gyi, Minister of Trade of Burma and the leader of the visiting high level Burmese trade delegation to India. It has been agreed that effective steps would be taken by both sides to implement the decisions taken during the visit of the Prime Minister to Burma to expand and diversify trade between the two countries. The present level of 2-way trade between India and Burma is around Rs. 34.62 crores out of which India's exports amount to only Rs. 73 lakhs.
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The Burmese delegation visited India from January 23 to February 8, 1988 as part of the follow-up action on the discussions held between India and Burma during the visit of the Prime Minister to Burma in December last. Both sides recalled that in order to create the means of enhancing trade excchanges, India had earlier agreed to import rice from Burma. In return, Burma has indicated willingness to import more items from India against rice to be

imported by India during the current year. It was agreed that officials of the two sides will meet shortly to finalise the contracts and modalities.

At the brief signing ceremony, Shri Tiwari said the agreement reflected the success of the visit of the Burmese trade delegation and expressed the hope that these friendly exchanges will be further intensified following the agreement signed today. Mr. Khin Maung Gyi said the visit of his team was very successful and had enabled the Burmese side to see the extent of India's industrial capabilities as well as to identify a number of areas of cooperation which would be followed up in the near future. He said his visit had confirmed the enormous potential that exists for enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation. He also confirmed Burma's interest in transfer of technology from India and in the effective utilisation of the grant made available recently. He reiterated his country's interest in promoting further commercial exchanges including purchase of more products from India and said the agreement just concluded would help in further strengthening bilateral trade between India and Burma. He also invited Shri Tiwari to visit Burma.

Among those present at the signing ceremony from the Burmese side were Lt. Col. Than Shwe, Managing Director, Heavy Industries Corporation, Mr. Khin Maung Lin, Managing Director, Paper and Chemical Industries Corporation, Mr. Aung Gyi, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ko Ko Gyi, Professor, Chemicals Department, University of Rangoon, Mr. Khin Mating Win, Director, Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance and Dr. Khin Maung Win, the Burmese Ambassador in India. The Indian delegation included, among others, Shri Ravi Sawhney, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Shri Kuldip Sahdev, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

During his visit Mr. Khin Maung Gyi and his delegation called on the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and held official talks with Shri Tiwari. He also had discussions with Shri Vengal Rao, Minister of Industries, Shri H. K. L. Bhagat, Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, Shri Jagdish Tytler, Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation and Shri Brahm Dutt, Minister of State for Petroluem. The Burmese delegation also visited research and industrial establishments in and around Delhi and in Dehra Dun, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Ahmedabad and Pune.

RMA INDIA USA

Date : Feb 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

CAMEROON

Increased Trade Cooperation between India and Cameroon

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 10, 1988 on increased trade cooperation between India and Cameroon:

Possibilities of increasing trade between India and Cameroon were explored by a multi-disciplinary delegation to Republic of Cameroon led by the Minister of State for Industrial Development, Shri M. Arunachalam which has just returned from that country. India had suggested for a protocol on cooperation in the small
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scale sector to which the Republic of Camesoon had already responded.

The members of the delegation included representatives from Ministry of Commerce, Project and Equipment Corporation of India, Engineering Export Promotion Council, EXIM Bank, Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON) and Tata Exports etc. He was accompanied by the India Charge d'Affairs Mr. S. Kipgen.

The Minister on arrival at Yaounde was received by Camerounian Minister of Commerce and Industry. During the visit, apart from substantial discussions with Camerounian Minister of Commerce and Industry, he also held discussions with Minister of Transport, Minister of Planning, Minister of Defence, and Minister of External Affairs. At Douala, which is not only the largest city but main business centre of Carmeroun, Shri Arunachalam addressed the Douala Chamber of Commerce and Industry which was well received and covered by the Media. The Minister also met the Indian Community over a lunch hosted by the community at India Club, Douala.

On behalf of the Chairman of Trade Fair Authority of India, our Minister also extended an invitation to Mr. Joseph Tsanga Abanda, Minister of Commerce and Industry to inaugurate the exclusively Indian exhibition at Douala on March 11, 1988.

MEROON INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 10, 1988

1995

CANADA

Indo-Canadian Trade Discussed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi On Feb 04, 1988 on Indo-Canadian Cooperation in trade and industry:

A high-level industrial cooperation mission from Canada led by Mr. Monte Kwinter, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, Government of Ontario, Canada, met the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi, here today to discuss possibilities of mutual cooperation in the fields of trade and industry. Shri Dasmunshi said there was enormous scope for increasing and diversifying bilateral trade between India and Canada. Mr. Kwinter said India and Canada had a lot in common including common ties with the Commonwealth and these ties could be further enlarged to promote mutual interests. An Ontario Trade Office is due to open in New Delhi shortly to promote trade and economic cooperation between India and Canada. Mr. Kwinter said the opening of this Office reflected Canada's commitment to do more business with India. The Canadian Minister conveyed his country's interest in collaborations with India in several fields as well as in transfer of technology and joint ventures. He specifically referred to enormous possibilities of collaboration for the manufacture of auto parts involving technology transfer which could then be exported to the US. Mr. Kwinter said Ontario was the industrial and commercial hub of Canada with a highly developed economic and industrial infrastructure and a number of Ontario companies were already exporting auto parts in large quantities to General Motors (USA) and also to Japan. Mr. Kwinter felt collaborations would open a window not merely to Canada but the US market as well.

Two-way trade between India and Canada is about Rs. 530 crores at present. Out of this, India's exports to Canada account for about Rs. 150 crores and imports from Canada, Rs. 380 crores.
<pg-30>

Although exports have increased in recent years, the trade turn over has shown a declining trend largely on account of a downward trend in imports from Canada. Shri Dasmunshi said that besides traditional items, scope for stepping up exports of non-traditional products such as engineering and chemicals should be explored. He also assured the Canadian team of all cooperation from his Ministry to the proposed Ontario Trade Centre in furthering bilateral ties.

The Canadian side expressed interest in purchasing a number of

items from India including asphalt, certain specialised chemicals, furnishing materials, jewellery, leather items, carpets and handicrafts. Shri Dasmunshi assured them that these would be followed up at the earliest in consultation with the respective Councils.

The 5-member Canadian team included, besides Mr. Kwinter, Mr. Tim Armstrong, Ontario's Agent General for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Colin Russel, Canadian Trade Commissioner, Canadian High Commission, New Delhi, Mr. Steve Mernick, Chairman, Keren Group (Ontario) and Mr. Ken Rosenberg, Executive Assistant to the Minister.

It was mentioned that Mr. Robert Halfnight has been selected as Ontario's Senior representative for India to be based in the Ontario Trade Office. He has had 15 years experience with the Ontario Government including as Ontario Senior representative in West Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Currently, he is Director of the China and India Branch in the Government of Ontario.

Ontario accounts for about 70% of Canada's industrial production.

NADA USA INDIA RUSSIA JAPAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AUSTRIA GERMANY SWITZERLAND CHINA

Date : Feb 04, 1988

Volume No

1995

CANADA

Indo-Canadian Cooperation in Energy Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 04, 1988 on Indo-Canadian Cooperation in energy sector:

The Minister of Energy, Shri Vasant Sathe, and the visiting Canadian Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, Mr. Monte Kwinter, today discussed matters of mutual interest in the energy sector.

Shri Sathe said there was a tremendous scope for mutual cooperation between the two countries in the vital sector. India was keen to augment its power capacity to meet the rising demand for electricity. This called for setting up more power projects both with the indigenous resources and with the cooperation of

friendly countries. However, the bilateral offers should be competitive, comparable and feasible. Besides steps were required to be chalked out to ensure that debt burden did not pose a problem to the country.

The Canadian Minister said that his country was keen to increase its cooperation with India in the field of energy.

NADA INDIA USA

Date : Feb 04, 1988

Volume No

1995

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Banquet Speech by the Prime Minister in Honour of the PrimeMinister of Korea

The following is the text of the speech made by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at dinner hosted for H.E. Mr. Li Gun Mo, Premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in New Delhi on Feb 18, 1988:

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a fellow Asian country with whom
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we have close and friendly ties. I have pleasure in ' welcoming you and your delegation.

Contacts between Korea and India were established nearly 20 centuries ago by scholars and seekers of truth. They took the message of the Compassionate Buddha to many lands. Korea has left its impress on history from those days.

In more recent times both our countries, along with so much of the rest of Asia, experienced colonial bondage. Both of us reasserted our independence. Both of us are non-aligned. We disapprove global confrontation. We seek a world order in which nations coexist and work for peace, irrespective of their internal political systems.

India has supported endeavours aimed at the maintenance of peace and stability in the Korean peninsula. It has been our consistent policy to encourage peaceful solutions without intereference from outside.

Your country is engaged in the task of making the benefits of development available to the common people. So too are we in India. In spite of the disparity in the magnitude of our problems and our priorities, the common quest of development provides great scope for sharing our insights. We should also work together for creating an international climate that is conducive to developmental efforts. It is self-evident that without peace and stability there can be no enduring economic growth.

Developing countries must come forward to share information, know-how and experience with others. This is the essence of the idea South-South cooperation. Both, India and the DPRK cherish such cooperation which was given new impetus at the first Non-aligned Ministerial meeting on South-South cooperation held in Pyong-Yong last year. An important step in developing countries securing their collective objective is the strengthening of bilateral relations.

You will have an opportunity to see some of our development projects. Our aim is not merely to diversify and enlarge our industrial sector and achieve greater technological sophistication. We attach high importance to the modernisation of agriculture as well. It is by increasing agricultural productivity and diversifying our rural economy that we can provide employment to the millions of young people who come into the work-force.

Keen though we are on technological modernisation, we realise that it will be a poor bargain if we are severed from our spiritual roots. Ultimately, satisfaction does not come from more material affluence. It comes from safeguarding the values of the spirit - the values of sympathy and sharing.

Humankind has always had a fear of the unknown. With the demonic power of nuclear weapons, the fear of the known black type has become far more terrifying than the fear of the unknown. Great sons of India proclaimed centuries ago that the human being can grow only through non-violence. In our own century, Mahatma Gandhi demonstrated the power of non-violence as a political weapon. We achieved national liberation from bondage through non-violence. Only through non-violence can the world be liberated from the terror of nuclear annihilation. Disarmament is a grand cause for which your country and mine can and must work together.

I once again welcome you to India. Thank you for the good wishes you have brought from President Kim II Sung. My Government and the people of India reciprocate your sentiments of friendship and cooperation. Your visit will help further strengthening of our relations.

May I now request you to raise your glass to the health of President Kim II Sung, to the health of Premier Li Gun Mo, and to growing friendship between the peoples of our two countries.

REA INDIA USA PERU

Date : Feb 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

DENMARK

Denmark to Provide Rs. 96 Crores Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 12, 1988 on Danish assistance to India:

Denmark will provide grant assistance of Dkr 220 million (Rs. 44 crore) and tied grant of Dkr 260 million (Rs. 52 crore) to India for the current year. An agreement to this effect was signed here today by the Joint Secretary, Shri Kamlesh Sharma, Ministry of Finance and Mr. Bjarne H. Sarensen, Head of Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Danish assistance has, in the past, been both in the form of soft loans and grants. Last year, Denmark decided to give tied grants instead of loans to India. The untied grants are available for poverty alleviation projects and local cost financing projects. The tied grants are available for other large value projects involving Danish goods and services.

Denmark has shown keen interest in transfer of technology in the field of nonconventional energy sources. Wind Mill Farms (20 MW capacity) at an approximate cost of Dkr 165 million will be financed this year.

To avail of new technology from Denmark, some of the new projects posed to them are - National Gas Training Institute, air and water pollution control systems, construction of low-cost housing (pre-fab technique) and fresh water prawn hatchery in West Bengal.

Denmark has also shown keen interest in taking up new projects for child and women development.

NMARK INDIA USA

Date : Feb 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

EAST EUROPE

Exports to East Europe on the Rise

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 06, 1988 on India's exports to East Europe:

India's exports to East Europe including the Soviet Union, Poland,, the German Democratic Republic (GDR), Czechoslovakia and Romania, have increased from a level of Rs. 1615 crores in 1983 to Rs. 2798 crores in 1987, showing an increase of over 73 per cent during the period 1983-87. Out of this, exports to the Soviet Union in 1987 accounted for Rs. 2300 crores, representing a growth of nearly 70 per cent compared to the level of Rs. 1359 crores exported in 1983. This is also higher than exports worth. Rs. 2180 crores to the Soviet Union in 1986. The upward trend has been sustained despite the rupee resource constraint following downward trend in the prices of crude in 1985-86 and its impact on the level of Soviet imports from India.

This was indicated at a recent review meeting taken here by the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. R. Dasmunshi to discuss the trends of India's
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exports to the Rupee Currency Areas (RCA).

The meeting also noted that exports to Poland have shown a three fold increase having registered a record growth from a level of Rs. 70 crores in 1983 to Rs. 209 crores in 1987. Similarly, exports to GDR and Czechoslovakia have shown steady growth and have increased to Rs. 130 crores and Rs. 110 crores in 1987 compared to Rs. 83.5 crores and Rs. 55.6 crores in 1983 respectively. However, exports. to Romania have shown a fluctuating trend with exports, at Rs. 49 crores in 1987 only marginally higher than the level of Rs. 46 crores; in 1983 and lower than in 1985-86.

In the context of the Soviet Union, Shri Dasmunshi said that a number of new items had been identified for imports from the Soviet Union, the Trade Plan for 1988 as part of the plan to raise the level of Indo-Soviet trade turnover by two and a half times within 5 years. Indo-Soviet trade turnover in 1987 is provisionally assessed at Rs. 4400 crores, comprising exports to

the Soviet Union valued at Rs. 2300 crores and imports, at Rs. 2100 crores. This is substantially higher than the Indo-Soviet Trade Plan Provision for 1987 which had envisaged a bilateral trade turnover of Rs. 3800 crores, consisting of exports worth Rs. 1950 crores and imports from the Soviet Union of Rs. 1850 crores. The Indo-Soviet Trade Plan for 1988 envisages a turnover of Rs. 5000 crores, including exports and imports at Rs. 2500 crores each. Contracting for imports and exports under the Plan is under way, it was indicated.

The main items of exports to the Soviet Union include tea, coffee, cotton textiles, shoe uppers, medical and pharmaceutical preparations, cosmatics, tyres, electronic instruments, colour picture tubes and machine tools. Crude oil is one of the main items of import from USSR. Poland buys bulk tea, groundnut extractions, cotton and engineering items. The main exports to Romania are iron ore and Soya extractions.

DIA NORWAY POLAND SLOVAKIA OMAN ROMANIA USA

Date : Feb 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

First Nuclear-Propelled Submarine Inducted in Indian Navy -Prime Minister's Speech

The following is the text of the speech made by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at Vishakapatnam on Feb 03, 1988 after inducting the INS Chakra, our first nuclear propelled submarine, in Indian Navy:

This day is an important milestone in the history of the Indian Navy. 'Today we induct into our fleet the INS Chakra, our first nuclear propelled submarine on lease from our friends, the Soviet Union. Our officers and men will gain valuable experience in manning and operating a vessel with nuclear propulsion. They will learn to maintain a sophisticated submarine both at sea and in the associated shore support facilities. On this occasion, when we take one more important step in building national capability, I offer my congratulations on behalf of the country to all ranks of the Indian Navy.

INS Chakra is propelled by nuclear power, but not armed with nuclear weapons. Nor is there any simulation of nuclear weapons on board the submarine. It is equipped for training and self-

defence.
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India has a long coastline to defend and our Navy must have the capacity to travel long distances under water without having to refuel frequently. Such a long-lasting source of power is provided only by nuclear energy.

We are determined to keep pace with the rapid technological advancement that characterises our times. All modern navies have acquired or are trying to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. We will not be left behind. INS Chakra is a good vessel, which meets our need for contemporary technology.

Sophisticated technology imposes upon us special responsibilities. Sea-borne reactor operations call for the most stringent safety standards and specifications. We have ensured fail-safe environmental and radiation protection. We have stipulated tight regulations,' both at sea and on shore, so that the highest standards are adhered to for the protection of personnel and the safety of the environment. There will be regular reviews of safety measures and contingency plans for emergencies. We have given particular attention to the management of nuclear wastes. There will be a periodic audit of waste material.

India wants to live in peace with its neighbours and the rest of the world. We believe that durable peace is not possible without peaceful coexistence. We believe that assured survival is not possible without the elimination of nuclear weapons. Our commitment to nuclear disarmament dates back to Gandhiji's and Panditji's instant recognition after Hiroshima that strategies of nuclear deterrence were a dangerous delusion threatening peace on earth, indeed survival itself. If nuclear weapons exist, they will one day be used. That is why they must be dismantled completely.

India has an unblemished record in the use of nuclear energy, Even after Pokhran India has abided by its commitment to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only.

The recent INF Agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union provides an opening for all countries to work for a world free of nuclear weapons. Each of us has to assume specific obligations to translate this vision into reality. The US and the USSR must quickly move towards drastically reducing their nuclear arsenals and to eliminating them within a specific period of time. The other nuclear weapon powers must join the process without delay. And, as we move towards complete nuclear disarmament, all other countries should accept the obligation to refrain from acquiring such weapons.

We have also to start preparing for a world without nuclear

weapons. There must be no sliding back to obsolete doctrines of war as an instrument of policy in international relations. There must be no substitution of nuclear weapons by other weapons of mass destruction or surgical weapons based on laser and other technologies. The progress to a world without nuclear weapons must be accompanied by a search for a comprehensive structure of international security. Deterrence must be eschewed. We must have a true democracy of nations. The principles of Peaceful coexistence, on which the Charter of the United Nations is based, must be given real meaning,

The strategies of outside powers in our region have forced upon us expenditure on building military strength which we would much rather have deployed for the removal of poverty. and the promotion of development. The Indian Ocean has been militarised and infested with nuclear weapons flouting the overwhelming sentiment in the region in favour of establishing a zone of peace. So long as threats to our sovereignty and integrity continue, India has no option but to take every possible step to safeguard its security. We are determined to defend ourselves. We are ready to undergo any sacrifice for the independence of our motherland. There should be no doubt about this in anyone's mind. <pg-35>

India attaches the highest importance to living in peace and friendship with its neighbours. All bilateral problems must be solved through peaceful means,. Ours is a continuing effort at keeping open the lines of dialogue, exploring all avenues of settlement, and taking fresh initiatives.

We seek enduring peace and all-embracing friendship. At the same time, we are determined to maintain a state of military preparedness which will ensure our ability to meet any eventuality.

When we look back into our history, two lessons are apparent. One is that the defence of India requires our undisputed mastery over the approaches to India by the sea. The second is that while those who have conquered India by the land routes were eventually absorbed and assimilated into our society, those who conquered us from the sea ruled as alien masters and therefore had to be rejected. If we are to keep the destiny of India in our hands, we must have full control of the waters around us and the thousands of kilometres of shoreline which stretch along the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal and abut upon the Indian Ocean.

Our liberty is a precious legacy bequeathed us by generations of the noblest freedom fighters the world has known. Never again will we let out freedom be compromised. Never again will we let allow our independence to be snatched from us. Never again will our sacred land fall under a foreign flag. Jai Hind.

DIA USA JAPAN TOTO

Date : Feb 03, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Exports Up by Rs. 2218 Crores

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1988 on rise, in Indian exports:

Exports from India have gone up from Rs. 8978.43 crores in April-December, 1986 to Rs. 11,197.41 crores in April-December this year, thereby showing an increase of Rs. 2218.98 crores in the first 9 months of the current year over the corresponding period of the previous year. In percentage terms, exports are higher by 24.7%.

Imports during April-December, 1987 have amounted to Rs. 16110.78 crores as against Rs. 14188.98 crores in April-December, 1986, indicating a rise of 13.5%.

The trade deficit has thus declined from Rs. 5210.55 crores in April-December 1986 to Rs. 4913.37 crores in April-December, 1987.

According to commodity-wise export data available for April-September 87, a rising trend is seen in exports of a number of traditional as well as non-traditional items. Exports of ready-made garments in April-September, 1987 are higher by Rs. 278.41 crores in comparison with the corresponding period of 1986; gems and jewellery, by Rs. 370.91 crores, cotton fabrics, yarn and made-ups by Rs. 195.14 crores, leather and leather manufactures, by Rs. 174.32 crores, engineering items (i.e. machinery, transport equipment, metal manufactures including iron and steel) by Rs. 158.87 crores, basic chemicals, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics by Rs. 117.48 crores and marine products by Rs. 77.55 crores. Exports of rice are up by Rs. 60.06 crores, tea by Rs. 59.53 crores, handmade carpets by Rs. 36.06 crores, works of art by Rs. 31.17 crores, iron ore by Rs. 24.86 crores, cashew kernels by Rs. 20.13 crores, fruits and vegetables by Rs. 14.22 crores and silk fabrics by Rs. 10.70 crores in comparison with April-September, 1986. There is marginal increase in exports of meat and meat products, sports goods and manufactured tobacco.

The items showing a declining trend are unmanufactured tobacco,

raw cotton (on account of its discontinuance this year), wool and woollen textiles, coir and coir manufactures, plastic and linoleum products, jute manufactures and coffee, the latter on account of steep fall in coffee prices in the international markets.
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DIA USA FRANCE RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 16, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Committee of NRIs to Promote Foreign Trade Constituted

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 18, 1988 on NRI participation in promoting India's foreign trade:

The Government has decided to set up a high level Committee of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) for promoting India's foreign trade. The Committee, to be, headed by the Commerce Minister as Chairman, will include the Minister of State for Commerce (Member), the Commerce Secretary (Member) and 17 representatives of NRIs abroad including two members each from the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), USA, Canada and UK and one member each from France, UAE, Tanzania, Malaysia, Kuwait, Japan, Singapore/Hong Kong, Thailand and Nigeria. The Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade Coordination) in the Ministry of Commerce, will be the Member-Secretary.

The objective of the Committee will be to promote exports of Indian goods and services, technology and project management services to foreign countries and to provide a forum for exchange and dissemination of information about export potential from India. The other terms of reference of the Committee are: to suggest measures for strengthening of trade exchanges between India and foreign countries; to suggest suitable market strategies for promotion of Indian products; to suggest market surveys for identified exportable commodities from India to foreign countries; to have close liaison with the various export promotion organisations in the country and other chambers of commerce for developing better understanding of the Indian trading environment and potential for exports; to keep close contact with trade and economic sectors of Indian Missions abroad

for collecting information about the import requirements of foreign countries in regard to different commodities for dissemination to the Indian trading community and to provide feedback to the government for policy formulations relating to export assistance and promotion in regard to different countries and different products or product groups.

The Committee will also suggest such measures as are necessary in getting regularly market information like prices, quality, market preferences in terms of taste and demand for Indian goods and will suggest commercial publicity programmes suited to overseas markets for Indian products.

The Committee has been set up keeping in view the sizeable number of Non-Resident Indians living abroad and the fact that at meetings between them and representatives of the Commerce Ministry, concerned trade organisations etc. suggestions, were often made for utilising the presence of NRIs abroad, particularly those engaged in international trade, 'to promote India's exports. During discussions also at a recent meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative, Committee of the Ministry of Commerce, presided over by the Finance and Commerce Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari, the need for effective utilisation of the services of the Indian trading community abroad in pushing the country's exports had been stressed also.

The selection of NRI representatives on the Committee would be on the basis of recommendations made by the Indian Missions abroad.

DIA CANADA GERMANY UNITED KINGDOM USA FRANCE JAPAN KUWAIT MALAYSIA TANZANIA UNITED ARAB EMIRATES HONG KONG NIGER NIGERIA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE THAILAND

Date : Feb 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Technically Qualified Manpower to be Around 3.8 Million by 1990

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 24, 1988 on the technical know-how in India:

The total stock of scientific and technical personnel is expected to be around 3.8 million at the beginning of 1990. It was estimated as 3.1 million at the beginning of 1985.

No comparable data is, however, available regarding the stock of S&T personnel for various countries as there is
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no uniformity in the categories included by them in the stock of S&T personnel.

The National Research Development Corporation received enquiries for technical know-how in various areas from 21 countries in the last three years. These are: Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Guyana, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria,
Philippines, Senegal, Syria, Tanzania, Tobago, Togo, Trinidad, UAE, USA and Zambia.

This information was given in Lok Sabha today in a written reply by Shri K. R. Narayanan, Minister of State for Science & Technology.

DIA USA ANGOLA AUSTRALIA BANGLADESH BOLIVIA GUYANA INDONESIA KENYA MALAYSIA MAURITIUS NIGER NIGERIA PHILIPPINES SENEGAL SYRIA TANZANIA UNITED ARAB EMIRATES ZAMBIA

Date : Feb 24, 1988

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1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Successful Test Firing of Surface to Surface Missile - PrimeMinister's Statement

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 26, 1988 of the statement made by the Prime Minister in the Parliament on the successful test firing of `Prithvi', surface to surface missile on February 25, 1988:

I am very glad to inform the House of an important technological achievement of Indian scientists and technologists. It is a notable milestone in our programme to acieve self-reliance in areas of high technology and of considerable significance to our defence preparedness.

The first ever test firing of 'Prithvi', India's tactical surface-to-surface missile, took place at 11.23 in the forenoon today. The House will be glad to know that it was successful, meeting all the specifications. With this successful test firing

India joins the select group of 4 nations which have developed this class of surface-to-surface missiles. This missile is based totally on indigenous design and development efforts of the Defence Research and Development Organisation. I would like to stress again that no foreign know-how or collaboration is involved.

`Prithvi' has a range capability of 250 km with different types of large payload war-heads which will inflict heavy damage on adversary targets. Compared to other missiles of this class, it has the best warhead-to-weight ratio. Very advanced inertial navigation and guidance systems incorporating on-board computers operating with real-time software are used in the system. After a number of necessary test launches, we plan to induct `Prithvi' in numbers into our Defence Forces.

On behalf of the House, I would like to place on record our congratulations and warm greetings to all the scientists, engineers, technicians and workers of the Defence Research and Development Organisation who have worked tirelessly and with dedication over the years in designing and developing 'Prithvi'. The nation is justly proud of them.
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DIA USA

Date : Feb 26, 1988

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1995

HUNGARY

Hungarian Foreign Minister Calls on Shri K. C. Pant

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 29, 1988 on Hungarian Foreign Minister's call on Shri K. C. Pant:

The Hungarian Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Peter Varkonyi called on Shri K. C. Pant, Minister of Defence in his office here today. They discussed matters of mutual interest in the area of defence cooperation and had a general survey of the international situation with particular reference to the recent disarmament efforts including the implications of the INF Treaty.

The meeting lasted 45 minutes.

NGARY INDIA USA

Date : Feb 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

India to Contribute FUA 12.765 Million Towards 5thReplenishment for African Development Fund

The follwing is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 17, 1988 on India's contribution to African Development Fund:

India will contribute Fund Unite of Account (FUA) 12.765 million to the 5th replenishment for 1988 to 1990 as the member of the African Development fund (AFDF). India's total contribution of FUA 6 million and FUA 3 million towards the 2nd replenishment which was current at that time. Secondly, India had contributed FUA 7.555 million to the 3rd and FUA 11.1 million to the 4th replenishment.

India became a member of the African Development Bank (ADB) in 1983 and had been allotted 1000 shares, 25 per cent in the form of paid up shares and balance as callable shares. India has paid Rs. 2.7 crore in full instalment towards the paid up shares in 5 instalments.

AFDB has recently augmented its capital base by 200 per cent and on this basis of 6.25 per cent increase India has been allotted 2000 shares. India has already paid the 1st instalment of US dollars 301587.50 towards the paid up shares in November last year. The balance will be paid in 4 equal annual instalments.

With the additional 2000 shares India's total share holding becomes 3000, out of which 375 shares represent paid up shares and the rest callable. India's commitment towards the paid up shares is about Rs. 5 crore.

India has separately signed Technical Assistance Co-operation Agreement with the Bank Group in terms of which India could provide experts and consultants to the Bank and to various member countries of the Bank for project preparation etc., and also providing training to officials of Bank Group and regional member countries. The modalities of operating this agreement are being finalised.

The AFDB was established in 1963 with membership opened only to regional countries with a view to contribute to the economic development and social progress of its regional members by providing finances for investment projects and programmes and technical assistance for study preparation etc. of development projects, programmes etc.

Subsequently, the AFDF was established in 1972 with the AFDB and some other non-regional countries as its members, as a soft loan affiliate of AFDB.

The Nigeria Trust Fund was the last unit of the Bank Group established in 1976, to supplement the efforts of AFDB and AFDF in low income countries. This Trust is wholly funded by the Nigerian Government.

In order to mobilise external resources for stimulating growth and accelerating the pace of development in regional member countries, AFDB opened its membership in 1982 to non-regional members of the AFDF.

DIA USA NIGER NIGERIA

Date : Feb 17, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Asia Pacific Telecommunications Development Conference

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 18, 1988 on Asia Pacific Telecommunications Development Conference:

Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister, will inaugurate here Asia Pacific Telecommunications Development Conference on February 22, 1988.

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) which will be holding the Conference, is a specialised agency of the United Nations for telecommunications and has a membership of 163 countries. It is entrusted with the task of maintaining and extending international cooperation between the member countries for improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds. The ITU also promotes technical assistance to developing

countries in the field of telecommunications. As a directive of the Plenipotentiary Conference - supreme organ of the ITU - held at Nairobi in 1982, the ITU set up the Independent Commission for World-wide Telecommunications Development. The report of the Commission, tilted "The Missing Link" was a landmark in the activity of the ITU in the recent period. This report was considered at the first World Telecommunications Development Conference held in Arusha (Tanzania) in May 1985. The Arusha Conference unanimously adopted "Arusha Declaration" and endorsed the general thrust of the recommendations of the Independent Commission and in particular the overriding goal set by the Independent Commission that by an early part of the next century, virtually the whole of the mankind should be brought within the easy reach of a telephone and in due course the other services which telecommunications can provide. The "Arusha Declaration" urged both the developing and developed countries to take a range of measures to support the rapid and consistent growth of telecommunications, particularly, in the developing countries.

The New Delhi Conference will provide an opportunity to the countries in the Asia Pacific Region to review the developing situation in the region, assess the requirements and evolve a long-term strategy for the development of the telecommunications sector with a view to fulfilling the targets set by the Independent Commission. 41 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, besides India have been invited by the ITU to participate. A number of participants from International and Regional Organisations are also expected to participate. Mr. R. E. Butler, Secretary-General and Mr. J. Jipguep, Dy. Secretary-General will be the leading officials of the ITU in the Conference. Thus, about 100 international delegates who are involved in policy aspects of telecommunication are expected to be present at this Conference.
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The holding of this Conference, for the countries in the Asia Pacific Region, follows a similar Conference for the African region held by ITU in Tunis in January 1987.

The following specific subjects relating to the development and management of the telecommunications will be on the agenda of the Conference.

- Presentation of the "Arusha Declaration";

- Review the past ten years of the Telecommunications changes in the region and an assessment of the current situation;

- Telecommunications requirements including usages and plans, alternatives and changes at the beginning of the next century;

- Impact of technological changes and their impact on the ITU activities; Role of the ITU in the development process;

- Strategy for the future telecommunication development in the region;

- Review of progress in the implementation of the Transport Communications Decade.

A broad-based Indian delegation with officers from Department of Telecommunications, Public Sector Undertakings like Telecommunications Consultants India Limited; Indian Telephone Industries Limited; Hindustan Teleprinters Limited; Hindustan Cables Limited; Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited; Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited; etc. and Department of Electronics; Department of Space; All India Radio; Doordarshan; Planning Commission, Centre for Development of Telematics etc. will represent India at the Conference. The Indian delegation will be led by Shri D. K. Sangal, Secretary (Telecommunications). India will be presenting eight papers to this Conference.

An exhibition of representative capability of the country in manufacture, operation and consultancy in the field of telecommunications is also being organised, in connection with the Conference.

The Conference will continue till February 26, 1988.

DIA USA KENYA TANZANIA TUNISIA RUSSIA

Date : Feb 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Growth of Stable North-South Economic Relations Key toDevelopment of an Optimal World Economic Order

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 19, 1988 on growth of stable North-South economic relations:

Vice President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma has said that growth of stable North-South Economic relations were of basic value to the evolution of an optimal world economic order which was progressive and mutually beneficial to the developed and the developing country. Dr. Sharma was inaugurating a three day South-Asia Regional Conference of the International Fiscal Association, here yesterday.

Dr. Sharma stressed that in our interdependent world, an increase in the production-base and production-range of the poorer countries would stimulate further growth in the rich countries. He said that it was perhaps not adequately realised that a considerable proportion of the exports of the developed countries went to Third World countries. Protectionism in developed countries would therefore hurt the developed countries as much if not more than the Third World. He warned that trends that impelled impoverishment of the Third World, were bound to afflict the economies of the developed countries also.
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Dr. Sharma said that it was often wrongly assessed that the Third World sought only for a re-distribution of the World's Wealth and therefore that tilting the existing balance in favour of the Third World would automatically mean an adverse change for the developed countries. Such a view would not merely be unfortunate; it would be mistaken, he said and added that it would miss the crucial perception that greater capability to generate wealth in Third World countries will actually raise aggregate world wealth and invigorate economies of the developed countries.

Dr. Sharma emphasized that unless there was a fundamental change in the economic thought dominating the direction of the world's economy, the problem of world poverty would, inevitably, continue increasing an untold human suffering - eventually most seriously affecting the developed nations themselves - would be unavoidable.

Dr. Sharma said that International cooperation was obviously required for world-wide, inter-regional and intra-regional economic activity - if the problems of poverty, unemployment, inflation, pollution, depletion of non-renewable resources and food shortages were to be tackled efficiently. Apart from safeguarding the poorer nations from irrevocable economic ruin, such an approach had the advantage of preventing the eventual engulfment of the richer nations themselves by problems created by the impact of imbalanced economic activity and skewed flow of wealth, he added.

Shri N. K. P. Salve, Chairman of the Finance Commission was also present in the inaugural session.

A number of tax-experts, fiscal managers and corporate managers from the South-Asian countries are participating in the Conference.

DIA USA

Date : Feb 19, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Prime Minister's Inaugural Address at the Asia and PacificTelecommunications Development Conference

The following is the text of the Inaugural Address by the Prime Minister at the Asia and Pacific Telecommunications Development Conference in New Delhi on Feb 22, 1988:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Delhi. We are honoured that you chose our Capital for this Conference. To our neighbours from the Asia Pacific Region, I give a very special welcome.

Effective communication performs two important tasks. Firstly, it brings people together and then it is vital for optimising the management of administrative institutions and growth and development programmes. For optimum management, we need rapid collection, collation and transmission of information.

Efficient telecommunications are a powerful tool in nation building. They are a tool in fostering the spread of new ideas, in dramatically altering concepts of time and distance. They are vital to the transformation of traditional societies into modern societies. They are indispensable for involving and getting the people to participate in national policies and programmes. And it is for that reason that we have given such high priority to telecom in our development programmes.

I would not go into the details of where we were and what we have achieved. It has already been told to you. But let me just say that in these years, and especially in these last few years, India has made tremendous progress in just about every area of telecommunication. In developing telecommunications, we have kept a watchword of self-reliance, not self-sufficiency but self-reliance. Self-reliance doesn't mean an autarchy, but rather seeking cooperation from others while avoiding dependence on others, by emphasising our own technology and as much
<pg-42>

as possible indigenous manufacture. We have, therefore, stressed on research and development and product development. Our focus must be on certain aspects which are unique to us, the climate for example, the environment conditions in which the units will be used, our economic capabilities, our special consumer requirements and our network needs. These are quite different from a developed country. They are quite different if you look at

rural areas in India and you compare that with an urban or a metro in India. And it is 'with these points in mind that we have looked at our own development needs in telecom. It is with awareness and consciousness of our conditions and the difference in our conditions that we look at technology from developed countries.

We have progressed from manual to fully digital exchanges, from open-wire. to co-exail and microwave. We have brought satelite and optical fibre. The reach of our telecom is now spreading beyond the metropolitan cities and urban conglomerates to more remote locations, to the islands which are spread out in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, scattered populations in the desert areas, isolated districts in the hills and the mountains.

Our public sector units are manufacturing a complete range of telecommunication equipment. Industrial units around the country are manufacturing Subscriber in Terminals, PVBXs, nodems and many other components. Our technology has made a notable contribution to rural exchanges, digital switching, transmission equipment, radio systems, digital and optical fibres.

The measure of our achievements is also perhaps a reminder of how much further we have to go. 540 thousand villages are still without direct access to a telephone network. The waiting list is well-over a million. The telephones cover only 1/10th of the people in rural areas and three-quarters of our population lives in the rural areas. Efficiency leaves much to be desired. Ironically, it is quicker and easier to get a call to Sydney or Tokyo than it is sometimes to just get across-town in Delhi or Bombay. It is almost impossible to get to a village or a remote location.

We have geared our objectives to our needs. Our overall target is to put the entire population of eight hundred million to within five-minutes' walking distance of the telecom. It is a very ambitious target and a number of unique steps would have to be taken taking our environment and these needs into consideration. First, we would like one public paid-phone in each of 570 thousand villages; a million paid phones at each major street corner in every town and city. A six-fold increase in the telephone connections from the three and a half million that we have now to approximately 19 million by the turn of the century. We would like a national package switch data network. We would like greater access to remote areas through satellites. Therefore, we needed to put all this together and we have done that in a Telecom Mission - an integrated national network, which will give increased accessibility to all and special attention to the more remote and rural areas. We will, thus, forge the missing links in our communication system. Our national network will reach out to those who feel left out of the main-stream of our society. It would provide a telecom infrastructure for economic and social development. This requires self-confident domestic

effort which will stretch indigenous capabilities to their limits. But, it also means that we must not shrink away from international cooperation where that is required. Because, the tasks are so large.

Our telecommunications development over the last forty years has benefitted from assistance from several friendly countries, from the =, from the UN Development Programmes and the World Bank. Our capacities have increased. The need for support and encouragement in these areas has also increased as it has in other sophisticated areas. Conversely, the building of our capability increases our ability to share our experience, our expertise and our equipment with others who are less fortunate. Within the Asian Paci-
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fic Region, some are much more developed than us, many are like us developing. We seek to cooperate with the developed where this adds new dimensions to our efforts and we offer to cooperate with fellow developing nations who might find something useful in what we have learnt. Cooperation amongst the developing is far below its potential. Perhaps, it is because we know so little of each other. At high political levels and at the higher bureaucratic levels, there is some interaction and an exchange of views but at the professional and technical levels, there are vast gaps of knowledge. Our experts know so little about each other that they look first well beyond when they have problems or when they are looking for solutions.

We must encourage exchanges at professional levels between our countries and that is where real cooperation within the region will grow. We must make a habit of cooperation and we must nurture it. We have in our own immediate neighbourhood discovered through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation telecom programme that once we put our minds to it, there do indeed exist many areas for mutually enriching cooperation. Our technologies and equipments are designed and developed for our own needs, just as designing and engineering in developed countries is done for their needs which are significantly different to ours.

Good telecom is vital but it is very capital intensive. Hence, we find the developing countries creep along and not able to move as rapidly as they perhaps would like to. The entire gamut of developments elsewhere over several decades is attempted to be done in a shorter span of time with much less funds than are normally available. We must make the quantum jump ignoring the intermediate technologies and going into the technologies which will be the appropriate for the time when we really come on line with the developed countries and perhaps, this is what Mr. Sathe was talking about, when he talked about pole-vaulting.

We must ensure that the technologies that we use are cost-

effective, that they are reliable and that they are maintainable under our conditions. Recent development in technology has made this possible. Our need is to be alive to these opportunities, our endeavour is to harness them for our requirements. Our hope is to get organisations such as yours to elaborate a system of international cooperation which will give the developing a just and equitable access to the latest technologies. We look for opportunities for developing countries to make their own contribution to the development of modern technology.

The Arusha Declaration provides a setting for your consideration of world telecom development and the report of the independent commission with the delightfully provocative title of the Missing Link sets out series of exciting new prospects. Based on these documents, your deliberations will be of high importance in the telecom development within our respective countries and the promotion of telecommunication cooperation amongst ourselves.

Our commitment to cooperating in telecom goes back a 120 years from the time when India joined the ITU in 1868. Many changes in the world have taken place since then. But, the need for telecom cooperation has only been strengthened.

I hope that this conference will lead to much greater and more just access for the development in our region of new technologies and frontline technologies in these areas. We hope that this conference will bring about a much greater awareness of telecom development within our region, both amongst the developed and developing, and it will give a much-needed increase in cooperation between the, developed and the developing in the region and amongst the developing themselves. I wish you all the very best for the Conference. It has given me great pleasure to be with you today.
<pg-44>

DIA USA RUSSIA PERU TOTO AUSTRALIA JAPAN

Date : Feb 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

ESCAP Secretary Meets Shri N. D. Tiwari - Issues of RegionalCooperation Discussed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 24, 1988 on the meeting of ESCAP's Secretary with

Shri N. D. Tiwari, Minister of Finance and Commerce:

The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Mr. S. A. M. S. Kibria, called on the Union Finance and Commerce Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari here today and discussed with him the possibilities of promoting regional cooperation among the member countries. Shri Tiwari under lined the need for strengthening the ESCAP cooperation programmes in various fields and said these could focus on specific issues of relevance to the member countries. The scope for building up regional consensus in the fields of trade, economic development, human resource development and environment was stressed. Mr. Kibria mentioned ESCAP's interest in building up a collective perspective on important regional issues such as trade in agricultural commodities particularly in the context of the fall in commodity prices, question of services, restructuring and gearing up of regional economies to meet the needs of modernisation and in human resource development. Cooperation among member-countries to enlarge the area of trade preferences was also discussed.

The ESCAP Secretary extended an invitation to Shri Tiwari to lead the Indian delegation to the 44th Annual Session of ESCAP which is due to take place in Jakarta from 11th to 20th April, 1988, where major issues of regional cooperation are slated to be discussed. The ESCAP has prepared a plan for human resource development. This is expected to be finalised at the Jakarta session. Mr. Kibria said that a meeting of the ESCAP Minister of Environment was being planned for early 1990 and proposed that India might consider hosting it in view of its leading role in this field.

During the discussions, it was indicated that a proposal from ESCAP for establishing an Indo-ESCAP Cooperation Fund was being examined. This would involve consolidation of the contributions being made by various departments individually to different institutions for supporting developmental activities on a regional basis and as a means to establish a higher visibility for India's presence in ESCAP.

Shri Tiwari reiterated India's offer to provide training facilities for trade officials from ESCAP countries in India, in the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). He said action would be taken to expedite the setting up of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in New Delhi.

During the week-long stay here, Mr. Kibria, has had meetings with the Commerce Secretary, Shri A. N. Verma, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary, Department of Environment.

ESCAP represents the regional organisation of the United Nations for Asia and the Pacific and approximately 557,9 of the World's population is in the ESCAP region. The Commission assists the

member countries in dealing with their social and economic problems.
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A INDIA INDONESIA

Date : Feb 24, 1988

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

EXIM Bank to Provide 560 Million Dollar Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 08, 1988 on EXIM Bank's loan to India:

Export-Import Bank of Japan will provide loans amounting to 560 million dollars to India. Protocol to this effect was signed here today by the Finance Secretary, Shri S. Venkitaramanan and the President, EXIM Bank of Japan, Mr. T. Tanaka.

A loan of 450 million dollars will now be available for National Thermal Power Corporation for meeting the financing cost of three IBRD projects - Rihand Transmission Project, Farakka-II Generation Project and Ramagundam Generation Project. Another loan of 110 million dollars will go to the Railway Finance Corporation for railway modernisation project. This project is assisted by Asian Development Bank also.

PAN INDIA

Date : Feb 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

KUWAIT

National Day of Kuwait - Messages of Greetings from Presidentand Prime Minister

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

Delhi on Feb 24, 1988 on messages of greetings sent by the President and Prime Minister to His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir and His Highness Shaikh Sa'ad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait on the occasion of the National Day:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On the occasion of the National Day of Kuwait, I have much pleasure in conveying to Your Highness, on behalf of the Government and people of India, warmest felicitations and best wishes.

There exists a tradition of close cooperation between India and Kuwait in various fields and I am confident that these ties of friendship will continue to strengthen in the years to come.

Please accept, Your Highness, my best wishes for your health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the people of Kuwait.

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Government and people of India as well as on my own behalf, I have pleasure in sending warm greetings on the occasion of the National Day of your country.

May the traditional ties of friendship between India and Kuwait continue to strengthen to the mutual advantage of both our countries.

With best wishes for Your Highness' health and well-being and for the prosperity of the friendly people of Kuwait.
<pg-46>

WAIT INDIA USA

Date : Feb 24, 1988

Volume No

1995

MADAGASCAR

Prime Minister's Felicitations to the Prime Minister ofMadagascar

The following is the text of a message dated Feb 16, 1988 from the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi to His Excellency Lt.

Col. Victor Ramahantra, Prime Minister of Madagascar:

I send my warm felicitations on your assumption of the high office of the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar.
Madagascar and India have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations. We share common interests and aspirations.

I look forward to working in close cooperation with Your Excellency to further strengthen our bilateral relations and our cooperation in the international arena.

My Good wishes for your personal health and success and for the progress and prosperity of the people of Madagascar.

NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MADAGASCAR INDIA

Date : Feb 16, 1988

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Mauritius Parliamentary Delegation Calls on Shri Bhagat

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 22, 1988 on the call by the Mauritius Parliamentary Delegation on Shri H. K. L. Bhagat, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and Information and Broadcasting:

A seven-member Mauritius Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Chhatradhari Daby, Speaker of the Mauritius Legislative Assembly called on the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, Shri H. K. L. Bhagat here today.

H.E. Mr. Daby and Shri Bhagat expressed their happiness over close and friendly cultural, economic and social ties between India and Mauritius. Shri Bhagat said that India would extend its full cooperation to Mauritius in the field of film making if Mauritius so desired.

Shri Bhagat briefed the visiting Delegation about the functioning of the Parliamentary democracy in India, He also informed the Delegation about the two Houses of Parliament, role of Chief Whips, Business Advisory Committees etc.
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URITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Feb 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

MEXICO

Cultural and Educational Exchange Agreement Between India andMexico

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 12, 1988 on Cultural and Educational Exchange Agreement between India and Mexico:

A Cultural and Educational Exchange Programme was signed on the 8th of this month in Mexico city between India and Mexico. The signatories were Shri M. Varadrajan, Secretary, Department of Culture on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Martin Reyes Vayssade, Secretary of Culture for Government of Mexico.

The Agreement envisages exchange between two countries in the fields of education, art and culture, radio and television and cinema, sports and youth affairs. Of special significance are exchanges planned between universities and institutions of higher education, study of each other's language, literature, history and cultural offer of scholarships to students of either side. It also includes participation of artists and performing groups in each other's festivals, exchanges in the fields of Anthropology, particularly with regard to the setting up of the Rashtriya Manav Sangharalaya in India, exchange of radio and television programmes and collaboration among youth organisations, mass fitness activities and study of sports medicine.

The Agreement further has a special section on child and family welfare which involve exchanges in field of family welfare participation in children's assemblies and exchange of children paintings.

XICO INDIA

Date : Feb 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Korean Airlines Plane Crash

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 03, 1988:

In reply to questions on the Korean Airlines plane crash on November 29, 1987 the Official Spokesman stated that Government's response is that international terrorism has claimed the lives of many innocent men, women and children in recent years. Government of India have always condemned and continue to condemn all terrorist activities. In this case, we have noted that the Republic of Korea (ROK) has alleged that Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK) was involved and that the DPRK has denied the allegation.

REA INDIA

Date : Feb 03, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India Condemns Israeli Atrocities against Palestinian Cause

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 06, 1988:

The PLO Ambassador, Mr. Khalid El Sheikh called on the Prime Minister this evening to apprise him of the heroic resistance of unarmed Palestinians in occupied territory in the face of brutal acts of repression being perpetrated by the Israeli authorities. A group of Heads of Missions of OIC countries also called on the Prime
<pg-48>

Minister to inform him of the plight of Palestinians. - These calls on the Prime Minister were both in his capacity as head of Government and the President of the Congress (I) Party.

The Prime Minister strongly condemned the Israeli atrocities and reiterated the unequivocal support of the Government and the people of India for the just Palestinian cause. He added that at a time when world public opinion was incensed at the senseless violence against Palestinians in Israeli bondage, concerted efforts should be made at the United Nations, Non-aligned Movement and other forums to seek a just and durable Palestinian settlement. This should be done through the early convening of an international conference under the auspices of the UN with the participation of all parties concerned including the PLO. India would lend its full support to such a move.

In his capacity as President of Congress (1) Party, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi informed the PLO Ambassador that his party would take the traditional lead in organising a public campaign to collect relief assistance for the Palestinians as an expression of popular Indian support and solidarity with their just cause.

DIA ISRAEL USA

Date : Feb 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India-China Boundary in the Eastern Sector

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 11, 1988:

The Customary and traditional boundary between India and China in the Eastern sector has been further formalised by the McMohan line. It is our policy to maintain peace and tranquility all along the border and to settle all issues through peaceful negotiations.

INA INDIA USA MALI

Date : Feb 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Asia Cup Tournament

In response to queries from the press regarding the forthcoming Asia Cup Tournament the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs made the following statement in New Delhi on Feb 11, 1988:

Government have received a proposal from the Board of Control of Cricket in India for participation by the Indian cricket team in the forthcoming Asia Cup Tournament in Bangladesh from February 22 - 29. There have been a number of reports of widespread violence and political unrest in Bangladesh in recent days. The question of participation of the Indian cricket team in the Asia Cup is accordingly receiving careful consideration of the Government. While considering the question of the Indian team's participation Government will attach the utmost priority to the safety and security of the players.

DIA BANGLADESH CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India Expresses Deep Sorrow on the Brutal Killing of Mr. Kumaratunga

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1988:

The Government of India has learnt with deep sorrow of the brutal killing of Mr. Vijaya Kumaratunga in Sri Lanka. Mr. Kumaratunga was an ardent advocate of ethnic peace and amity in Sri Lanka and had a deep commitment to the strengthening of friendship between the Governments and peoples of India and Sri Lanka. The
<pg-49>

Government of India strongly condemns this brutal and senseless

act of terrorism and shares the grief of all the members of the bereaved family especially that of Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga at this irreparable loss.

DIA SRI LANKA

Date : Feb 16, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan Thwarting Process of Peace in the Sub-continent

The following is the text of the remarks made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 18, 1988 in response to President Zia's latest statement on Kashmir and Muslims in India:

President Zia has, once again, chosen to spit out venom and make totally unacceptable references to Kashmir and Muslims in our country. He claims to be on peace offensive with India, but rarely misses an opportunity to arouse passions on both sides. He says he wants normalisation of relations with India, but does not shy away from using force in Siachen. He makes out that he wants to promote peace in the sub-continent, but devotes his efforts to thwart the process of the Afghan settlement precisely at a time when it has reached a crucial stage. He conveniently forgets the Simla Agreement to which he himself renewed commitment in December, 1985 and according to which both countries should settle their disputes bilaterally. He has his own internal problems and compulsions. Does he serve the interests of the people of the subcontinent with his unfriendly statements? President Zia should ponder over this. While he does so, we have no option but to remind him that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that the only issue which remains to be resolved is that of vacation of Indian territory occupied illegally by Pakistan and that we should settle this issue like other issues in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

KISTAN INDIA USA MALI

Date : Feb 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Mr. Armacost's Visit to India

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman Of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 24, 1988:

The United States Under Secretary of State for political affairs Mr. Michael Armacost will be visiting India. He will arrive tomorrow night (25.2.88). His visit is a part of the continuing dialogue and exchange of views including at the highest level. He will discuss matters of mutual interest including the Afghan issue.

On Friday the 26th February, 1988 Mr. Armacost will call on the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Natwar Singh. He will also hold official discussions with the Foreign Secretary Shri K. P. S. Menon. He will be arriving from Lahore and will leave in the early hours of Saturday morning (27.2.88).

DIA USA

Date : Feb 24, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India Condemns Ban on Political Activity by Anti-ApartheidOrganisations, in South Africa

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 25, 1988:

The Government of India condemns the new regulations promulgated by the racist Pretoria regime banning political activity by 17 leading anti-apartheid organisations, and by the congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). This action by the apartheid

regime is yet another attempt to perpetuate the evils of racism and deny the people of South Africa
<pg-50>

their basic human rights. That the South African Government has resorted yet again to such repressive measures shows its fear of the movement for freedom which is gaining ground. Government reiterates its firm support to the people of South Africa in their valiant struggle against the abhorrent system of apartheid.

DIA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Feb 25, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Mr. Armacost Calls on Prime Minister and Minister of State forExternal Affairs

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 26, 1988:

The United States Secretary of State, Mr. Michael Armacost, called on the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs today. His visit and discussions here are a part of the continuing dialogue which we have had with the United States including at the highest level on matters of mutual interest. The purpose of Mr. Armacost's visit is to apprise the Government of India at the highest level of US perspectives on recent developments in East West relations and on important regional issues following the visit of Secretary of State, George Shultz to Moscow.

DIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Feb 26, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Foreign Secretary's Visit to Islamabad Not to Take Place asScheduled

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 29, 1988:

At the request of the Pakistan Government, Foreign Secretary Shri K. P. S. Menon's visit to Islamabad will not take place on the 1st March, 1988, as had been scheduled because both the Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and the Pakistan Foreign Secretary are out of the country.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Feb 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

LTTE Must Give up Violence

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 29, 1988:

There is no truth in the agency news datelined 28th February from Colombo that the IPKF has called a 48 hour ceasefire and halted operations to disarm the LTTE. The report is obviously put out by mischievous and motivated elements in Colombo. We are surprised that an international news agency of such standing should have carried a false and baseless report without caring to check and varify the report.

With regard to the LTTE offer for the so-called unconditional talks, the position of the Government of India has been made clear by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister had in the consultative committee meeting of Parliament on the 10th February said that we would welcome the LTTE joining the democratic political process provided it lays down arms and agrees to abide by the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement of 29th July, 1987.
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A SRI LANKA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA

Date : Feb 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Hungarian Foreign Minister's Visit

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 29, 1988:

The visiting dignitary had discussion for about one and half hours with the Indian Delegation led by the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Natwar Singh. The discussion focussed attention on the Afghan issue, Kampuchea, relations with China, Shri Lanka and also the situation in Europe - efforts being made there to reduce tension after the INF - the vienna conference.

On Afghanistan MOS apprised him of our perceptions - the exchange of views we have had with the USA, USSR, Afghan Government and others. Both sides welcomed the initiative of General Secretary Gorbachev by announcing the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. On China MOS referred to the 8th round of talks - that India would like to normalise relations with China but that it would take time to do so. In the meantime we would like to improve relations and there are indications that China is also keen to do the same. Sri Lanka was also discussed.

From the Hungarian side Mr. Varkonyi spoke of the warm friendly relations with India and efforts being made by India and in particular the role being played by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in easing the tension in the region and abroad.

DIA USA CHINA AUSTRIA AFGHANISTAN MALI SRI LANKA

Date : Feb 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION

PLO Delegation Calls on Planning Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 12, 1988 On PLO delegations call on Planning Minister:

A nine-member delegation of Palestinien and Arab business leaders led by Dr. Nabil Shaath, Political Advisor to the PLO Chairman, Mr. Y. Arafat, today called on the Union Minister for Planning and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri P. Shiv Shanker. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest.

Shri P. Shiv Shanker said that despite severe drought, the Indian economy is doing well. Although our agricultural sector has suffered some setback, the achievements in the industrial sector are quite remarkable. He said that the planned development in India has made our country self-sufficient in foodgrains production and the available buffer stocks of foodgrains have now come handy to overcome any shortage in this behalf.

Dr. Nabil Shaath said that his delegation consists of business leaders from various Arab countries who are interested to acquire first hand knowledge about the giant step India has taken in her planning process. The delegation is keenly interested in high technology transfer and promotion of Indo-Arab trade, he added.

Earlier the delegation members had an informal exchange of views with Planning Commission Members, Shri Abid Hussain and Dr. Y. K. Alagh. The leader of the delegation described these discussions as very useful.
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DIA USA

Date : Feb 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

POLAND

Indo-Polish Talks on Scientific and Technological Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 04, 1988 on Indo-Polish talks on Scientific and

Technological Cooperation between India and Poland:

Mr. Konrad Tott, Minister of Science & Technology from Poland and Shri K. R. Narayanan, Minister of State for Science & Technology began discussions, at their first meeting today, on matters relating to S&T cooperation between India and Poland.

The areas of cooperation include Mining, Coal, Control System for Thermal Power Generators, Plant Cultivation of Lineseed Oil Seeds, Machine Tool Industry, Building Materials, Chemical Industry, Standardization and Quality Control, Science & Technology Information, Instrumentation, Futurology and Machine, Electronics and Computer Science, Foundry Technology, krill Fishing, Preservation and Processing.

The Polish Minister is leading a fivemember delegation to India on the invitation of Shri K. R. Narayanan. During his eight-day stay in India, the Polish delegation will have a series of meetings with Shri Narayanan and senior government officials. He will also visit research institutions and R&D establishments.

The Polish delegation comprises Mr. Alfred Swit (Electronics), Mr. Henryk Czembor (Biotechnology), Mr. J. Erzy Myszak (Micro-electronics), H.E. Mr. Janusz Switkowski, Ambassador, Mr. Stanislaw Pawelczyk, Minister Counsellor, and Mr. Jan Poloczek (Secretary, Mr. Tott's Office).

The Indian delegation comprises Dr. Vasant Gowariker, Secretary (DST), Dr. Ramachandran, Secretary (DBT), Shri K. P. P. Nambiar, Secretary (DOE), and Dr. A. P. Mitra, Secretary (DSIR).

LAND INDIA USA

Date : Feb 04, 1988

Volume No

1995

POLAND

India and Poland Identify More Areas of Scientific andTechnological Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 11, 1988 on identification of more areas of scientific and technological cooperation between India and Poland:

Mr. Konrad Tott, Minister of the State Office for Scientific and

Technological Development of the Polish People's Republic and Shri K. R. Narayanan, Minister of State for Science and Technology signed here today an extension to the Programme of Cooperation (POC) identifying additional areas of Cooperation in the existing POC between India and Poland.

The additional areas of Cooperation include: Electronics and Computer Science, Foundry Technology, Krill Fishing, Preservation, Processing and other Krill By Products Development, and Biotechnology and Immunology.
The schemes of Cooperation under the agreed-upon areas were also identified. These include Machine Tool Industry, Building Materials, Chemical Industry, Standardization and Quality Control, and instrumentation.

The Agreed Minutes of Meetings held during the visit of Mr. Konrad Tott, were signed by Shri Vasant Gowariker, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Mr. Janusz Switkowski, Ambassador, Polish People's Republic in India.

During their one week stay in India from February 4 to 11, 1988, the eight-
<pg-53>

member Polish delegation headed by Mr. K. Tott had a series of discussions with Shri Narayanan, Secretaries of Scientific Departments as well as scientists in some research, academic and R & D institutions.

LAND INDIA USA

Date : Feb 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

POLAND

India and Poland to have Joint-Ventures

The following is tile text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 25, 1988 on joint ventures with Poland:

India and Poland will have joint-ventures in India, Poland and the 3rd countries. This decision was taken when the Polish Foreign Minister, Mr. Marial. Orzechowski called on the Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, here today.

Expressing interest in joint-ventures, the Polish Foreign Minister made particular mention of construction of hotels in Poland. He also expressed keenness for cooperation possibilities of joint-ventures in this field in the 3rd countries.

Shri Tiwari expressed satisfaction over expansion of Indo-Polish Trade in 1987 and the stepped up target of Rs. 597 crore. This, the Minister said, was Rs. 97 crore more than last year's. The Minister said that Indo-Polish balance of trade was encouraging. It will now be possible to enlarge the frontiers of cooperation between the two countries. Shri Tiwari expressed happiness that the surplus rupee balance of Indo-Polish Trade had come down by over Rs. 5 crore this year.

The two Ministers decided that early steps should be taken to identify potential areas of joint-ventures between two countries and also in the 3rd countries. Shri Tiwari suggested exchange of delegations to monitor the progress of trade in the thrust areas.

LAND INDIA USA

Date : Feb 25, 1988

Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

Double Taxation Avoidance Convention between India and Romania

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 09, 1988 on double taxation avoidance convention between India and Romania:

India and Romania have entered a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. The Convention has entered into force on the 14th November 1987 and shall have effect in India 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, a workshop, an oil or gas well 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 profits of a permanent establishment, expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the business of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses, wherever incurred, as are in accordance with the provisions of the taxation laws of
<pg-54>

that State, would be allowed as deduction.

Aircraft profits will be completely exempt in the country of source and shall be taxable only by the country of residence of the enterprise. Source country tax rates on shipping profits will not exceed 2.50 per cent of the gross amount payable on account of carriage of passengers, etc. 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.

AN ROMANIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

SAARC

SAARC Audio Visual Exchange Meeting Opens

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 02, 1988 on SAARC audio-visual exchange meeting:

Shri A. R. Shinde, Director General, All India Radio opened here today, the Second Meeting of the SAARC Audio Visual Exchange (SAVE) Committee.

The two-day meeting of SAVE Committee will select one signature tune out of those brought by the Member organisations. At the first meeting of the SAVE held in September 1987 it was agreed that the SAVE Programme should have distinctive signature tune which would be used by all member countries.

The Committee will also draw up the schedule of programmes of SAARC countries till December 1988. The programmes of the member countries will be previewed in the meeting.

The report of the experts group of South Asian Broadcasting Programmes '(SABP) had agreed that SAVE should include joint production of programmes of interest, or production of such programmes by individual countries on a rotational basis. This meeting will discuss the modalities of this in order to see a few programmes in the next meeting of the SAVE.

The committee will also discuss the reaction of various telecasts and broadcasts from the masses and specific groups in the member countries. At least four TV and three radio programmes of SAARC countries had been put in the air by the SAVE Committee.

DIA USA

Date : Feb 02, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Joint Indo-Soviet Group on Aviation Industry Concludes Protocolfor Co-operation between the two Countries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 01, 1988 on Indo-Soviet Cooperation in the field of aviation industry.

A high level Soviet delegation led by Mr. A. S. Systsov, Minister for Aviation Industry, USSR, held wide ranging discussions with Shri K. C. Pant, Minister of Defence, on Indo-Soviet co-operation in the field of aviation industry, in New Delhi today. Later, the Joint Indo-Soviet Group on Aviation Industry, concluded a protocol
<pg-55>

incorporating mutually agreed decisions for cooperation, between the two countries in the field of Aviation Industry. The Soviet delegation was led by Mr. A. S. Systsov and the Indian side by the Minister of State for Defence, Shri Shivraj V. Patil. Mr. Systsov and Shri Shivraj Patil are the co-Chairmen of the Group.

The six-member high level Soviet delegation, which arrived in New Delhi on January 25, 1988, also visited HAL Divisions at Nasik, Koraput, Hyderabad and reviewed the progress of the licenced production of different MIG series of aircraft.

The next meeting of the Joint Indo-Soviet Group on Aviation Industry, will be held in Moscow, later this year.

A INDIA RUSSIA

Date : Feb 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Shri Tiwari Calls for Further Strengthening of Indo-SovietTrade

The following is the text of a press reease issued in New Delhi on Feb 01, 1988 on further strengthening of Indo-Soviet trade:

The Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari pleaded for firm orders from Russia for the import of woollen garments from India. Shri Tiwari stressed the need for promoting bilateral trade when the USSR Minister for Light Industries, Mr. V. G. Klyuev called on him here today. Shri Tiwari said that firm orders from Russia for the import of woollens will also go a long way in strengthening the economy of the border State of Punjab, the main exporter of woollen readymades to USSR. The two leaders also identified textiles and leather for increasing the trade turnover.

It was felt that more discussions Of technical experts and exchange of information in several sectors are needed in order to raise the level of bilateral trade between India and the USSR by 2.5 times. These include machinery and equipment, commodities and manufactures. It was also felt that the two countries could have cooperation in the chemical sector, precision, engineering and metallurgical sector. The possibilities of joint-ventures in the production of wood pulp, steel billets, basic aluminium metal and basic petro-chemicals, etc., were also discussed.

DIA RUSSIA USA

Date : Feb 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Soviet Aviation Industry Minister Calls on Shri Jagdish Tytler

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 01, 1988 on Soviet Aviation Industry Minister's call on Shri Jagdish Tytler:

His Excellency Mr. A. S. Systsov, Soviet Minister of Aviation Industry who is presently on a visit to India called on Shri Jagdish Tytler, Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism here today.

The two leaders exchanged views on purchase of Soviet aircraft and aviation equipment by India. They also exchanged views on the functioning of Soviet aircraft already on lease with India.

The two Ministers expressed confidence that a vast scope exist for co-operation in these areas between India and the USSR.
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A INDIA

Date : Feb 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

Shri Rajiv Gandhi Welcomes New Soviet Initiative on Afghanistan

IssueThe following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhion Feb 08, 1988 on Prime Minister's statement on New Sovietinitiative on Afghanistan issue: The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, has welcomed the newinitiative of the Soviet Union in regard to the politicalsettlement of the issues relating 'to Afghanistan.Following is the text of the statement issued in New Delhi today:"On the 8th. of February, the Prime Minister of India, Shri RajivGandhi, received the First Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR,Mr. Y. M. Vorontsov. On instructions of the General Secretary ofthe Central Committee of the CPSU, Mr. M. S. Gorbachev, the PrimeMinister was informed of the new initiative of the Soviet Unionin regard to the political settlement of the issues relating to Afghanistan.India and the Soviet Union have been in close, and continuoustouch on developments in regard to Afghanistan. India hasconsistently stood for the resolution of the issues in a mannerthat would ensure the status of Afghanistan as an independent andnon-aligned country. The Soviet leadership has always shown asympathetic understanding of India's point of view.In this context, the Prime Minister welcomed the new initiativeto be taken by the Soviet Union and expressed the hope that itwould pave the way for an early resolution of the issue inAfghanistan. The two sides will remain in close contact regardingfuture developments and further steps to be taken.

Indo-Soviet Cooperation in City Building Discussed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 08, 1988 on Indo-Soviet Cooperation in city building:

Various issues related to cooperation in the field of city building, housing, civil construction and architecture were discussed here today between the Soviet delegation headed by Mr. E. G. Rozanov, Minister, State Committee for Architecture and City Building of the USSR, and the Indian side led by Smt. Mohsina Kidwai, Union Minister of Urban Development.

The Soviet Minister said that the two countries had collaborated in various fields of development in India and emphasised the need of exploring the possibilities of cooperation in the sphere of city building and allied issues. He appreciated the work done by the Indian companies in setting up hotels in the Central Asian states which, he hoped, would be extended to other areas in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Rozanov suggested that the Indian experts could visit his country to identify areas of cooperation and prepare a specific programme for interaction in the field of city building, housing, civil construction, architecture and related technologies.

Smt. Kidwai said that it would be useful to exchange information and evolve methods of collaboration in different fields including low-cost housing technologies, use of industrial waste and fly ash, mud architecture and sewage disposal system. She said that suitable low-cost technologies were being adopted in this country to ensure durability of houses and civil construction works in different seismic and climatic conditions including hilly and coastal areas.
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The two sides also agreed to cooperate and exchange experiences in the sphere of setting up of industrial and other new townships. Emphasis was laid on efforts to conserve and re-establish historical and traditional character of cities with an eye on environment and aesthetics of architecture.

GHANISTAN INDIA USA PERU

Date : Feb 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

Indo-USSR Working Group Meet on P & T

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhion Feb 10, 1988 On Indo-USSR working group on P & T:The First Meeting of the Indo-USSR Working Group on Posts andTelecommunications was held here today. The USSR Group is headedby Mr. E. A. Maniakian, Deputy Minister of Posts andTelecommunications of the

USSR. The Indian delegation is headedby Shri D. K. Sangal, Secretary, Department ofTelecommunications. The discussions will continue till February 12, 1988.Shri Sangal in his welcome address hoped that the deliberationsof these meetings would be fruitful.The Group will consider among other items: the progress of theimplementation of the programme of cooperation in the field ofTelecommunications; the questions of Leasing of a Transponder toIndia; Review of the possibilities to establish production co-operation; Expansion of existing International SubscriberDialling telephone service between India and USSR; Operation of the Indo-USSR Troposcatter Link; Issues of cooperation in thefield of Postal Services with Particular reference to:(a) Organising a Philatelic Exhibition in USSR and India;(b) Exchange of visits for a period of two to three weeks tofurther cooperation in the field of Mechanization, PostalOperations and Philately; andIntroduction of fast Postal services between USSRR and India.

Indo-Soviet Protocol on Posts and Telecommunications Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 12, 1988 on the signing of the Indo-Soviet Protocol on Posts and Telecommunications:

A Soviet-India Working Group in the field of Posts and Telecommunications which held its first meeting here from 10th to 12th February 1988 reviewed the progress of implementation of the programmes of cooperation in the field of Posts and Telecommunications. Both the sides expressed their satisfaction that the volume of telecommunication traffic between India and USSR had increased after signing of the Long Term Programme of Cooperation in February 1987.

In the Protocol signed by H.E. Mr. E. A. Maniakin, Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications on behalf of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of the USSR and Shri D. K. Sangal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications for the Ministry of Communications of the Government of India, the Indian and Soviet sides referred to the satisfactory working of International Subscriber Dialing introduced between the two countries in May 1987.

The Soviet side had agreed to lease a transponder to India from December 1988. The Indian and the Soviet sides exchanged technical information about the proposed lease.
<pg-58>

India and Soviet Union also expressed mutual interest in cooperation in manufacture and supply of telecommunication equipment.

An Agreement has also been signed today for the introduction of Express Mail Service between India and the USSR. Shri P. S. Raghavachari, Secretary, Department of Posts signed the Agreement on behalf of the Ministry of Communications of the Government of India and H.E. Mr. E. A. Maniakin, Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications for the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication of USSR.

Date : Feb 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

Indo-USSR Working Group Meet on P & T

Soviet Team to Explore Further Areas of Cooperation in GroundWater Development

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 12, 1988 on cooperation between India and the Soviet Union in ground water development:

A seven member Soviet delegation led by Mr. V. N. Oleinik, Chief of Department, Ministry of Land Reclamation & Water Management, USSR, is at present in India to explore the possibilities of further cooperation between the two countries in ground water development. This will facilitate discussions regarding the nature of assistance that can be offered by the Soviet Union, at the next meeting of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on Water Resources to be held in March this year.

During the course of their stay the Soviet team will visit the drought hit regions of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

The Soviet Union has earlier offered India six high-powered drilling rigs and 35 pumps as a drought relief contribution.

During the last meeting of the Indian-Soviet Working Group in Moscow a protocol was signed between the two countries for the Work Plan for the year 1988-89.

Transfer of technology is envisaged in the areas of directional blasting for the construction of dams and canals, the designing of hydraulic structures on unstable soils and high dams in areas prone to seismic activity. Joint research activities are also proposed to be undertaken for drainage and effective control of waterlogging and land salinization, and recharge of ground water.

A INDIA RUSSIA

Date : Feb 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

SPAIN

India and Spain Review Bilateral Relations in Civil Aviationand Tourism

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 10, 1988 on cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation and Tourism between India and Spain:

India and Spain reviewed the present state of relationship between the two countries in the fields of civil aviation and tourism when Shri Jagdish Tytler, Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism met Mr. Abel Ramon Caballero Alvaraz, Spanish Minister for Tourism, Transport and Communications, recently in Madrid.
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It was noted with satisfaction that the national airlines of the two countries have forged mutually beneficial commercial links. There has also been a big upward swing in the number of tourists from Spain to India and vice-versa. It was agreed that institutionalised measures would be worked out for the utilisation by India of the Spanish experience and expertise in tourism and that Spain could make investment in the tourist industry in India. It was further mentioned that Air-India and Iberia should find ways and means to strengthen the existing commercial relations in spirit of cooperation and understanding.

The Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation also had a working meeting with local tour operators and travel agents there. He explained to them the recent promotional and open tourism policy of the Government of India.

AIN INDIA USA

Date : Feb 10, 1988

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka Transport Minister Calls on Shri Rajesh Pilot

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

on Feb 20, 1988 on Sri Lanka Transport Minister's call on
Shri Rajesh Pilot., Minister of Surface Transport:

Mr. M. H. Mohamed, Minister for Transport, Government of Sri Lanka accompanied by Mr. Bernard Tilak Ratne, High Commissioner called on Shri Rajesh Pilot, Minister of Surface Transport here today. During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest covering Indo-Sri Lanka relations and co-operation and the need of early resumption of the ferry service between Rameshwaram and Talai Mannar in Sri Lanka. It was pointed out that the dredging work at Talai Mannar was to be awarded to the Dredging Corporation of India which had commenced the preparatory work. Related issues covering road and rail links, customs and immigration facilities etc. required in Sri Lanka for the reception and onward transit of passengers are to be completed by the Sri Lanka Government. A team of the Southern Railway will be visiting Sri Lanka shortly for discussion with the Sri Lankan Government on ticketing arrangements connected with the restoration of the rail-cum-ferry service between India and Sri Lanka.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Feb 20, 1988

Volume No

1995

SURINAM

Smt. Ramdulari Sinha Visits Surinam

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 02, 1988 on Smt. Ramdulari Sinha's visit to Surinam:

The Union Minister of State for Mines, Smt. Ramdulari Sinha, has returned here from Surinam after attending the swearing-in ceremony of its new President, Vice-President and Council of Ministers. Smt. Sinha headed a special delegation to represent India on the occasion.

During her stay there, Smt. Sinha had formal meetings with the new Presi-
<pg-60>

dent Mr. Ramsewak Shanker, the Vice-President, Mr. H. Arron, the Speaker of National Assembly Mr. J. Lachmon and Members of the Surinamese Council of Ministers. She also attended a cultural

programme organised by the Indian Cultural Centre under the Indian Embassy and a reception organised by the Indian Ambassador on the eve of Republic Day.

Smt. Ramdulari Sinha met a large number of Surinamese of Indian origin. About half of the population of Surinam is of Indian origin and they still imbibe the Indian culture and its heritage.

This visit has opened a new chapter in bilateral relations and our strive for peace, friendship and cooperation. Popular democracy has been restored in Surinam after a spell of military rule.

DIA SURINAME

Date : Feb 02, 1988

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

Programme of Cultural Exchange Signed with Syria

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 25, 1988 on the signing of the cultural exchange programme with Syria:

A programme of cultural exchanges between India and Syria for the year ending 1989 was signed here today. The agreement was signed by Shri Man Mohan Singh, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture on behalf of Government of India and by H.E. Mr. Mohammad Khodor, Syrian Ambassador in, New Delhi, on behalf of his Government. This programme follows a cultural agreement signed between India and Syria in 1975 and is the fourth one in the series.

The exchange programme provides for cooperation between educational institutions, National Commissions on Unesco, Higher Institute of Drama Art of Syria and National School of Drama, New Delhi; in the field of training of staff involved in making TV and other films, youth affairs and sports organisations etc.

The exchange programme also envisages award by India of scholarships to Syrian nationals to study in higher educational institutions; award of scholarships for Indians to study Arabic language, provision of training by India to Syrian nationals in educational management and planning and school health.

Provision has also been made for the visit of music officials, experts in the fields of preservation, restoration and conservation of manuscripts, visit of academics and university teachers; participation in national and international seminars, book fairs/festivals and Organisation of film festivals. The two sides have also agreed to support cooperation in the fields of youth affairs and sports and to explore possibilities of exchange of youth sports delegations.

Agreement has also been reached on exchange of textbooks, publications, art publications, folk culture troupes, manuscripts, archeological publications, radio and television programmes etc.
<pg-61>

RIA INDIA USA

Date : Feb 25, 1988

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indo-USA Discussions on Aviation Relations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 15, 1988 on Indo-US discussions on aviation relations:

The USA has agreed to assess and seriously consider India's request for Chicago as a port of landing for Air-India.

This was agreed to at a high-level meeting held recently in Washington between the official delegations of the two countries. The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Shri S. K. Misra, Secretary, Ministries of Civil Aviation and Tourism. USA delegation was led by Mr. Jeffrey Shane, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Affairs, Department of State.

The two sides agreed on signing a clause on aviation security, subject to the approval of constitutional authorities of both countries. The US side agreed that provisions of revoking of flight authorization would be implemented only in case of immediate and extraordinary threat to safety.

The US side informed the indian delegation that their federal aviation administration is in the process of rescinding the

security measures imposed for cargo on Air-India. Remaining security measures will be applicable equally on all airlines by April 1, 1989 so that Air-India would not be subject to any commercial disadvantage.

The US side agreed to an expeditious review of passenger traffic data for the period June to December, 1987. The US side would not be filing any new increases in capacity before the review.

Both delegations agreed that their carriers would not advertise or sell any new fares before filling and getting these approved by the appropriate authorities in both countries.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

WEST AFRICA

Shri Arunachalam Leads Trade Team to West Africa

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 01, 1988 on economic cooperation with Cameroon and Ivory Coast:

A high-level multi-disciplinary trade team headed by the Minister of State for Industrial Development, Shri M. Arunachalam left for Cameroon and Ivory Coast today.

These two West-African countries, popularly known as Francophone countries, belong to the French Currency Union and are having comparatively stable economies among the African countries. India is holding an Exhibition in Cameroon from March 11 - 20, 1988.

Several Indian companies are already exploring the West African markets where
<pg-62>

there are good prospects for projects in railways, road transport, small scale industries, construction industry and outright sale of tractors and other agricultural implements.

India is also exploring the possibilities for the import of raw cashewnuts, natural rubber, raw diamonds and palmolin oil from these two countries. The trade team will explore the possibility

of outright export of railway wagons to Cameroon with which the country is already having a trade agreement.

The Indian trade team, which is for the first time headed by a Minister consists of members drawn up from various disciplines like EXIM Bank, STC, IRCON, TELCO and Punjab Tractors.
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DIA CAMEROON USA

Date : Feb 01, 1988

March

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Date : Mar 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

ALGERIA

Indo-Algerian Industrial Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 01, 1988 on Indo-Algerian industrial cooperation:

India and Algeria today began discussions to explore areas of cooperation in the field of chemicals, petro-chemicals pharmaceuticals and fertilisers. The Indian side was led by Shri M. Arunachalam, Minister of State for Industrial Development and the Algerian side was led by H.E. Mr. Yacine Fergani, Vice-Minister for Chemicals and Petro-chemicals.

Both the sides expressed the desire for intensive cooperation in the field of trade, commerce, joint ventures between the two countries and exploring further areas covering transfer of

technology and Research and Development.

Shri Arunachalam said that Indian companies had been associated with the implementation of number of projects in Algeria and was looking forward to further boost as a result of this visit.

He added that in the field of petrochemicals, the Indian Petrochemicals Cooperation Limited; Engineers India Limited; and Gujarat Alkali Chemicals Limited had submitted proposals for improvement in capacity utilisation in the petrochemicals complex of Skikda. In the field of fertilisers, prefeasibility studies for possibility of joint ventures between the Indian companies and the Algerian counterpart are being carried out and also in the field. of pharmaceuticals by Indian Drugs . and Pharmaceuticals Limited.

Mr. Fergani indicated various areas in the field of chemicals, petrochemicals and for assistance and also joint ventures. He expressed cooperation for better utilisation of existing facilities and indicated projected pesticides, formulation and plastic application centre for assistance.

The delegations divided themselves into four working groups for detailed interaction and identifying areas . for cooperation.

The level of trade between India and Algeria is not commensurate with the potential offered by both the countries. Since 1977, India has secured 27 consultancy and project contracts. Projects include setting up of electric sub-stations, gas and water meter plants, construction of railway lines, designing and eventually construction of airports and a blanket factory.

GERIA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

ALGERIA

Petrochemical Projects in Algeria

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 05, 1988 on petrochemical projects in Algeria:

A protocol for development of joint ventures in the petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, pesticides and fertilizers was

signed here today. Both sides agreed to pursue the evaluation of the specific proposals for proper decision before the end of 1988.
<pg-65>

Shri M. Arunachalam, Minister for Industrial Development signed on behalf of India and - H.E. Yacine Fergani, Vice Minister for Chemicals and Petrochemicals signed on behalf of Algeria.

Both sides agreed that there was scope for collaboration in research and development and transfer of technology in these fields. The possibility of exchange of expertise and manpower in these fields also exist and should be explored further. Areas where expertise from India could be available had been identified and it was agreed that these could be pursued further.

Both sides agreed to the necessity for Algeria to strengthen its own engineering capabilities in order to achieve its development programme. In this respect both sides agreed to set up joint engineering organisations in the fields that have been identified for industrial cooperation.

For joint ventures in the field 'of petrochemicals, Indian side indicated that it required around 100,000 tonnes of ethylene, 50,000 tonnes of propylene and 100,000 tonnes of PVC and this requirement might be taken into consideration in planning petrochemical projects in joint venture under Indo-Algerian cooperation.

It has suggested a study of prefeasibility for setting up mother cracker based- on LPG feedstock in Algeria as also downstream units for manufacture of PVC, polyethylene, styrene, and polystyrene.

The study will evaluate an economic size for the cracker, its location, product mix and technological options including financial arrangements. The report would be completed by August, 1988.

The two sides agreed in principle for setting up of a joint venture in the field of petrochemical engineering. They also agreed to start a training programme of Algerian technicians and engineers to be conducted by Engineers India Limited. It was agreed that a study be carried out for strengthening the existing research centres in Algeria and identifying new areas of activity.

The Algerian side explained that it bought drugs and pharmaceuticals worth about US $ 300 million every year and their objective is to expand production facilities of bulk drugs in their country. They are planning to achieve self-sufficiency to the extent of 75 percent in next 15 years. They are looking for joint venture partners from India for production of bulk drugs.

They are also interested in Indian collaboration for developing extraction of drugs from plant materials.

The delegation met here for five days both at official and ministerial levels with the objective of furthering the economic, scientific and technical cooperation in the fields of pharmaceuticals, chemical, petrochemicals and fertilizers.

GERIA INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 05, 1988

Volume No

1995

ALGERIA

Cultural Exchange Programme with Algeria Signed

The following is Me text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 28, 1988 on signing of Me cultural exchange programme with Algeria:

A Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Algeria for the year 198890 was signed here today. It provides for coopeation between the two countries in the fields of Education, Art and Culture (including Archaeology and Archives), Tourism, Mass-media, Health, Printing Technology, Environment, Agriculture and Youth and Sports.

The Cultural Exchange Programme was signed by Shri Man Mohan Singh, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Bensmail Mehdi, Director, Ministry of Higher Education, on behalf of Government of Algeria.
<pg-66>

GERIA INDIA

Date : Mar 28, 1988

Volume No

1995

ALGERIA

Indo-Algerian Joint Commission

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 29, 1988 on Indo-Algerian Joint Commission:

The Fourth Session of the Indo-Algerian Joint Commission was held from March-26-29, 1988. The Algerian delegation was led by H.E. Mr. Zitouni Messaoudi, Minister for Light Industry and Co-Chairman of the Indo-Algerian Joint Commission and the Indian delegation was led by Shri N. D. Tiwari, Minister for Finance and Commerce and Co-Chairman of the Joint Commission. The Joint Commission meetings were preceded by official level discussions from March 23-25, 1988.

The two delegations held indepth discussions in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere on a wide-range of issues pertaining to economic cooperation between India and Algeria. Both sides agreed to promote, expand and diversify their bilateral relations in all fields.

It was agreed that a trade turn-over target of US $ 100 million should be set for 1988. In the field of industry the two sides agreed to promote bilateral industrial cooperation and to actively explore the setting up of joint ventures. Similarly it was agreed to further cooperation in the fields of chemicals, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, railways, agriculture, telecommunications as well as in the cultural, education and health fields.

The following agreements were concluded at the Joint Commission meeting:

(i) Agreement for extending a supplier's credit of US $ 100 million by EXIM Bank.

(ii) Conclusion of a new Indo-Algerian Technical and Scientific cooperation Convention to provide for better terms and conditions of work for Indian experts in Algeria.

(iii) Conclusion of the Indo-Algerian Cultural Exchange Programme 1988-90.

The Algerian Minister for Light Industry during his stay in Delhi was received by the Minister of Industry, the Minister of Energy and Communications, and the Minister of Water Resources. The Minister of State for Surface Transport called on him.

GERIA INDIA USA

Date : Mar 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

ALGERIA

Indo-Algerian Cooperation in the Field of Water Resources

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 29, 1988 on Indo-Algerian Cooperation in the field of water resources:

The visiting Minister of Light Industries of Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, Mr. Zitouni Massaoudi met Minister of Water Resources, Shri Dinesh Singh here yesterday and discussed the scope of cooperation between India and Algeria in the field of water resources.

Shri Dinesh Singh said that India would be happy to offer its experience and expertise in taking up joint survey of an integrated project on water resources development in Algeria. There could also be interaction between the technical institutions of our country and those in Algeria, he added.
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GERIA INDIA USA

Date : Mar 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

BELGIUM

Supplementary Protocol Modifying the Agreement between Indiaand Belguim for the Avoidance of Double Taxation Comes into Force

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 05, 1988 on supplementary protocol modifying the Agreement for avoidance of double taxation between India and Belgium:

A Supplementary Protocol modifying the existing Agreement for the

avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income has been entered into between the Government of India and Government of Belgium and has been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary on March 2, 1988. The Supplementary Protocol has entered into force on the 23rd January, 1988 and shall have effect in India in respect of income arising in any accounting year beginning on or after the 1st day of January, 1987. The Supplementary Protocol will modify the existing Agreement and Protocol signed on February 7, 1974 to the extent that its provisions will delete and replace the corresponding provisions of the existing Agreement.

The Supplementary Protocol provides that Head Office executive and general administrative expenses of Belgium enterprises operating through a Permanent Establishment in India will not exceed the limits laid down in our domestic law.

In computing the tax on profits of Shipping Enterprises a reduction of 50 per cent of the tax will be given in the source country. The existing Agreement provided for taxing one half of income in each Contracting State. Under the existing Agreement source country tax rates on Dividends, Interest and Royalties were as laid down in the domestic law of the Contracting States. Now the with-holding tax in source country in respect of new investments or new contracts etc., will not exceed 15 per cent on Dividends and Interest and 30 per cent on Royalties and Fees for Technical Services.

LGIUM INDIA

Date : Mar 05, 1988

Volume No

1995

BHUTAN

Chukha Hydro Electric Project

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1988 on Chukha Hydro Electric Project in Bhutan:

The third generating unit of 84 MW at Chukha hydro electric project in Bhutan has been commissioned and connected to the Easter Regional Power Grid. This would provide much needed peaking capacity and additional energy to the Eastern Region. The project by now had generated about 1400 million units. The fourth generating unit is under erection and expected to be commissioned

during June,1988.

The first and second generatnig units of 84 MW each were commissioned during September and October, 1986 and are functioning very well.
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The project is being constructed as a joint venture of the Royal Government of Bhutan and Government of India symbolising friendship and mutual cooperation. The project involved construction of a 40 M high gravity dam across river Wangchu and a complex underground system of desilting basins, a 6.5 km long head race tunnel, surge shaft, pressure shaft, and an underground power house with an installation of 4 generating units of 84 MW each, with a network of associated tunnels. The spillway radial gates of 12 m X 19 m are one of the largest size provided anywhere in the world. The underground power house cavern of 141.25 m X 24.5 m X 32.2 m is the largest in the sub-continent.

The project is expected to afford an annual energy generation of 1900 million units per annum at an estimated cost of Rs. 244 crores.

UTAN UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : Mar 17, 1988

Volume No

1995

CUBA

Cuban Vice-President Calls on the Finance Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1988 on Cuban Vice-President's call on the Finance Minister:

India and Cuba will exchange highlevel delegations to explore areas of potential trade between the two countries. This was discussed in a meeting between the Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari and the visiting Cuban Vice-President, Dr. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.

Shri Tiwari felt that there was considerable scope for increasing trade between the two countries and India's exports to Cuba could be increased. At present, India is exporting mainly foodstuffs, raw materials, machinery and transport equipment to Cuba.

Dr. Rodriguez expressed the view that India and Cuba could have cooperation in the field of sugar production, Cuba being one of the largest producers of sugar in the world,

The two leaders acknowledged that Indo-Cuban relations have been marked by cordiality and understanding on all major issues. Cuba was the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement since 1979 and welcomed India as its successor in 1983..

BA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 17, 1988

Volume No

1995

DENMARK

Danish Parliamentary Delegation Calls on Shri Bhagat

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 29, 1988 on Danish Parliamentary Delegation's call on Shri Bhagat:

A Danish Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Svend Jakobsen, Speaker of the Danish Parliament, called on the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, Shri H.K.L. Bhagat, here today.

Shri Bhagat extended hearty welcome to the visiting Delegation and hoped that
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friendly ties between India and Denmark will be further strengthened.

Shri Bhagat briefed the visiting Delegation about the functioning of the Parliamentary democracy in India. He informed the Delegation about the Consultative Committees of Members of Parliament, Business Advisory Committees and role of Chief Whips etc. He also replied to queries pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Press in India.

NMARK INDIA USA

Date : Mar 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

DISARMAMENT

Statement by Shri K. Natwar Singh in the Plenary of theConference on Disarmament

The following is the text of a statement by Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs in the plenary of the conference on disarmament at Geneva on Mar 22, 1988:

I thank you for the warm welcome accorded to me by this Conference and the kind words addressed to me personally. Let me take this opportunity of conveying to you my felicitations on your assumption of the Presidency for this month. I am confident that under your guidance, the Conference will be abe to make substantial progress in discharging its mandate. May I also express my best wishes to the Secretary General of the Conference on Disarmament, Ambassador Bomatina, and the Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Barasategui?

I consider it a privilege to come to the Conference on Disarmament again and share with the distinguished delegates here, the views of my Government on some of the most critical issues facing the world today. Almost a year has gone by since I had the opportunity of addressing the Conference on Disarmament. It has been a historic year in the field of disarmament. The signing of INF Treaty by President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev in December last marked the conclusion of the first ever disarmament agreement. Both countries deserve our congratulations for this bold measure. In our view, the INF Treaty is notable not so much for the few thousand missiles that are to be dismantled as a result of its provisions, but for the new beginning it made, away from the old approach of seeking to manage the arms race and, we hope, towards halting and reversing it. It showed that disarmament was no exception to the old adage that where there is will, there is a way. We would like to see the INF Treaty as the first in a series of nuclear disarmament agreements, distinct from the earlier ones that engaged in mere arms control. The joint statement issued at the of the Washington Summit called for a 50% reduction in the strategic nuclear arsenals of these two States. We look forward to the conclusion of such an agreement in the near future in the hope that it would pave the way for all countries to join in the process of nuclear disarmament and thus enable the world to move, in the not too distant future, towards complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Under the terms of the Treaty, however, only the launchers are to be destroyed, not the nuclear weapons themselves. Both sides are free to recycle and re-use them in delivery systems not covered by the Treaty. This clearly militates against the spirit of the Treaty the purpose of which is to eliminate altogether one category of nuclear weapons. It would be
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ironical if the process of disarmament in one field were to result in promotion of an arms race in another. We trust that this will not be so and that the question of destruction of warheads would also be addressed alongside that of the launchers in the proposed agreement on 50% reductions.

Disarmament by the very definition of the term, aims at reducing and ultimately eliminating arms. We, therefore, find it difficult to understand how the INF agreement, Which is a disarmament agreement, can be used to justify the modernisation of existing nuclear weaponry in other categories or ranges. It would be a travesty of logic if the process of disarmament in one field is used to promote an arms race in another field. In fact, the logic of the INF Treaty dictates that the thousands of tactical weapons - and for that matter all nuclear weapons - that still exist, must also be completely abolished.

The positive momentum developed by the Treaty should not be allowed to dissipate and this historic opportunity for ridding our planet of the menace of nuclear weapons should be seized without any prevarication or hesitation.

In this context, I have to express my anguish at the orchestrated campaign in recent months in influential quarters of some countries to question the feasibility of the idea of `de-nuclearisation'. The Reykjavik Summit, even though it had failed to result in an agreement, was notable for the vast ground that it was able to cover and very nearly agree upon. The differences pertained to the SDI issue, not to the question of elimination of nuclear weapons. This showed that there were no fundamental political or military obstacles to realisation of the objective of elimination of nuclear weapons within the foreseeable future. It also revealed the hollowness of the various doctrinaire objections to the idea of `de-nuclearisation' that are drummed up every now and then.

Mr. President, continued retention of nuclear weapons is still being sought to be justified on the basis of the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and the claim that nuclear weapons have kept peace in the post-war years. Nothing could be farther from the truth and experience than these claims. To take up the second claim first, during the last 40 years there have been over 150 wars in the world. While nuclear weapons were not used, the vast majority of these wars originated from the global strategic confrontation of nuclear weapon powers. The atmosphere created by

the cold war, the escalating arms race, . the rivalries over spheres of influence reaching into the farthest corners of the earth, the depths of oceans and the infinity of outer space, created the conditions for local and regional conflicts.

The old Roman saying 'si vi pacem, para bellum" (if you want peace, prepare for war) was in any case repugnant to the concept of peace that we had in our parts of the world. This was reflected very eloquently by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he said, "If you want peace, you must think of peace and prepare for peace If the old Roman saying bad any validity in the context of the formalistic Austinian concept of sovereignty and European jurisprudence, it has lost, it entirely in the nuclear age, when nuclear, weapons are used as currencies of power, and when the nuclear arms race is threatening the very survival on earth of the human species and all its glories and achievements.

A large number of perceptive and sensitive individuals, including many who have themselves spent the better parts of their lives in powerful military establishments, have confessed to the intellectual jugglery of their times for justifying nuclear deterrence as a defensive doctrine. Of course, the UN Charter does give all the member States the right to individual and collective self-defence. But by no stretch of imagination can this be taken to imply that some States have the right to hold the survival of the world to ransom. It is indeed incredible that in this age of' reason and this period of highly developed
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human consciousness, some of us should feel it necessary and even insist on the right to unleash devastation on a global scale in the name of ensuring their individual and collective security.

Mr. President, we in India firmly believe that the time has come for the international community to engage in some collective introspection on our present predicament. The nuclear danger, overshadowing our very survival, looms large on every sphere of human activity. The historically unprecedented militarisation of international relations during the last four decades has cast an ominous shadow on the theory and practice of all aspects of international affairs. It has vitiated the climate and hindered the evolution of the international system away from the law of the jungle towards a normative world order. We urge that serious consideration be given to the changes of doctrines, policies, attitudes and institutions required to realise the prospect of a nuclear weaponfree world that has opened up now. In particular, the totally misplaced faith in the necessity of nuclear weapons for keeping peace needs to be speedily discarded. A world order crafted out of the outmoded ideas of special rights and privileges for a select band of nations is an anachronism in the closing years of the twentieth century. As our Prime Minister said recently at the Stockholm Summit of the Six Nation Initiative:

"What we seek is not a marginal adjustment in the machinery of nuclear confrontation, nor a partial or temporary scaling down of the arms race. What we seek is an effective structure of international security, a structure that discards obsolete mindsets, dangerous delusions, and destructive strategic doctrines. Distant though the prospect of a nuclear weapon-free world might seem, it is a prospect. We must start giving thought now to the international order we would like to see prevail in a world which is rid of nuclear weapons. We have to revert to first principles: to the principles of non-violence and tolerance, of compassion and understanding of one world for one humanity. Coercion must give way to reason. Spheres of influence and special privileges must yield to a true democracy of nations. The cornering of resources for weaponry must be transmuted into the sharing of resources for global development. The pursuit of dominance must be replaced by co-existence and cooperation."

Mr. President, this is the vision and the backdrop against which we look at the activities of this august body, the sole forum of the UN for negotiation of disarmament agreements.

1987 also witnessed the convening of the first ever International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, which I had the privilege of presiding over. The multi-dimensional relationship between disarmament and development was carefully explored on this occasion. An overwhelming majority of nations concluded, inter alia, that "the world can either continue to pursue the arms race with characteristic vigour or move consciously and with deliberate speed towards a more stable and balanced social and economic development within a more sustainable international and political order: it cannot do both." The deliberations during the Conference reflected the widespread concern about the staggering level of the global military expenditure and how it had emerged as a principal factor responsible for the current instability and uncertainty of the world economy and disarray of the world economic system. This augurs well for the future. Security, which can hardly be conceived of in the absence of disarmament and development, cannot be measured in purely military terms. Disarmament can enhance security both directly and indirectly. On the one hand, movement away from the heavily overarmed state of the world today would provide for enhanced security for all at progressively lower levels of armaments; on the other, it would release additional
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resources for addressing ourselves to the non-military threats to security.

Mr. President, modern science-based technology has done more than anything else to shape the present day world. Perhaps, its greatest impact has been the globalisation of our problems. No

longer can we deal with problems of poverty, development, disarmament, security, pollution, ecology, etc., in isolation. The technological dimension obliges us to address these issues in a global framework. We hope that the Conference on the Relationship between Disarmamnt and Development would mark a turning point in the history of the international community's efforts to grapple with the two most urgent challenges facing it.

To come to the specific tasks before the CD, the first item on its agenda - Nuclear Test Ban - deals with the engine-motor of the qualitative nuclear arms race. It is an item to which my Government attaches the highest priority. We, therefore, consider it really unfortunate that during 1987 too, the CD was not able to break out of the deadlock on the question of the mandate to be assigned to the Ad Hoc Committee and undertake negotiations for putting an end to all nuclear weapon tests. In this context, I may recall that the Partial Test Ban Treaty, when concluded in 1963, was considered an important first step towards a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). A quarter century later, we are still nowhere near concluding a CTBT. This is especially unfortunate because of the fact that both within the CD and outside it, agreement has very nearly been reached on this issue on a number of occasions. There are several draft texts of the proposed CTBT, which could serve as a basis for speedy conclusion of negotiations if these were to be undertaken in earnest. The inordinate delay in commencement of negotiations can be attributed to nothing but lack of political will on the part of some nuclear weapon States. We remain unconvinced that the meaningful progress towards a CTBT can be made so long as the concerned nuclear weapon States are not able to muster the requisite political Will.

Keeping in mind the prohibition of testing of nuclear weapons as the single most far-reaching measure for curbing the nuclear arms race, the Six Nation Peace Initiative has focussed on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and offered to assist in the monitoring of any halt in nuclear testing. Unfortunately, the offer has not been universally accepted. The offer, however, still stands.

At the recent meeting of the Six leaders in Stockholm, a report on jointly monitored nuclear testing was issued. It indicated that 47 tests were carried out during the last year by the five nuclear weapon states. These figures are a source of concern. They convey the grim message-that new nuclear weapons are being designed and existing ones being refined and further modernised. This cannot be reconciled with the assertion that a nuclear war cannot be won and must not be fought.

Bilateral negotiations with limited objectives do not meet the demands of the members of this Conference. We. believe that an effective test ban must be universally observed. This calls for multilateral negotiations within this Conference. Any agreement

that leaves room for continued testing does not meet the requirements of the present situation.

Mr. President, I turn now to the more positive aspect of the work of the CD, where considerable progress has been made during the last year. I refer to the negotiations relating to a chemical weapons convention. The efforts in this area, which are now close to a successful conclusion, should provide an example for negotiations on all kinds of weapons of mass destruction.

While we are close enough to see the light at the end of the tunnel, it is disturbing to hear voices of specticism being raised by some. I would urge all countries
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to refrain from taking any steps that would undermine confidence, so necessary to see us through to our objective. This calls for restraint from actions which could be construed as provocative and complicate the negotiations. It is also necessary to keep our objective clearly in focus - a universal, comprehensive disarmament agreement. Only such an agreement can safeguard the interests of all States, despite the diversity of their perceptions. Let us keep in mind that each sovereign state, before consenting to accede to the convention, must discover for itself a positive balance between obligations, responsibilities and advantages.

If I sound too cautious, it is perhaps because I perceive that what is at stake here is more than one disarmament agreement and the very capacity of the CD as the sole multilateral negotiating forum. On the whole I am optimistic. I do hope that other delegations also share my optimism. about. a satisfactory conclusion of CD's efforts on a chemical weapons agreement during 1988.

Mr. President, let me now turn to another area where this Conference bears an equally heavy responsibility, though of a different nature. The objective here is not to abolish weapons in existence, but to prevent their emergence in the Heavens. For three years now, we have been discussing this subject in an Ad Hoc Committee, though with a limited, mandate. These three years' experience has proved beyond doubt that this mandate is too restrictive. We have almost a dozen concrete proposals on the table. These have originated from delegations belonging to all the groups represented here. Some of these are wide-ranging in scope, some involve setting up of new organisations, some are more modest and involve strengthening of the existing international legal regime. My delegation has also made some proposals last year but we find ourselves unable to commence substantive discussions in the absence of an appropriate mandate.

It is difficult to visualise how any progress can be achieved unless the CD is given the freedom to fulfil its negotiating

responsibilities, as spelled out in the Final Document. A negotiating mandate does not forestall or prevent requisite preparations. On the contrary, it obliges delegations to start meaningful discussions because there is a clear objective. I have no doubt that the negotiating mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on chemical weapons since 1984, helped to focus the discussions and intensify the work. What is necessary is commitment to early realisation of the goal of prevention of an arms race in outer space shared by all and I would strongly urge you to consider a mandate which would suitably reflect such a common objective.

Mr. President, I do not think I need repeat to this distinguished audience the reasons why it is important to prevent an arms race in outer space, which are well known by now. The non-aligned and neutral countries have consistently been of the view that outer space is the common heritage of all mankind and all exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes should be carried out for the benefit, and in the interest of, all developing countries. Satellite technology has now reached a stage where its advantages in terms of communications, remote sensing, navigation and meteorology are becoming progressively more accessible. We, therefore, view with great concern the development of anti-satellite weapon systems. Priority must be accorded in this area to a ban on the development of anti-satellite weapons coupled with the dismantling of existing systems. It is an encouraging sign that in the two States with the most significant space capabilities, some restraints in this regard are currently being observed. What is needed now is urgently to agree on a binding multilateral commitment.

Mr. President, the Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament will take place at a crucial but opportune moment. The advances in the bilateral negotiations between United
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States and USSR should improve the prospects of the ' success of the Conference. The consensus on the Final Document of the First Special Session of 1978 is a document of abiding value and long-term validity. Our goals are clearly and unambiguously stated in the programme of action contained in the Final Document. These should be now taken up for implementation in earnest. We look forward to the Session as an opportunity for a genuine search for ways of breaking out of the impasse in the multilateral process during the last decade or so and stand ready to work with all for outlining the course of activities for the future.

Today we stand on the threshold of a new arms race in emerging technologies. With increasing miniaturisation and advances in precision capabilities techniques of target identification, warheads are becoming smaller, more lethal and accurate. There is an increased versatility in both launch platfrom and warheads. The combination of the most recent advances in the field of electronics with the lethality of nuclear explosive power will

prove to be deadly. At the same time, the functions of reconnissance, surveillance, target identification, kill assessment and evaluation are being re-designed to make greater use of all satellite and other sophisticated sensor technologies and data processing using fifth generation computers. With such deployments, the command and control systems stand in danger of becoming increasingly automated and hence dehumanised Exotic technologies, such as -X-Ray lasers, plasma weapons, rail guns, etc. - mechanisms, which involve very rapid transfers of highly focussed precise amounts of destructive energy are being harnessed feverishly. On the other side, there has been developments that enable us to enhance confidence in compliance with existing and future disarmament agreements. The same satellite technologies can be used to play an important role as a confidence building measure. The same sensor technologies can also assist in the conclusion of a future chemical weapons convention or an ASAT ban. Acquisition is neutral; its applications can be stabilising or destabilising. We have to develop the means to channelise these applications into a stabilising mode. In order to do so, we need continually to assess the implications of these developments for security. We also need to develop appropriate institutional mechanisms which are capable of undertaking this task. The arms race has unfortunately made science & technology the masters of war rather than the servants of peace. At SSOD-III, we must look at this equation and attempt to retrieve the balance.

Verification of compliance is an issue of concern to all nations. Consequently, it cannot be left only to those which are advanced in military technology. There is now a growing recognition of the need of a suitable multilateral verification system as part of strengthened multilateralism to manage the present complex international economic and political relations. It was in this context that the leaders of the Six Nation Initiative proposed in the Stockholm Declaration:

"We recognise the need for the establishment of an integrated multilateral verification system within the United Nations, as an integral part of a strengthened multilateral framework required to ensure peace and security during the process of disarmament as well as in a nuclear weapon-freeworld."

The six leaders have declared their intention to jointly propose that the United Nations promote the establishment of such a system at the forthcoming Special Session on Disarmament.

Mr. President, in reviewing the work of the CD, one cannot escape the uncomfortable feeling that its achievements have been modest in relation to the arduous tasks and onerous responsibilities . it is faced with. It is evident that the CD can advance only so far as the nuclear weapon States are willing to allow it to. The importance of these countries mustering the necessary political will cannot be overemphasised. We do not share the view

that there is any inherent defect in the structure, composition or the procedures of the Conference on Disarmament. Of course, we are not against organisational reform. We strongly favour the suggestions for improving CD's effectiveness made by the Wise Men's Group, especially the proposal for automatic re-establishment of Ad Hoc Committees at the end of the year with a standard mandate for subsidiary bodies on all the. remaining agenda items. However, such measures can only supplement and not be a substitute for the will to make progress.

The building of an effective structure of international security is a common undertaking for which we all share responsibility. It cuts across regional boundaries as well as distinctions of ideology. As a global undertaking, the only constraint that it imposes is that we act collectively, and not in the pursuit of our narrowly conceived individual or group interests. Unfortunately, we do not have much time. I understand that when the INF agreement was signed, the "bulletin clock", a symbol of the threat of nuclear war ' was turned back by one minute and now it stands, four minutes to midnight. It is a reprieve before we begin to plan for our future. Let us use this reprieve to ensure that we have a future. This, to me, is the most important task facing us all in this Conference and elsewhere.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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Date : Mar 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Shri Tiwari for Reducing Trade Gap between India and WestGermany

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 14, 1988 on the adverse balance of trade between India and West Germany:

The Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari has called for effective means to minimise the adverse balance of trade between India and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). Speaking in the opening plenary session of the Seventh Indo-German Joint Commission, here today, the Minister said that the bilateral

trade deficit between the two countries which was only Rs. 3090 million in 1980-81 has increased to Rs. 12 billion in 1986-87. During the last decade, FRG's exports to India registered an increase of 266 per cent, whereas India's exports to FRG rose only by 96 per cent. He felt that the actual enterprise level activities of the two countries should achieve the overall improvement of the balance of trade with the promotional and motivational role by the two governments.

The Finance Minister also appealed to the FRG to use their position in the EEC to develop a system more helpful to the developing countries. He felt that at the European community level the preferential access given to exports under the - community's generalised system of preferences is unfavourable to the developing countries. The reimposition of duties on imports of all items and the quota restrictions imposed recently on textile products also need modification.

Shri Tiwari maintained that a number of important projects of far reaching developmental importance qualify for German technology and supplies and extra ODA support. He felt that FRG with its large foreign exchange reserves and trade surpluses can help in this process of deve-
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lopment by recycling a part of its resources. He pointed out that the bilateral government to government FRG aid allocation to India has remained stagnant for about a decade and there was scope for private capital inflow and official development assistance to India.

Shri Tiwari referred to the development efforts and close interaction between the two countries in the realm of technology transfer and felt that these can play a significant role in the years to come. The total number of collaborations with FRG firms till 1987 stood at 2058 which constitutes about 18 per cent of India's total collaborations, second only to the USA. He, however, felt that the German capital inflow into India has been very modest. The total German investment in India which was Only DM 25 million in 1986 came down in 1987 to mere DM 12 million. He hoped that the West German firms will take note of the new investment climate in India as a result of our new policies and simplified procedures. There is also the case for higher level of investment in sectors involving third countries exports.

Welcoming Technogerma as FRG's largest ever industrial exhibition in India, Shri Tiwari appreciated that Indian industry will get a valuable exposure to German technological developments and industrial innovations which could lead to increased collaborations between the industries of the two countries. India's policy of modernisation and upgradation of technology will naturally further increase the scope of such cooperation in future.

Speaking on the occasion, the FRG Minister of Economics, Dr. Martin Bangemann praised Indian government's efforts to create stable framework conditions for joint ventures. He appreciated India's concern over high trade deficit and assured that FRG will help in reaching a more balanced trade within the scope of available possibilities. He expressed satisfaction that India's exports to the FRG increased 13.7 per cent in 1987 over the year 1986. He said that FRG has 200 joint ventures in India, which is the highest FRG collaborations figures in the world.

Following the discussions in the joint commission, the two leaders signed the minutes of the meeting. It is for the. first time that the joint commission has been elevated to the Ministerial level.

RMANY INDIA USA PERU

Date : Mar 14, 1988

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1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

FRG Minister of Economics Meets Shri Sathe

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 14, 1988 on FRG Minister of Economics meeting with Shri Vasant Sathe:

The visiting Minister of Economics of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Martin Bengemann, met the Minister of Energy and Communications, Shri Vasant Sathe, and discussed the matters of mutual interest in the energy sector.

Shri Sathe said the real solution of India's energy problems was in harnessing the natural sources of energy like solar, wind, biogas and biomass, etc. "The day we achieve a breakthrough in the field Of solar energy, we will be ushering in an energy revolution in the country", he added.

The Minister added that there was an active proposal to set up a 30-MW solar, plant in Rajasthan. A number of solar demonstration plants had been, installed at many centres, he said.

The visiting FRG Minister evinced keen interest in India's programmes to increase energy generation, particularly in the

field of alternative energy sources.
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RMANY INDIA USA

Date : Mar 14, 1988

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Indo-German Cooperation in Coal Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 14, 1988 on Indo-German Cooperation in Coal sector:

India plans to take up a number of coal projects with the cooperation of Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)

These projects include mining of coal from 'the deep underground mines of Tandsi and Setia in the Western Coalfields, Chinakuri and Bhanora (West) of the Eastern Coalfields, and Ramagundem-II opencast mine of Singareni Collieries.

India also proposes to set up the Bina dry beneficiation plant of the Northern Coalfields and to undertake installation of airconditioning system at Moonidiah underground mine of Bharat Coking Coal Company. Total electronification of Pathakhera underground mine is also planned with FRG assistance.

The Federal Republic of Germany also intends to continue its significant cooperation in the projects of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

A protocal to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the coal sector was signed here today at the conclusion of Indo-FRG Joint Working Group discussions in coal sector. It was signed by Shri S. Varadan, Secretary (Coal), Ministry of Energy, and Dr. Von Wuerzen, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Economics in FRG.

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Date : Mar 14, 1988

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Indo-German Cooperation in Science and Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 15, 1988 on Indo-German cooperation in science and technology:

The scientific and technological cooperation between India and the Federal Republic of Germany is playing a crucial and vital role in fostering better understanding between the two countries. Its impact is being felt not only in Indian economy but also in Indian social order.

These observations were made here today by the Minister of State for Science and Technology, Shri K. R. Narayanan while speaking at a Conference on Indo-German Cooperation in Science & Technology, organised in connection with the TECHNOGERMA Exhibition in India.

Referring to the success of on-going cooperation programmes in various scientific areas and between a number of scientific institutions, Shri Narayanan said that this was providing the required impetus for collaborating more fully and vigorously in industrial, scientific and technological fields.

Shri Narayanan said that originality and excellence of German technology has created such mystifying effect that India was trying to imbibe some of it specially in the field of frontier science and the application of science & technology.

Federal Republic of Germany was one of the few developed nations to understand historical processes of India, said Shri Narayanan, and it was one of the few developed countries which entered into bilateral cooperation in the very beginning. Today, a programme of vigorous cooperation is concurrently going on in the private sector as well between the two countries.

He said that TECHNOGERMA Exhibition was in response to the liberal policies launched in Indian economy. This libera-
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lisation was part of an evolutionary process that had been going on in India. He also said that India had neither been a doctrinaire society nor withdrawn from the world. It adopted policies needed for building up our heavy industries and the

infrastructure for self-reliance.

Shri Narayanan also said that India's emphasis on the growth of public sector had, in fact, laid the infrastructure for private sector. If we have a vibrant private sector today, it is because of the foundation laid by the public sector and the self-reliance provided by scientific and technological development.

RMANY INDIA USA

Date : Mar 15, 1988

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Agreements Signed for German Loan of DM 160 Million for IFCIand ICICI

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 15, 1988 on German loan of DM 160 Million for IFC1 and ICICI:

India will get a loan of DM 160 million equivalent to Rs. 128.88 crores. Agreements to this effect were signed between Shri D. N. Davar, Chairman, Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Shri K. V. Kamath of Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) and Dr. Gert Vogt of Kreditanstaltfur-Wiederaufbau (KFW) here today. KFW has extended line of credit of DM 80 million equivalent to Rs. 64.44 crores each for IFCI and ICICI. The amount is repayable in 50 years with a grace period of 10 years at an interest rate of 0.75 per cent per annum.

With the signing of the loan agreement of DM 80 million, the total amount of credits from KFW to IFCI would aggregate DM 407.500 million equivalent to about Rs. 328.23 crores. These credits have enabled IFCI to meet varied requirements of the industries of the country. for the import of capital goods, technical know-how and engineering services.

KFW has so far given line of credit to IFCI for DM 400 million equivalent to Rs. 300 crores and to ICICI for DM 375 million equivalent to Rs. 285 crores.

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Date : Mar 15, 1988

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

India to Get DM 74.5 Million Aid From FRG

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 21, 1988 on DM 74.5 million aid from FRG:

Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) will provide DM 74.5 million (Rs. 60.25 crore) loan assistance to India. An agreement to this effect was signed here today, by the Finance Secretary, Shri S. Venkitaramanan and the FRG Ambassador in India, Dr. Konrad Seitz in the presence of the Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari and the FRG Minister for Economic Cooperation, Dr. Hans Klein.

The loan is repayable in 50 years with a grace period of ten years at the interest rate of 0.75 per cent per annum. The amount will be used on various new projects and on-going projects of Indo-German cooperation. Some of them are Dhauladhar Social Forestry Project in Palampur district (Himachal Pradesh), Neyveli Lignite Project, NTPC, Minor Irrigation Project in Rajasthan, Technological Collaboration in IIT Madras, etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari appreciated the contribution of West Germany in India's development efforts. Shri Tiwari said that FRG is now India's second biggest collaborator next only to the USA and accounts for around 18 per cent of the total number of approved foreign collaborations. He said that although in terms of technology
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transfer the cooperation has been significant, the volume of investment has remained relatively low.

West German Minister for Economic Cooperation, Dr. Hans Klein said that German industry and investment concerns had now a clearer understanding of investment possibilities in India. Referring to the Technogerma, currently held in Delhi, he said that it was a milestone in Indo-FRG cooperation wherein 270 German firms have shown interest in Indian market, He said that his country is aware of the problems in balance of payments position, India is facing. He hoped that the recent trend of more and more German firms showing interest in Indian market will improve the situation to the liking of India.

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Date : Mar 21, 1988

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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

GDR Parliamentary Delegation Calls on Shri Bhagat

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 30, 1988 on GDR Parliamentary Delegation's call on Shri H. K. L. Bhagat:

A Parliamentary Delegation from German Democratic Republic (GDR) led by H.E. Mr. Horst Sinrermann, President of the People's Chamber and Member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) called on the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, Shri H. K. L. Bhagat, here today.

Extending warm welcome to the visiting Delegation Shri Bhagat hoped that existing friendly ties between India and German Democratic Republic would be further strengthened.

Shri Bhagat also briefed the visiting Delegation about the Parliamentary democracy in India.

DIA GERMANY

Date : Mar 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Prime Minister's Statement at the Launching of Indian RemoteSensing Satellite

The following is the text of a statement made by the Prime Minister in Parliament on Mar 17, 1988 on the launching of

Indian Remote Sensing Satellite:

India's first indigenous Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS)-IA has today been successfully launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome in the Soviet Union. The spacecraft is functioning normally. It is revolving around the earth in a polar orbit once every 103.2 minutes.

After separation from the VOSTOK launcher, the automatic deployment of the satellite's solar panels has been successfully accomplished. They are maintaining the temperature within the stipulated limits.
<pg-80>

The satellite is being controlled from the main Spacecraft Control Centre at Bangalore. ISRO ground stations at Lucknow and Mauritius are also being used in this mission. In addition, at the initial stages of the mission, ground stations of foreign space agencies located in Kenya, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany are assisting in monitoring the progress of the satellite.

All systems and subsystems of the Indian Remote Sensing satellite have been designed and fabricated indigenously. IRS-IA weighs 975 kg. and carries two sets of state-of-the-art cameras. One, camera will provide imageries with a resolution of 72 metres over a longitudinal strip of 148 km. as the spacecraft sweeps over India. The second camera will provide imageries with a resolution of 36 metres over the same area. The spacecraft orbit will be continuously adjusted to ensure that all imageries are taken every day, around 10.25 a.m.

The successful launching of IRS-IA is a major milestone in our remote sensing programme. India now becomes the fifth nation in the world - after USA, USSR, France and Japan - to have accomplished the remote sensing of the earth's resources from Space.

I am sure the House would wish to join me in extending our heartiest congratulations to the team of scientists, engineers and supporting staff of the Department of Space whose dedicated efforts over the last 5 years have brought this great success to the nation.

DIA USA ITALY MAURITIUS KENYA GERMANY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FRANCE JAPAN

Date : Mar 17, 1988

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Indo-Hungarian Programme of Cooperation in Science andTechnology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 01, 1988 on Indo-Hungarian programme of cooperation in science and technology:

A Programme of Cooperation in the field of Science & Technology for the period 1988-1990 was signed here today between India and Hungary in the presence of the Hungarian Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr. Peter Varkonyi and Shri K. R. Narayanan, Minister of State for Science & Technology. The Programme of Cooperation was signed by Dr. Vasant Gowariker, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Mr. Jozsef Olah, Hungarian Ambassador in India.

Taking into account mutual interests of the two countries, nine areas of Cooperation have been agreed upon. These are: Electronic Components, Industrial Application of Laser Optics, Biotechnology, Ceramic Components, Mining, Aluminium Industrial Research, Neuro Sciences, Catalysis and Machine Tools.

NGARY INDIA USA

Date : Mar 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Indo-Hungarian Cooperation in Energy Sector - Hungarian ForeignMinister Meets Shri Sathe

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 01, 1988 on Indo-Hungarian Cooperation in energy sector:

Hungary has shown its willingness to strengthen cooperation with India in the energy sector, particularly in the lignite field. This was indicated when the visiting Foreign Minister of Hungary, Mr. Peter Varkonyi, met the Minister of Energy and Communications, Shri Vasant Sathe, here today.
<pg-81>

Shri Sathe said that India wanted 'to augment power generation

capacity with the cooperation of friendly countries. In the field of tele-communications, with the induction of modern technologies a quantum jump in this area was envisaged, he added.

Mr. Varkonyi said that his country wanted to strengthen economic and trade cooperation with India and explore the possibilities to further develop these relations. His country would be happy to assist India in the expansion of lignite fired thermal projects at Neyveli Lignite complex in Tamil Nadu.

Hungary has already assisted in the installation. of first stage of the second thermal power station of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. All these three units of 210 MV each have since been commissioned.

Shri S. Varadan, Secretary (Coal), assisted Shri Sathe in the discussions.

NGARY INDIA USA

Date : Mar 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Prime Minister to Inaugurate 11th UNCHS Session on April 6 -Global Shelter Strategy to be Discussed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 25, 1988 on the 11th session of UNCHS:

Global shelter strategy to the year 2000 will be the main theme of the 11th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS) being held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi from April 6 to 12, 1988. The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, will inaugurate the Session on April 6.

The proposal for strategy for shelter and plan of action for its implementation and evaluation which will be approved by the Commission is to be submittted through the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to the General Assembly at its 43rd Session which is expected to be held towards the end of the current year. Other issues to be discussed during the Session will include the progress report on the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) including the mid-term plan for the period 1990-95 and the outline of the theme for the next session and also its provisional agenda.

The Commission will also have an overview of the national actions taken and assess the achievements during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH) vis-a-vis its objectives.

The Session being hosted by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, ' is expected to be attended by about 400 delegates from different regions of the world of whom 40 to 50 will be at the Ministerial level. A 150-member Secretariat comprising the UN personnel will be temporarily stationed in Delhi for servicing the session. The Executive Director of the UNCHS (Habitat) has issued invitation for this session to all the member-States of the United Nations, UN bodies and agencies, specialised agencies, National Liberation Movements, Inter governmental organisations, and non governmental organisations.

The 11th Session will be special significance inasmuch as it is being held follow-
<pg-82>

ing the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987) which was observed all over the world to focus the attention of the international community on the basic need for shelter and to evolve, establish and implement shelter strategies and programmes which would benefit the poorest of the poor, particularly the world's homeless, by the year 2000 A.D. A total of 130 countries had reported by December 31, 1987 on the activities, policies, programmes and projects undertaken by them in the context of IYSH - 1987 and towards the attainment of its objectives.

As in the past, the Session will be preceded by a Seminar of the non-governmetal organisations on April 3 and 4, 1988.

BACKGROUNDER

In 1976, representatives of 132 Governments met at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held at Vancouver, Canada and demonstrated for the first time their willingness to acknowledge and collectively discuss problems and solutions relating to human settlements. They concluded that there was an urgent need for a United Nations body entrusted with the responsibility of assisting Governments in their national programmes on human settlements development. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was created to meet that need, under a 58-member governing body, the Commission on Human Settlements. The UNCHS (Habitat) formally set up in October, 1978 is relatively new UN agency.

The members of the Commission on Human Settlements are elected for a fouryear term by the Economic and Social Council, with regional representations of 16 African, 13 Asian (including Western Asia and the Pacific), 6 Eastern European, 10 Latin American (including Carribean) and 13 Western European and

others. The effective membership of the Commission in 1988 is 56. At present, there are two vacancies on the Commission - one in Asian region and the other in Western European and other States. India has been re-elected on the Commission and its membership will expire in 1991.

The Commission meets annually to review the work programme of the UNCHS (Habitat) and provide overall guidance. In addition, it discusses at each session a major substantive theme or themes related to human settlements. Since its inception in 1978, the Commission has so far held 10 Sessions. The last Session, the 10th (Commemorative) Session, was held in April, 1987 in Nairobi (Kenya).

By a resolution adopted in December, 1987, the General Assembly of the United Nations had, as recommended by the Commission on Human Settlements, decided that "there shall be a global strategy for shelter to the year 2000, including a plan of action for its implementation, monitoring and evaluation." The General Assembly had requested the Executive Director of the UNCHS (Habitat) to prepare a proposal for a global strategy for shelter to the year 2000 for consideration by the Commission on Human Settlements at its 11th Session.

India being a member of the Commission on Human Settlements is fully committed to its objectives and has been contributing 1,00,000 dollars annually to the UNCHS (Habitat) funds.

A INDIA CANADA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC KENYA

Date : Mar 25, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Shri Tiwari Stresses Concept of Self - Reliance AmongDeveloping Countries

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 09, 1988 on self-reliance among developing countries:

The Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari has called for working out schemes in order to give a concrete shape to the concept of self-reliance among the developing countries. Delivering the inaugural address at the Research and Information System for the Non-aligned and other developing countries, here today,

the Minister said that the time has come when the ideas of cooperation in the fields of production, trade and services among the developing countries are given a practical shape and a concrete strategy is chalked-out and acted upon for South-South Cooperation.

Shri Tiwari said that the global economy and international economic relations are under unprecedented stress and the situation is made worse by the sluggish growth of world output and trade, the instability and uncertainty of international economic system, changing equations among the economic power groups and stagnation in the transfer of resources coupled with deteriorating terms of trade. The international monetary system has been in a state of deep disarray since the early 70s. He stressed that there is need for reforms and the suggestions put forward by the five-member expert group set up in 1984 by late Smt. Indira Gandhi should be given a serious consideration for reforming the international monetary system. It is in the interest of developing countries to work out alternatives, consistent with their interests.

The Finance Minister expressed concern over the erosion in the purchasing power of the developing countries because of their deteriorating terms of trade and inadequate transfer of resources to them. He felt that the recycling of the resources and solving the structural problems of developed countries deserve priority of attention.

Shri Tiwari warned that the debt burden of the developing countries has reached the staggering level of more than a trillion dollars and felt that various. schemes in this regard tried recently, have not proved effective in making any significant dent on the problem. The problem should be viewed as a joint responsibility of the creditor and debtor countries which must together find means for the development process from the shackles of indebtedness.

The Finance Minister said that in the modem inter-dependent world, seeking solutions to complex global problems on a sectarian basis is short-sighted and counter productive. Most of the economic policies of the major developed countries have global implications. He welcomed the recent initiatives among the major developed countries towards a coordination of their macro economic policies. He, however, made it clear that they are not likely to be fully effective unless they embrace the developing countries and socialist countries also.

DIA USA

Date : Mar 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

ADB President Calls on the Union Finance Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 24, 1988 on ADB President's call on the Union Finance Minister:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has shown interest in assisting public as well as private enterprises in India. This was said by the visiting ADB President Mr. Masao Fujioka when he called on the Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, here today.

ADB provided 393.6 million dollar aid to India during 1987 which was over 26 per cent of the total Ordinary Capital Resources (OCR) lending, during the year. The lending level for 1988 to India may be between 450-475 million dollar. While appreciating the liberal ADB assistance to India, the Finance Minister informed Mr. Fujioka that the Government has recently established a Small Industrial Development Bank of India which will extend help to more than 1.3 million small industrial units in the country. Shri Tiwari also praised the help of the Bank being extended to several development projects in the country.
<pg-84>

DIA USA

Date : Mar 24, 1988

Volume No

1995

IRAN-IRAQ WAR

Statement by Shri K. Natwar Singh in Parliament on Safety ofIndian Nationals in Tehran

The following is the text of a Suo-Moto statement made in Parliament by Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, on Mar 08, 1988 on Iran-Iraq War:

Members are no doubt aware of reports regarding recent escalation of the tragic war between Iran and Iraq through missile attacks on each other's cities. These have resulted in civilian casualties on both sides.

Fortunately Indian nationals in both countries have escaped the ferocity of these attacks. As the House is well aware Government have persistently called for an end to this tragic conflict and urged restraint on both sides.

We have welcomed the Security Council Resolution 598 to bring about a peaceful settlement of the conflict and the efforts of the UN Secretary General to bring about its early implementation. Meanwhile, in view of the danger to the families of India based staff of our Embassy in Tehrn, arrangements are in hand for their evacuation by a special flight. This facility can also be availed of by some families of the: Indian community in Tehran.

It is proposed to arrange the evacuation on 10th March 1988. The security and welfare of the families of the India based Embassy staff in Baghdad is consistantly under review.

AN IRAQ INDIA USA

Date : Mar 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Malaysian Palm Oil Industry Delegation Meets Shri Sukh Ram

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 14, 1988 on Malaysian Palm Oil Industry delegation's meeting with Shri Sukh Ram:

A delegation led by Mr. Toh Pan Huat, General Manager, Palm Oil Refineries Association of Malaysia (PORAM) called on Sri Sukh Ram, Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies, here today and held wideranging discussion particularly about Palm Oil Trade.

The 13-member Malaysian delegation which arrived in the Capital on March 13, represents the 75 per cent of the Palm Oil Refineries in Malaysia. They had a meeting with the State Trading Corporation and the Indian Trade Community today.

The Minister told the delegation that the Price of palm oil should not fluctuate and that it should be available on reasonable and stable prices.

Mr. Huat assured the Minister that Malaysia would supply assured quality of palm oil at reasonable prices in the future.

India has imported about 15 lakh tonnes of edible oil from different countries. The import of palm oil from Malaysia during. 1986-87 was about 9 lakh tonnes.
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LAYSIA UNITED KINGDOM USA INDIA

Date : Mar 14, 1988

Volume No

1995

NORWAY

India and Norway Sign Textile Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 08, 1988 on the signing of the Textile Agreement between India and Norway:

The bilateral Textile Agreement concluded recently between India and Norway was formally signed here today. The Agreement was signed in the presence of the Union Textile Secretary, Shri Shiromani Sharma, by Dr. J. K. Bagchi, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Textiles, on behalf of the Government of India and by Mr. K. Daehlen, Ambassador of Norway in New Delhi, signed on behalf of Norway.

The Agreement is valid for 5 years with effect from 1st January, 1987 under the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) which governs international trade in textiles and there is also a provision for roll over of the Agreement for one more year based on mutual consent.

Under the Agreement, handloom garments have been exempted for the first time from quota restrictions within a limited ceiling. Handloom made-ups and handloom fabrics will continue to enjoy quota free access to the Norwegian market. The new Agreement contains a number of other improvements over the previous agreement which are expected to result in a substantial increase

in India's textile exports to Norway. These are as follows:

(i) The number of categories under restraint and surveillance in the earlier agreement was 21. This has been brought down to 7 in the new agreement.

(ii) There has been substantial increase in the base levels or quota levels for the categories under restraint.

(iii) The annual growth rate allowed for the categories under restraint has also been increased substantially as compared to the growth rate in the previous Agreement.

(iv) The Agreement does not cover the new fibres such as silk blends and blends with vegetable fibres etc. which have been included in MFA-IV.

India's textile exports to Norway were valued at Rs. 11.12 crores in 1987 which was about 7% higher than exports in 1986. Quota utilisation in 1987 was 100%.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Shiromani Sharma expressed the hope that textile trade between India and Norway would register. substantial growth in the coming years on the basis of the Agreement signed today.

RWAY INDIA OMAN USA

Date : Mar 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India's Stand on Non-Proliferation Treaty Guided by GlobalConsiderations

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 05, 1988, in response to queries about a report in the Times of India suggesting that there was a possible change in India's nuclear policies on the question of safeguards:

Mr. Peter Galbraitch staff member of the US Senate Foreign Relations Commit-
<pg-86>

tee who was recently in India has evidently arrived at some

unwarranted inferences about India's nuclear policies after his courtsey call on the Prime Minister and meetings with officials.

There is no change nor will there be any change in India's nuclear policies including our principled stand on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and international safeguards. Our policy is guided by global considerations and not by socalled regional or bilateral considerations.

India's indigeneously developed nuclear programme cannot be equated or viewed in pandem with weapons oriented programmes under military control, built on materials and designs clandestinely acquired from western nation in clear violation of their laws and regulations.

DIA USA

Date : Mar 05, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Sri Lankan Minister for Lands and Mahaveli Development

The following is the text of a statement made My the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 15, 1988:

The Sri Lankan Minister for Lands and Mahaveli Development Mr. Gamini Dissanayake will be arriving by a special aircraft today evening for an exchange of views on the developing political situation in the Island for the forthcoming provincial elections in Sri Lanka. The discussions will also cover a review of the military and political situation. During his stay he is expected to call on the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister and also hold discussions with the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Natwar Singh, who will also be receiving him later today. He is expected to arrive at 10.30 p.m. The Sri Lankan Minister will be accompanied by the General-Officer-Commanding of joint operations in Sri Lanka, General Cyril Ranatunge and Army Commander Lt. General Nalin Senaviratne. The Indian side will also be assisted by the Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Shri J. N. Dixit.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Mar 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The Racist Regime in South Africa Condemned for Move to ExecuteSix Black South Africans

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of Me Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 19, 1988:

The Government of India condemns the move of the racist apartheid regime in South Africa to execute six black South Africans for alleged involvement in a murder in 1984. The GOI believes that the trial of these six South African nationals was conducted without any regard for the principles of justice and equity. The execution of these South African nationals would only aggravate the already volatile situation in South Africa which has arisen from the repression unleashed by the racist regime. The Government of India accordingly urges that even at this late stage the sentences of death penalty should be revoked.
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UTH AFRICA INDIA USA

Date : Mar 19, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

IPKF Operations in Sri Lanka not Aimed at Hunting for anyIndividual

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 21, 1988:

We have seen a press report detelined Colombo claiming that the IPKF is hunting for the LTTE leader Mr. Prabhakaran in its

present operations. The report is baseless and gives a distorted perspective of the IPKF operations. The operations of the IPKF are not aimed at hunting for any individual. The policy regarding recent developments in Sri Lanka and the IPKF's operations was stated in Parliament on March 17 and March 18 by the Minister of State for External Affairs. Mr. Natwar Singh had then stated that the LTTE has been carrying on a campaign of physical violence against fellow Tamils and others in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. The IPKF's operations, which are being conducted in the wake of this violence, are being undertaken to ensure that peace is restored in the Island as soon as possible. It is our hope that the LTTE would renounce violence and join the democratic process.

I LANKA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 21, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India Supports Struggle against Apartheid Regime

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 29, 1988:

India condemns the recent attack mounted by units of the South African armed forces on Gaberones in Botswana.

The Government of India reiterates its support to the people of South Africa in their struggle against the apartheid regime and reaffirms its solidarity with Botswana and other frontline states in their support to the valiant struggle of the people of South Africa against the racist regime.

DIA BOTSWANA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Mar 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India Condemns the, Killing of Ms. Dulcie September in Paris

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 30, 1988:

We are shocked at the brutal killing of the representative of the African National Congress Ms. Dulcie September in Paris. The African National Congress has been in the forefront of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. The Government of India condemns the killing of Ms. Dulcie September and reaffirms its support to the African National Congress and the people of South Africa in their Valiant struggle against the apartheid regime for freedom, justice and human dignity.
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ANCE INDIA SOUTH AFRICA USA

Date : Mar 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Shri Vasant Sathe's Valedictory Address at SAARC Course onPhilately

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 22, 1988 on SAARC Course on Philately:

The postage stamp is a medium to portray the past and present of the peoples, their cultures, their traditions, their lives and customs. It also functions as an ambassador of goodwill and does not recognise any national boundaries" said Shri Vasant Sathe, Minister of Communications while delivering the valedictory address to the participants in the SAARC Course on Philately here today. The Course was conducted by the Postal Staff College of India under the aegis of SAARC.

India attaches great importance to the expansion and consolidation of its relations in the economic, social, cultural and scientific fields with the SAARC countries. Ever since the SAARC has come into existence, the member-countries have been working actively with determination to achieve their goal of

carving out a bright and prosperous future for their peoples" the Minister added.

Shri Vasant Sathe also inaugurated the sale of postage stamps and philatelic material received from the SAARC countries. Both, the Course on Philately and the programme for the exchange and sale of postage stamps are items on the SAARC Calender of Activities.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

SINGAPORE

Banquet Speech by the Prime Minister in Honour of SingaporePremier

The following is the text of speech made by the Prime Minister in New Delhi on Mar 16, 1988 at the banquet hosted by him in honour of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Singapore and Madam Lee:

We are delighted to again welcome you and Madam Lee to India. You, Prime Minister, are among the senior statesmen of Asia. India regards you as a friend of long standing. You have known and worked with four generations of our leaders: Jawaharlal Nehru, whom you regarded as something of a mentor; Lal Bahadur Shastri, who deeply appreciated your solidarity with us at a time of national crisis; and Indira Gandhi, a friend and great contemporary. I have had the privilege of working with you in the Bahamas and in Vancouver. There, as elsewhere, your words were listened to with respect, carrying as they do the imprint of a keen intellect and vast experience,

Singapore and India, dissimilar in size but similar in their multiracial diversity, have old historical ties. The very name of your nation is of Sanskrit origin. I should like to regard Sanskrit not as an exclusive language of India but as an ancient cultural reservoir from which many people have drawn sustenance. <pg-89>

Under your leadership, Prime Minister, Singapore has wrought something of an economic miracle. The hard work of your people is widely admired. They have earned a universal reputation for their skills and tenacity, for their expertise in commerce, industry and finance.

India is a country of continental dimensions. In many respects, our development challenges are not the same as yours. We have a largely agricultural economy. Most of our farmers are small and marginal cultivators. Only a third of our land area is irrigated. Yet, we have transformed a famine-struck economy into one so self-reliant that we have ridden out the worst drought of the century with confidence and success. We are now giving a new thrust to agriculture, extending the Green Revolution to new areas and new crops. Our industrial economy is characterised by perhaps the widest range of manufactures of any developing country in the world. In the last few years, we have consistently attained industrial growth rates that are beginning to take us into the high-performance league., We have accomplished this in the setting of a vibrant democracy.

However, mere economic development is not our national goal. There is more to the human spirit than just the satisfaction of material want.

If we do not keep in mind the larger objective of developing the totality of the human personality, we run the risk of getting trapped in a mire of materialism. We might be tempted to mortgage our values and ideals to momentary monetary gain. We could endanger the institutions of our democracy. We would certainly compromise our freedom as individuals and our independence as nations.

Therefore, our aim is to look beyond the indices and statistics of the economist. The processes of growth should be seen as the means to a fuller life for our people.

Enduring development can take place only if there is peace - peace in the world and peace in each region. As non-aligned nations, India and Singapore have placed themselves in the camp of peace and peaceful coexistence. The greatest danger to peace arises from the pursuit of doctrines of deterrence. In this nuclear age, such doctrines not only endanger the peace, they threaten survival itself. The INF Treaty will become truly historical only if it presages accelerated progress towards. the total elimination of nuclear weapons, accompanied by a transition from strategies of nuclear confrontation to the pursuit of peace through peaceful coexistence.

With Sri Lanka, both our countries have long-standing ties of history and culture and ethnic affinity. The problems faced by the Tamils of Sri Lanka have caused us deep concern. Equally worrying has been the danger of ethnic conflict endangering the unity of the country. The Agreement which I signed last July with President Jayewardene provides a just and durable solution to the problems of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. It also strengthens the unity of the country. It reinforces the security of the region. It underlines the commitment of both countries to Nonalignment. We are determined to ensure the full implementation of all

provisions of the Agreement. We thank you for the firm support you have extended to the Agreement.

There now seems to be some prospect of breaking the deadlock in Kampuchea. We see the recent talks between Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen as a positive step towards a comprehensive political solution of the Kampuchean issue. We believe that the problems of the region must be resolved through dialogue and peaceful negotiations. The Kampuchean people have the inalienable right to determine their own destiny, free from the threat of outside intervention or interference. The sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all the states in the region must be ensured.

We wish success to the efforts that are in progress to solve the Afghanistan
<pg-90>

problem. We have consistently worked towards a settlement which ensures Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence and nonaligned status. We fervently hope that the talks in Geneva will be successful. It is essential to focus on the crucial issues of withdrawal of the Soviet troops and end to foreign interference in Afghanistan. Otherwise peace and stability will remain elusive.

The South Pacific has long enjoyed a reputation for tranquility and friendship. It is unfortunate that this reputation has been tarnished by the military coup in Fiji. Different communities had lived together in Fiji in peace and harmony for more than a century. The special rights of the Melanesian Fijians were fully safeguraded by the 1970 Constitution. It is important to maintain racial amity. The current situation in Fiji is a matter of concern as it threatens human rights and human dignity. It is our hope that parliamentary democracy will be restored in Fiji, promoting harmony and equality before the law for all its citizens.

While political problems between any two countries are best solved bilaterally, a cooperative regional approach promotes the development of all countries sharing a neighbourhood. Such an approach accounts for the success of ASEAN. The more recent South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is making steady progress in fostering cooperative relations among the countries of our region.

In Vancouver, both our countries reiterated our unflinching opposition to the evil of apartheid. The only effective means of securing freedom and dignity for the people of South Africa without masive bloodshed is through the imposition of comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria regime. Frontline States need our wholehearted support to increase their economic capacity to withstand the depredations of Pretoria. We

are making our contribution through the AFRICA Fund.

It is always a pleasure to have an opportunity to exchange views with a statesman of your eminence. I am hopeful that, in the years to come, new dimensions will be added to Indo-Singapore relations and mutually beneficial exchanges in trade, science and technology will be strengthened.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I invite you to join me in proposing a toast to the long life and happiness of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Singapore and Madam Lee, to the prosperity and wellbeing of the people of Singapore, and to growing friendship between Singapore and India.

PUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA BAHAMAS CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC LATVIA RUSSIA SRI LANKA UNITED KINGDOM AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND FIJI SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Mar 16, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Oil Field Equipment Supply to Soviet Union

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 03, 1988 an supply of oil field equipment to the Soviet Union:

India and the Soviet Union today had wide-ranging discussions on supply of oil field equipment by Indian manufacturers to the USSR.

A Soviet delegation led by Deputy Minister of Oil, Mr. V. Y. Sokolov had a meeting this afternoon with Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Brahm Dutt and later held discussions with the
<pg-91>

Indian side led by Petroleum Secretary, Shri S. Vardan.

Discussions between the two countries follow the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission meeting in Moscow in June last when India expressed their interest in offering oil field equipment, chemicals and services 'Lo the Soviet oil industry.

As a result of indigenisation efforts in the oil sector, the

Indian manufacturers are today producing oil rigs, offshore platforms, jack-up rigs, offshore supply vessels, casing pipes and tubings and oil fields chemicals and cement.

INCREASED INDIGENOUS SUPPLIES

The supplies are currently being made to the two premier oil exploration agencies - Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Ltd. Indigenous purchases of oil field equipment have gone up from Rs. 181.97 crores in 1981-82 to Rs. 1105.40 crores in 1986-87. This level is expected to be surpassed during the current year.

Since Indian manufacturers, having developed capabilities and established capacities, are supplying only to ONGC and OIL, they may not derive benefit of economies of scale.

The Soviet Union undertakes a very large volume of exploratory work and even a small share in supply of oil field equipment to them would enable Indian companies to manufacture the items on an economically viable basis.

An Indian delegation comprising representatives of the Petroleum and Commerce Ministries and various Indian manufacturing companies had earlier visited the Soviet Union for talks in September last year. Wide-ranging talks had been held then with Soviet organisations and details of capabilities of Indian companies had been provided.

During their 10-day stay in the. country, the Soviet delegation is scheduled to visit Bombay, Nasik, Pune, Hyderabad, Madras and Agra to see the plants of manufacturers before having a wrap-up meeting in Delhi on March 9, 1988. '

In Bombay, tho delegation will also hold discussions with representatives of the Industry when they meet members of Confederation of Engineering Industries.

DIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Mar 03, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Protocol Signed by India-Soviet Working Group on Irrigation andWater Management

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 28, 1988 on signing of protocol by India-Soviet Working Group on Irrigation and Water Management:

The Second Meeting of the India-Soviet Working Group on Irrigation and Water Management concluded here today with the signing of a Protocol detailing areas of cooperation between the Ministry of Water Resources, India and Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Management, USSR. The Working Group on the Indian side was led by Shri Naresh Chandra, Secretary, Water Resources and the USSR side was led by Mr. P. A. Polad-zade, First Dy. Minister.

The areas of cooperation include economic and technical and scientific and tehnical programmes. Some of the areas are (1) Construction of dams and canals using the targeted blasting method; (2) Designing of hydraulic structures on unstable soils; (3) Studies, Design and Construction of High Earth and Rockfill Dams in seismic zones; (4) Development of sil-
<pg-92>

tation control; (5) Ground Water exploration, etc. ,

It is also proposed to avail of USSR technology to tap and exploit ground water resources in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Exchange of expert delegations between India and the USSR in various fields are proposed under the scientific and Technical Programmes, for which work plans for 1988-89 have been drawn up.

Later, the leader of the Soviet side called on the Minister of Water Resources Shri Dinesh Singh and apprised him of the details of the Protocol. Shri Dinesh Singh said that this Protocol would lead to closer cooperation between the two countries, in the field of water resources.

DIA LATVIA USA

Date : Mar 28, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Long-Term Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology -First Meeting of Indo-Soviet Joint Council

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 30, 1988 on the first meeting of Indo-Soviet Joint Council:

In pursuance of the Integrated Long-Term Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology (ILTP) signed by Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Soviet Leader Shri Mikhail Gorbachev, in July 1987, the first meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Council for the implementation and coordination of ILTP started here today.

The Indian side was led by Prof. C.N.R. Rao, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister while the Soviet side was led by Academician G. I. Marchuk, President, USSR Academy of Sciences.

The ILTP envisages long-term cooperation between India and the Soviet Union in a number of thrust areas, namely, Biotechnology and Immunology, Materials Science and Technology, Lasser Science and Technology, Catalysis, Space S&T, Synchrotron Radiation Sources, Water Prospecting, and Computers and Electronics.

In addition, basic research will be undertaken in selected areas of Mathematics and Applied Mechanics, Earth Sciences, Radio Physics and Astrophysics, Ecology and Environment, and Chemical Sciences and Biology.

The meeting will take stock of the actions taken by both sides in the initiation and implementation of joint programmes in identified areas. It will also be addressing itself to the modes of interaction between the scientists of the two countries, the long-term visits of the scientists as well as their organisational matters related to the implementation of ILTP.

Besides Prof. C. N. R. Rao, the 18-Member Indian Delegation comprises, among others, Dr. Vasant Gowariker, Secretary, DST; Dr. S. Ramachandran, Secretary, DBT; Shri K. P. P. Nambiar, Secretary, DOE; Dr. S. Z. Qasim, Secretary, DOD; Prof. U. R. Rao, Secretary, DOS; Dr. M. R. Srinivasan, Secretary, DAE; Dr. A. P. Mitra, Secretary, DSIR; Shri Maheshwar Dayal, Secretary, DNES; Shri T. N. Seshan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest; Dr. V. S. Arunachalam, Secretary, DRDO; Dr. N. S. Randhawa, Secretary, Agricultural Research and Education; Shri S. S. Dhanoa, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Dr. A. S. Paintal, DG, ICMR; and Shri S. Venkitaramanan, Secretary, Ministry of Finance.
<pg-93>

The 14-Member Soviet Delegation comprises, besides Academician G. 1. Marchuk, Dr. N. Soumarokov, Dy. Chairman, USSR State Committee on Science & Technology; Acad. G. K. Scryabin, Chief Scientific Secretary, Presidium, USSR Academy of Sciences, four Vice-Presidents, USSR Academy of Sciences and others.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Mar 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Statement by Shri K. Natwar Singh in Parliament on Indo-SriLanka Agreement

The following is the text of a suo moto statement made in Parliament by Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs on Mar 17, 1988 on Sri Lanka:

I rise to bring the House abreast of recent developments in Sri Lanka.

In debates in this House, Members have rightly stressed the importance of legislation by the Sri Lankan Parliament for giving effect to promises of the Sri Lankan Government to create Provincial Councils and to devolve powers to them so that the Tamils of Sri Lanka can exercise provincial autonomy.

The Sri Lankan Parliament enacted the 13th Amendment to the Constitution and adopted a Provincial Councils Act between November 87 and January this year. Although this legislation does not meet all the demands of the Tamils, it is a major and positive piece of legislation in the context of the unitary constitution of Sri Lanka. Apart from providing for the creation of provincial councils, it provides for an elected Provincial Government headed by Chief Minister. Each Province will have its own High Court and a Provincial civil service.

A large measure of autonomy has been granted to the proposed provincial governments including control over law and order and their own high courts. The legislation ensures provision of adequate finances for the functioning of the Provincial Governments and a Finance Commission has been provided for this purpose.

Despite some of the more specific Tamil demands not having been met, the devolution package provided for in the new constitutional arrangements, is far better than anything offered to the Sri Lankan Tamils by the Government of Sri Lanka in previous arrangements and arrangements which were made but not implemented over the last 40 years.

The present arrangements are guaranteed by a bilateral agreement between the Governments of Sri Lanka and India and, what is more important is the fact that the autonomy and devolution offered in this package have for the first time been enshrined in the Sri Lankan constitution by a formal constitutional amendment and consequent legislation.

We have also been assured that this devolution package can be further improved at a later stage. Once Provincial Councils have been set up and the benefits of devolution are realised by all communities, this should not be a difficult task.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, the President of Sri Lanka visited New Delhi in the last week of January as the Chief
<pg-94>

Guest on the occasion of our last Republic Day. The opportunity was utilised to have wide-ranging and in-depth discussions with him about the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. During the course of discussions with President Jayewardene and his delegation, the Government of India conveyed to them Tamil concerns about charges of fresh colonisation by Sinhalese in the Eastern Province. Also about the need to further improve the devolution package, as well as the need to expedite the return of refugees we emphasised the importance of the early restoration of political processes in the Northern and Eastern Provinces so that the aspirations of the Tamils can find democratic expression.

President Jayewardene assured us that once the new provincial councils come into being, improvements in the devolution package could be forged and implemented through the new institutional process envisaged in the 13th amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution and the Provincial Councils' Act passed by the Sri Lankan Parliament.

He also reaffirmed his commitment to implement the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement in letter and in spirit and to strengthen and expand Indo-Sri Lankan cooperation.

His visit provided a useful opportunity to review the critical developments in Sri Lanka and to chart out a broad cooperative approach between India and Sri Lanka to meet the evolving situation.

Members would recall that on November 20, the Government of India announced a unilateral 48-hour ceasefire to enable the LTTE to give up violence and join the political process.

Unfortunately, the hopes and confidence expressed by many sections of this House that LTTE only needed an opportunity to make this transition were belied. Since then we have repeatedly urged LTTE to give up violence and, in the broader interest of

the Tamil people of Sri Lanka and for securing the long-term aspirations of the Tamils, to cooperate with the Government of India in implementing the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

Once again, the LTTE has concentrated on propaganda rather than substance. This is most regrettable. While they keep on issuing statements and letters announcing peaceful intentions, their actions tell a different story.

Their violence not only against the IPKF but even against peaceful and innocent Tamils continued unabated. The murder of the 76 year old and highly respected Tamil leader, Shri S. Nadarajah, is only the latest example of their callous disregard for Tamil interests. Mr Nadarajah, one of the founder members of the Federal Party of Sri Lanka and an elected senator for many year, was a close associate of the renowned Sri Lankan Tamil leader, Mr. Chelvanayagam, who was perhaps one of the best known advocates of Tamil aspirations in Sri Lanka.

Apart from indulging in such acts against prominent Tamil leaders in order to terrorise the Tamil population, the LTTE has indulged in a systematic decimation of those Tamil civilians in the Northern and Eastern Provinces who refuse to tow their line.

They have also systematically killed Sinhala and Muslim civilians in the Eastern Province with the obvious intention of sparking off communal strife. They do not seem to realize that their actions are also endangering the long term prospects of the merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces. "They pretend to a Gandhian high-mindedness and distort his teachings by making others fast unto death on their behalf."

Apart from carrying on this ferocious campaign of physical violence, LTTE has been consistantly disrupting normal civilian life in the North and East by preventing the civil administration from
<pg-95>

functioning threatening Government officials with death if they attend to their duties and even carrying out these threats as evidenced in the assassination of Government Agent in Mannar, merely because he was efficiently managing the return of Tamil refugees from India to their homes in Sri Lanka.

They have tried to prevent pensions being paid to nearly 30,000 Tamil pensioners. They are preventing the distribution of food stamps to the poor sections of the Tamil population in rural areas. They have disrupted rail and road communications causing incalculable suffering to the Tamil people whose interest they claim to represent and protect.

Several members have in the past expressed the anxiety that we should talk to the LTTE and encourage them to lay down their

weapons and cooperate in the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

Let me assure the Members that channels have always been kept open to the LTTE and we have been constantly on the lookout for any sign of willingness on the part of LTTE to give up violence and join the democratic process. So far we have not found that willingness. The LTTE makes statements which give the impression that they are willing to lay down arms and accept the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement, but when tested these statements have invariably been found to be misleading. It is clear that the LTTE wish to establish their sway over one-third of the country by the sheer force of arms, by the brutal exclusion of all other Tamil parties and without going through the democratic political process. To do so is to break the Agreement. Evidently the LTTE's statements are made for international consumption. President Jayewardene has repeatedly reiterated that if the LTTE give up violence and support the Agreement, they will be granted amnesty under the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement so that they can join the political process.

So far, as I have said, it has not been possible to make any progress because, while propagandistic statements have been made by LTTE, subsequent contacts show that LTTE's position remains inflexible. When this is so, the IPKF must continue in its gallant task of preventing the Agreement from being disrupted. This it does with the minimum of force and with exemplary devotion to duty. We salute our soldiers.

Hon'ble Members would also be aware that the Sri Lankan Minister for Lands and Mahaweli Development, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake visited Delhi on the 16th for discussions with us. He came specifically to express his Government's anxiety at the recurrence of violence against civilians in the Eastern Province. We also took advantage of the visit to ascertain from him the evolving political situation in Sri Lanka and to discuss with him further steps necessary for the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

It is in this context that we are dealing with the complex situation in Sri Lanka. We remain fully committed to implementing the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement so that all communities in that country can live in peace, honour and dignity.

I LANKA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 17, 1988

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Assistance to Sri Lanka in Dairy Development

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 30, 1988 on assistance to Sri Lanka in Dairy Development:

Mr. S. Thondaman, Sri Lankan Minister for Rural Industrial Development today called on the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Bhajan Lal and discussed with him matters pertaining to strengthening of cooperation between the two countries in the agricultural sector, specially dairy development.
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Mr. Thondaman appreciated assistance given by India so far to Sri Lanka and expressed the hope that cooperation in this field would be further extended.

The visiting Minister said that they would like to receive help in developing dairying in Sri Lanka and said his country would want to follow the Anand model of dairy development.

The Sri Lankan Minister also sought India's assistance in controlling the rinderpest disease of cattle and hoped that India would be able to supply adequate quantities of rinderpest vaccine for this purpose.

Responding to the Sri Lankan Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal said that his Ministry would be willing to offer whatever assistance it could in developing dairying in Sri Lanka. He also offered to train Sri Lankan agricultural scientists and experts in Indian institutions.

Shri Bhajan Lal assured the visiting Minister of India's continued cooperation and said that specific proposals of Sri Lanka would be given due and sympathetic consideration.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Mar 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Indo-Sri Lanka Discussions on Expanding Industrial Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 29, 1988 on industrial cooperation between India and Sri Lanka:

The prospects of expanding industrial cooperation between India and Sri Lanka, especially in the small-scale and village industries sector, were discussed at a meeting between the Minister of Rural Industrial Development of Sri Lanka, Shri S. Thendaman and the Union Industry Minister, Shri J. Vengala Rao, here today.

Referring to the importance of small-scale and village industries in the Indian economy, Shri Vengala Rao said that India is prepared to extend all cooperation in the development of small-scale and village industries in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Thondaman appreciated India's readiness to cooperate with Sri Lanka in the field and expressed satisfaction over the disrussions already in progress between officials of the two countries to organise an exhibition-cum-exposition of industrital machinery in the small-scale and village industries sector by the National Small Industries Cooperation (NSIC). India has also agreed to assist and cooperate in the development of metal and rubber based industries in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Thondaman expressed satisfaction in regard to the operation of the 19 Indian joint ventures in Sri Lanka and hoped that more Indo-Sri Lanka joint ventures would come up in the years to come.

During his stay in India, Mr. Thondaman and Sri Lankan delegation would be having meeting with the Confederation of Engineering Industries for exploring the possibilities of further cooperation and joint ventures in the engineering industry sector.

Senior officials from both the sides including the Secretary, Industrial Development, Smt Otima Bordia, were present in today's meeting.
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I LANKA USA INDIA

Date : Mar 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Sweden's Health Minister Calls on Shri Motilal Vora

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 21, 1988 on Swedish assistance in the areas of basic health care and family welfare:

The Minister of Social Welfare and Health, Sweden, Mrs. Gertrude Sigurdsen today called on the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Motilal Vora. Mrs. Sigurdsen arrived here on March 20 on a week's visit to India on the invitation of the Union Health Minister. Welcoming the Swedish Minister, Union Health Minister, Shri Vora appreciated the significant assistance provided by the Swedish International Development Agency in the areas of basic health care and family welfare.

The Minister said India and Sweden had warm and friendly relations based on common perceptions and beliefs. The perception that peace is essential for development and their faith in mutual cooperation has found expression in the very important area of health and family welfare. SIDA is providing help in the areas of malaria and leprosy eradication and TB control programmes. The assistance is also being received for the immunisation programme through UNICEF.

The Swedish Minister Mrs. Gertrude Sigurdsen thanked the Minister and the Government of India for the warm welcome. She expresed the hope that the visit would enable her to see important health and medical institutions in India. During tier stay the Swedish Minister would visit National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi. She will also visit Bombay, Bangalore and Agra during her stay in India.

On this occasion Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Km. Saroj Khaparde and senior officers of the Health Ministry were also present.

EDEN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 21, 1988

Volume No

1995

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland Support Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 22, 1988 on Swiss support for Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement:

Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs had an hour long meeting with Mr. Rene Felber, Foreign Minister of Switzerland, in Berne, last night. During the talks both the Ministers exchanged views on important international issues.

The Swiss Foreign Minister conveyed his government's endorsement and support for the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of July 29 and hoped it would lead to a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. Mr. Felber also acknowledged and appreciated India's effort in finding a solution to Afghan problem.
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Touching on the Indo-Swiss bilateral relations, Mr. Rene Felber had all the praise for the Indian cultural manifestations held in seven cities of Switzerland in the summer of 1987 and hoped that his country would try to endeavour to reciprocate by organizing a Swiss festival in India. He also stresed Swiss enterpreneurs and industry's interest in transfer of sophisticated technology to India and noted that the exports of high quality Indian goods to Switzerland have done well and increased by seven percent last year.

ITZERLAND SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Mar 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Health Minister of Thailand Calls on Shri Motilal Vora

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 29, 1988 on Indo-Thai Cooperation in the field of health:

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Motilal Vora has said that India looked forward to a still closer

relationship in the field of health with Thailand so that advances in both the countries could be shared to the advantage of the people of India and Thailand. Shri Vora was welcoming the Minister of Public Health of Thailand, Mr. Tirdpong Jayanandana who called on him here today. Shri Tirdpong Jayanandana is currently on a visit to India. The visiting Minister's team includes senior members of the Health Department of Thailand.

Later at a meeting, the two Ministers discussed matters of bilateral interests in the areas of Health and Family Welfare.

During their stay in India, Mr. Tirdpong Jayanandana visited some of the health and medical institutions. He also visited Agra and Jaipur. The itinerary includes visit to Gaya and Calcutta.

AILAND INDIA USA

Date : Mar 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme - Joint Working GroupIdentifies Areas for Research

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 03, 1988 on Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme:

On the conclusion of its first meeting, the Joint Working Group for Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme today agreed to initiate efforts for collaborative research by Indian and US scientists for developing and improving vaccines for certain diseases relevant to India.

The priority areas include Diarrheal disease, Viral Hepatitis, animal Rabies, Typhoid, Pertussis, acute respiratory
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infections and polio. VAP does riot include any manufacturing or commercial activities. It is aimed primarily at developing and evolving a joint R&D programme towards development of safe and efficacious vaccines and immunodiagnostics against some of the major communicable diseases in India.

On the Indian side, JWG is headed by Dr. A. S. Paintal, Director General, ICMR, while the US side is headed by Dr. Nyle Brady, Senior Assistant Administrator for Science & Technology for USAID

in Washington. Dr. A. S. Paintal, is also the head of the Apex Body, appointed by the Government of India, whose clearance has been made a pre-requisite for taking up and implementing activities under VAP. The Department of Biotechnology will be the nodal agency for implementation of the VAP. Dr. Frederick Robbins, a Nobel Laureate, whose discovery of virus cultivation in tissue cultures was a major landmark in vaccine production is also a member of JWG.

The JWG recommended emphatically that the rights, laws and regulations of both countries be protected in respect to rights and welfare of human subjects as well as intellectual property, copyrights and patent provisions.

The JWG also decided that the programme would be guided by the ethical principles regarding all researches involving humans as subjects as set forth in the Policy statement on "Ethical Consideration Involved in Research on Human Subjects" of the ICMR and the report of the US National Commission for the Protection of Human subjects, medical and behavioural research entitled "Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research".

It was decided that proposals submitted to VAP would be separately prereviewed for scientific merit and relevance to the programme by each side before considering their inclusion in the programme: It will be ensured that they fall within the priorities, reflect the cooperative framework of JWG and are of high scientific merit and of advantage to India.

Comprising nine members (including a co-chairman) from each side, the JWG will provide overall direction to the VAP, set priorities, establish guidelines and criteria, conduct comprehensive review of the VAP plans, recommend new areas of cooperation, avoid duplication with other Indo-US activities, establish guidelines for selection of VAP project, ensure that the VAP operates smoothly and report annually to the Indo-US Science & Technology Sub-Commission,

The next meeting of the JWG has been scheduled for October.
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A INDIA RUSSIA
Date : Mar 03, 1988

April

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Date : Apr 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Indo-Afghanistan Cooperation in Civil Aviation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 11, 1988 on Indo-Afghanistan Cooperation in Civil Aviation:

India and Afghanistan started talks here this morning to review capacity augmentation of their national carriers between the two countries in view of increased traffic and cargo carriage.

The Indian delegation to the talks is led by Sh. Motilal Vora, Minister of' Civil Aviation and Health & Family Welfare. The Afghan delegation is led by H.E. Mr. Mohd. Aziz Negabhan, Minister of Civil Aviation.

In their opening remarks, the two leaders stressed that aviation relations between India and Afghanistan were extremely important for mutual progress. Shri Vora was happy to note that the Aeronautical Authorities of both sides have shown an ability to take quick decisions in order to serve the cause of increasing trade and cargo movement by air while appreciating that cargo transport between the two countries account for nearly half the movement by air. He also stressed that tourism through aviation has assumed a growing and profitable dimension and that India was keen to promote tourism to and from Afghanistan. Shri Vora said that in a spirit of close cooperation India was looking forward to further developing mutual technical collaboration. H.E. Mr. Mohd. Aziz Negabhan also stressed the need for increased cooperation in air transport between the two countries especially in aviation technology.

Earlier the visiting dignitory called on Shri Motilal Vora. The two leaders recalled the 'traditional friendship existing between the two countries and were confident that the same will grow in

the years to come.

GHANISTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Apr 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

BOTSWANA

India Offers Farm-Technologies to Botswana

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 13, 1988 on offer of farm technologies to Botswana:

The Agriculture Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal has expressed India's desire to share agricultural technologies with African countries for their attaining self-sufficiency in foodgrain production.

Talking to the Vice-President of Botswana, Mr. Peter Mmusi, who called on him here today, the Minister said that
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India had emerged as a food-surplus nation from an importer of foodgrains forty years ago. India could share her experience gained in this duration with Botswana especially in the production of maize, sorghum and pearl-millet which were major crops of that country. Botswana could import hybrid seed from India br alternatively utilise India's scientific manpower to evolve suitable varieties of these crops. Botswana could also make use of India's expertise in development of farm implements, he said.

Responding to Mr. Mmusi's desire that India should help African countries achieve regional food security, Shri Bhajan Lal said that India was committed to assisting other developing countries and sharing experiences with them. He suggested an early identification of specific areas for such cooperation.

TSWANA INDIA USA

Date : Apr 13, 1988

Volume No

1995

BRAZIL

India and Brazil to Avoid Double Taxation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 26, 1988 on avoidance of double taxation between India and Brazil:

A Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil was signed in New Delhi today. The Convention was signed by Shri P. K. Appachoo, Joint Secretary, . Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) and the Brazilian Ambassador Mr. Octavio Rainhoda Silva.

The Convention, after it becomes effective will promote Indian exports to Brazil and will encourage the flow of capital, technology and personnel from one country to the other. It will also give a fillip to Indian Shipping, as instead of paying a high rate of tax on shipping profits in Brazil, they will be exempt from tax in Brazil.

After the Convention takes effect an enterprise of one country will be taxed in the other country only if it carries on business in that other country through a permanent establishment. Dividends, interest and royalties will be taxed at a concessional rate. Fees for technical services however will be taxed in accordance with the domestic laws of the respective States.

The Convention will enter into force after the exchange of instruments of ratification and its provisions shall have effect for the first time in India in respect of income arising in any accounting year beginning on or after the first day of April immediately following the calender year in which the Convention enters into force.
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AZIL INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Apr 26, 1988

Volume No

1995

BURMA

India to Hold "Buddha - His Times and Monuments" Exhibition inBurma

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 05, 1988 on strengthening of bilateral cultural relations between India and Burma:

India and Burma are to expand and strengthen bilateral cultural relations, provide more facilities for Buddhist pilgrims from Burma and cooperate in the restoration of monuments in Burma as also in the fields of Museums and Archives. India has also agreed to send a photographic exhibition on "Buddha - His Times and Monuments" to Burma alongwith relics from Piprahwa (Kapilavastu).

This was agreed to in the minutes signed here today between the Burmese Minister for Culture and Information; H.E. U Aung Kyaw Myint and the Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. Earlier, the 10-member Burmese cultural delegation led by their Minister for Culture and Information, which is visiting India from 3rd to 14th of this month held in New Delhi extensive discussions in an atmosphere of warmth, cordiality and complete understanding.

The two sides have agreed to continue the training of Burmese nationals for diploma courses at the National Archives of India. Similarly, training facilities will be provided by India to the Burmese nationals in the fields of museums work and museology and library work and library science. The two sides have also agreed to continue the exchange of musicians, musicologists and artists. The Burmese side has also responded favourably to the Indian suggestions for holding Cultural Week in each other's country and exchanging an exhibition of traditional arts and crafts of Burma.

Both short-term and long long-term training courses in the field of archaeology have also been offered by the Indian side for the Burmese nationals. In addition, India has also offered to provide its expertise in the field of structural and chemical preservation of ancient monuments. Both the countries will also cooperate in the fields of Information and Broadcasting and for control of international trafficking in drugs.

RMA INDIA USA

Date : Apr 05, 1988

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Prime Minister's Message to the Prime Minister of the People'sRepublic of China

The following is the text of Prime Minister's message dated Apr 09, 1988 to the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China:

On behalf of the Government and people of India, I extend to you warm felicitations and greetings on your election as Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

I look forward with confidence to a strengthening of our bilateral contacts and to cooperating with you in realising
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in full measure all that can be achieved in cordial relations between India and China. This is an objective to which the Government of India are committed.

I send my best wishes for Your Excellency's personal good health and success in the responsibilities of your high office.

INA INDIA

Date : Apr 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

EEC Delegation Meets Shri Sukh Ram

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 08, 1988 on EEC Delegation's meeting with Shri Sukh Ram:

A four-member delegation of the Commission of European Communities (EEC) led by Dr. Ivan Dunstan, Vice-President of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) met Shri Sukh Ram, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies in New Delhi this morning. There was an exchange of ideas on matters of cooperation in the sphere of standardization of various consumer products between the Commission Members and the Minister. Shri D. L, Baitha,

Deputy Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Shri K. C. Pandeya, Secretary Civil Supplies and Shri K. R. Paramesvar, Director General of Bureau of Indian Standards were also present.

The visit of the delegation is under the programme of Cooperation between India and the EEC in the area of industrial standards, certification and testing, information technology, electronics and telecommunications. The main emphasis in the cooperation programme is on the improvement of the quality of goods made by a large number of Indian industries so as to ensure consumer protection and to improve their competitiveness in exports.

The visit of the present EEC expert mission is being specially utilised to bring about coordination in the activities of various Indian organisations preparing standards and technical regulations on different subjects.

Indo-EEC Cooperation in the field of industry was initiated in June 1987 when an agreement was signed in Brussels. Exchange of information between the Indian organisations and the EEC countries, deputation of EEC experts to India in selected fields and training of Indian experts and personnel in EEC countries, are some of the features of the agreement.

ITED KINGDOM INDIA USA BELGIUM

Date : Apr 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

4th Session of Indo-GDR Joint Committee on Shipping

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 18, 1988 on the 4th Session of Indo-GDR Joint Committee on Shipping:

The 4th meeting of Indo-GDR Joint Committee on shipping began here today. The 6-member GDR delegation is being led by H.E. Dr. H. Rentner, Deputy Minister of Transport while the Indian delegation is led by Shri P. M. Abraham, Secretary in the Ministry of Surface Transport.
<pg-104>

The four day meeting will review the working of the bilateral shipping agreement signed between the two countries nine years

back on January 9, 1979.

The Committee will also review the transportation of liner cargoes between India and GDR; prospects of trade between India and GDR from 1988 to 1990; Cooperation in shipping between India and GDR in the adoption of new transport technologies; transportation of bulk cargoes between India and GDR and Cooperation between India and GDR at international shipping forums.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Apr 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Kudremukh Sets a New Export Record

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 05, 1988 on new expart record from Kudremukh:

Kudremukh Iron Ore Company, a public sector undertaking has set a new export record in 1987-88. The value of exports by the Company during the year was Rs. 77.5 crores which is an all time high, representing an increase of 25 per cent over the record performance of the previous year. Exports during the year were both of iron ore concentrate and iron ore pellets. The Company's export of iron oxide pellets on commercial basis commenced during the year.

The Company shipped 5.8 lakh tonnes of concentrate and pellets, valued at Rs. 11 crores in March this year. Seventeen ships carrying concentrate and pellets to Japan, Turkey, Hungary and Yugoslavia left New Mangalore Port in March alone. Iron ore exports from Kudremukh in 1987-88 were to nine countries with Japan continuing to be the major buyer. Shipments of concentrate was of the order of 3.2 million tonnes and pellets of 791,000 tonnes. The largest buyer of pellets was Hungary. Shipments of concentrate were made to Japan, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, France and China while pellets were exported to Yugoslavia, Hungary, Turkey, Australia, Czechoslovakia and Indonesia. The Company handled a record number of 109 ships at New Mangalore Port during the year.

1987-88 also saw record production from the mine and the plants

of KIOCL. The Company mined 11.42 million tonnes, of ore and produced four million tonnes of concentrate and 816,000 tonnes of pellets. The total production was an all time high at 4.82 million tonnes as against 3.6 million tonnes during the previous year representing an increase of 34 per cent over the previous year's performance. The Company's Concentrator Plant reached output levels of 25,000 tonnes per day while the pellet plant produced 10,000 tonnes per day which is its maximum daily rated capacity.

ITED KINGDOM INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC HUNGARY JAPAN TURKEY YUGOSLAVIA NORWAY SLOVAKIA CHINA FRANCE AUSTRALIA INDONESIA

Date : Apr 05, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Suo Moto Statement by Shri K. Natwar Singh in the Lok Sabha onPrime Minister's Visit to Japan and Vietnam

The following is the text Of a Suo moto statement made by the Minister of State for External Affairs in the Lok Sabha on Apr 19, 1988 on Prime Minister's visit to Japan and Vietnam:

The Prime Minister visited Japan at the invitation of Prime Minister Takeshita
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for the intuguration of the Festival of India in Japan on the 15th April.

The inauguration ceremony in the presence of the Japanese Prime Minister and a distinguished gathering gave a promising start to the 6-month long presentation of India's multi-faceted culture to the people of Japan which will strengthen the growing understanding and friendship between two Asian nations.
The two Prime Ministers held wide ranging talks on bilateral, regional and international. issues of mutual interest and concern, Prime Minister Takeshita observed that India-Japan ties had developed very remarkably during Prime Minister Gandhi's leadership. He characterised Japan's relations with India as one of the pillars of his country's external relations.

Prime Minister briefed Prime Minister Takeshita on India's efforts to narmalise relations with Pakistan. While emphasising the peaceful nature of India's nuclear policy, Prime Minister

briefed Prime Minister Takeshita on the problems arising out of Pakistan's nuclear weapon-oriented programme as well as its encouragement and abetment of terrorism and failure to curb drug trafficking.

The Prime Minister briefed Prime Minister Takeshita on India's efforts to promote peace, stability and good neighbourly relations in the region. Prime Minister Takeshita expressed his appreciation for the great sacrifice that India was making for the cause of peace in Sri Lanka.

The two Prime Ministers also exchanged views on Afghanistan, Kampuchea and Disarmament. Both sides welcomed the Agreement on Afghanistan. Prime Minister told Prime Minister Takeshita about India's efforts to promote a peaceful settlement in Kampuchea, emphasising our assessment that the ongoing dialogue between Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen needed to be encouraged as the best available way towards a settlement. Prime Minister Takeshita said that Japan supported the peace initiatives and efforts of Prince Sihanouk. The two Prime Ministers agreed on the importance of further steps towards nuclear disarmament by the nuclear weapon powers.

Our bilateral relations with Japan have acquired greater momentum and content as a result of this visit. The Japanese Government have expressed their willingness to step up their economic cooperation with India. Prime Minister Takeshita informed us of Japan's interest in cooperating in the modernisation of the steel plant at Burnpur. Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for the cooperation extended by Japan in India's economic development. Prime Minister met former Prime Minister Nakasone and also had a very useful exchange of views with a group of leading Japanese industrialists and businessmen.

On the 16th April the Prime Minister visited Ho Chi Minh City. The enthusiasm and warmth with which the Prime Minister was received were characteristic of the strong bonds of friendship between Vietnam and India. The Prime Minister had over four hours of talks with Secretary General of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Van Linh on Indo-Vietnam relations as well as regional and multilateral issues. Their talks revealed a commonality of views and a shared desire to promote peace and stability in Asia. The two leaders noted the importance of Prince Sihanouk's role, which deserved to be encouraged, to promote a peaceful settlement in Kampuchea. Secretary General Linh reiterated Vietnam's intention to withdraw its forces from Kampuchea by 1990. The Vietnamese leaders recalled the historic role played by India under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru and later Indira Gandhi in the search for peace and stability in Indo-China. They expressed their appreciation of the contribution made by the Prime Minister and were confident that India would continue to make a significant contribution to peace in the region.

The two leaders noted with great satisfaction the progress made in Indo-
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Vietnamese bilateral relations in several fields.. Paying a tribute to the courage and determination of the Government and the people of Vietnam in overcoming their difficulties, Prime Minister assured Secretary General Linh of India's fullest cooperation in Vietnam's efforts towards economic reconstruction and development. Secretary General Linh accepted with pleasure Prime Minister's invitation to him to be the guest of honour at the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi in 1989.

PAN VIETNAM INDIA MALI PAKISTAN SRI LANKA USA AFGHANISTAN UNITED KINGDOM CHINA

Date : Apr 19, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Prime Minister's Speech During Debate on Demands for Grants

The following is the speech by the Prime Minister during Debate in Parliament on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs on Apr 20, 1988:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have had an illuminating debate with many valuable and constructive suggestions and I would like to thank all the Members that have participated constructively in the lebate.

There is a broad national consensus on the principles and objectives and in the way we conduct our foreign policy. Despite differences that occur in detail the main constituents of our foreign policy have been re-affirmed and re-iterated a number of times. The main constituents have a continuing relevance in today's word.

Sir, the world is changing very rapidly, especially international relations, in the last two or three years. New attitudes are developing, new ways of thinking are springing up and all this will pose new challenges to all countries in the world especially countries like India who play a significant role in international affairs. Tn such a situation one cannot remain mired in the past. One must remain flexible. But at the same time one's basic principles and fundamental ethical perceptions must be rock

steady on the postulates on which we have based our foreign policy.

At one time we were regarded as moral and impractical when we based our foreign policy on an ethical basis. Today this is changed. Now the world is accepting the indispensability of non-violence, of freedom from nuclear weapons and of disarmament. Today, the world accepts that there can be no real complete development if truth is not unburdened by the weight of bloc interests and spheres of influence. The world is coming around more and more to our way of thinking in seeing humanity as one without segmented interests, celebrating and accepting the diversity of different peoples of this earth. Countries, which were highly suspicious of peaceful coexistence, are today talking of peaceful coexistence and not of deterrence.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

During these years, since our foreign policy was given a firm grounding by Jawaharlal Nehru, the world is coming around to our world-view. And this is evidenced most recently by the Delhi Declaration, which was signed in November 1986, affirming non-violence and nuclear disarmament. It is being affirmed by the logic of reversing and ending escalating nuclear weapons developments.

The six-nation initiative, which was started with Indiraji in May 1984, at a time when the dialogue between the major powers was at a standstill, at a time when nobody thought that the tensions could come down, but by the efforts that she had made, by the continuing efforts of the six nations in the five-contnent initaitive, by the continuing efforts of all those involved in disarmament, by creating the atmosphere, the right atmosphere in the world, we have, for the first time, seen the dismantling of nuclear weapons after the signing of the INF treaty.

We have seen tensions coming down specially amongst the major powers and
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an acceptance of different socio-economic systems. We see, for the first time, a little light in' a true international democracy developing and moving away from a bipolar world.

This is the time for us to look ahead to a world where there may not be nuclear weapons, where disarmament will have taken place and we have to safeguard ourselves against new developments which could pull us back into the same competitive arms race. Beyond nuclear weapons, we must see that there are no other means of mass destruction developed. We must see that new dimensions are not added to the arms race and, equally important, we must see that no highly accurate conventional weapons are developed, what we have termed 'surgical weapons' in the five-continent

initiative, weapons which used effectively could remove the entire leadership of a nation without causing widespread damage but cause complete chaos.

So, this is the time to start thinking of how we can start controlling these things and putting things on to a new track. We need new structures of international cooperation. We need a really effective United Nations system, restructured t ' o reflect international democracy and sovereign equality. We need international cooperation based on the recognition of one common family of human beings, inter-dependence of interests and the symbiosis of growth in the south with stability in the north. We need a world order based on the insights and values of Gandhiji and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

PAKISTAN

Sir, coming to South Asia, we have, on a number of occasions, reiterated our commitment to friendship with cordial and cooperative relations with Pakistan. We entertain the warmest sentiments for the people of Pakistan with whom we share much in common, a language, music and literature. We have a commmon history. There, is no ill-will towards the people of Pakistan. We wish them well. And therefore we greatly welcome any exchanges at the peoples' level - visitors, tourists, students, journalists, trade unionists, women's groups - at every level, we would like to see much more exchange. We seek interchange with the new generation who have been born and who have grown up as Pakistanis but whom Pakistan policies have kept distanced, from the personal knowledge of India. Peace between Pakistan and India is peace between the peoples. To promote such contacts and build cordiality in spirit, in the Shimla spirit, we have proposed a number of steps. I do not want to give an exhaustive list but I would like to read out some. We proposed a treaty of peace and friendship. We proposed an agreement for non-attack on nuclear facilities. We have proposed discussions on new ground rules on the border. We proposed an MOU on highjacking. We proposed an MOU on air space violations by military aircraft. We proposed expansion of private trade. We have proposed a move to non-discriminatory regime and the MNF treatment. Indo-Pakistan joint ventures have been proposed - exchanges of writers, of intellectuals, exchanges of media, cultural exchanges, troupes, films, drama, music, dances. We have proposed the exchanges of books, periodicals and newspapers. We have proposed many other confidence-building and risk reduction measures as mutually agreed. We have proposed the easing of travel restrictions. We have proposed cooperation on drug trafficking and terrorism. Unfortunately, we are stuck with very unsatisfactory responses from the Pakistani side. On the other hand, Pakistan forestalls people to people programmes. They pursue what is very obviously a nuclear weapons programme. They assume hostile postures in areas such as Siachen and they allow their territory to be used for the support, sustenance and sanctuary of terrorists and separatists.

We have informed the Pakistan Government that our Home Secretaries - the Home Secretary of Pakistan and the Home Secretary of India must meet to discuss the sudden increase of terrorism on our borders. We
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must have good communications between our two countries at various levels. On the military side, we already have a hotline. Perhaps a hotline is needed between the Home Secretaries also to see that any tentions that build up can be dissipated and reduced as soon as possible or immediately.

We had one such hotline between the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and Foreign Secretary of India. But at their request it has been dismantled. We would like to have it restored and put back so that tensions, if they build up, can be reduced quickly. I hope that we can get on to quickly genuine and sincere normalisation of our relations. A prosperous, stable Pakistan with its independence, sovereignty and integrity fully assured, is in India's national interest and we would like to see a Pakistan like that.

AFGHANISTAN

A little further West in Afghanistan, we welcome the Geneva Accord. It should lead to a cessation. of interference and intervention in Afghanistan. It should lead to the return of refugees. The Agreement in Geneva has opened a window of opportunity for peace opened a and stability in Afghanistan assuring its independence and sovereignty and its non-r alignment. We have played our role constructively and quietly in facilitating this process. We regret that Pakistan did not respond to our invitation for consultations. We could have made things a little smoother, perhaps. In our view the best guarantee of peace, stability and nonalignment in Afghanistan is a strong Government in Afghanistan. And, we would like to see a strong Government in Kabul. We have vital stakes in this. Therefore, we are inviting President Najibullah to visit India to discuss all aspects of the post Accord situation We wish the people of Afghanistan an era of progress and reconstruction, of rehabilitation and we pledge our support in this endeavour.

INDO-SRI LANKA AGREEMENT

Sir, our Agreement in Sri Lanka was universally welcomed as the only basis for fair and lasting settlement in Sri Lanka; a settlement meeting all the legitimate needs and demands of the Tamils; an Agreement that strengthens Sri Lanka's unity and an Agreement that meets our security concerns.

In the last 9 months the IPKF has stopped conflict between Tamils and Tamils. The IPKF has stopped the conflict between the Tamil militants and the Sri Lankan army. The LTTE has been disarmed - a

large section of the LTTE has been disarmed by the IPKF.

Near normalcy has been established in the North and we are moving towards normalcy very rapidly in the East. The Sri Lankan Government has released most Tamil detenus and has framed legislation for provincial councils. For the LTTE we keep channels open. We welcome them to join the political process and test their standing in the democratic process.

SAARC

Sir, in South Asia, SAARC has been moving very well and it is moving rapidly. We are very satisfied with the progress. SAARC is reaching new potentials and establishing good frameworks for relationships in South Asia. A Member has raised the question of SAARC being used to settle bilateral issues. 1 would like to make our position very clear. SAARC is riot a bilateral forum and we will not use it to sort out our bilateral issues. We have direct contacts and we deal directly on bilateral issues.

CHINA

Sir, with China we have been endeavouring to improve our relations. We are building a climate of trust looking for a new and productive phase in our relationships. We recognise that the process of normalisation is complex. The border
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question needs peaceful negotiations. It needs mutually acceptable outcomes and we need to keep in mind the national sentiments in both countries. The maintenance of peace and tranquillity on our borders becomes vital while we talk of long term settlements. We are strengthening cooperation in many fields with China. We are glad that the efforts to normalise have been welcomed by all sections of the House. We have accepted in principle that I should visit China on their invitation.

JAPAN

Our relations with Japan have advanced significantly. I have had a large number of meetings with their ex-Prime Minister Nakasone, when he was Prime Minister and after. And on this visit to Japan, I had a very long meeting with Prime Minister Takeshita. Japan is now our largest bilateral donor of official development assistance. It is also our third largest trading partner. We expect an increase in Japanese investment in joint ventures with Japan and with technical collaborations.

VIETNAM

On my way back from Japan, I had stopped at Vietnam to meet the new leadership that has taken over. Vietnam is a true and sincere friend of India with whom we enjoy shared values, shared

principles and many shared geo-political perceptions. My visit reaffirmed the strong historical ties between the two countries. We have established a strong political understanding with the Vietnamese leadership, an understanding to promote all round cooperation in economic, social and cultural development, an understanding that will strengthen and safeguard the forces of peace and stability in Asia.

KAMPUCHIA

We had talks about Kampuchea. As you are aware Sir, India has been active in trying to find a solution for the problems in Kampuchea. We are playing our part and we hope that the talks between Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen will be resumed soon.

ASEAN

There is an important role for the ASEAN countries. I hope that they too will come forward and play that role. Our relations with the ASEAN countries are progressing smoothly. We have increased economic, commercial and other relations. The Prime Minister of Singapore visited India a little while ago and I have visited Indonesia and Thailand. We have longstanding ties with Malaysia.

GULF WAR

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Gulf War continues. We have persistently deplored this fratricidal conflict between two nonaligned countries. We have remained in close touch with both and we have endorsed the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 598. The negotiating process to implement the Resolution has been undermind by the resumption of the war of cities and by the resort to chemical weapons. We deplore the intensification of the Great Power naval presence. The incidents in the Gulf involving US warships are becoming more and more serious and we urge the utmost restraint on all sides. The need of the hour is statesman-like caution, reversing escalation and promoting a negotiated settlement.

PALESTINE

In West Asia, our support to the Palestinian cause and the PLO is historic and consistent; and dates back to our freedom struggle. We condemn the brutal behaviour of the Israeli forces in the occupied territories. The recent cruel assassination of Abu Jihad is also an act that will only escalate tensions in the area and will make it more difficult to normalise and to find a solution. The situation is critical and brooks no piecemeal approach. I believe there is a growing support for an international Conference on the Middle-East. The Palestinians have an inalien-

able right to self-determination and we support them, in that right.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Moving to Central America, we support the Contodora process. It has led to the Guatemala Peace Accord in the middle of last year, which should lead to a just and lasting settlement ensuring the right to self-determination, independence, security and integrity of all States of the region free of interference and intervention from outside. There is much evidence of the growing affection and shared perceptions and concrete support from Latin America to India despite the long distances that separate our countries. I must make special mention of the genuine efforts that Daniel Ortega has been making in Nicaragua to bring about peace, to uphold the independence of Nicaragua and to strengthen non-alignment in the region.

LATIN AMERICA

Our relations with Peru have improved tremendously during these past years. Peru , is blazing a new trail in Latin America. Argentina and Mexico are partners in our Six-Nation initiative and we are working unitedly for disarmament. We had a lot of cooperation between Brazil and India in the GATT negotiations and because of our unity and like-mindedness we were able to have our way and swing things in the favour of the developing nations. We must expand our cooperation with Latin America to a level commensurate with the great interest and sympathy for India in Latin America.

SOVIET UNION

Our relations with the USSR have been traditionally close and warm. They are now expanding at an unprecedented pace, improving qualitatively to new levels. Special mention must be made of the new thrust in the increased trade and economic cooperation and more specially in the science and technology cooperation that we are starting up. The Festival of India in the Soviet Union and the Soviet Festival in India have been a great success and we are looking forward to General Secretary Gorbachev's visit to India in November, this year.

U.S.A.

We have been steadily improving our bilateral relations with the United States since Indiraji's visit in 1982. The United States is now our largest trading partner with growing scope for increased economic co-operation and technology transfers. We have been holding useful consultations on international and regional issues with the United States. On defence matters, our concentration is on high technology with a view to strengthening our selfreliance.

APARTHEID

Our foreign policy is based on the basic postulates given to us by Gandhiji, of one humanity, of non-violence and of speaking the truth. On one humanity, we have fought for ending the divisions, the narrow walls that we have built. We have fought for ending apartheid which has spawned colonialism in Namibia. We have fought against the invasion, subversion and destabilization in Southern Africa that apartheid is causing. Our response to the challenge is seen in the AFRICA Fund. Fortyfive countries have responded, and pledged over a quarter of a billion dollars, including Rs. 50 crores from us. Several donors, including India have initiated projects. The non-aligned movement's increasing recognition is taking place in the world. At one time it was called immoral. Today, it is accepted by all nations. The principles and practices of nonalignment are seen as the only path for assured peace, stability and prosperity in the world. We have grown from a small minority to an overwhelming majority; and even those who are not in the nonaligned movement have started talking the non-aligned language. We must maintain unity of the movement, because that is what will give us strength.

In the economic field, the irrational world order is harming development in the
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South, and continued prosperity in the North. We need a new consensus on an economic order, a new consensus on development and a cooperative world order.

DISARMAMENT

India has been fighting for disarmament, nuclear disarmament from long before it was fashionable. The INF Treaty is a historic step in this process, but it must be remembered that it is only a first step. A lot more needs to be done. Much must be built upon this process. To make further progress, we must work towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound programme. We must include all nuclear-weapon Powers in the process, We must see that weapons, nuclear weapons do not extend into new dimensions. We must see that there is no development of other weapons of mass destruction or surgical weapons. We must replace the doctrines of deterrence by doctrines of peaceful coexistence.

In 1988, we conclude the 40th year of India's independence. We also begin the birth centenary year of Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of our foreign policy. His vision was much in advance of his times, but it is getting world-wide recognition today, a quarter of a century after his death. We are the proud inheritors of an ancient civilization whose basic precepts are the source of our foreign policy. We have remained steadfast to Jawaharlal

Nehru's vision. There are new challenges and new prospects, and new possibilities ahead. We have to abide by our own principles, but interpret anew to suit evolving circumstances. We shall work towards peace and amity in our neighbourhood, the resolution of regional conflicts, we shall work for human rights and justice in the world, for international democracy among sovereign equals, for a cooperative world order, for one humanity.

Thank you, Sir.

A INDIA PAKISTAN MALI AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND SRI LANKA CHINA PERU JAPAN VIETNAM UNITED KINGDOM REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDONESIA MALAYSIA THAILAND ISRAEL GUATEMALA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NICARAGUA ARGENTINA MEXICO BRAZIL NAMIBIA

Date : Apr 20, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Export Target for 1987-88 Exceeded

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 21, 1988 on upward trend in exports:

India's exports have exceeded the target of Rs. 13,800 crores set for the year 1987-88 in 11 months. Exports during the first 11 months of the financial year 1987-88 from April to February have reached a figure of Rs. 13,939 crores as compared to Rs. 11,244 crores during the same period of 1986-87. Exports have thus registered an increase of about 24% in Rupee terms and 24.8%, in Dollar terms. During the same period, India's imports have amounted to Rs. 19,880 crores as compared to Rs. 17,905 crores during April-February, 1986-87, showing an increase of 11% in Rupee terms and 11.8% in Dollar terms. The country's trade deficit has thus declined by Rs. 720.51 crores from Rs. 6661.33 crores during April-February, 1986-87 to Rs. 5940.82 crores in April-February, 1987-88.

This was indicated here today by the Commerce and Finance Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari, at a high-level review meeting with the Chambers of Commerce, Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards. The meeting was held to broadly review the export performance in 1987-88, the formulation of export action plans by exporters and the implementation of measures announced in the new Import-Export Policy for 1988-91. Among those who participated in the meeting were the Presidents of the Federation of Indian

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) representing all the Joint Business Councils (JBCS), the President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations
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(FIEO) and representatives of all the Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards including the Tea Board, Coffee Board, the Export Promotion Councils for Gem and Jewellery, Apparels, Engineering, Leather, Processed Foods, Cashew, Carpets, Basic Chemicals, Plastics, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the Overseas Construction Council of India (OCCI). The Commerce Secretary, Shri A. N. Varma, the Textile Secretary, Shri Shiromani Sharma and Shri Bimal Jalan, Secretary and Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, attended the meeting which lasted for over four hours.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC OMAN

Date : Apr 21, 1988

Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

Shri N. D. Tiwari Addresses the Economic Association ofIndonesia and India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 11, 1988 on diversification of exports to Indonesia:

The Commerce and Finance Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari, who is leading the Indian delegation to the 44th Annual Session of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), arrived in Jakarta last evening. Later in the evening, he addressed the Economic Association of Indonesia and India (ECAVI) at a special reception hosted by the Association in honour of the Minister which was attended by a large number of Indonesian businessmen and members of all the Indian joint venture companies operating in Indonesia. In his address, Shri Tiwari said that trade and economic cooperation between Indonesia and India had witnessed progress during the past decade, but the present level of economic cooperation was far below the existing potential for expansion and diversification. Shri Tiwari stressed the need to diversify bilateral trade to new commodities and increase the volume of commodities an projects currently traded.

The Minister said he was looking forward to his interaction with

Indonesian Economic Ministers and others for a discussion of bilateral relations and their possible extension not only in the field of trade but in other sectors also, particularly industrial cooperation, agriculture and transfer of technology.

Shri Tiwari also recalled the heritage of economic cooperation that has happily existed between the two countries and which is symbolised by the successful functioning of 11 Indian Joint Venture Companies in Indonesia. Addressing the Members of Association the Minister said, "You are all the Ambassadors of Economic Cooperation between India and Indonesia and not mere joint venture companies. I exhort you to find new ways by which new bonds of economic relationship in technological, industrial and trade fields could be forged."

The Minister briefly surveyed the economic situation in India, which had been dominated by the impact of the drought, and initiatives undertaken by the Government to minimise the impact and to contain inflationary trends. The Minister also dwelt upon the New Import-Export Policy for the next three years announced by the Government which he said is an important instrument of economic policy and continues the process of liberalisation with primary focus on export promotion". "One of the objectives of the
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new policy is to stimulate industrial growth by providing to industry easy access to essential imported capital goods, raw materials and components with a view to making the industry competitive internationally".

Shri Tiwari also recalled the fact that "non-resident Indians/persons of Indian origin will continue to have special facilities in the matter of import of capital goods, raw materials, components and consumables required for the purpose of setting up of an industrial unit or participation in extension of diversification of an existing unit in conformity with the Industrial Policy of the Government". Elaborating the special facilities accorded to the non-resident Indians the Minister also pointed out that the Government of India "have recently constituted a high level committee of non-resident Indians abroad which will provide us a forum for interaction with a view to promoting our foreign trade". Minister also said the above Committee will have a Member from Indonesia.

Shri Tiwari expressed great happiness at being able to visit Indonesia. He said India has had the rare privilege of having centuries old culture linkage with Indonesia. "These bonds of friendship were cemented by our common struggle for Independence. I have long been wanting to visit this great country which produced great personalities like Sukarno, Hatta and Soharto all of whose visits to India I am reminded of on this occasion. I am happy at finally being able to visit this country now. Both our countries are dedicated to Panchsheel Policy", he said,

Weloming the Minister and his delegation Mr. Herlan Bekti, Chairman of the Association, expressed happiness at the growing Indo-Indonesia Economic ties and hoped that the visit of the Minister would further strengthen these close relations. Shri Tiwari wished the Association all success in their endeavour to promote trade and economic relations between the two countries.

DONESIA INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Apr 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Prime Minister's Opening Remarks at the Inauguration ofFestival of India in Japan

The following is the text of opening remarks by the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the inauguration of the Festival of India in Tokyo on Apr 15, 1988:

It is always a joy to be in Japan. Doubly so in spring at the time of your Cherry-Blossom Festival. We recently welcomed some of your renowned artists in India. The Japan month gave our people enchanting glimpses of your great artistic traditions.

India is today returning the gesture. Our musicians and dancers come to you from our mountains and plains, our deserts and palm-fringed coasts with a message of goodwill from the 800 million people of India.

Japan and India were brought together by one of the wisest men of all time - the compassionate Buddha. Even such intensely Japanese manifestations as Zen have an Indian connection.

The Japanese philosophy of life has left a deep impression on our mind. Our 'Poet, Rabindranath Tagore, said: "They know how to control themselves in sorrow and tribulation, in excitement and pain... because there is no waste of energy, it is not found wanting when required. This
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calmness and fortitude of body and mind is part of their national self-realisation."

Japan's emergence as a world power at the turn of this century

thrilled the rest of Asia. My grandfather, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, then a schoolboy, wrote: "I invested in a large number of books on Japan ... nationalistic ideas filled my mind. I mused of Indian freedom and Asiatic freedom from the thraldom of Europe."

Forty years later, Japan became the target of atom bombs. Hiroshima is a turning point in history. Hiroshima is a mirror held up to man's face. It has made the world rethink its view of war and violence. It is reminder of what is in store if we are governed by power and not by wisdom.

Another forty years, and a new picture of Japan has arisen - that of a world leader in technology. Your passion for work and pursuit of excellence have become an international legend. But you have taken care to combine this with high respect for age-old values. The true Japanese miracle in this welding of the old and the new.

India is engaged in a gigantic task of national regeneration. We achieved independence forty years ago under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership. We unified 600 political units into a single nation state. We set up institutions of people's self-government. We launched a determined attack on poverty.

Indian agriculture and industry are well on the way to modernisation. Our farmers, scientists and enterpreneurs have given us a substantial measure of self-reliance. But our own efforts have been supplemented by assistance from outside, particularly in obtaining modern technology. We are grateful for the help Japan has given to our development.

Today we are embarked on a major effort of remoulding our industry to make it more dynamic, more competitive. We welcome Japan's partnership in this endeavour. We have had a good experience of economic collaboration with Japan. We are keen to benefit from your experience and creativity. The potential for Indo-Japanese cooperation is vast.

Development is not a matter merely of higher production, but the refinement and harmonization of the human spirit. That is why we attach the highest importance to the conservation of our cultural and spiritual traditions.

The Festival of India, I hope, will give you a living experience of the Indian heritage. I am grateful to the Government and people of Japan, and the leaders of so many industrial houses, who have made it possible.

I have great pleasure in declaring open the festival. I dedicate it to the steady growth of understanding and friendship between our peoples.

As one of your old poets has said:

Ah, upon this festive day

when the eight young miadens dance at Kasuga

even the Gods must be overwhelmed with joy.

Arigato Gozaimashita.

PAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC LATVIA

Date : Apr 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Japan to Provide Rs. 24.93 Crore Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 21, 1988 on Japanese assistance of Rs. 24.93 crore:

Finance Secretary, Shri S. Venkitaramanan and Japanese Ambassador in India, Mr. Eijiro Noda today signed agreements for extension of Japanese grant assistance of Yen 2390 million (Rs. 24.93 crore) to India for the year 1987-88.

Japan will extend Yen 508 million (Rs. 5.30 crore) for grant aid to Regional
<pg-115>

Cancer Centres at Srinagar, Jaipur, Gwalior, Allahabad and Hyderabad for import of CT Scanners from Japan. Yen 371 million (Rs. 3.87 crore) is the grant aid to Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute at Budni (MP), Hissar (Haryana), Anantpur (Andhra Pradesh) and Eastern Region Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute. Yen 911 million (Rs. 9.50 crore) will be grant aid to Fishery Survey of India, Bombay for import of two Tuna Long Line Fishing Vessels and consultancy services. The acquisition of these vessels will facilitate the survey of tuna resources in the archipelago area of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Yen 600 million (Rs. 6.26 crore) will be utilised for import of Diammonium Phosphate from Japan.

PAN INDIA

Date : Apr 21, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Mr. R. Premadasa

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 07, 1988 on visit of Mr. R. Premadasa:

We are surprised that the Sri Lankan High Commission should have unilaterally issued a Press Release on the purely informal exchanges that took place during what was a courtesy call by Mr. R. Premadasa on the Prime Minister. Since this was a private courtesy call, the Government of India did not issue a Press Release. Mr. Premadasa is in India on a private visit and has been extended courtesies due to a leader from a friendly country.

It is also clarified that the Press Release has quoted the Prime, Minister selectively, out of context and inaccurately, especially on issues pertaining to the ethnic violence in the Eastern Province and on the strength of the IPKF in Sri Lanka.

DIA SRI LANKA

Date : Apr 07, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Geneva Accord on Afghanistan

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 14, 1988 on signing of the Geneva Accord on Afghanistan:

Government welcomes the signing of the Geneva Accords. This is a

historic event, marking the successful conclusion of the UN Secretary General's initiative to bring about a political settlement of a complex issue.

As a country of the region, India feels that the Accords will lead to a lessening of tensions in the region and the re-
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moval of the raison d'etre for the induction of sophisticated weapons into the area. The settlement should thus create a favourable climate for peace and cooperation. India will make every effort to promote these objectives.

The people of Afghanistan and the refugees can now devote their efforts towards the social and economic reconstruction of their country. We will fully support them in these endeavours. The Governments of Afghanistan, Pakistan, the USA and the USSR, as well as the Personal Representative of the UN Secretary General, deserve our appreciation for bringing to fruition the Geneva settlement.

GHANISTAN SWITZERLAND INDIA USA PERU PAKISTAN

Date : Apr 14, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Return of Bangladeshi Chakma Refugees from Tripura

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 14, 1988 in response to queries from the press on the return of Bangladeshi Chakma refugees from Tripura:

Government have seen news reports about the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary's statement of April 13 on the return of the Bangladeshi Chakma refugees from Tripura to their country. We are glad to see the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary's remark that steps have been taken to create conditions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts conducive to the return of the refugees. For the last two years the Bangladesh Government had been stating that conditions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were normal, that nothing more needed to be done, and that the refugees should return. We are glad to see that the Bangladesh Government is now willing to make a more realistic assessment of the situation.

We have always said that the Bangladesh Government must take the necessary steps to convince the refugees themselves of this. We take note of the reported decision of the Bangladesh Government to send a group of tribal leaders and the Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi to the refugee camps to convince the refugees to return. We have however not so far received any official intimation about this.

We are surprised that the Indian High Commissioner's remarks about the refugees being unwilling to return because they fear for their security should have come as a surprise to the Bangladesh Foreign Office. This is a point that we have repeatedly brought to the attention of the Bangladesh Government at all levels both through diplomatic channels and in our public statements. There is absolutely nothing new in what the High Commissioner has said.

Since the Indian High Commissioner has only reiterated what the Government of India at all levels has been saying consistently for the last two years since the influx of refugees first began it is not clear to us what part of his statement has been found inconsistent with diplomatic norms by the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary.

The crux of the question is the unwillingness of the refugees to return. It is obvious that the refugees feared for their safety and that is why they fled their homes. Only when they are given a sense of safety and security are they likely to return.
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NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : Apr 14, 1988

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE

Assassination of Abu Jihad Condemned

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Government of India on Apr 17, 1988 on the assassination of Abu Jihad:

The Government of India strongly condemns the brutal assassination of the Palestanian leader Abu Jihad. In his death Abu Jihad symbolized, as he did throughout his life, the will and

determination of the Palestinian people to attain their inalienable rights. Such acts of senseless violence can only further exacerbate tensions in an already volatile situation.

The Government of India reaffirms its solidarity with and support for the brave struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO for justice, freedom and human dignity including their inalienable right to an independent state in their homeland.

DIA USA

Date : Apr 17, 1988

Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

Romania to Increase Imports of Iron Ore from India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 05, 1988 on export of iron ore to Romania:

Romania has agreed to buy 5 million tonnes of iron ore during 1988-89. A Protocol to this effect was signed by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) during the visit of the Indian delegation led by Mr. Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Minister of State for Commerce, to Romania from 28th to 30th March, 1988. Discussions were held during the visit on wide ranging issues relating to bilateral trade. These included short term problems pertaining to export of iron ore from India and import of several commodities as well as long term strategies for growth in volume of bilateral trade. The Indian delegation during these talks included Shri B. K. Chaturvedi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Shri Bhupinder Singh, Executive Director, MMTC.

During the discussions which Mr. Dasmunsi had with Mr. Iliee Vaduve, Minister for Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation of Romania and other concerned Ministries, it was decided that the basket of commodities being exchanged between the two countries would be further diversified. New items are to be identified for this purpose. Concrete proposals on these items will now be discussed during the meeting of
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the Joint Commission in May, 1988 when the Commerce Minister is expected to lead an Indian delegation to Romania, as Co-Chairman

of the Indian Side.

The Protocol signed between MMTC and MIE of Romania during the visit envisages export of 2 million tonnes of Indian-iron ore in April/May, 1988 and the balance 3 million tonnes in the next shipping season starting from September/ October, 1988-March, 1989. An MMTC delegation will now visit Romania in the third week of April, 1988 to finalise the prices.

Romania has been a regular buyer of iron ore from India in the past. Recently due to non-availability of Rupee funds in their account, consequent upon lower imports of several items from Romania, there has been a decline in Indian iron ore exports to them. Romania has recently signed a long-term agreement with Australia for purchase of iron ore against export of Romanian machinery and equipment. After the visit of the Indian delegation it had agreed to increase its imports of iron ore from India. Earlier, it had reached an understanding with the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL), too, to increase its imports of Kudremukh concentrates and pellets

Romania is one of the five countries with whom India has Trade and Payment Agreement for conducting bilateral trade in Rupees. The volume of bilateral trade between the two countries has grown up substantially since 1983 from a level of Rs. 147 crores to Rs. 260 crores in 1986.

The major items of import from Romania have been urea, petro-chemicals including HDPE & LDPE, steel and steel products, newsprint, casings and pipes, drilling equipment including charter hire for petroleum sector, taper ball bearings etc. Of the export items iron ore, manganese ore, cotton, deoiled cakes, tea, coffee, leather, machine tools and hand-tools have been important. Recently import of railway sleepers have also been made from Romania.

During the visit of President Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania in March, 1987 to India an Agreement on Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation was signed between the two countries. It was envisaged under it that the volume of bilateral trade would be raised by 2 to 2.5 times in the next five years. The visit of the Indian delegation now is expected to strengthen bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

AN ROMANIA INDIA USA AUSTRALIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Apr 05, 1988

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Common Approach Urged for Drug Abuse in SAARC Countries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 06, 1988 on menace of drug abuse and trafficking:

The Union Minister of State for Welfare, Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai today urged the SAARC countries to coordinate efforts to face the menace of drug abuse and trafficking in the region. She said this was necessitated by the commonality of social structures of the SAARC countries. The Minister was inaugurating the first SAARC meeting of

<pg-119>

the non-governmental organizations on Drug Abuse Prevention.

The Minister said that the rising trends in drug abuse and trafficking called for a new approach on the part of the Government and the non-government organisations. She said that drug trafficking had become a profitable business and aft element of glamourisation was associated with the abuse of certain drugs. These attitudes, she said, weakened the entire social structure and distorted the priorities of developmental processes.

Outlining the need to adopt a strategy, the Minister said that demand reduction would have to be built within the social fabric. Enforcement of the law would have to be supplemented by public awareness programmes, proper identification and treatment of drug addicts.

The Minister said that the rehabilitative process had to extend beyond more medical treatment to the social milieu of the addict.

The Minister noted that the role of the non-governmental organizations assumed importance in the context of the enormity of the malaise. These organizations should work towards. changing social attitudes and help to bring back drug victims into the mainstream of life.

A INDIA

Date : Apr 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Talks on Economic Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 11, 1988 on Indo-Soviet talks on economic cooperation:

A high-level Soviet delegation led by Mr. Y. P. Khomenko, Deputy Chairman, USSR State Planning Committee (GOS PLAN) today had discussions with Indian delegation led by Dr. Y. K. Alagh, Member, Planning Commission. This is part of continuing dialogue on economic cooperation between the two countries. The last round of talks on the subject was held in October, 1987 in New Delhi.

The discussions in the plenary session lasting over an hour centred around long-term trade projections and restructuring and diversification of Indo-Soviet trade. The Soviet delegates will have detailed discussions with their counterparts during their week-long stay in India for which a number of sub-groups have been formed. The Soviet team is also scheduled to visit some important trade centres in India for which details are being worked out.

DIA USA

Date : Apr 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Working Group on Computers and Electronics

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 22, 1988 on Indo-Soviet Working Group on Computers and Electronics:

At the end of the Sixth Session of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on Computers and Electronics, Shri K. P. P. Nambiar, Secretary, Department of Electronics (Leader of Indian delegation) and Mr. V. M. Neiman, Dy. Chairman of the State Committee for Computer Technique and Informatics (Leader of Soviet delegation) signed a protocol here today.

Following are the highlights of the protocol:

Main terms of the Working Programme oh cooperation in the field of telecommunication equipment for the period upto the year 2000, are as follows:

Both sides agreed to carry on research and development works and supply to each other results which are mutually beneficial on the following products:

- Digital multiplexing systems and optical fibre systems;

- Consumer radio electronics;

Radio electronic measuring instruments and test and measuring instruments;

Ground radio navigation and airport systems and means of telecommunications for civil aviation;

- Special telephones and special telephone exchanges for mines;

- Equipment for marine and river radio communication; and

- TV and radio studio and outside broadcast equipment.

Both sides discussed possibilities of production in India and delivery to the USSR, full set of equipment I system for upgrading telephone lines in-cities and villages.

Both sides discussed the possibility of delivery to India and manufacture in India with technical documentation from USSR on a commercial basis of special telephone aparatus for mines together with special telephone exchanges.

Both sides discussed the possibilities of cooperation in production of Colour TV receivers (CTVs) and other consumer electronic items in USSR and India for supply to third countries. Third country markets would be developed jointly by both sides.

The Soviet side confirmed its interest in buying of electron guns for precision "in-line" colour picture tubes from India. For this purpose, a collaborative production of electron guns is proposed to be set up in India with technical assistance from USSR, India and third countries.

Both sides showed interest in joint production of metal-ceramic packages (MCP) for ICs. The Soviet side indicated that they have finalised basic principles for setting up in India a joint venture company with the Soviet technical assistance.

Both sides agreed to exchange information available with both

sides and identify are-as for joint cooperation in the field of automatic control systems for process industries in India, Soviet Union and third world countries.

With reference to the steel industry, both sides agreed that an Indian team drawn from Department of Electronics, Steel Authority of India and Manufacturers would visit Soviet Union during the second half of July, 10,88. The scope of discussion would include identification of Indian hardware and joint development of process models and applications soft ware for future exploitation of the knowledge for third world country projects in process plants including Steel, Chemicals, Cement etc.

It was noted that both India and Soviet Union have extensive railway network which are being modernised. Electronic items including railway computerisation, signalling and software products have been developed in India and information on this would be provided to the Soviet side within two months. Similar information from the Soviet side would be made available to India within the same time-frame.
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Following items have been offered for export from India to Soviet Union and vice-versa:

From India to USSR: AC DC Drives for Locomotives, Static Excitation Systems, Byro Systems, and Solar Photo voltaic Power packs.

From USSR to India: Pressure Transmitters, Electronic Pressure Gauges, Thermostats, Temperature Regulators, Electronic Thermometers, and X-Ray Spectrometers and Chromatographs.

The Soviet side has agreed to give necessary specifications of ELBRUS 3-1 (1-2 GFLOPS) and the EC-1068 (10 MIPS) computer systems to the Indian side by the end of July 1988. After receiving response from the India side, the Soviet side will make a commercial offer. The Soviet side has invited a delegation from India to visit Soviet Union in November 1988 to appraise them of the developments in the new computer techniques and products.

Both sides expressed mutual interest in arrangement of cooperative production of educational and home computers for markets in USSR and third world countries. Both parties agreed to prepare necessary documents during 1988 on arrangement of cooperative production. This will be based on CPU, peripherals and software of either side.

Both sides noted the need for strengthening Soviet marketing activities in India and broadening the list of goods in the field of Computers and Electronics froh the Soviet-side. It was agreed that Soviet side would consider organising in India an exhibition of Soviet electronics hardware (including components) and

software.

Indian side reiterated its position regarding exports from India and suggested the Soviet side to consider electronics manufacturing units while placing purchase orders.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA RUSSIA ITALY

Date : Apr 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Protocol on Ferrous Metallurgy Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 22, 1988 on Indo-Soviet protocol on Ferrous Metallurgy:

An Indo-Soviet protocol was signed here today for co-operation in the field of ferrous metallurgy between the two countries. The protocol was signed at the end of 9th meeting of the Working Group on Ferrous Metallurgy within the framework of the inter-governmental Indo-Soviet Commission on economic, scientific and technical co-operation. Shri R. P. Khosla, Secretary, Department of Steel signed on behalf of the Government of India while Mr. L. V. Radyukevitch, First Deputy Minister for Ferrous Metallurgy of the Soviet Union for his country.

According to the protocol both sides noted with satisfaction that the programme for Indo-Soviet cooperation in ferrous metallurgy for the period upto 1992 is being realised successfully. Blast Furnace No. 7 and Coke Oven Battery No. 0 of Bhilai Steel Plant have been put on stream completing the 4 Mt expansion. With the Commissioning of Benzol Plant and Oxygen Plant in 1988, the 4 Mt expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant will also be completed.

The programme for modernisation and reconstruction of the converter shops with construction of continuous casting departments and modernisation of 2,000 Hot Strip Mill at Bokaro Steel Plant that would improve Plant's performance resulting in its annual capacity increase to 4.5 Mt. of liquid steel has been projected in the form of technical and economic offer. The supplies of equipment for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant are in progress. VSP stage-1 is scheduled for commissioning in 1988 and the Stage-II construction is in progress.
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The protocol says collaboration between the Soviet Design-Research Organisations and MECON of India is being continued for new technologies and processes. The collaborative efforts are being further developed between SAIL/RDCIS and Tsnichermet of Moscow in scientific research in the field of ferrous metallurgy aimed at improvement in product quality, process and productivity.

It further says as per the Programme of Indo-Soviet cooperation in the area of ferrous metallurgy upto 1992 the two sides agreed to continue the work on the Soviet techno-commercial proposals transfer on the contract basis. Both the sides have discussed the proposals to be incorporated in the programme for the main directions of collaboration in the field of ferrous metallurgy for the period upto 2000.

Regarding Visakhapatnam Steel Project both sides have reviewed matters pertaining to the schedules and progress of construction, availability of design documentation, equipment supplies as well as the progress of fulfilment of obligations of both sides. They have noted the progress of construction work reached at the site and expressed satisfaction at the near completion of the civil and structural works of Stage-I and also the high levels of equipment erection being attained presently at the site. They agreed that the Soviet side will provide necessary technical and managerial cooperation by deputing highly experienced Soviet operational specialists to ensure VSP attaining the full rated capacities of all the Soviet units within twelve months of the start of commercial operation of the plant.

A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM RUSSIA

Date : Apr 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Rs. 45 Billion Trade Flow Between India and the Soviet Union in1987

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 25, 1988 on trade flow between India and the Soviet Union in 1987:

Trade flow between India and the USSR during 1987 reached a level of Rs. 45 billion against a trade plan provision of Rs. 36.8

billion. This indicated a growth of 16 per cent against the target. Speaking in his meeting with the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. V. M. Kamentsev here today, the Union Finance Minister, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari said that in the trade plan provision of 50 billion, the Soviet export have been contracted for 88 per cent and 76 per cent of Indian exports have already been made. A working group on trade between the two countries has also completed a detailed review.

Shri Tiwari impressed upon the Soviet Union to ensure supplies of items like sulphur, methanol wood logs etc. He also expressed India's keenness to acquire a variety of items in the steel and steel products sector, from the Soviet Union.

The Finance Minister said that India could increase import of Soviet machinery upto three times of imports made in 1986. Subject to satisfactory exchange of specifications, substantial imports can be made in the public sector under Economic Credits and in sectors like civil aviation. He stresses the necessity to improve exchange of information, setting up mechanism for supplying faster information and larger flow of technology and its modification.

Shri Tiwari also expressed India's appreciation of quicker disbursement of credits from the Soviet Union which has led to its purposeful utilisation.
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DIA USA

Date : Apr 25, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Cooperation in Energy Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 28, 1988 on Indo-Soviet Cooperation in energy sector:

The Minister of Energy and Communications, Shri Vasant Sathe, said today that the expansion stage of the Vindhyachal super thermal power project consisting of two units of 500 MW each would be set up with Soviet assistance.

The project will be implemented by the National Thermal Power

Corporation in the Central sector. These units will incorporate the latest super critical technology.

Shri Sathe added that an Indian team of experts would visit the Soviet Union next month to work out the technical details.

Shri Sathe stated this when the visiting Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Mr. V. M. Kamentsev, met him here today. The two leaders discussed the areas of further strengthening Indo-Soviet cooperation in the field of power, coal, and nonconventional energy sources. India is setting up a number of power stations with a capacity of 4,500 MW with the Soviet assistance. It is proposed to induct an additional 3800 MW capacity with financial and technical assistance from the USSR.

During the meeting Shri Sathe stressed that "we need to take expeditious measures to fulfil the mutual objectives envisaged in the agreement of cooperation between the two countries in the vital energy sector".

The Soviet Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed his country's desire to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector and expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the Soviet assisted power projects in India.

DIA USA

Date : Apr 28, 1988

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Shri K. Natwar Singh's Statement in Lok Sabha

The following is the text Of a statement made by Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, in Lok Sabha on Apr 06, 1988, on Sri Lanka:

Government have seen newspaper reports about certain payments made to LTTE in connection with the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. Hon'ble Members had also raised this issue in the House. I rise to clarify the position.

As Government have stated before in the House, we had consulted the LTTE as part of the negotiations leading to the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. Some specific demands made by them,

such as the withdrawal of the Sri Lankan Army to camps as on May 25, 1987, were discussed with the Sri Lankan Government and incorporated into the Agreement. When these negotiations were in the final stages, Shri Prabhakaran, the leader of the LTTE, had requested that he would like to come to Delhi for a personal meeting with Prime Minister. As part of the final consultations, leaders of all Tamil
<pg-124>

groups including Shri Prabhakaran and his colleagues were brought to Delhi with the knowledge of the Sri Lankan Government.

As Government have stated on several occasions, during the talks in Delhi Shri Prabhakaran had accepted the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. After accepting the Agreement, he had expressed certain concerns. These pertained to the personal safety of the LTTE leadership, the rehabilitation of LTTE cadres; financial assistance both for the maintenance of their cadres pending rehabilitation and for reconstruction work; and, lastly, a leading role for LTTE in an interim administration. Government of India took these concerns fully into account. President Jayewardene and Government of Sri Lanka also responded constructively in this regard.

One of the main problems mentioned by Shri Prabhakaran concerned the fact that LTTE had been collecting funds through "taxes" levied on the people of Jaffna and some other areas of the Northern and Eastern Provinces. According to Shri Prabhakaran these collections were being used by them to provide allowances for the upkeep of their cadres. It was made clear to Shri Prabhakaran that once the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement came into effect, such forced collections from the population must cease. Shri Prabhakaran requested, therefore, that till the Interim Administration comes into being, and till his cadres are employed, he should be given the financial means to support his cadres as otherwise it would become exceedingly difficult for him to retain their loyalty.

The Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement provides that the Government of Sri Lanka will make special efforts to rehabilitate the militant youth with a view to bringing them back to the mainstream of national life. India is expected to cooperate in this process.

In order to help LTTE make the difficult transition from militancy to peaceful democratic politics, it was agreed to extend some interim financial relief to LTTE on the understanding that such relief would only cover the period till the rehabilitation of its cadres.

Since Prabhakaran had declared his support to the Agreement, and had agreed to surrender arms, it was a reasonable expectation that the Interim Administration would come into existence within a few weeks and the LTTE cadres would be speedily re-employed by

the Sri Lankan Government who had promised to fully cooperate in the process. On this understanding one instalment of financial assistance was made available to LTTE with the knowledge of the Sri Lankan authorities. Unfortunately, Shri Prabhakaran went back on his assurances and commitments.

I would like to categorically refute the misleading newspaper reports that this payment was to persuade Shri Prabhakaran to accept the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. This kind of aspersion is beneath contempt. As I have said, Prabhakaran had already accepted the Agreement. But he had explained certain practical problems in respect of his cadres during the transition. This financial assistance was intended to help LTTE overcome these problems.

References have also been made in the newspaper reports about a sum of Rs. 100 crores. I would like to clarify that Shri Prabhakaran had asked for a sum of Rs. 100 crores on the grounds that LTTE would like to undertake rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the Tamil areas. No commitment was given to him about a payment of this sum. It was clarified to him that such payments can only be made on a government-to-government basis. Shri Prabhakaran was advised that the LTTE should first get into the peaceful political process, join an interim administration, identify specific projects and programmes and pose these to the Government of India through the Central Government of Sri Lanka. He was
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assured that Government of India would do whatever, is possible to help in the task of reconstruction. Unfortunately, Shri Prabhakaran went back on his commitment to cooperate in the formation of an interim administration. Government of India has, however, committed Sri Lankan rupees 50 crores as rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka to be spent in the areas ravaged by the ethnic conflict.

To sum up, I would reiterate what Government has stated repeatedly in this House - that we had gone out of our way in trying to make the LTTE see reason, to renounce violence, to lay down arms and to participate in the democratic process so that the legitimate rights of the Tamils guaranteed by the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement could be fully realized.

Regrettably, despite all our endeavours, the LTTE leadership remained unwilling to make the transition to democratic means. As we have repeatedly stated, the door remains open for talks with the LTTE for them to joint the democratic process povided they give up their weapons and support the Agreement.

I LANKA USA INDIA

Date : Apr 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

US Secretary of Defence Arrives on Three Day Visit

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 04, 1988 on visit of US Secretary of Defence:

US Secretary of Defence Mr. Frank Carlucci accompanied by Mrs. Carlucci and a high level delegation arrived here this morning on a three day visit to India. They were received by the Defence Minister Shri K. C. Pant, Smt. Ila Pant, Minister of State for Defence Production Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Minister of State for Defence Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, Chief of the Army Staff General K. Sundarji, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral J. G. Nadkarni, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal D. A. Lafontaine, Defence Secretary Shri S. K. Bhatnagar, Defence Production Secretary Shri P. C. Jain and Secretary Defence Research and Development Dr. V. S. Arunachalam.

Mr. Carlucci later called on the Defence Minister Shri K. C. Pant in South Block headquarters of Defence Ministry. The two delegations held formal discussions in the Ministry. They discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in the field of Defence. The Indian delegation headed by Shri Pant included the two Ministers of State, the three Service Chiefs and the three Secretaries in the Defence Ministry. The US delegation headed by Mr. Carlucci included Mr. J. Daniel Howard, Assistant United States Secretary of Defence for Public Affairs, Lt. General Charles W. Brown, Director, Defence Security Assistance Agency, Mr. Edward W. Gnehm, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary, Major General Gordon E. Fornell, Military Assistant to the United States Secretary of Defence, Colonel Leon T. Hunt, Department of Defence and Army Attache in the United States Embassy in India, Mr. Marc Palevitz, Director for India, Office of the Assistant Secretary Defence, International Security Agency, Mr. George F. Sherman, Counsellor for Political Affairs, Embassy of United States, Colonel Douglas B.
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Cairns, Defence Supply Advisor and Colonel Joseph K. Britan, Air Force Attache in United States Embassy in India.

Earlier during the day Mr. Carlucci laid a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti.

During his three-day stay in India, Mr. Carlucci will visit Western Naval Command and Mazagaon Docks in Bombay and places of interest in Agra. He will call on the Prime Minister tomorrow.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Apr 04, 1988

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indo-US Agreement for Joint Study on Automation of BhagirathiWater Treatment Plant

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 26, 1988 on Indo-US agreement for joint study on automation of Bhagirathi water treatment plant:

The Department of Electronics, today, launched a major project under the Micro Processor Application Engineering Programme dedicated to the micro processor application for productivity improvement in the services sector. The Programme relates to a joint study for automation of Bhagirathi water treatment plant of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, in collaboration with the US Trade and Development Programme of the US Government.

An agreement to this effect was signed here today between Assistant Secretary for Trade Development, US Department of Commerce, Mr. Charles E. Cobb Jr. and Secretary, Department of Electronics, Shri K. P. P. Nambiar. The entire expenditure for joint study, estimated at US $ 260,000 will be met by the US Government.

Under the Agreement, a team of officials of Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking and Microprocessor Application Engineering Programme of DOE will study the latest technology on some fully automated water treatment plants in United States. Engineers from the two organisations will be trained on water treatment plant automation. In addition, an international expert will study the said water treatment plant vis-a-vis project report prepared by MAEP.

The limitations of the plant, operating environment etc. will also be studied in detail and specifications of the type of transducers and control equipment required for the plant, optimum control strategy for plant automation etc. would be suggested.

Only those sub-systems which are not available in the country will be imported at the time of project implementation.

Automation of water treatment plant Will bring better controls and saving in the energy and raw material to the extent of 10-15 per cent. At present Bhagirathi water treatment plant purifies and supplies 100 million gallons of water per day to various colonies of Delhi. India has more than 200 water treatment plants across the country which may be automated to bring considerable saving in the raw material. After successful completion of this project, the technology generated will be replicated in all the water treatment plants in the country.
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A INDIA

Date : Apr 26, 1988

May

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Date : May 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Banquet Speech by the President of India Shri R. Venkataraman

The following is the text of the speech by the President, Shri R. Venkataraman ut the banquet in honour of the President of the Republic of Afghanistan, H.E. Dr. Najibullah, in New Delhi on May 04, 1988:

Excellency Dr. Najibullah, it is with great pleasure that we extend to you a warm and cordial welcome to India. We attach the greatest importance to your visit not ' only because it will enable us to have a mutually beneficial exchange of views on the emerging situation in Afghanistan and in the region but also because of the abiding and multi-faceted ties of friendship which have been shared for centuries by our two countries and peoples.

Indo-Afghan links go back to antiquity. There is much that is common between our two peoples in terms of a similar cultural heritage, cuisine, language, value systems, and in several other fields. It can truly be said that the Afghans and the Indians are in fact, brothers and no strangers. This is amply demonstrated

not only by the love and affection bestowed upon our nationals in your country but also by the fact that as many as 40,000 people of Indian origin have been assimilated in Afghanistan and are proud to be Afghan nationals. They are a happy and well adjusted community not discriminated against in any manner and enjoying the same rights and obligations as any other Afghan citizen. They are a visible example of our close bonds. It is thus a matter of deep satisfaction that over the last several decades, these age-old links have been further cemented through a warm and friendly Political relationship and increasing economic, commercial and cultural exchanges. Notwithstanding the various political vicissitudes and upheavals in the region, Indo-Afghan friendship has been constant. We are confident that it will not only continue to remain so in the years to come but, in fact would be further consolidated.

Your visit is taking place at a most critical juncture in the history of Afghanistan and indeed in that of the region. It will give us an opportunity to sit together for an exchange of ideas and analysis of the situation in depth particularly in the context of the signing of the Geneva accords and the impending withdrawal of Soviet troops. India and Afghanistan desire peace and stability in the area, are averse to foreign intervention and are keen to cooperate in the furtherance of these objectives. Your Excellency's visit will greatly facilitate the realisation of these aspirations.

The Geneva accords signed last month open up the possibility for the restoration of peace and normalcy in the region. We have welcomed these accords which we regard as truly historic. If sincerely implemented, we have no doubt that they will help attain their end objective India, as a country in the region, has be deeply affected by the developments in Afghanistan in the last several years. We hope that the Geneva accords would remove any excuse for the induction of sophisticated weapons into the region particularly the supply of lethal weapons to Pakistan which can only be used against US.) We are confident that Afghanistan
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will tide over this difficult phase speedily and enter an era of all round progress.

With the signing of the Geneva accords, Afghan refugees have now an additional incentive to return to their homeland and the people of Afghanistan the opportunity to engage in the vital but difficult task of national reconstruction. I would like to assure, your Excellency, that we, in India, are prepared to stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers in Afghanistan, to help them in every possible manner possible within our modest means, in the arduous task of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Ever since independence, we have consciously, as a matter of policy, sought to participate in economic and industrial

cooperation programmes directed towards the benefit of the common man in Afghanistan. The Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health and the Industrial Estate Project in Kabul have become symbols of our joint endeavours. There are several Indian experts in Afghanistan in diverse fields and we have encouraged Afghan students and trainees to visit India for higher education and for upgrading their skills. We look forward to continue such cooperation programmes particularly in fields such as small scale industry, agriculture, public health, education, culture, etc.

It is our firm conviction that it is for the Afghan people themselves to determine their destiny free from all foreign interference. We have followed with great interest the efforts now being made by you, Mr. President, to evolve a national

consensus for peace and stability in Afghanistan. You have, Mr. President, already offered to form a broad-based coalition government. We look forward to these efforts ushering in an era of peace and progress for the friendly people of Afghanistan. We also hope that in the coming weeks and months, as the Geneva Accords Are under implementation, all concerned parties will respect the principle of non-interference enshrined in the Accords.

As you are aware, Excellency, we, in India, would like to see friendly Afghanistan as a strong, stable and non-aligned State, whose independence is never in jeopardy. This is possible only if the Geneva Accords are properly implemented and the process of consolidation of national unity is carried forward. You have made a valuable contribution in this direction. We wish you all success in your endeavours and recognise that the process of national reconciliation can only be brought to its logical culmination by the people of Afghanistan themselves. This is not something which can be or should be imposed from without. We are confident that the people of Afghanistan will show the requisite maturity, courage and political wisdom to bring about a genuine consensus and a meeting of minds in the country.

Excellency, permit me to raise a toast to Indo-Afghan friendship; to success in your endeavours, to restore peace and normalcy in Afghanistan; to prosperity for the people of Afghanistan; and to your personal health and well-being.

GHANISTAN INDIA USA SWITZERLAND PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 04, 1988

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Long-term Agreement for Supply of Tea to Afghanistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 06, 1988 on long-term agreement for supply of tea to Afghanistan:

Afghanistan has agreed to enter into a long-term arrangement for the import of packet tea from India. The details of the arrangement which will be for a period of four years are expected to be finalised soon. An agreement for the supply of 2,000 tonnes of packet tea has already been finalised.
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This was indicated during discussions when the Afghan Commerce Minister, Mr. Mohammad Khan Jalalar, called on the Commerce and Finance Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari here last evening. The discussions covered bilateral trade issues and the future possibilities of expansion of trade and economic cooperation between India and Afghanistan. Shri M. R. Sivaraman, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, was present during the discussions along with representatives of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Afghan Minister stressed his Government's keenness to promote the establishment of joint ventures in Afghanistan with technical and financial assistance from India and conveyed his country's continued interest in sourcing its requirements of consumer goods and other items from India. Shri Tiwari reiterated the assurance of India's support to Afghanistan in the task of national reconstruction throug
measures aimed at strengthening bilateral trade as well as economic and industrial cooperation. He suggested that specific areas of cooperation for joint ventures could be identified in consultation with specialists from the National Small Industries Development Corporation (NSIDC) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to facilitate cooperation in the small scale and agro-industries sector. Several project profiles for the small sector had already been completed. These would be pursued. The amount available under the Memorandum of Understanding for the import of dry fruits under ESCROW account had been increased to Rs. 10.5 crores. Shri Tiwari hoped that this would be utilised to promote non-traditional exports from India, particularly projects, in view of the geographical proximity and the relevance of technologies and expertise that India could offer.

Shri Tiwari appreciated the Afghan Government's recent offer of facilities to set up a State Trading Corporation (STC) showroom

in Kabul and indicated that this together with possibilities of supplies of several new items by STC would be followed up.

Both sides recognised that there was considerable scope for increasing the trade turnover which during April-December, 1987 stood at Rs. 38.36 crores with India's exports valued at Rs. 21.93 crores and imports from Afghanistan consisting mostly of fresh and dry fruits at Rs. 16.43 crores. In 'response to a specific point raised by the Afghan side, it was indicated that it had recently been decided to allow additional flights in the Delhi-Kabul sector over and above the normal entitlement of Ariana to allow larger quantities of certain items such as meat to be airlifted to meet the requirements of Afghanistan as per the bilateral agreement between the two countries.

GHANISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Talks on Trans-border Crime

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 31, 1988 on Indo-Bangladesh talks on transbarder crimes:

The two-day talks between India and Bangladesh on trans-border crime concluded here today. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Maj. Gen. Sofi Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General, Bangladesh Rifles, and the Indian delegation by Shri H. P. Bhatnagar, Director General, Border Security Force. Both the delega-
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tions were assisted by a team of senior officers in their discussions. The discussions took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship.

The Director General, BSF, while welcoming the delegation, stressed that it is the responsibility of both BSF and BDR to ensure that people living in border areas get Protection against depredations by criminals and to prevent smuggling of all types and trans-border crimes.

The issues which prominently figured in the discussions were the measures to check the influx of Bangladesh nationals into India,

return of Chakma refugees, maintenance of border pillars and transborder crimes. Both sides agreed that there should be timely exchange of information and stringent measures to check the growing menace of smuggling, transborder crimes like cattle lifting and kidnapping etc. The meeting ended on a happy note both sides appreciating the cooperation and understanding shown in resolving the issues during the discussions. Maj. Gen. Chaudhry invited Shri H. P. Bhatnagar to visit Dhaka next year. Later he called on the Union Home Minister, Shri Buta Singh, Union Minister of State for Home, Shri P. Chidambaram and Union Home Secretary, Shri C. G. Somiah.

NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : May 31, 1988

Volume No

1995

COMMONWEALTH

Commonwealth Health Ministers Conference at Geneva

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 02, 1988 on Commonwealth Health Ministers Conference at Geneva:

The Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Motilal Vora has made a strong plea for promoting rational use of drugs. The Minister was addressing the meeting of Health Ministers of Commonwealth countries at Geneva yesterday which is traditionally held immediately before the World Health Assembly.

He pointed out that India supports all efforts of World Health Organisation to promote rational use of drugs which would mean use of appropriate quality drugs in an appropriate manner and simultaneous promotion of use of quality generic drugs.

Shri Vora suggested that World Health Organisation would also assist in generating data base for these drugs, which would help in deciding whether new drugs should be cleared for marketing or not.

Shri Vora informed the Conference that India had launched a massive immunisation programme in 1978, with the objective of reducing morbidity and mortality due to the six vaccine preventable diseases: Recently, the programme has received a further impetus by the declaration of the programme as a

technology mission, which also aims at achieving self-sufficiency in vaccine production.

Shri Vora said the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had drawn up an Action Plan for the immunising programme in urban areas. The Minister informed the conference that the Ministry is developing a prototype for ten urban areas using the technique of computerised micro planning. A coordination committee to oversee the implementation of the programme has also been formed, said the Minister.
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He explained that in India we have prepared a manual streamlining consumer pack sizes of drugs, based on the recommended daily dose and the average duration of these drugs. The manual also gives colour coding, according to the inherent risks associated with indiscriminate use of certain classes of drugs.

Speaking on AIDS, Shri Vora mentioned. that in India attempts are being made to isolate and characterise the virus from the HIV infected persons. Characterisation of virus from Sero Positive cases in India will be an important step in the understanding of the epidemology of the disease in India.

The research efforts will have a bearing on prevention control and management of HIV infection.

In countries like India where AIDS is not a serious public health problem, the desirability of diverting resources for AIDS control programmes will have to be carefully considered. However, positive steps would have to be taken. But such measures would succeed only when all countries conform to a certain pattern.

ITZERLAND INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 02, 1988

Volume No

1995

DISARMAMENT

Statement by Shri K. Natwar Singh at the Ministerial Meeting ofthe Non-aligned Coordinating Bureau

The following is the statement made by Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-aligned Countries on Disarmament in Havana on May 29, 1988:

I am honoured to participate in this Ministerial Meeting of the Non-aligned Coordinating Bureau being held just before the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament. By happy coincidence, our meeting is taking place when Reagan-Gorbachev Meeting is taking place in Moscow. I wish that Meeting a success. This is the first meeting of the Bureau ever held exclusively on the issues of disarmament. I thank our hosts, the Government and the people of friendly Cuba, for their initiative and for their warm welcome and cordial hospitality. Cuba is one of the most active members of our Movement, deeply committed to the goals of the Movement of peace and disarmament. It is indeed appropriate that we should meet in Havana before the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly for evolving a coordinated NAM strategy to ensure its success.

Mr. President, since the first Summit of the Non-aligned in Belgrade more than 25 years ago, when our far-sighted founding fathers - Nehru, Nasser, Nkrumah, Soekarno and Tito - and their colleagues called for a halt to the arms race, our Movement has been unflinching in its efforts for disarmament and for peace. The convening of the first Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament was itself the result of a nonaligned initiative. We can all recall the spectacular success of that Special Session, which was symbolised in the adoption of a unique Final Document of consensus. It was the first time in the history of disarmament negotiations that the international community was able to agree unanimously on the need for seeking security through disarmament and on a global disarmament strategy to that end. How-
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ever, by the time of the Second Special Session in 1982, the international political climate had taken a turn for the worse and, as we are all aware, no progress could be made on that occasion. We have now to ensure that the Third Special Session builds upon what has already been achieved and takes us forward.

The Third Special Session is being held k a time when the prospects for disarmament have improved. The INP Treaty signed by the USA and the USSR promises elimination of all land based medium and short range missiles. Jonathan Schell, the author of the Book "The Fate of the Earth", has described the INF Treaty as "a slight adjustment in the size of the over-kill capacity". In spite of the limitations of the Treaty, there is no doubt that it is unprecedented, for a certain psychological barrier has been crossed. For the first time, the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons has acquired credibility and practicability. As such, the Treaty marks a turning point in the field of disarmament. We welcome it and congratulate the USA and the USSR.

Mr. President, in addition, negotiations on an agreement for 50%, reduction in the strategic arsenals of these two countries are in

a fairly advanced stage. No doubt, latest indications are that this agreement, which had at one stage appeared to be imminent, has for the time being run into rough waters. However, the basic goal of 50% reductions has not been questioned and we take it that the difficulties, which seem to be of a technical nature, would be resolved to the satisfaction of both sides. Such an agreement would constitute a major - and let us hope decisive step forward in the long delayed march towards ridding our planet of the nuclear menace. There are other signs too of improvement in the relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, with the attendant beneficial fallout for the international political climate in general.

There has also been definite progress in the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva on a Chemical Weapons Convention. Again, certain last-minute developments - namely, the insistence of some militarily powerful countries on the right to take unilateral action contrary to the spirit of the proposed Convention - are a matter of concern. Yet, notwithstanding this, the main current is positive, and, let us hope, sufficiently strong to take us rapidly to the stage of concluding a Chemical Weapons Convention.

Thus the international atmosphere is propitious. The positive aspects of the present situation should not, however, make us oblivious of the shadows being cast on the new opening that the INF Treaty has created. Doubts are being voiced in influential quarters in some of the nuclear weapon States about the feasibility of attaining what has derisively been called a state of nuclear 'nirvana'.

No sooner had the ink dried on the INF Treaty, than preparations for 'compensating' for the weapons to be destroyed through additions in other categories not prohibited by the Treaty began. Disarmament, by its very definition, aims at reducing and ultimately eliminating arms. It is, therefore, difficult to understand how the INF Agreement, which has been hailed the world over for the new beginning it has made, can be used to justify modernisation of existing arsenals in other categories of weapons. The logic of the Treaty demands that the thousands of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe and in the Oceans and elsewhere also be destroyed. The Treaty would lose its significance if it is not followed by other more far-reaching and comprehensive nuclear disarmament measures.

Sir, it should be evident that in order to realise the goal of elimination of all nuclear weapons, it would be necessary to do away with the doctrines and attitudes that justify the maintenance of these weapons. The Non-aligned countries have never accepted the logic of nuclear deterrence. We must ensure that this doctrine

is discarded and that the right of humanity to survive prevails over every other consideration. All nuclear weapons of all categories and in all countries will have to go. There is nothing unthinkable about that prospect. In fact, what defies understanding and logic is the persistence of some nations, strategic thinkers and policy-makers in living with the means of their own destruction.

This is the background against which we view the work of the forthcoming Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament. The importance of this Session lies in the fact that it is being held at a time when for the first time since the advent of nuclear weapons, we have before us the prospect of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. We are, therefore, convinced more than ever before, that the focus of the international community's efforts should be on devising ways and means of realising this prospect. This historic opportunity for getting rid of the menace of nuclear weapons should not be lost.

It would be tragic if the present positive momentum in the field of disarmament were to be frittered away. Our Movement must gear itself up for taking on this responsibility. We must raise our voice unequivocally and effectively for building a strong and irresistible force of public opinion on this issue of vital concern to all because of its implications for the survival of humanity.

The temptation to deal with partial measures divorced from the overall perspective must be resisted if we are to avoid falling into the trap of dwelling ponderously over non-issues by-passing the central one. We should press for a concrete plan of action for achieving a nuclear weapon-free world. All the countries of the world should assume obligations and enter into commitments under such a plan.

Mr. President, at the same time, serious consideration should be given to the changes of doctrines, policies, attitudes and institutions required for taking the fledgeling nuclear disarmament process to its logical conclusion and for managing a nuclear-weapon-free world. The mind-set has to be different.

An integrated multilateral verification system under the United Nations will be an important component of the institutional arrangements required to sustain a nuclear-weapon-free world. That is why the Six Nation Initiative, in which my country has the privilege of participating, has attached so much importance to it. The Six will propose that the Third Special Session endorse, in principle, the need to establish such a verification system. We are aware of the reservations of some major countries in this regard.

The prohibition of testing of nuclear weapons would be the single most far-reaching measure for curbing the qualitative

'improvement' of the existing Weapon systems. The Six Nations have, therefore, accorded high priority to it and have offered to assist in monitoring compliance with a moratorium on all nuclear testing, pending the conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Another measure of far-reaching importance in respect of the qualitative arms race would be to devise some form of social and political control over military R&D, which fuels the arms race incessantly. In her message to the Second Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament, Mrs. Indira Gandhi had said:

"This Conference might also consider issuing a call to devise legally binding restrictions on various types of scientific and technological research for purposes that are inconsistent with humanitarian laws and principles".

Disarmament efforts in the last four decades have focussed on the quantitative aspects of the arms race. This has occasionally provided a semblance of stability,
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of managing the arms race. However, to-day the arms race is not merely a function of quantitative expansion but also of qualitative escalation. Bringing military R&D under social and political control to prevent it from developing a runaway momentum of its own is one of the central tasks in the field of disarmament.

Mr. President, the Third Special Session has a new item on its ageda to consider this aspect of the arms race. We believe that concrete measures could be discussed for dealing with the problem posed for nuclear disarmament by those advances in frontier technologies which have potential military applications.

I turn now to another aspect of the arms race which has been of concern to our Movement for the last several years - the prevention of the arms race in Outer Space. Ours has been the voice of reason calling for a halt to this new and most dangerous development. Outer space is the common heritage of mankind. It should be used for peaceful purposes only. An arms race in space would have the most destabilising effect on international relations. The military expenditure on the new weapons would be astronomical. As Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had said in his inaugural address to the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau in April 1986:

"Life is no longer safe on land, nor on water, nor in the air. Now it is threatened even from space."

It should be the endeavour of our Movement at the forthcoming Special Session to make a beginning towards conclusion of urgent measures to ban space weapons.

The first ever UN Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, over which I had the honour of presiding last year, adopted a document by consensus. This should see the unanimous concern of the international community over the immense opportunity costs of global military expenditure and the critical role that a substantial reduction in this expenditure can play in alleviating poverty and coping with the problems of the crisis-ridden world economy.

Mr. President, before concluding, I should like to once again emphasise the significance of the timing of the Third Special Session on Disarmament. For the first time, we have before us the possibility of a nuclear-weapon-free world. This is something momentous. We should not, therefore, allow a relapse into the state of stagnation in disarmament negotiations and the fatalism about its bleak prospects that characterised the pre-INF situation. Let us now look to the concrete steps which would lead to the elimination of all nuclear weapons everywhere. We ought to seize the opportunity offered by this Special Session to breathe new life and vitality into multilateral disarmament negotiations.

Thank you, Sir.

BA USA RUSSIA YUGOSLAVIA PERU SWITZERLAND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Prime Minister Felicitates, Mr. Mitterrand

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 10, 1988 on Prime Minister's message of felicitations to Mr. Francois Mitterrand on his election as President of the Republic of France:

On behalf of the Government and people of India and on my own behalf , I
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send you warm felicitations on your election as President of the Republic of France.

Relations between India and France have developed successfully,

especially in recent years, thanks to efforts from both sides. I am confident that, with your continued guidance and support, our co-operation will continue to be further strengthened to our mutual benefit.

We look forward to your visit to India for inaugurating the Festival of France.

My best wishes for your continued success in your high responsibilities, for your personal well-being and for the prosperity and happiness of the people of France.

ANCE INDIA

Date : May 10, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

High Level Team for Brussels, Moscow to Discuss Textile Exports

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 30, 1988 on textile exports to EEC and the Soviet Union:

A high level official team, led by the Textile Secretary, Shri Shiromani Sharma, is visiting Brussels and Moscow this week to discuss with the EEC and the Soviet authorities matters relating to exports in the textile sector, including cotton textiles, handlooms, jute and handicrafts. Besides the Textile Secretary, the team which is leaving tonight includes Dr. J. K. Bagchi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, representatives of the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms and Handicrafts, the Textile Machinery Manufacturers Association, the Jute Fabric Exporters Association and Shri R. K. Poddar, Indian Jute Manufacturers Association (IJMA).

In Brussels, the team will discuss with the EEC Commission issues concerning textile exports and impress upon the Com-mission that there should be no further restraints on textile exports from India. It will emphasise the need for a satisfactory solution to the problems arising out of the harmonised system of classification. The team is also likely to meet importers of jute to discuss the problems and prospects of jute exports to the EEC.

Possibilities of enhancing the level of textile exports to the Soviet Union, which has emerged as an important non-quota market

for Indian textiles, will figure in the talks with the Soviet authorities. These will cover review of exports during 1988 including contracting for cotton fabrics and jute bags, the current Trade Plan provision for cotton fabrics, the proposal for garment exports based on fabrics supplied by the Soviet Union and export possibilities of silk garments. The scope for increasing exports of handicrafts and carpets will also be discussed, including the possibility of substantially increasing the provision for handicrafts in the Indo-Soviet Trade Plans.
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LGIUM RUSSIA USA INDIA OMAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

World Bank Apprised of India's Power Perspectives

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 14, 1988 on power development programme:

India has informed the World Bank that a large power development programme is envisaged for implementation in the coming years, in view of the increasing demand for electricity in the country.

During discussions recently with World Bank officials in Washington, the Power Secretary, Shri M. M. Kohli, indi-cated that since the growth of the power sector was an essential pre-requisite for the development of other sectors, it was necessary to find ways and means to overcome constraints of funds for the implementation of power generating and transmission projects.

Shri Kohli referred to the impressive progress made in 1987-88 in terms of commissioning of an additional generating capacity of nearly 5000 MW, a Plant Load Factor of 56.4 per cent of thermal power units as compared to 44 per cent in 198081 and the generation of about 202 billion units of electricity, including an extra 6 billion units of thermal energy which has helped substantially in combating the severe conditions of drought in several States. Consequently, it has been possible to ensure power supply for 8-12 hours a day to the agricultural sector.

Shri Kohli, who led a team of officials for discussions with the World Bank, had occasion to point out that the installation of an

additional capacity of over 1 lakh MW was envisaged in the decade 1990-2000 (about 10,000 MW annually) along-with associated transmission systems, in order to meet the power requirements in various parts of the country. It was estimated that outlays of the order of Rs. 88,000 crores and Rs. 1,13,000 crores may be required for financing the power development programme in the Eighth and Ninth Plan periods respectively. Senior officials of the World Bank were advised by the Indian delegation that considering the magnitude of the future power programme, it would be expedient to consider larger participation by the Bank in the Power Sector in India which would, in turn, benefit programmes related to agriculture, rural development industry and transportation alike. Shri Kohli's discussions with the World Bank have helped to bring into sharper focus the priority which is attached by the Government of India to the power programme and the need to fund it adequately.

The World Bank has been extending assistance since 1962, in the form of grants and loans, for thermal and hydro electric projects and transmission and rural electrifications schemes. Out of India's borrowings from the Bank on an average, loans of about US $ 1 billion are tied up annually for three projects in the Power Sector. The World Bank has so far extended 25 loans of about Rs. 5214 crores and 17 IDA credits of about Rs. 3218 crores for power projects. Twenty one Bank - assisted power projects, including five transmission and two rural electrification schemes have been completed. Sixteen projects are presently under execution with a total commitment of Rs. 6837 crores.
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DIA USA

Date : May 14, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

India Participates in International Labour Conference

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 31, 1988 on Indian participation in International Labour Conference:

A 28-member tripartite delegation representing Government, Employers and workers led by Shri Jagdish Tytler, Minister for Labour left for Geneva to participate in the 75th Session of the

International Labour Conference. The major issues to be considered at the conference cover safety and health of construction workers, employment promotion and social security including rural employment.

The Deputy Chairman of the delegation is Shri R. K. Malviya, Deputy Minister and Shri Satish Khurana will be delegate for employers and Shri K. Ramamurthy will be delegate from workers.

The papers presented at the conference relating to rural employment indicate that the world needs almost 1 million new jobs every week between now and the year 2025 to cope with the scourge of unemployment. Between now and the year 2000 the total labour force in the Third World will increase by 536 million. The developing countries must stimulate agricultural growth and domestic demand for agricultural output.

The conference will also consider export report on standards drawn by experts. The Committee expresses satisfaction that in certain countries trade union rights have been re-established, particularly following far-reaching political changes, and that in others legislative amendments have ensured greater conformity between national law and the principles of the Convention. The universal value of these principles is corroborated by the large number of ratifications - 98-the Convention has received.

DIA SWITZERLAND USA

Date : May 31, 1988

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Japanese Assistance for Indian Projects

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 04, 1988 on Japanese assistance for Indian projects:

Raichur Thermal Power Project of the Karnataka Power Corporation the Ghatghar Pumped Storage Scheme of Maharashtra, and Tourism Development Projects in U.P. and Bihar are likely to get Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) assistance from Japan during 1988-89. OECF assistance is also expected to be available for Industrial Development Bank of India for development of small scale industries, the Upper Indravati Irrigation Project and the Upper Kolab Irrigation Project in Orissa. These projects were

considered by a 22 member OECF appraisal mission which visited India from April 11 to May 2, 1988 for appraisal of the projects.

Special OECF loan assistance for renovation of plant & machinery is also being
<pg-139>

considered for the modernisation of ship building and ship repair facilities in Calcutta, the rehabilitation of Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant, and Modernisation of Mysore Paper Mills, Bangalore. The amount of assistance and the list of projects to be financed will be finalised before the Aid India Consortium Meeting in June, 1988.

It is for the first time that the Government of Japan/JOECF have considered to diversify their assistance and move into other priority sectors like irrigation, tourism etc. though projects in these sectors involve essentially local cost financing. It is also for the first time that OECF would be considering a line of credit for a major financial institution in India.

PAN INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : May 04, 1988

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Indo-Nepal Talks on Water Resources

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 29, 1988 on Indo-Nepal talks on water resources:

The Indo-Nepal Secretary level talks on water resources development will begin here tomorrow. These talks will continue the discussions of the last Secretary level meeting held in Kathmandu in December last year. The Indian delegation is being led by the Union Water Resources Secretary Shri Naresh Chandra and the Nepalese side by Shri B. K. Pradhan, Secretary of Water Resources of the Nepalese Government.

Discussions will focus on the Karnali and pancheshwar multi-purpose project and the setting up of flood-forcasting and warning systems in Nepal. These issues have caused urgent concern in view of the flood problem in north Bihar. Modalities of exchange of rain-fall and river-flow data in order to give timely

notice to flood affected people and district authorities will be discussed.

The two delegations will also discuss matters relating to the Kosi Pump Canal, Don Branch Canal, the Western Gandhak Canal and Tanakpur Hydro Electric Project. Inundation problems and exchange of electric power will also be discussed.

The other issues that are likely to come up for discussion are the Kosi High Dam on the river Kosi and other reservoir storages on the rivers Kamla, Bagmati, Babai and Kankai. The talks will last over three days.
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PAL INDIA USA

Date : May 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Afghanistan

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 04, 1988:

The Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and President Dr. Najibullah held talks for just over two hours on matters pertaining to. recent developments in the region including the signing of the historic Geneva Accord and the developments that have taken place after the signing of the Accord. The talks were warm, friendly and cordial. Discussions will continue.

GHANISTAN INDIA USA SWITZERLAND

Date : May 04, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement

The following is the text of a reply by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 13, 1988 to queries regarding comments made by Mr. Gamini Dissanayake on "phased withdrawal of IPKF from Sri Lanka-:

When the Sri Lankan Minister for Lands, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake was in Delhi, he had held detailed discussions with the Raksha Mantri, Shri K. C. Pant on the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement and on the role of the IPKF. During his stay in Delhi, he had invited Raksha Mantri, on behalf of the Sri Lankan Government, to visit Sri Lanka.

The Raksha Mantri Shri K. C. Pant has accepted the invitation extended to him. Mutually convenient dates for the visit are being worked out. During his visit to Sri Lanka, Shri Pant will hold further discussions on the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement.

The IPKF is in Sri Lanka in accordance with the provisions of the Indo Sri Lankan Agreement. Its strength will be based on operational requirements and the role it is required to play in fulfilling the terms of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : May 13, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Kampuchea

The following is the text of a statement made by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 26, 1988 in response to qheries on troop withdrawal from Kampuchea:

We welcome the announcement as we welcome any steps that are likely

to promote a political settlement in Kampuchea. We have been supporting the dialogue taking place between Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen in search for a political solution

DIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : May 26, 1988

Volume No

1995

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Prime Minister's Message on the Occasion of 25th Anniversary ofthe, Founding of OAU

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, has sent the following message on May 25, 1988 to the Organisation of African Unity on the occasion of its 25th anniversary:

On behalf of the Government and the people of India, I convey to all member States of the Organisation, of African Unity and to the people of Africa our warmest felicitations and most cordial greetings on the 25th anniversary of the founding of the OAU.

The establishment of the OAU was an act of outstanding statesmanship. It met the aspirations of the continent. it strengthened the political and economic independence of its member States. It Provided a forum for the resolution of continental and regional issues free from external interference. It strengthened Africa's resolve to eradicate the last vestiges of colonialism and racism from African soil.

As you meet on May 25, 1988, in Addis Ababa, you can be justly proud of your achievements. We share your pride and joy on this occasion. Since its founding, the OAU has grown in strength and international prestige. It has fulfilled its responsibilities. Its maturity, cohesiveness and sense of purpose have made its voice decisive and authoritative in African and world affairs.

We in India are linked to Africa by bonds of abiding friendship. We join you in reaffirming our solidarity with the brave peoples of South Africa and Namibia in their valiant struggle against racist domination. I extend to you our best wishes for the future success of the OAU and renew our pledge to further consolidate our friendship and cooperation with our brothers and sisters throughout Africa.

DIA ETHIOPIA USA NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : May 25, 1988

Volume No

1995

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Silver Jubilee of Organisation of African Unity

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 25, 1988 on the silver jubilee celebrations of OAU:

Shri K. R. Narayanan, Minister of State for Science and Technology, left here today for Addis Ababa to represent India at the silver jubilee celebrations of the Organisation of African Unity. India is one of the few countries outside the OAU which has been invited to attend the anniversary celebrations.

Shri Narayanan is carrying a message from the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv
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Gandhi, to the OAU on the occasion. The message says that the establishment of the OAU was an act of outstanding statesmanship and that it strengthened the political and economic independence of its member States.

The Prime Minister added that "its maturity, cohesiveness and sense of purpose have made its voice decisive and authoritative in African and world affairs.

We in India are linked to Africa by bonds of abiding friendship. We join you in reaffirming our solidarity with the brave peoples of South Africa and Namibia in their valiant struggle against racist domination. I extend to you our best wishes for the future success of the OAU and renew our pledge to further consolidate our friendship and cooperation with our brothers and sisters throughout Africa."

DIA ETHIOPIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : May 25, 1988

Volume No

1995

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Vice President Reaffirms India's Commitment to the Cause of OAU

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1988 on 25th anniversary of OAU:

Vice President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, has said that application of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa was the only available means for establishing a democratic polity in South Africa. The alternative, he warned, would only be violence and bloodshed on an unprecedented scale.

Dr. Sharma was speaking at a function organised here, last evening, to mark the 25th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Twenty five years ago on May 25, 1963, 32 African Heads of State and Governments had joined together in Addis Ababa to sign the historic Charter of the Organisation of African Unity. The historic charter gave tangible expression to the African leaders' aspiration for unity, solidarity and cooperation within the African continent and for an African forum to deal with African problems free from external interference. Since then 18 more countries have swelled the membership of the OAU.

Commending the maturity and cohesiveness shown by the OAU in dealing with various continental and regional issues Dr. Sharma said that the OAU has addressed a variety of complex political issues which conflict with the central objective of consolidating the political and economic independence of the African States.

Describing the historic links between the peoples of Africa and India dating back to the times of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Sharma said that Africa enjoyed a special place for the Indian leaders. He added that we in India have consistently felt that our independence would remain incomplete as long as parts of Africa remained under colonial yoke.

Dr. Sharma said that it was unfortunate that while the greatest part of Africa consisted of proud, free and independent nations, the peoples of South Africa had continued to reel under the worst manifestations of colonial repression and racial discrimination. He recalled that 1988 marked the 25th anniversary of the incarceration, in South African jails, of the illustrious African leader Nelson Mandela. He said that there was a worldwide demand

for his release before July 18, 1988 - the date when Shri Mandella will turn seventy - as a precursor to the commencement of a political dialogue towards establishment of a democratic polity in South Africa.

Speaking about the close ties between the OAU and the Non-aligned Movement, Dr. Sharma said that the Action Plan of
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Non-aligned Movement, drawn up under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986, in relation to the requirements of African countries, was widely commended by OAU. Recalling India's initiative in the establishment of the AFRICA Fund in 1986 Summit at Harare Dr. Sharma said that India had contributed so far Rs. 500 million to the Fund.

Dr. Sharma said that India's determination to support the cause of OAU had been demonstrated not only by the common positions India had adopted on multilateral economic issues of concern to the countries of South but also by the programmes of economic and technical assistance, drawn up within the constraints of her resources, to share her experiences in the field of industry, agriculture and science and technology with the people of Africa.

DIA USA SOUTH AFRICA ETHIOPIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ZIMBABWE

Date : May 26, 1988

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Indo-Pak Official-Level Talks

The following is the, text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1988 on Indo-Pak official level talks:

The talks between the Indian delegation led by the Home Secretary, Shri C. G. Somiah and the Pakistani delegation headed by the Interior Secretary, Shri S. K. Mahmud, concluded here yesterday. At the end of the three-day talks a Joint Press Release was issued, the full text of which is given below:

"Following their meeting in Lahore on the 20th and 21st of December, 1986, the Home Secretary of India and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan held a second meeting in New Delhi from the 14th to 16th of May, 1988.

"The talks were held in a frank and contructive atmosphere with both sides reiterating the resolve of their respective Governments to establish good neighbourly and cooperative relations between the two countries in accordance with the Simla Agreement. They agreed that the problems discussed could find resolution on the basis of good faith and mutual trust.

"Both sides agreed that it was essential to take immediate concrete measures to contain terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling, illegal border crossings, etc. along the India-Pakistan border. Accordingly, it was decided that the India-Pakistan Committee on Border Ground Rules should meet within the next three months in order to finalise 'the India-Pakistan Border Ground Rules taking into account new realities. In the meanwhile, the following interim measures were agreed to:

1. Regular meetings should be held once a month or more frequently as required between the two border security forces at Wing Commander/Battalion Commander-level in order to effectively deal with all illegal trans-border movements.

2. Flag meetings may be held between the two border security forces at Post/Company Commander level to pass on any information of immediate importance. Whenever a contact is
<pg-144>

requested the other side mill respond immediately.

3. The border security forces of the two countries should arrest not only trans-border criminals, drug traffickers and smugglers of any nationality but also infiltrators who deliberately cross the border, whether armed or unarmed, and deal with them under the law of the land.

4. The two border security forces shall work in close cooperation in order to ensure the eradication of trans-border crimes such as drug trafficking, smuggling of arms and ammunitions as well as other commodities, illegal border crossings etc. For this purpose there shall be mutual and timely exchange of information, intelligence and coordination between the two border security forces at Battalion Commander level.

5. Should instance of smuggling of arms and ammunition and also other contraband including currency, drugs, etc., from one country to the other come to notice, a flag meeting at the Company Commander's level shall be called for facilitating deterrent action against the concerned persons.

6. The border security forces shall send names with other personal particulars of all persons crossing the border illegally to either side along with the dates and places of crossing. The information would, thereafter, be expeditiously processed to

ascertain if these persons are wanted in any criminal cases or associated with terrorism or smuggling. In cases where such linkages are established, the concerned persons would be handed over to the border security force of the other country, after due process of law.

7. The concerned authorities on each side should ensure that the illegal possession of arms and ammunition and their trans-border sale and movement is strictly and effectively prevented in the border villages. They should also prevent carrying of arms by civilians other than public servants within 150 yards on either side of the boundary.

"As an additional interim institutional arrangement to strengthen cooperation between the two border security forces to check the movement of terrorists and arms and ammunition across the border, it was agreed to organise joint border patrolling in selected sensitive areas of Punjab Sector of India-Pakistan border. Joint patrolling would include sending out patrols during day and night and laying of ambushes. While the joint patrolling may be normally organised along the zero-line, the ambushes may be laid in depth by the respective agencies as per their ground requirements.

"To optimise the effectiveness of joint patrolling the broad guidelines agreed to were as follows:

(a) While the overall coordination of the arrangement will be at DIG, BSF/DDG, Pakistan Rangers level, the detailed planning of the programme, the composition and the conduct of the patrol parties, etc. would be planned jointly at Battalion Commander/Wing Commander level. To maintain a certain element of surprise the timing and execution of the programme for joint patrolling will be organised and coordinated at the Company Commander's level.

(b) The joint patrol will be headed by officers of equal rank from both sides.
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(c) Proper procedure for briefing of the' parties jointly by senior officers and providing of proper communication link at the various levels where coordination is required shall be established.

The special arrangements for joint patrolling will be tried initially for a period of three months from its introduction and the procedure will be reviewed thereafter.

"Both sides agreed to extend mutual assistance in criminal investigation in matters relating to drug trafficking and smuggling, having due regard to their respective administrative and legal systems, in the following areas:

(a) Locating suspects or other connected persons;

(b) executing requests for searches and seizures;

(c) examining objects and sites; and

(d) making persons, including persons in custody, available to give evidence or assistance in investigation.

"It was agreed that the Home Secretary of India and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan shall remain in touch with each other and they agreed to meet again within six months in Islamabad."

KISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 17, 1988

Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

Indo-Romanian Joint Commission Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 30, 1988 on Indo-Romanian Joint Commission meeting:

The 9th Session of Indo-Romanian Joint Commission on Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation was held in Bucharest from May 25 to 28, 1988. The Indian delegation was led by the Minister for Commerce and Finance Shri N. D. Tiwari, while the Romanian delegation at the meeting was led by Mr. Ilie Vaduva, Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation of Romania.

During the deliberations both sides reviewed the growth of Indo-Romanian relations in the Economic, Commercial and Technical fields during the previous years and gave direction to their respective delegations for identification of specific areas where there could be more growth and for working out arrangements, framework and implementation of the targets, as envisaged in the annual trade plan for the year 1988, as also to keep in view the highest level understanding reached between the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania and Prime Minister of India in March, 1987 during former's state visit to India. Working under the mandate evolved after mutual discussions by the Co-Chairmen of the Joint Commission, the delegations after intensive and fruitful discussions drew up a protocol setting out the areas

identified for further promotion of Indo-Romanian Economic, Technical and scientific cooperation with an overall strategy to increase it as much as possible during the current year as also during the subsequent years.

At the conclusion of the talks, the Protocol of the 9th Session of the Indo-Romanian Governmental Joint Commission for Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation was signed on 27th May. <pg-146>

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the Joint Commission and expressed the hope that economic relations between the two countries would deepen in the future.

Shri Tiwari was received by the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania on Friday last. The Minister conveyed greetings of the President and the Prime Minister to President Ceausescu and Madame Elena Ceausescu. President Ceausescu requested Shri Tiwari to convey his greetings to the President and Prime Minister of India.

AN ROMANIA INDIA USA

Date : May 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

SAARC

SAARC Technical Commmittee on Agriculture

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1988 on SAARC Technical Committee on Agriculture:

The Minister of State for Agricultural Research and Education, Shri Hari Krishna Shastri today called for intimate cooperation in several areas among SAARC countries in providing a massive input of improved technology for raising productivity of crops and commodities.

The Minister who was addressing the Technical Committee of SAARC on Agriculture here said that strong regional cooperation in agriculture was necessary to meet the growing demands of an increasing population, 62 per cent of which was dependent on farming.

One area of cooperation suggested by Shri Shastri was improving

and sharing of technology among SAARC members for greater exploitation of natural resources of water, soil and agro-climate which were enricher by a wide diversity of germplasm of crops, livestock and fisheries available in the member countries.

Shri Shastri urged the Technical Committee to strive to conserve the rich germplasm heritage threatened by indiscriminate deforestation and land use and called upon the Committee to consider establishing regional banks for use of member nations in their crop, livestock and fishery development programmmes.

Referring to several initiatives, taken by the Committee so far, Shri Shastri said that soon the first regional facility of SAARC Agricultural Information will have come up.

The Minister said that higher productivity and production should be accompanied by vigorous efforts to conserve produce to prevent enormous post-harvest losses.

He said that a strong movement was required to develop viable post-harvest systems in each country for conservation of produce. The Committee could think of a network through which material and technology could be exchanged and tried before adoption on commercial scale.

Shri Shastri also emphasised greater production of horticultural crops to meet the nutritional requirements of the people. These crops being highly remunerative were also ideal for replacing the cereal
<pg-147>

based cropping systems in dryland, arid and hilly areas.

The Minister called for a more effective and viable system of transfer of technology in the member countries to help agriculturists. Regional cooperation in this area was quite relevant in view of similarity of situations and problems in the region, he added.

DIA PERU USA

Date : May 26, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Soviet Assistance for Creating 6000 MW Capacity

The following is the text of a press release, issued in New Delhi on May 30, 1988 on Soviet assistance for creating generating capacity in the country:

The Soviet Union will render assistance in setting up an aggregate generating capacity of 6,000 MW in the country. Of this, 4,500 MW will be commissioned by March 1995 and the balance in the Ninth Plan period. Work on projects which yield benefits in the Eighth Plan period, will commence by March 1990.

This is one of the highlights of the protocol signed in Moscow by the Power Secretary, Shri M. M. Kohli, and the Soviet Deputy Minister for Power and Electrification, Mr. A. P. Poddubsky, at the conclusion of the ninth meeting of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on Power.

It has been agreed that soon after any project is identified for Indo-Soviet cooperation, discussions would be arranged with the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., for determining the possible scope of supply, and services from this organisation.

Indian and the Soviet Power organisations will also interact with each other to promote cooperation in the areas of design, engineering and research of hydroelectric projects.

The two delegations also reviewed the status of implementation of the ongoing joint power projects including the Tehri hydro power complex and the super thermal power stations at Vindhyachal (6x210 MW) in Madhya Pradesh and Kahalgaon (4x210 MW) in Bihar.

Second and third units of 210 MW each of the Vindhyachal power project are scheduled for completion this year. The first unit has already been commissioned. It was agreed that all necessary measures would be taken by the both sides to fully commission the project by the Seventh Plan end. The stage II (2x500 MW) of this power project is likely to be taken up with super critical parametres. The experts of both the sides have already discussed various technical issues relating to 500 MW sets with these parametres for meeting the operational and design requirements of the Indian side. The first unit at Kahalgaon is to be commissioned in 1990-91.

On Tehri hydro power complex both sides noted with satisfaction that Indian and Soviet experts had finalised the design concepts and criteria for the Rockfill dam and spill-way. it was also noted that the
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Soviet experts had agreed with the development plans for protecting the environment in the project area.

The Indian delegation included Shri Bahadur Chand, Chairman, Central Electricity Authority, Shri Arun Bhatnagar, Joint Secretary, Department of Power, and representatives of Neyveli Lignite Corporation, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and BHEL.

DIA RUSSIA USA

Date : May 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Banquet Speech by the Vice President of India

The following is, the text of the speech by Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Vice President at the banquet hosted in his honour by the Trinidad and Tobago President, Mr. Noor M. Hassanali and the Prime Minister, Mr. A. N. R. Robinson at Port of Spain on May 02, 1988:

I thank you for your kind words of welcome and also for the warmth of the hospitality extended to me, my wife and members of my delegation.

I had heard of the beauty and colour of your wonderful country, but little did I imagine that I would have an opportunity to visit it personally.

The people of Indian and African origin whose forefathers came to the Carribbean more than a century ago have both contributed in good measure to the prosperity of their new nation of Trinidad and Tobago. I am reminded of the words of the famous West Indian writer George Lamming in praise of their contribution" ..... those Indian hands - whether in British Guyana or Trinidad - have fed all of us. They are perhaps, our only jewels of a true native thrift and industry." We all know the deprivations and sufferings of all those who left their homes for these distant regions, sometimes chasing temptations or under cruel compulsion of oppressive exploiters. The West Indian poet Mahabai Das has realistically captured the spirit and extent of their suffering in the following verse:

"They came in ships From across the seas they came Wooden missions of imperialist design, Human victims of her Majesty's victory. They came in fields,

They came in droves like cattle ....."

We also know from history that the people who came from Africa to these climes in equally hard conditions suffered untold misery till their emancipation. Today, in the 26th year of the independence of your country, the people of Indian and African origin represent two important strands in the cultural, religious and social spectrum of the country. Just as in your country 'every creed and race finds an equal place', India too is a composite society of many ethnicities and religions. We in India take pride in our secularism which is not irreligion but equal reverence for all religions.

Apart from our shared colonial experience, we also share our political models. Yours is a vibrant democracy. Our experience has also shown that democracy in India is durable and effective. One can affirm that there are other ways of organising society, developing the economy, and governing the nation, but in the perception
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of our founding fathers we prefer the path in which every individual is a willing partner, enjoying social, political and religious freedoms.

Our bilateral relations are decades old and based on shared views and interests. We are both members of the Commonwealth of Nations which is the creation of a shared history. Commitment to peace and justice holds the Commonwealth together and our support is readily forthcoming when initiatives for peace or endeavours that challenge injustice call for it. We also work together in harmony in the Non-aligned Movement, Group of 77 and the United Nations. I am happy, specially, that India shares with Trinidad and Tobago a deep abhorrence of apartheid and of the inhumanity it connotes. India, in its capacity as the Chairman of the AFRICA Fund is coordinating efforts to confront ignoble practice.

Last year in Vancouver, India and Trinidad and Tobago found many common causes to pursue in the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. Given our shared perceptions, I can only predict a more coordinated action on our part on all matters of international importance in various fora.

The common cultural heritage and shared human ideas also imply that it is easier to learn from each other's experiences. In the past four decades, India has made tremendous developmental efforts. Our progress in agriculture, industry and science and technology has been achieved by the hard work and sacrifice of the common people. This progress has been achieved very largely through self-reliance. In fact, 92% of India's development expenditure is sourced from its own savings. This is not to gainsay the importance of the assistance received from friendly countries and international bodies. While at the time of

independence India was many decades behind the industrialised West, today, with the third largest pool of scientific and technical manpower in the world, it is ranked amongst the ten largest industrialised nations. We are ready to share our experience with you and to learn from yours. All developing countries must march together on the path of South-South cooperation. We cannot afford to halt our developmental efforts, nor can the world's industrial resources be sufficient for all to follow the greedy path to growth. The answer lies in more rational patterns of consumption, more efficient utilisation of depletable resources by the developed countries and more equitable access to these resources for the developing countries. In pondering on this, a quotation from our great poet Tagore comes to my mind:

"The world has a deeper meaning that what is apparent and therein the human soul finds its ultimate harmony and peace. Only in spiritual wealth does civilization attain its ends, not in a prolific production of materials and not in the competition of intemperate power with power."

May I now request you all to raise your glasses in a toast to the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Mr. Noor M. Hassanali, and Mrs. Hassanali, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Mr. A. N. R. Robinson, and Mrs. Robinson and to the friendly and fraternal people of Trinidad and Tobago.
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INIDAD AND TOBAGO INDIA SPAIN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA GUYANA

Date : May 02, 1988

Volume No

1995

TURKEY

Indo-Turkish Joint Panel Meeting

The following is the, text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 02, 1988 on Indo-Turkish Joint Panel meeting:

The third meeting of the Indo-Turkish Joint Committee is due to be held at Ankara on May 3-5, 1988. The last meeting was held at Delhi in March, 1985. Commerce Secretary Shri R. N. Verma will lead a high level Indian delegation, which includes Shri V. P. Sawhney, Additional Secretary, Banking Division, Ministry of

Finance; Shri R. Dayal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce; Shri K. Sibal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; and Shri P. V. Rao, Joint Secretary, Department of Shipping, Ministry of Surface Transport, besides representatives of Indian Railways Construction Company, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Confederation of Engineering Industry, and State Trading Corporation.

The Indo-Turkish commercial relations which remained at a low level in early 1980s, got a boost after the visit to India of the Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Turgut Ozal in April, 1986 who held wide ranging talks with the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. This was followed by the visit of the Turkish Minister of State, Mr. Vehbt Dinourler, at the time of the India International Trade Fair in November 1986 and later by the visit of the Turkish Minister of Communications at the invitation of Minister of State of Railways in India in March 1987. The tempo of official and business level contacts between the two countries has been maintained during the last two years.

There has also been a perceptible movement forward and strengthening of bilateral cooperation and understanding in several sectors; Indo-Turkish Air Services Agreement has been effected, automatic trunk dialling introduced between India and Turkey and the two countries may soon negotiate and finalise a shipping agreement.

The total trade turnover between the two countries has also gone up from Rs. 11 crores in 1980-81 to about Rs. 180 crores in 1986-87. India's exports have gone up from a level of about Rs. 3.4 crores to about Rs. 31.8 crores, while Turkish exports to India jumped from Rs. 7.5 crores to Rs. 147.7 crores during this period.

While crude calcium borate accounted for over 90 percent of India's total imports from Turkey 10 year ago, chick-peas and lentils have now formed a major item of import from Turkey. India also imported some quantities of mild steel billets from Turkey. Major Exports from India to Turkey have been henna, spices, jute goods and at times, leather, iron ore, and cotton.

At the forthcoming meeting, discussions will be held not only on bilateral trade but also on certain projects being implemented in Turkey. Bharat heavy Electricals Limited, Indian Railway Construction Company Limited and Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited have been actively pursuing some of the projects in Turkey.
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Date : May 02, 1988

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Date : Jun 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Official Team for China to Discuss Trade

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 03, 1988 on bilateral trade talks with China:

The fourth round of official level bilateral trade talks between India and China will be held at Beijing from 6th to 8th June, 1988. The discussions will focus on both bilateral and multilateral issues. The Indian delagation at the talks is being led by the Commerce Secretary, Shri A. N. Verma. Other members of the delegation are Shri Ravi Sawhney, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Shri A. Hoda Joint Secretary, Commerce Ministry and a representative of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Trade between India and China is guided by annual trade protocols, which indicate the commodities that could be traded between the two countries during the period of protocol. During the forthcoming trade talks, the trade protocol for the current year is expected to be finalised.

India has been consistently facing an adverse balance of trade with China. The major items of export to China are metallic ores, finished leather manufactures, tobacco and other raw materials. The major items of import from China are raw silk and silk yarn, chemicals and petroleum products and metals and minerals, with 60% of the imports being raw materials. During the talks, the Indian delegation will stress the need to rectify the imbalance in bilateral trade by increasing China's imports from India. This would be sought to be achieved by stepping up China's imports of existing items like iron ore, chrome ore, tobacco etc. as well as sourcing imports of chemicals and engineering items as well as oil field equipment and chemicals which have been identified on the basis of China's present imports.

The level of bilateral trade turnover in 1986-87 was Rs. 187.67 crores consisting of exports worth Rs. 14.33 crores and imports at Rs. 173.34 crores. During 1987-88 from April to December, India's exports to China have amounted to Rs. 13.15 crores as against Rs. 12.42 crores in April-December 1986-87 while imports during April-December 1987-88 are valued at Rs. 101.77 crores as against Rs. 129.12 crores in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

INA USA INDIA RUSSIA ITALY

Date : Jun 03, 1988

Volume No

1995

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Czechoslovakia Keen to Expand Trade With India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 20, 1988 on economic and commercial relations between India and Czechoslovakia:

The Minister of Internal Trade of Czechoslovakia, Mr. Joseph Rab, who is leading an 18-member purchase mission to India from 17th to 20th June, called on the Finance and Commerce Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari here today. The two leaders exchanged views on bilateral trade issues and the possibilities of further strengthening economic and commercial
<pg-153>

relations between India and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia. Shri Tiwari said there was great scope for diversifying and expanding the structure of bilateral trade. The bilateral trade turnover between the 2 countries has increased from Rs. 140 crores in 1985 to Rs. 245 crores in 1987. Shri Tiwari said that joint efforts on both sides were needed to further increase the turnover, commensurate with the existing potential.

The Czechoslovak Minister conveyed to Shri Tiwari his country's keenness to step up its imports from India of items like leather manufactures, textiles, consumer goods and electronics. They expressed particular interest in the purchase of Maruti cars and vans. The car had been displayed at the Bruno Trade Fah last year and negotiations for exports of Maruti passenger car to Czechoslovakia were already under way. In response, to a suggestion from Shri Tiwari, the Czechoslovak delegation agreed to consider availing of Indian expertise in the field of construction of hotels on a turnkey basis and invited Indian companies to send their offers in this regard. It was mentioned that Indian firms were already engaged in hotel construction activities in the USSR.

Shri Tiwari also underlined the need to identify items of exports

and imports which are presently being imported by India and Czechoslovakia from third country sources against free foreign exchange. This would help in sourcing imports from each other instead of third sources and in substantially raising the level of trade turnover on a mutually beneficial basis. The Czechoslovak team agreed to pursue this proposal as also to consider the possibility of supplying on a longterm basis items like newsprint, plastic raw materials etc.

The scope for greater collaboration in the field of industries and joint ventures was also discussed. Shri Tiwari referred to the important role played by Czechoslovakia in the past in setting up heavy industrial projects in India including the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.(BHEL) and the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC). A recent development has been the award of the contract for the medium merchant rolling mill for Vizag Steel Plant project against Czech credit. Both sides agreed that there was considerable scope for strengthening cooperation in the industrial sector including exchange of technology. Shri Tiwari hoped that the DGTD team which was leaving for Czechoslovakia today would have fruitful discussions with their Czech counterparts in this area.

Currently, trade between India and Czechoslovakia is conducted in non-convertible Indian rupees on the basis of Annual Trade Plans which are drawn up on a calender year basis. Out of the total turnover of Rs. 245 crores in 1987 included Indian exports worth Rs. 135 crores and imports from Czechoslovakia at Rs. 110 crores.

RWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Jun 20, 1988

Volume No

1995

DISARMAMENT

US - Soviet Summit Meeting

The following is the text of a Joint Statement issued by the Leaders of the Six Nation initiative for Peace and'Disarmament on Jun 05, 1099:

The recent summit in Moscow constitutes one more step in the dialogue and growing co-operation between the United States and the Soviet Union on matters of arms limitation and disarmament. This process represents a positive development in international

affairs.
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The Washington Summit in December 1987 between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev gave rise to great hopes and expectations. Some progress was undoubtedly made at their meeting in Moscow. However, the international community expected more substantial results in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

Against this background, we reiterate our call for speedy progress in negotiations on strategic and space weapons and other urgent disarmament matters, such as the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban. Any agreement that leaves room for continued testing would not be acceptable.

We hope that a treaty incorporating the agreed principle of 50 per cent reductions of the strategic arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union will be concluded during the current year. Experience has shown that, given political will,, it is perfectly feasible to achieve results even on complex problems in a relatively short period of time. These are vital issues that cannot wait.

The current third special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament provides an excellent opportunity for all member states to make their contribution to the efforts to secure our common survival.
This session must send a powerful message reflecting both our sincere commitment to preserving life on earth and our will to take the necessary steps to that end.

We for our part pledge continued efforts towards the achievement of these objectives.

Raul Alfonsin
Argentina
Andreas Papandreou
Greece
Ingvar Carlsson
Sweden
Miguel De La Madrid
Mexico
Rajiv Gandhi
India
Julius Nyerere
Tanzania.

A RUSSIA ARGENTINA GREECE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SWEDEN SPAIN MEXICO INDIA TANZANIA

Date : Jun 05, 1099

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Joint Press Release on Indo-Nepal Talks on Water ResourcesDevelopment

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 03, 1988 on Indo-Nepal talks on water resources development:

Delegations from Nepal and India led respectively by Mr. B. K. Pradhan, Secretary, Water Resources, His Majesty's Government of Nepal and Mr. Naresh Chandra, Secretary, Water Resources, Government of India met in New Delhi from 30th May-2nd June, 1988 for talks on development of water resources. The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Discussions were held on Karnali (Chisapani) multipurpose project. Both sides agreed that Karnali Co-ordination Committee would meet from 4th to 7th June, 1988 at Kathmandu for further discussion and review of the works of the consultants. Discussions also took place on the investigations to be carried out on Pancheswar multipurpose project.

Both sides agreed to proceed further on setting up of an effective flood forecasting and flood warning system so that rainfall data would be available from few selec-
<pg-155>

ted stations for this monsoon. Further action in installation of equipments required for flood warning would also be taken up.

The Meeting also considered the matters relating to the exchange of power between the two countries.

Both sides agreed to hold the meeting of the inundation committee at earliest to suggest appropriate measures for consideration at the next Secretary level meeting.

The two sides also agreed on the need for frequent meetings to discuss matters of mutual interest.

PAL INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 03, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Fiji

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 10, 1988:

Our attention has been drawn to a report in "The Australian" of Friday, June 10, 1988, alleging that India was heavily involved in recent moves toward a coup in Fiji and that arms recently seized by the Australian authorities at Sydney were sent by India.

We take this opportunity of categorically denying this report as baseless, mischievous and motivated. It appears to us that strenuous efforts are being made by some to spread disinformation.

The Acting High Commissioner of Australia in India has been informed of our concern in the matter.

JI INDIA AUSTRALIA USA

Date : Jun 10, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

'Sharpeville Six'

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 15, 1988:

The South African Supreme Court's rejection of the application on behalf of the 'Sharpeville Six' to reopen the trial has come as

no surprise but as a matter of utmost concern. It has been clearly established that none of the six were personally involved in the crime for which they stand convicted. Thus the decision of the Supreme Court adds another chapter to the persistent perversion of justice by the racist regime of South Africa in its desperate struggle to maintain its repressive policy of aparthied. The entire international community has condemned the decision to execute these innocent persons. We call on all persons of conscience to exert the maximum pressure on the racist regime to spare their lives.
<pg-156>

DIA SOUTH AFRICA USA

Date : Jun 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lanka

In response to queries from the press on Amnesty International's allegations regarding the conduct of the IPKF in Sri Lanka, the Official Spokesman' of the Ministry of External Affairs made the following statement in New Delhi on Jun 20, 1988:

The IPKF has operated in Sri Lanka with the utmost restraint, and used the minimum possible force in order to avoid or reduce civilian casualties as far as possible. As a result of these precautions, the IPKF has taken extraordinary heavy casualties, a sacrifice which only a highly disciplined force is capable of.

The charges of rape and brutality made against the IPKF are fabricated and unfair. Every specific complaint received from any source about the behaviour of IPKF troops has been investigated. Most of these charges have been found to be baseless; wherever such charges have been proved, quick and salutary action has been taken against the guilty.

The Indian Army is a highly professional body of troops, and acts according to a professional code. There is no question of the Indian Army, or of the Government of India, tolerating any action by its soldiers which would violate the rights of the very people whom they have gone to Sri Lanka to protect.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Jun 20, 1088

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan's Anti-Indian Propaganda

The following is the text of a statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 24, 1988:

Our attention has been drawn to a news item broadcast by Pakistan Radio this morning about the possibility of an Indo-Israeli collusion to attack Pakistan's nuclear facilities.

We have in the past pointed out that the Pakistan media have been in the habit of spreading baseless allegations on this and other questions. The present allegation is also similarly baseless, motivated and mischievous.

We have also recently denied reports suggesting that India is upgrading its ties with Israel. It would appear that the truth perhaps lies in Pakistan's indulgence in spreading false propaganda against India, particularly at a time when Pakistan itself is furiously engaged in pursuing a nuclear weapons oriented programme.

DIA PAKISTAN ISRAEL USA

Date : Jun 24, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India Supports the Struggle against Apartheid

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 24, 1988:

India condemns the recent cross border intrusion into Botswana by commandos of the South African armed forces as yet another South African attempt on the lives of innocent people of Botswana by planting an explosive device in Gaberone West.

The Government of India reiterates its support to the people of South Africa in their valiant struggle against the apartheid regime and reaffirms its solidarity with Botswana and other frontline states.
<pg-157>

DIA BOTSWANA USA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Jun 24, 1988

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Joint Press Release on Foreign Secretary-Level Talks

The following is the text of a joint press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 02, 1988 on Foreign Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan:

Foreign Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan were held in New Delhi on June 1-2, 1988.

The Pakistan delegation, led by Mr. Abdul Sattar, Foreign Secretary, comprised the following officials:

i) Dr. Humayun Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan

ii) Mr. Khalid Mahmood, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

iii) Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Minister, Embassy of Pakistan

iv) Mr. Tariq Altaf, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

v) Mr. Kamran Niaz, Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan

vi) Mr. Haroon Rana, Second Secretary, Embassy of Pakistan.

The Indian delegation, led by Shri K. P. S. Menon, Foreign Secretary, comprised the following officials:

i) Shri S. K. Singh, Ambassador of India in Pakistan

ii) Shri Satish Chandra, Joint Secretary(AP), Ministry of External Affairs

iii) Shri Aftab Seth, Consul General of India, CGI, Karachi

iv) Shri Ashok K. Kantha, Deputy Secretary(AP), Ministry of External Affairs

v) Shri Arvind Gupta, Under Secretary (Afg), Ministry of External Affairs

vi) Smt. Deepa Wadhwa, Under Secretary (Pak), Ministry of External Affairs

The Pakistan Foreign Secretary called on the Prime Minister and conveyed to him the good wishes and greetings of the President of Pakistan.

He also called on Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri K. C. Pant, Minister for Defence, and Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister for Water Resources.

The two delegations had useful talks in a free, frank and cordial atmosphere. The discussions covered a wide range of bilateral issues. In addition, views were also exchanged on regional matters, including Afghanistan, and the current international situation.

It was agreed to continue these talks at a mutually convenient date.
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KISTAN INDIA USA AFGHANISTAN

Date : Jun 02, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech in Damascus

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, made the following speech at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Syrian President, Mr. Hafiz-al-Assad, in Damascus on Jun 04, 1988:

We thank you for the warmth of your welcome. We thank you for your gracious hospitality. We thank you for the affection which your people have bestowed upon us. -

We greet you as old friends, as colleagues in the resurgence of Asia, as fellow-members of the Nonaligned Movement.

To be in Syria is to be at one of the. great fountainheads of human civilization. To be in Damascus is to be in the oldest living city in the world. The very air here is redolent of Canaan and the Hittites, of the nobel Aramic language, of the great seafaring Phoenicians. This is the land of Palmyra, where the East and West first met, fostering the unity of humankind.

Our contacts go back to Seleucus Nikator, who settled the Greek community in Syria. He married his daughter to the great Indian emperor, Chandragupta Maurya. Soon after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, St. Thomas of Syria landed on the South-West coast of India. The most ancient Christian community of India proudly call themselves Syrian Christians. St. Thomas was followed seven hundred years later by Mohammed Bin Qasim, who set sail from Syria to bring to India the message of Islam.

In 1925, two Congress leaders, Hakim Ajmal Khan and Dr. M. A. Ansari, visited Syria and reported to the Congress on

"the callousness of the French and their utter disregard for the elementary rights of the people of the mandated territory of Syria."

Of the great uprising in those years in Syria, Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to his daughter (my mother, Indira Gandhi) that although the uprising was crushed after two years by the mighty French military machine,

"the great sacrifices of the Syrians had not been in vain. They had established their right to freedom. The world knew of what stuff they were made."

In this fortieth year of our Independence, let me pay tributes to the encouragement our struggle for freedom received from your efforts to liberate yourselves.

PALESTINE

Our freedom fighters regarded the struggle for the liberation of Palestine as part of our struggle for national independence. For

we believed that so long as there was enslavement anywhere, freedom was in jeopardy everywhere. Jawaharlal Nehru said in 1936:

"The Arab struggle against British imperialism in Palestine is as much part of this world conflict as India's struggle for freedom."

Mahatma Gandhi declared that Palestine belonged to the Palestinians in the same way that England belonged to the English or France belonged to the French.

Freedom came to India. But India was partitioned. Within weeks of our Independence, the partition of Palestine was mooted. India opposed that partition. To us, there was a fundamental moral issue involved. Should nations and people be divided by narrow walls? Or should
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nationhood embrace all the people living in a land, respecting differences of religion, language and culture while binding them together in a larger loyalty to a common motherland?

In answering these questions, we delved deep into our history. The fundamental lesson taught us by the Indian heritage is to celebrate our diversity, to regard our many religions, languages and cultures not as a weakness but as the greatest single source of strength of our civilization. Over our history of five thousand years, we have known political turbulence and economic disruption, foreign invasion and colonial domination. Yet, our civilization has survived these vicissitudes without interruption because it has had the confidence to absorb and assimilate all that is of the best from outside without losing its innate Indianness.

Even as your civilization is a composite of your ancient inheritance and the legacy of Greece and Rome, of Byzantine and the Ommayyad Khilafat, so is our culture a composite of what the Dravidians had and what the Aryans brought, of what the Greeks gave and what the Arabs taught, of what came to us from China and Central Asia, of what we absorbed from the Turks and the Persians and the Europeans. We are today the proud possessors of scores of languages and hundreds of dialects, the repository of all the major religions of the world, the treasurehouse of a multitude of cultures. All our many races together constitute the Indian people.

The contrary world view is expressed in the compartmentalising of humanity. It is such exclusivism, which led to the partition of Palestine. Jews and Arabs who had lived together in harmony for centuries were rent asunder. Hundreds of thousands were driven out of their homes merely because they were Arab. Hundreds of thousands of others fled in fear. In the name of justice for a

few, injustice was inflicted on the many. A land which was the crucible of three of the greatest religions of the world was reserved for some and restricted or denied to others. In consequence, your region has harvested the bitter fruit of four decades of violence and hate, of oppression and suffering.

This must end. There must be a solution. West Asia needs peace founded in justice. A just and durable peace in the region is an essential element in our struggle for a world order based on non-violence, tolerance and compassion.

There must be an honourable settlement of the Palestine question. The crux of the issue is that the Palestinians must have a State of their own in their own homeland. This is their inalienable right. Without self-determination for the Palestinians, there can be no peace in the area.

The illegal occupation of the Golan Heights and other Arab territories must be vacated. Disgraceful events like the ruthless destruction of Quneitra must never again happen. The ugly reality of the repression and brutality unleashed by Israel on the Arab people of the Occupied Territories has been carried by television into millions of Indian homes. So has the defiance and courage of the Palestinian people.

Victory for Palestinian cause is assured. An Arab consensus on this issue is indispensable. Syria has a key role to play in forging this consensus. We welcome the recent contacts between Syria and the PLO. We look forward to the emergence of a joint Arab plan of action.

Peace in West Asia is not possible through piecemeal solutions and partial measures. A settlement is possible only if it is comprehensive and only if it assures peace on terms that are just and durable. To reach such a settlement,, negotiations must be held at an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations with the participation of all parties to the dispute including the PLO.
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IRAN- IRAQ WAR

The tragic war between Iran and Iraq, our bretheren in the Non-aligned Movement, continues unabated. It has caused immense loss of human life. It has led to the rapid depletion of material resources that could have been deployed for their prosperity. The conflict must be ended quickly. The issues must be settled by negotiations. We support the efforts of the United Nations in this regard. We believe in consultation, not confrontation.

Let us all stand warned. West Asia is a sensitive region. Powers extraneous to the region are exploiting the war in the Gulf to intensify their naval presences and fuel the conflict through

indiscriminate arms supplies. It is vital to the security of the West Asia that the area be insulated from the disastrous consequences of outside rivalries, interference and intervention. As members of the Non-aligned Movement, it should be our endeavour to strengthen the forces of Non-alignment in the region.

AFGHANISTAN

There have been important developments in our part of the world. Among the most significant of these is the Geneva accords on Afghanistan. They provide the basis for the restoration of peace and normalcy in that strife-torn country. We seek the emergence of a stable structure for the governance of Afghanistan based exclusively on the wishes of the Afghan people and Afghanistan's unflinching adherence to Non-alignment. In terms of the Accord, there must be a complete cessation of all foreign interference and foreign intervention in the affairs of that country. Unfortunately, the terms of the Accords are being violated. They must be respected. We have a deep interest in the future of Afghanistan, a country in our immediate neighbourhood, with whom we have enjoyed close relations from the dawn of history.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The INF Treaty and the Moscow Summit have started a process of nuclear disarmament. We hope the process will be carried forward with agreement in the near future to slash strategic arsenals by half. Thereafter, we would wish to see steady and unremitting movement towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. It is only when that goal is reached that we will be able to consider the INF Treaty as a truly historic beginning.

Under your Excellency's leadership, Syria has achieved political stability and made impressive progress in all spheres. Progress enlarges the scope of cooperation. Syria and India have made significant beginnings. But the untapped potential is vast. We share common goals of nationhood, unity, liberty, socialism and secularism.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in a toast to the health and wellbeing of His Excellency President Hafiz-al-Assad and Madam Anissa Assad; to the progress and prosperity of the people of Syria; and to close, enduring friendship between our two countries.

RIA USA INDIA FRANCE GREECE ITALY CHINA ISRAEL CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IRAN IRAQ AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND RUSSIA

Date : Jun 04, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Arrival Speech at Stuttgart

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, made the following speech on his arrival at Stuttgart in Federal Republic of Germany on Jun 06, 1988:

We are delighted to begin our visit to the Federal Republic of Germany in this historic city, capital of the renowned State of Baden-Wurtemberg.

It is appropriate that our visit should begin here. For it is in Stuttgart that the Indo-German Society has its head-quarters, carrying forward the long tradition
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of German interest in India, which started two centuries ago with Goethe and Schopenhaver. The Indo-German society is doing much to promote knowledge of Indian culture and civilization throughout Germany. It is also fostering an interest and an involvement with India's contemporary concerns.

Industrial organisations from your state were the most numerous among the participants in the Techno-Germa industrial fair held recently in New Delhi. We look forward to further developing commercial and industrial relations with your great economic enterprises. We have based our economic development on self-reliance, but self-reliance does not mean autarchy. Our Planning provides for economic and technological collaboration with others in accordance with our national priorities and policies. We believe that in the present phase of our industrialisation, where the accent is on improving the efficiency of Indian industry, there is considerable scope for diversifying economic cooperation between our two countries.

My wife and I are looking forward to seeing something of your city, reputed for its beauty and the warmth of its people. We have already experienced something of that in the warmth of the welcome you have extended to us.

RMANY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA

Date : Jun 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Luncheon Speech at Stuttgart

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi made the following speech at the lunch hosted in his honour by the Minister-President Lothar Spaeth and Mrs. Spaeth on Jun 06, 1988:

I have a special relationship with Stuttgart. Coming here is, in a sense, a homecoming because your partner city, Bombay, is the city of my birth.

in the few hours we have been here, my wife and I have seen something of the enterprise and dynamism which Stuttgart shares with Bombay. I am told your State is among the most prosperous in the Federal Republic, with high rates of income and employment. It is reassuring to see how outstanding economic performance can be blended with a rich cultural tradition.

Our major challenge in India is how to modernize our economy and society without losing the thread of our unbroken civilization. As growth gathers momentum and millions are caught up in the surge of new economic opportunity, there is the danger that in the pursuit and achievement of material ends, they will lose something of the inner spirituality which for millennia has characterised our people. That would be a grave loss indeed for it is this spirituality which has been the vehicle for carrying forward the basic values of our civilization: truth and nonviolence, tolerance and compassion, one humanity and one world. Our effort must be to weld the new and the old, to bring about a synthesis between material advancement and cultural continuity, between that which has made our past so glorious and that which is making our future so bright. That is why I used the word "reassuring" in describing the happy balance you appear to have achieved.

At Heidelberg, the South Asia Institute has been doing important work not only in the study of classical India but in studying and disseminating information about the India of today. We sometimes feel that although ancient India has many attractions for the German mind, there is not enough knowledge of the India we are today building. There are distortions in the image of India projected through the media. Democracy in India is almost exactly as old as democracy in the Federal Republic. Our constitution contains provisions for Centre-State relations which bear a strong resemblance to yours. We

are proud of our democratic institutions. Our press is free. We have a stable polity, based on the will of the people and, therefore, responsive to their needs. This has enabled us to maintain consistent policies over four decades while rising to the new challenges thrown up by the process of progress. You will, therefore, find in India a reliable partner. Conditions for collaboration are not, perhaps, the smoothest in the world, but once your partnership is accepted, there is no uncertainty or ambiguity about full adherence to the terms of the agreement.

At the great university of Tuebingen in your state, there is a collection of more than 8000 rare volumes on India. That rich collection is, I hope, the precursor of developments that will add many new dimensions to our multi-faceted friendship.

My wife and I would like to thank you for your gracious hospitality and the welcome we have received from the people of your state. Please join me in a toast to the good health of Minister President and Madam Spaeth; to the prosperity of the people of Baden-Wurtemberg; to growing links between the twin cities of Stuttgart and Bombay; and to ever-growing friendship and cooperation between our peoples.

RMANY INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Arrival Speech at Munich

The following is the speech of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, on his arrival at Munich on Jun 06, 1988:

My wife and I are delighted to be in Bavaria. It is a State renowned for its extraordinary scenic beauty. It is a treasure-house of art and architecture. It has rich traditions of history and culture going back many centuries. It has made impressive progress in technology and industry. We are looking forward to seeing something of what has endowed Bavaria with such renown.

Your Excellency is a statesman of longstanding. I look forward to the talks I will be having with you. I hope to learn something of

your perspectives for the future of friendship and cooperation between India and Germany.

We greatly appreciate this opportunity of visiting your beautiful and historic state. We hope this visit will contribute to a greater awareness and appreciation of the possibilities of cooperation between US.

RMANY USA INDIA

Date : Jun 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech at Munich

The following is the speech of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Minister-President, Strauss and Madam Hohlmeier in Munich on Jun 06, 1988:

My wife and I are delighted to have this opportunity of visiting the beautiful State of Bavaria.

Our interest in your State extends beyond its remarkable scenic beauty and rich heritage of your pioneering successes in many fields of science and technology.

This is the home of Rudolf Diesel. Your scientific institutions have given the world many nobel prize winners. I was told Bavaria is home to a quarter of all West Germans working in Electronics and electro-technology.

We are greatly interested in science and technology because the key to development is technology.
<pg-163>

The poverty gap, whether between countries or within countries, is essentially a technology gap. We believe that it is only through increasing the technological input in the daily lives of our people that we will be able to foster equitable economic growth. In India, therefore, the Prime objective of technology is the elimination. of poverty.

The green revolution, which transformed our agricultural economy from stagnation to self-sufficiency, was in essence a

technological revolution. Much of our agriculture is rainfed and thus dependent on the monsoon. We need to place at the service of our dryland meteorological forecasting based on the most advanced state-of-the-art computers. Our most elaborate technology missions are directed to basic needs of the people: the supply of safe, assured drinking water to each of our 500,000 villages, the immunization of children against diseases responsible for our unacceptable high rates of infant mortality, the elimination of illiteracy, which we identify as the single biggest drag on all-round advancement. Technology is needed also in industry.

In 1947, India imported everything from a pin to a motor car. To-day, 'the made in India' label can be seen on machine tools and turbines, automobiles and electric locomotives, trucks and tractors, nuclear reactors and communication satellites. Now that we have established a broad industrial base with a range of manufactures which is perhaps unmatched in the developing world. Our stress is on greater efficiency. This calls for better technology and better management.

In selected spheres, we would welcome German cooperation that would help increase productivity, reduce costs and improve quality. Because we are keen on remaining self-reliant, we are somewhat exigent about the terms on which we accept collaborations. But once that is accepted, we can guarantee you a stable and secure partnership, Nearly seventeen hundred German collaborations have already discovered opportunities for partnership with India. With the quickening pace of economic development and the easing of licensing and regulation, opportunities for fruitful cooperation are increasing. We were pleased to see so many Bavarian firms participating in the Techno-Germa exhibition in New Delhi recently. It is, we hope, a sign of things to come. There is much that we can learn from the discipline, hard work and innovativeness of your people.

Thank you for the warmth with which we have been received and your overwhelming Bavarian hospitality. I request you to please join me in a toast to: the good health of Minister-President Strauss; to the good health of Madam Hohlmeier; to progress for the people of Bavaria; and to ever-growing friendship and cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and India.

RMANY USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date : Jun 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

Prime Minister's Luncheon Speech at Bonn

The following is the speech of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the Lunch hosted in his honour by the President of Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency, Dr. R. Von Weizsaecker and Mrs. Von Weizsaecker at Bonn on Jun 07, 1988:

My wife and I would like to thank you for your warm words of welcome. We deeply reciprocate the sentiments you have expressed. We are delighted to be here.

Germany's discovery of India began in the realm of religion, philosophy and culture. German scholars played a pioneering role in introducing and interpreting the Indian heritage to Europe. We pay tribute to the great men of letters who brought our countries together. With the
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passage of time, trade and economic relations, scientific and technological exchanges have developed. Today, the Federal Republic of Germany ranks as our largest trade partner in the European community and the leading European country in the field of industrial collaborations with us.

The visits undertaken by your Chancellor and other Ministers of the Federal and State Governments over the past two 'years have nurtured a close and fruitful partnership with India. The visits are testimony to the growing interest in building a significant relationship between our two great democracies. This has been matched by the keen interest taken by leading representatives of your industry, banking and business house in widening our exchanges and collaboration. This interest is fully reciprocated by Indian. enterprises. Within the parameters of our national policies, we will promote conditions for the realization of the opportunities opened by the developing mutuality of interests.

There is a great deal else that brings us together. Both our countries have an unshakeable faith in Parliamentary democracy and the rule of law. We respect human rights and are firmly resolved to preserve peace and foster international undestanding. This provides a strong basis for the diversification and development of our ties, even if the orientation of our perspectives and policies is not always the same.

DISARMAMENT

We welcome the easing of tensions in Europe. The Federal Republic is, perhaps the most directly affected by the change of climate in Europe. The momentum generated by the INF Treaty and the Moscow summit should be maintained. Through the Six-Nation Five-

Continent Initiative and in the United Nations, we are mobilising world opinion in favour of the elimination of all nuclear weapons within a specified period of time, setting the stage for general and complete disarmament and the ushering in of a better world order.

AFGHANISTAN

There have been developments of importance in our region. Only the scrupulous implementation of the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan will bring peace, promote national reconciliation, and ensure the economic reconstruction of that war-torn country. The international community must be vigilant about attempts to undermine or violate the Accords. Such attempts are already being made.

Our efforts to promote a climate of peace, friendship and cooperation in our neighbourhood continue. We are maintaining a dialogue with our neighbours to promote mutual trust, understanding and a level of cooperation commensurate with our commonality of interests. However, we are concerned about the clandestine pursuit of a nuclear weapons programme in our immediate neighbourhood and the foreign support that terrorists in India are receiving. We have shared these concerns with you.

The Federal Republic and India are embarked on a significant new phase in the development of their relationship. It is a phase which holds high promise of adding new dimensions to our friendship and cooperation.

I would request all of you to join me in a toast: to the good health of His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Madam Von Weizsaecker; to the success and wellbeing of the people of the Federal Republic; and to enduring friendship and cooperation between our two countries.
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RMANY INDIA USA PERU RUSSIA AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND

Date : Jun 07, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech at Bonn

The following is the speech of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Helmut Kohl and Madam Kohl in Bonn on Jun 07, 1988:

My wife and I are delighted to be in the Federal Republic of Germany in response to the gracious invitation extended to us by Chancellor and Madam Kohl during their memorable visit to India.

It is a matter of profound significance that Germany and India were first drawn to each other by matters of the spirit and the mind. Goethe and Schopenhauer graciously acknowledged their debt to the ancient thought and wisdom of India. Max Mueller became one of the greatest authorities on the subject. Paul Deussen's translations brought the treasurehouse of Indian philosophy into many German homes. Thomas Mann and Hermann Hesse transmuted into exquisite German literature the essence of the Indian heritage.

The first Chair in Sanskrit was established in 1818 in the University of Bonn. This city became renowned in the land of the Ganges as "Banaras on the Rhine". Other universities followed, with the result that Germany had more Chairs in Indology than Imperial Britain. As Heinrich Heine put it:

"Year after year, Portuguese, Dutchmen and Englishmen have been dragging home the treasures of India in their big ships. Yet, the spiritual treasure of India shall not escape us."

It is gratifying to note that the tradition of Indian studies continues. Indology is taught today in as many as 20 institutes of higher learning in the Federal Republic.

In India, there has always been great respect and admiration for German art and music, for German literature and philosophy, for German science and medicine. Interest in the German language has grown. It is now taught in fifty Indian universities and colleges and at more than 100 other institutions.

INDO-FRG ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Over the years, Indo-German relations have acquired a broad sweep. The thrust today is on trade and economic relations, on scientific and technological exchanges. The Federal Republic is one of our most valued economic partners. Our experience with German technology has been good. This is reflected in the large number of new collaborations we have entered into with FRG industrial houses in recent years. The existence of a large pool of skilled and well-trained technical manpower facilitates the absorption and adaptation of high technology. Our expanding market opens up growing opportunities for industrial cooperation with both our private and public sectors.

The fundamental principles of our economic policies and

priorities are wellestablished. We shall protect our economic independence. We shall remain self-reliant. But as our economy grows, so do our options increase. New challenges arise. New opportunities open. These require the modification, adaptation and fine tuning of policies. We are doing all this. Our industry needs technology and management methods which will make for greater efficiency. Our credo is higher productivity, lower costs and improved quality. In this process of industrial development, we see a role for foreign investment and technological collaboration. Therefore, the prospects are bright for mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries. On the other hand, the widening trade imbalance between us is a matter of grave concern. I am aware that the Federal Republic is conscious of the need to find a satisfactory solution to this problem. We seek your cooperation in facilitating Indian exports to the Federal Republic, in particular, and to the European Economic Community, in general.
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We are deeply appreciative of the economic assistance extended to us by the Federal Republic. This has covered various sectors of the economy, ranging from the steel plant at Rourkela to power stations, coal mining, irrigation, rural welfare schemes and training institutes. In the area of science and technology, we have valuable ongoing cooperation programmes in ocean development, biotechnology, solar energy and space.

However, bilateral cooperation is no substitute for a cooperative international order. The North-South dialogue has ground to a standstill. Growth in most developing countries is in jeopardy. Stability in the developed countries is clouded in uncertainty. The solution lies in utilising the complementaries between the North and the South, in promoting the symbiosis between continued prosperity for the North and accelerated development for the South. Tragically, none of this, is being realised as the global economy slides from crisis to crisis.

At one stage, some years ago, representatives of the Federal Republic in the United Nations had played an active role in work relating to a new, more just and more equitable international economic order. You are one of the most influential countries in the Western world. You can do much to restore momentum to the stalled dialogue.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The Federal Republic and India have a common commitment to peace. We welcome the, relaxation of tensions in Europe. We welcome the resumption of a meaningful dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States which has led to the first major agreement on dismantling an entire nuclear weapon system. We hope the momentum generated will lead to accelerated nuclear disarmament, paving the way to general and complete disarmament. The choice before

humankind is the choice between co-existence and no existence, the choice between the arms race and the human race. Can there be any doubt about the choice?

APARTHEID

Another area of international concern is the ending of apartheid in South Africa and colonialism in Namibia. Apartheid survives only because of the sustenance Pretoria receives from its economic relationships. The most effective way of undermining apartheid would be by comprehensive, mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. That way we might be able to stem the impending bloodbath. It is a moral duty and a practical necessity to concert international efforts in this direction. The collapse of apartheid will automatically ensure the termination of Pretoria's savage occupation of Namibia. This can come about even earlier if only the Security Council were to implement its own ten-year old Resolution on the subject. We have established the AFRICA Fund to assist the Frontline States in resisting the depredations which Pretoria inflicts on them.

AFGHANISTAN

In our neighbourhood, peace is our immediate priority. It is indispensable for our own development. We welcome the Geneva accords on Afghanistan. It is our hope that peace will now return to that war-torn country. The efforts of all concerned must be directed towards national reconciliation, reconstruction and development. In accordance with the Geneva accords, there must be a total cessation of all outside interference and intervention in the internal affairs of that country. We stand for an independent Afghanistan, deeply committed to Nonalignment, pursuing its national destiny on the basis of national consensus.

INDIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS

We have taken several initiatives vis-a-vis our immediate neighbours to promote peace and cooperation. We look to building friendly relations with the
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People's Republic of China. South Asian regional cooperation is becoming a reality. The Agreement I signed with President Jayewardene is helping end the ethnicconflict in Sri Lanka while safeguarding that country's territorial integrity and security in our region. We seek a strengthening of our bilateral ties with all our neighbours. Unfortunately, some of these efforts have not been adequately reciprocated. Terrorist activity inside our country is being promoted with encouragement and support from outside. To our west, arms are being amassed from outside. A weapons-oriented nuclear weapon programme is being relentlessly pursued. Nevertheless, we are maintaining a dialogue with all. We hope that, through perseverance, our inherent mutuality of

interests will be recognised and good sense will prevail.

Excellency, we are touched by the warmth of the welcome extended to Us here in Bonn and earlier in Stuttgart and Munich.

I bring to you and to the friendly people of the Federal Republic of Germany the warm greetings and good wishes of the people of India.

I would now invite all of you to join me in a toast to the health and happiness of His Excellency the Chancellor and Madam Kohl; to the continued prosperity of the dynamic people of the Federal Republic of Germany; and to enduring friendship and cooperation between India and the Federal Republic.

RMANY USA INDIA LATVIA NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND CHINA SRI LANKA

Date : Jun 07, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Address to West German Business Leaders andForeign Policy Experts

The following is the, text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's address to special session hosted by Federation of German Industries, German association of industry and German foreign policy association in Bonn on Jun 07, 1988:

It is a pleasure to be in these delightful surroundings and in the midst of so many distinguished business leaders and foreign policy experts.

We in India have observed with admiration the tremendous strides you have made in science and technology and in economic growth. You lead the world in many fields.

Your efficiency, your productivity, your discipline are legendary. Your literature, your music, your contribution to the arts have left their mark on world civilisation. You have given much to the world through your imagination and innovation, your tenacity and drive.

INDO-FRG ECONOMIC RELATIONS

India and the Federal Republic are keen to expand their economic ties and intensify their political dialogue. My discussions with Chancellor Kohl have focussed on both. In our talks now and on previous occasions, we have found much in common. We look forward to fruitful cooperation in the future. We in India are deeply aware of the long tradition of Indian studies in Germany. It was through the efforts of scholars like Max Mueller that the western world learned of the rich philosophical, religious and cultural traditions of India. Scholars from your universities have maintained an unbroken link between our two countries. In the modem era, these links have been diversified and strengthened by your businessmen and technologists. The Federal Republic is one of our most important trade and economic partners.
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India was given the honour of being the partner country at the Hannover Trade Fair in 1984 and at the Frankfurt Book Fair last year. I visited the technogerma exhibition held in New Delhi. It was a demonstration of the best and the latest in German Technology to prospective Indian Partners. In 1989, India will be the-theme country in the electronics fair in Hannover. We look forward to showing you our capabilities.

Greater cooperation does not come automatically. It has to be worked at. That is why I value this opportunity to give you some idea of how we in India see our development and to tell you something of the direction we are taking.

Till freedom came in 1947, India was exploited. Its colonial economy was stagnant and weak. Two centuries of subjugation kept us out of the economic transformation that swept the developed world. The task ahead was formidable. But we were fortunate in having at the helm a man whose tremendous energy and drive were matched by his grasp of history and originality of thought.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Jawaharlal Nehru knew that independence would not be real until India was strong within. And India could not be strong within unless India rapidly transformed its colonial economy. We needed agricultural self-sufficiency, modem industry, scientific and technological capability and a self-reliant economy.

Nehru gave us the basic concepts and instruments of economic development. He recognised that for India to progress and stand on its own feet, the government would have to assume the principal responsibility. To give it the means to do so, he introduced planning for development. He built basic industry and the infrastructure of the economy.

Nehru also assigned a major role to private industry. He encouraged and stimulated the private sector across vast areas of the economy. He also recognised that in a resource-poor economy

with rapidly rising expectations, both the public and private sectors would have to work together to bring about rapid growth.

Indira Gandhi built on these foundations. Under her stewardship India's achievements in agriculture were spectacular. Confounding cynics and critics, who forecast shortages and famines, she encouraged and inspired Indian farmers and scientists to usher in the green revolution.

India's achievements are a tribute to the vision and work of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. In the 1940s millions died in the Bengal famine, a disaster which was compounded in its handling by the colonial government. Even as late as the mid-1960s, India was obliged to import nearly 15 percent of its foodgrain requirement. Today, we are free from famines and crippling food shortages.

In '87, the monsoon failed in large parts of India. The drought was among the worst in memory. In some areas it has not rained for upto four years. Yet, we have built such resilience into our economy that, through timely and effective government intervention, we have coped with the crisis without letting our development effort falter.

In the past, sever drought invariably meant a negative growth rate. This year, in spite of the drought we will record a modest rise in our national income.

In industry, the transformation is truly remarkable. India now has an impressive industrial economy with a high level of sophistication. There is scarcely a product we do not manufacture - from spacecraft to silicon chips, atomic reactors to avionics, fabric to footwear.

We have a demonstrated ability to absorb, adapt and generate high level technology. Our people have exhibited en-
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trepreneurial skill of a high order.
Wherever they have gone, Indian entrepreneurs and industrialists have done exceedingly well.

We are proud of what India has achieved. Our people have tested the fruits of progress. Their needs are rising. They are more vociferous in their demands. We have to meet this revolution of rising expectations.

With greatly improved health care, 'life expectancy has increased dramatically. This is a major achievement. But it has meant a continuing rise in population. We are making determined efforts to reduce the birth rates. Progress is impressive in some parts of the country, less so in others. But the demographic transition is clearly in sight.

We have to provide employment and economic opportunities for our young men and women. We must step up growth. We must increase production. The income and wealth generated must be distributed more equitably. We have to meet the aspirations of our people.

We have done much in the past few years and have seen good results from our efforts. Since 1980, the economy has grown at 5 percent a year. These have been years in which the world economy slowed down. Despite the difficult international environment, India significantly improved its performance.

The industrial sector has shown remarkable dynamism. Both private industry, and the public sector have grown rapidly in size, diversity and technological sophistication. For the last four years, industry has grown at an average annual rate of over 8 percent.

This transformation has come about because of a deliberate strategy. To stimulate industry and growth we have:

- Reduced the level of taxation,

- Eased controls and cut red-tape, particularly in licensing requirements,

- Made industrial regulation resultoriented,

- Given a wide range of incentives to encourage investment,

- Stressed efficiency in industry by imparting a new thrust to higher productivity, lower costs and better quality,

- Encouraged the use of new technology for modernization.

I would like to highlight two other aspects of our strategy. The first related to competition in Indian industry. We are encouraging much greater domestic competition. We are determined to make our industry more competitive. We are creating the right environment for this.

Indian industry has entered a new phase. It can and should compete internationally. Indian industry has long sheltered behind high tariff barriers. In the, formative years this protection was needed. Now, it must stand on its own feet. It must make a mark in the international arena. We cannot suddenly open up our economy to international competition. But in a phased and rational way, we are doing SO.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

The second point I wish to make related to the role of foreign investment in India. Our economic development is based very

largely on our own resources. More than 90 percent of our investment has been financed from our own savings. We are proud of this achievement.

Foreign technology has played a critical role in our development. But foreign equity investment has been very small. We welcome greater foreign investment in
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areas which will benefit our economy and help us reach our long term goals.

Our experience with German industry has been good. Indo-German collaborations have typically been in areas high on our priority list.

There have been problems in the past, particularly relating to procedures and clearances. We have made them simpler and quicker. Those who do business with India also know that we have never defaulted in our payments or the repatriation of earnings.

We intend to be more flexible with foreign investment which brings in new technology or makes a special contribution to exports. It is not our intention to follow an open door policy. But there is considerable scope for increasing the inflow. Our industry must have access to the most sophisticated technologies. We need to develop export markets and increase our foreign exchange earnings.

India is a large market in a stable political environment. It has an abundant availability of trained and skilled manpower. It provides a substantial base for efficient, large-scale manufacture for export.

Colonial India missed the industrial revolution. Free India is determined to catch up with the contemporary technological revolution. We have made significant progress on our own, especially in fields such as space and nuclear energy, oceangraphy and metallurgy, bio-technology and industrial and defence electronics.

We have put satellites into orbit and built our own launch vehicles to do so. A few months ago, we became the fifth nation to have its own remote sensing satellite.

Technology holds the key to the eradication of poverty in our country. Ever since independence, we have stressed science and technology in all spheres of our life, not only as a modernising force but as an essential means to quicken development and attack poverty.

We have taken science and technology to the people. We have launched five technology missions to tackle key problems of

poverty and backwardness, to make a direct impact on the quality of life of the poorest of our people.

We approach the last decade of the 20th century with confidence, optimism and a determination to achieve ambitious goals. Our Five Year Plans have laid the foundation for rapid economic growth. The last two, the 6th and the 7th Plans, have given us the high performance we have recorded in the '80s.

We have begun work on our 8th Plan, which will start in 1990. With this Plan, we aim to step up growth beyond the 5 per cent we have already achieved.

We will increase foodgrains production by 50 percent before the end of the century.

We intend to step up our industrial growth rate from the present 8 percent to 10 percent or even higher. We are determined to eradicate extreme poverty by the year 2000. ,

India and the Federal Republic of Germany are both great democracies. Our knowledge and understanding of each other should measure up to our shared conviction in governance by the will of the people and our shared values of human rights and human dignity.

If India is the world's largest democracy, the European community is the largest configuration of democratic states. Indeed, the treaty of Rome stipulates that only democracies can become members of the community. We would wish to build our relationship with the community to a level commensurate with our common commitment to democracy.
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Yet, distorted images of India are projected, here and elsewhere in Europe. Not enough is known about our Parliamentary institutions: the electoral process, the plurality of political, parties, free and open debate. Our Press is not only free, sometimes we experience the consequences of its being, perhaps, the freest in the world.

Our courts are independent of the executive, with the Supreme Court a stern guardian of the Constitution. Indeed, 'our founding fathers were convinced that rapid and equitable development for our people must be based on full franchise and equal participation for all our citizens, with no discrimination or disability imposed against any gender or race, religion or community. We were the first State in history to become a full-fledged democracy before industrialising.

We have followed a path of humane development, aimed not merely at economic growth but at the full flowering of the human personality. We have rejected the dichotomy posed by some between

freedom and development. For our people, freedom is the basis for development.

At the same time, we have secured our independence in a global environment which is often hostile to the sovereign equality of nations. We have participated actively in the affairs of the international community, believing that in this interdependent world it is the right and duty of all states to build not only better societies for themselves but a better world for all.

You have not always shared our point of view on international affairs. This is not surprising. Our Weltanschauung has been shaped by our history, our traditions and the values of our civilization. We emerged into freedom from the Trauma of Colonialism. We are a developing country. We have our particular security concerns.

We are located in a different part of the Globe. Yet, you and we are located on the same Globe. Therefore, we must search for commanality and consensus even where our points of departure are different.

We are non-aligned. The basic tenet of Non-alignment is peaceful co-existence between different social and economic systems. When Jawaharlal Nehru suggested this 40 years ago, neither of the Major Military Alliances was much impressed. Happily today, the idiom of the East-West dialogue is acquiring something of the tone that Nehru advocated.

NUCIEAR DISARMAMENT

Immediately after Hiroshima, our leaders began the campaign for nuclear disarmament. We were not independent then. Free India urged the elimination of nuclear weapons.

We were not listened to. We witnessed escalation. Now, at last, there is a glimmer of hope. The process of nuclear disarmament has started. The INF treaty is a good beginning. The recent summit in Moscow has not substantially taken the movement forward. But the search for ways of stopping and reversing the nuclear arms race continues. We attach the highest importance to the third United Nations session on Disarmament currently taking place in New York. I am going there tomorrow.

It is an earnest of our commitment to nuclear disarmament that we have refrained from making nuclear weapons. We have had the capacity to do so for over fourteen years. This makes it all the more regrettable that a nuclear weapons programme is being allowed to proceed unfettered in our immediate vicinity.

CHINA

We seek a negotiated settlement of our Border issue with China.

It should take into account the interests and aspirations of both countries. We are maintaining peace and tranquility on the
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Border while diversifying our contacts with China. ,

INDIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS

In our neighbourhood, we seek friendship with all. We share commonalities of language, culture and religion with the countries of our region. The history of our countries is intermeshed. Our contemporary concerns are intertwined. What divides us is as nothing compared to what could unite us.

In saying this, I do not wish to minimise the problems. To our west, there is an accelerated accumulation of arms which, in numbers and sophistication, obliges us to raise the threshold of our defence at enormous cost to ourselves. I have already mentioned the nuclear weapons programme. Sanctuary, sustenance and support are being afforded beyond our borders to terrorists operating in our country.

Yet, in a longer perspective, the prospects for peace and co-operation in South Asia are bright if statesmen have the wisdom to seize the opportunities that present themselves. The South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation has made modest but promising beginnings. Its potential is immense. It has added a new dimension of Regional Co-operation to the Foreign Policy of each country of our region.

The agreement between India and Sri Lanka is helping wind down the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, ensure justice for the Tamil minorities, safeguard Sri Lanka's unity and integrity, and enhance, the security of our region.

AFGHANISTAN

We welcome the Geneva accords on Afghanistan. The need of the hour is vigilance against violations of the accords. We hope to welcome Afghanistan into the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

KAMPUCHEA

In South-East Asia, there is a new stirring of hope. The people of Kampuchea have suffered much. The dialogue begun between Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Premier Heng Samrin holds promising auguries for peace and stability in the region, free of all foreign interference and intervention, respecting the Independence, Sovereignity and Non-aligned status of Kampuchea. We hope the dialogue will be carried forward to a satisfactory conclusion. We are making our contribution to this endeavour.

PALESTINE

What is the middle east to you is west Asia to us. The partition of Palestine drove hundreds of thousands of Arabs out of their homes. It deprived them of their inalienable right to a state of their own in their own homeland. Without such a state there can be no peace in the region. Without the participation of the PLO, there can be no meaningful international Conference to negotiate a solution to the Palestine question.

APARTHEID

In Southern Africa, there is Apartheid in South Africa, colonialism in Namibia and a wanton flouting by Pretoria of the sovereignty of the Frontline States. The United Nations has been rendered impotent in its efforts to end violations by Pretoria of the U`N charter. It has been stopped in its tracks in its attempts to implement its own plan for the liberation of Namibia. It has been prevented from restoring to the people of South Africa their basic Human Rights and Human dignity.

India, like Germany, has links with 'that part of the world going back nearly a century. A little over a hundred years ago, Germany established a presence in South-West Africa. For India, the link is Mahatma Gandhi, whose first experiments with truth were conducted in South Africa.
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It is an irony of history that the struggle he started there has contributed to freedom for over a hundred countries but freedom is still denied in the original home of Satyagraha.

Apartheid will quickly crumble, and with it colonialism in Namibia and destabilisation in the Frontline States, if comprehensive, mandatory sanctions are imposed against Pretoria under chapter VII of the UN charter. The lifeline of Apartheid is its remaining links with the international economy. If those links are snapped, Apartheid and all the evils perpetrated in its name will be snuffed out, without too much suffering and too much pain. The alternative, as was pointed out by the Commonwealth eminent persons' group is a bloodbath on a scale not seen since the Second World War.

CENTRAL AMERICA

In Central America, a brave and much exploited peoples are struggling to shake off obsolete structures of Economic and Social oppression. It is in the interest of the Democracies of the world to sympathise and aid these efforts at emancipation. The struggle for liberation seeks sympathy and support where these can be found. It is misplaced to view the events there, which are essentially domestic in nature. In the perspective of great power rivalries, we commend the Contadora process.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

We seek a new international economic order. We ask for greater understanding of our aspirations. Our aim is not to undermine the present prosperity of the North. On the contrary, we seek arrangements which will facilitate accelerated growth in the south in ways which will contribute to your continued prosperity. The interests of different parts of the Globe are complementary, not contradictory. It is on the concept of one world that we base our demand for equity and justice in the international economy.

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations rose out of the debris of War. It was constructed to give the world peace, security and development. The democratization of the international community should be welcomed. Instead, it is being used as the excuse for devaluing the UN system and the kind of international co-operation the UN has engendered. We seek a strengthening of the United Nations to foster a co-operative world order, more just, more equitable, more honourable than we now have. There are three illusions to guard against: peace without peaceful coexistence, security without disarmament, and prosperity without peaceful coexistence, security without disarmament, and prosperity without equity. We advocate and seek a new world order where these linkages are firmly established.

I thank you for your interest in India and for your contribution to the future of our friendship. We have much to learn from Germany. We hope there is something we can give in return. Our encounter with you began two hundred years ago when something in the soul of Germany found resonance in the soul of India. That inner reverberation has echoed down the centuries. Let us carry it forward into the years of opportunity that beckon.

A GERMANY INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA ITALY JAPAN CHINA SRI LANKA AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND UNITED KINGDOM SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA

Date : Jun 07, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's U.N. Address on Disarmament

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's address to the third Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York on Jun 09, 1988:

May I begin by extending to you our warmest felicitations on your election as
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President of this vitally important Special Session of the General Assembly? Our deliberations will benefit greatly from the wealth of your experience and your deep understanding of the issues before us.

We are approaching the close of the twentieth century. It has been the most bloodstained century in history. Fifty eight million perished in two World Wars. Forty million more have died in other conflicts. In the last nine decades, the ravenuous machines of war have devoured nearly one hundred million people. The appetite of these monstrous machines grows on what they feed. Nuclear war will not mean the death of a hundred million people. Or even a thousand million. It will mean the extinction of four thousand million: the end of life as we know it on our planet Earth. We come to the United Nations to seek your support. We seek your support to put a stop to this madness.

Humanity is at a crossroads. One road will take us like lemmings to our own suicide. That is the path indicated by doctrines of nuclear deterrence, deriving from traditional concepts of the balance of power. The other road will give us another chance. That is the path signposted by the doctrine of peaceful coexistence, deriving from the imperative values of non-violence, tolerance and compassion.

In consequence of doctrines of deterrence, international relations have been gravely militarised. Astronomical sums are being invested in ways of dealing with death. Ever new means of destruction continued to be invented. The best of our scientific talent and the bulk of our technological resources are devoted to maintaining and upgrading this awesome ability to obliterate ourselves. A culture of armaments and threats and violence has become pervasive.

For a hundred years after the Congress of Vienna, Europe knew an uncertain peace based on a balance of power. When that balance was tilted - or, more accurately, when that balance was perceived to have tilted - Europe was plunged into an orgy of destruction, the like of which had never been known before and which spread to engulf much of the world. The unsettled disputes of the First World War led to the Second.

Humankind survived because, by today's standards, the power to destroy which was then available was a limited power. We now have

what we did not then have: the power to ensure the genocide of the human race. Technology has now rendered obsolete the calculations of war and peace on which were constructed the always dubious theories of the balance of power.

It is a dangerous delusion to believe that nuclear weapons have brought us peace. It is true that, in the past four decades, parts of the world have experienced an absence of war. But a mere absence of war is not a durable peace. The balance of nuclear terror rests on the retention and augmentation of nuclear armouries. There can be no ironclad guarantee against the use of weapons of mass destruction. They have been used in the past. They could be used in the future. And, in this nuclear age, the insane logic of mutually assured destruction will ensure that nothing survives, that none lives to tell the tale, that there is no one left to understand what went wrong and why. Peace which rests on the search for a parity of power is a precarious peace. If we can understand what went wrong with such attempts in the past, we may yet be able to escape the catastrophe presaged

There is a further problem with deterrence. The doctrine is based on the assumption that international relations are frozen on a permanently hostile basis. Deterrence needs an enemy, even if one has to be invented. Nuclear detrrence is the ultimate expression of the philosophy of terrorism: holding humanity hostage to the presumed security needs of a few.
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There are those who argue that since the consequences of nuclear war are widely known and well understood, nuclear war just cannot happen. Neither experience nor logic can sustain such dangerous complacency. History is full of miscalculations. Perceptions are often totally at variance with reality. A madman's fantasy could unleash the end. An accident could trigger a chain reaction which inexorably leads to doom. Indeed, the advance of technology has so reduced the time for decisions that, once activated, computers programmed for Armageddon, pre-empt human intervention and all hope of survival. There is, therefore, no confront in the claim of the proponents of nuclear deterrence that everyone can be saved by ensuring that in the event of conflict, everyone will surely die.

The champions of nuclear deterrence argue that nuclear weapons have been invented and, therefore, cannot be eliminated. We do not agree. We have an international convention eliminating biological weapons by prohibiting their use in war. We are working on similarly eliminating chemical weapons. There is no reason in principle why nuclear weapons too cannot be so eliminated. All it requires is the affirmation of certain basic moral values and the assertion of the required political will, underpinned by treaties and institutions which insure against nuclear delinquency.

The past few years have seen the emergence of a new danger: the extension of the nuclear arms race into outer space. The ambition of creating impenetrable defences against nuclear weapons has merely escalated the arms race and complicated the process of disarmament. This has happened inspite of the grave doubts expressed by leading scientists about its very feasibility. Even the attempt to build a partial shield against nuclear missiles increases the risk of nuclear war. History shows that there is no shield that has not been penetrated by a superior weapon, nor any weapon for which a. superior shield has not been found. Societies get caught in a multiple helix of escalation in chasing this chimera, expending vast resources for an illusory security while increasing the risk of certain extinction.

The new weapons being developed for defence against nuclear weapons are part of a much wider qualitative arms race. The development of the so-called "third generation nuclear weapons" has opened up ominous prospects of their being used for selective and discriminate military operations. There is nothing more dangerous than the illusion of limited nuclear war. It desensitizes inhibitions about the use of nuclear weapons. That could lead, in next to no time, to the outbreak of fullfledged nuclear war.

There are no technological solutions to the problems of world security. Security can only come from our asserting effective political control over this selfpropelled technological arms race.

We cannot accept the logic that a few nations have the right to pursue their security by threatening the survival of humankind. It is not only those who live by the nuclear sword who, by design or default, shall one day perish by it. All humanity will perish.

Nor is it acceptable that those who possess nuclear weapons are free of all controls while those without nuclear weapons are policed against their production. History is full of such prejudices paraded as iron laws: that men are superior to women: that the white races are superior to the coloured; that colonialism is a civilising mission; that those who possess nuclear weapons are responsible powers and those who do not are not.

Alas, nuclear weapons are not the only weapons of mass destruction. New knowledge is being generated in the life sciences. Military applications of these developments could rapidly undermine the existing convention against the military use of biological weapons. The ambit of
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our concern must extend to all means of msas annihilations.

New technologies have also dramatically expanded the scope and

intensity of conventional warfare. The physical destruction which can be carried out by fullscale conventional war would be enormous, far exceeding anything known in the past. Even if humankind is spared the agony of a nuclear winter, civilization and civic life as we know it would be irretrievably disrupted. The range, precision and lethality of conventional weapons is being vastly increased. Some of these weapons are moving from being 'smart' to becoming 'intelligent'. Such diabolical technologies generate their own pressures for early use, thus increasing the risk of the outbreak of war. Most of these technologies are at the command of the military blocs. This immensely increases their capacity for interference, intervention and coercive diplomacy.

Those of us who do not belong to the military blocs would much rather stay out of the race. We do not want to accumulate arms. We do not want to augment our capacity to kill. But the system, like a whirlpool, sucks us into its vortex. We are compelled to divert resources from development to defence to respond to the arsenals which are constructed as a sideshow to great power rivalries. As the nature and sophistication of threats to our security increases, we are forced to incur huge expenditure on raising the threshold of our defences.

There is another danger that is even worse. Left to ourselves, we would not want to touch nuclear weapons. But when tactical considerations, in the passing play of great power rivalries, are allowed to take precedence over the imperative of nuclear non-proliferation, with what leeway are we left?

Even the mightiest military powers realise that they cannot continue the present arms race without inviting economic calamity. The continuing arms race has imposed a great burden on national economies and the global economy. It is no longer only the developing countries who are urging disarmament to channel resources to development. Even the richest are beginning to realise that they cannot afford the current levels of the military burden they have imposed upon themselves. A genuine process of disarmament, leading to a substantial reduction in military expenditure, is bound to promote the prosperity of all nations of the globe. Disarmament accompanied by coexistence will open up opportunities for all countries, whatever their socio-economic systems, whatever their levels of development.

The technological revolutions of our century have created unparalled wealth. They have endowed the fortunate with high levels of mass consumption and widespread social welfare. In fact, there is plenty for everyone, provided distribution is made more equitable. Yet, the possibility of fulfilling the basic needs of nutrition and shelter, education and health remains beyond the reach of vast millions of people in the developing world because resources which could give fulfilment in life are pre-empted for death.

The root causes of global insecurity reach for below the calculus of military parity. They are related to the instability spawned by widespread poverty, squalor, hunger, disease and illiteracy. They are connected to the degradation of the environment. They are enmeshed in the inequity and injustice of the present world order. The effort to promote security for all must be underpinned by the effort to promote opportunity for all and equitable access to achievement. Comprehensive global security must rest on a new, more just, more honourable world order.

When the General Assembly met here last in Special Session to consider questions of disarmament, the outlook was grim. The new cold war had been revived with full force. A new programme of nuclear armament had been set in motion. As a result, during the years that followed, fear and suspicion cast a long shadow over
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all disarmament negotiations. Humankind was approaching the precipice of nuclear disaster.

Today, there is a new hope for survival and for peace. There is a perceptible movement away from the precipice. Dialogue has been resumed. Trust is in the air.

How has this transformation occured? We pay tribute to the sagacity of the American and Soviet leaderships. They have seen the folly of nuclear escalation. They have started tracing the outlines of a pattern of disarmament. At the same time, we must recognise the role of countless enlightened men and women all over the world, citizens of the non-nuclear weapon States as much as of the nuclear weapon States. With courage, dedication and preserverance they kept the candle burning in the enveloping darkness. The Six-Nation Initiative voiced the hopes and aspirations of these many millions. At a time when relations between the two major nuclear weapon States dipped to their nadir, the Six Nations - Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania - refocussed world attention on the imperative of nuclear disarmament. The Appeal of May 1984, issued by Indira Gandhi, Olof Palme and their colleagues, struck a responsive chord. Negotiations stalled for years began inching forward. The process begun in Geneva has led to Reykjavik, Washington and Moscow.

We have all welcomed the ratification of the INF Treaty concluded between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan. It is an important step in the right direction. Its great value lies in its bold departure from nuclear arms limitation to nuclear disarmament. We hope there will be agreement soon to reduce strategic nuclear arsenals by 50 per cent. The process should be carried forward to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Only then will we be able to look back and say that the INF Treaty was a truly historic beginning.

India believes it is possible for the human race to survive the second millennium. India believes it is also possible to ensure peace, security and survival into the third millennium and beyond. The way lies through concerted action. We urge the international community to immediately undertake negotiations with a view to adopting a time-bound Action Plan to usher in a world order free of nuclear weapons and rooted in nonvioviolence.

We have submitted such a Action Plan to this Specal Session on Disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly. Our Plan calls upon the international community to negotiate a binding commitment to general and complete disarmament. This commitment must be total. It must be without reservation.

The heart of our Action Plan is the elimination of all nuclear weapons, in three stages, over the next twenty-two years, beginning now. We put this Plan to the United Nations as a programme to be launched at once.

While nuclear disarmament constitutes the centrepiece of each stage of the Plan, this is buttressed by collateral and other measures to further the process of disarmament. We have made proposals for banning other weapons of mass destruction. We have suggested steps for precluding the development of new weapon systems based on emerging technologies. We have addressed ourselves to the task of reducing conventional arms and forces to the minimum levels required for defensive purposes. We have outlined ideas for the conduct of international relations in a world free of nuclear weapons.

The essential features of the Action Plan are:

First, there should be a binding commitment by all nations to eliminating nuclear weapons, in stages by the year 2010 at the latest.

Second, all nuclear weapon States must participate in the process of nuc-
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lear disarmament. All other countries must also be part of the process.

Third, to demonstrate good faith and build the required confidence, there must be tangible progress at each stage towards the common goal.

Fourth, changes are required in doctrines, policies and institutions to sustain a world free of nuclear weapons. Negotiations should be undertaken to establish a Comprehensive Global Security System under the aegis of the United Nations.

We propose simultaneous negotiations on a series of integrally related measures. But we do recognise the need for flexibility in the staging of some of these measures.

In Stage-I, the INF Treaty must be followed by a fifty per cent cut in Soviet and U.S. strategic arsenals. All production of nuclear weapons and weapons grade fissionable material must cease immediately. A moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons must be undertaken with 'immediate effect to set the stage for negotiations on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

It is already widely accepted that a nuclear war cannot be won and must not be fought. Yet, the right is reserved to resort to nuclear war. This is incompatible with a binding commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we propose that all nuclear weapons be leached of legitimacy by negotiating an international convention which outlaws the threat or use of such weapons. Such a convention will reinforce the process of nuclear disarmament.

Corresponding to such a commitment by the nuclear weapon States, those nations which are capable of crossing the nuclear weapon threshold must solemnly undertake to restrain themselves. This must be accompanied by strict measures to end all covert and overt assistance to those seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

We propose that negotiations must commence in the first stage itself for a new Treaty to replace the NPT, which expires in 1995. This new Treaty should give legal effect to the binding commitment of nuclear weapon States to eliminate all nuclear weapons by the year 2010, and of all the non-nuclear weapon States to not cross the nuclear weapons threshold.

International law already bans the use of biological weapons. Similar action must be taken to ban chemical and radiological weapons.

The international community has unanimously recognised outer space as the common heritage of mankind. We must expand international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The essential pre-requisite for this is that outer space be kept free of all weapons. Instead, there are plans of developing, testing and deploying space weapons systems. The nuclear arms race cannot be ended and reversed without a moratorium on such activity. It should be followed by an agreement to forestall the militarisation of outer space. This is also an indispensable condition for attaining the goal of comprehensive global security based on a nonviolent world order free of nuclear weapons.

The very momentum of developments in military technology is dragging the arms race out of political control. The race cannot be restrained without restraining the development of such technology. We need a system which fosters technological

development but interdicts its application to military purposes. The arms control approach has focussed on the quantitative growth of arsenals. The disarmament approach must devise arrangements for controlling the continuous qualitative upgradation of nuclear and conventional weapons. To achieve this
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purpose, the essential requirement is increased transparency in research and development in frontier technologies with potential military applications. This requires a systematic monitoring of such developments, an assessment of their implications for international security, and widespread dissemination of the information obtained. There is also need for greater international cooperation in research into new and emerging technologies for these technologies to open on new vistas of human achievement. Here let us recall the vision of an open world voiced by one of the most remarkable scientists of our time, Niels Bohr. In his Open Letter to the United Nations on June 9, 1-950, thirty-eight years ago today, he said:

"The very fact that knowledge itself is a basis for civilisation points directly openness as the way to overcome the present crisis."

By the closing years of the century, there must be a single integrated multilateral verification system to ensure that. no new nuclear weapons are produced anywhere in the world. Such a system would also help in verifying compliance with the collateral and other disarmament measures envisaged in the Action Plan. It would serve as an early warning system to guard against violations of solemn international treaties and conventions.

Beyond a point, nuclear disarmament itself would depend upon progress in the reduction of conventional armaments and forces. Therefore, a key task before the international community is to ensure security at lower levels of conventional defence. Reductions must, of course, begin in areas where the bulk of the world's conventional arms and forces are concentrated. However, other countries should also join the process without much delay. This requires a basic restructuring of armed forces to serve defensive purposes only. Our objective should be nothing less than a general reduction of conventional arms across the globe to levels dictated by minimum needs of defence. The process would require a substantial reduction in offensive military capabilities as well as confidence-building measures to preclude surprise attacks. The United Nations needs to evolve by consensus a new strategic doctrine of non-provocative defence.

The plan for radical and comprehensive disarmament must be pursued along with efforts to create a new system of comprehensive global security. The components of such a system must be mutually supportive. Participation in it must be universal.

The structure of such a system should be firmly based on non-violence. When we eliminate nuclear weapons and reduce conventional forces to minimum defensive levels, the establishment of a non-violent world order is the only way of not relapsing into the irrationalities of the past. It is the only way of precluding the recommencement of an armaments spiral. Nonviolence in international relations cannot be considered a Utopian goal. It is the only available basis for civilised survival, for the maintenance of peace through peaceful coexistence, for a new, just, equitable and democratic world order. As Mahatma Gandhi said in the aftermath of the first use of nuclear weapons:

"The moral to be legitimately drawn from the supreme tragedy of the bomb is that it will not be destroyed by counterbombs, even as violence cannot be destroyed by counter-violence. Mankind has to get out of violence only through non-violence."

The new structure of international relations must be based on respect for various ideologies, on the right to pursue different socio-economic systems, and the celebration of diversity. Happily, this is already beginning to happen. Post-war bipolarity is giving way to a growing realisation of the need for coexistence. The high rhetoric of the system of military alliances is gradually yielding to the view point of the Nonaligned Movement.

Nonalignment is founded on the desire of nations for freedom of action. It stands
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for national independence and self-reliance. Non-alignment is a refusal to be drawn into the barren rivalries and dangerous confrontations of others. It is an affirmation of the need for self-confident cooperation among all countries, irrespective of differences in social and economic systems. Nonalignment is synonymous with peaceful coexistence. As Jawaharlal Nehru said:

"The alternative to co-existence is codestruction."

Therefore, the new structure of international relations to sustain a world beyond nuclear weapons will have to be based on the principles of coexistence, the non-use of force, non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, and the right of every state to pursue its own path of development. These principles are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, but they have been frequently violated. We must apply our minds to bringing about the institutional changes required to ensure their observance. The strengthening of the United Nations system is essential for comprehensive global security. We must resurrect the original vision of the United Nations. We must bring the United Nations Organisation in line with the requirements of the

new world order.

The battle for peace, disarmament and development must be waged bothwithin this Assembly and outside by the people of the world. This battle should be waged in cooperation with scientists, strategic thinkers and leaders of peace movements who have repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to these ideals. We, therefore, seek their cooperation in securing the commitment of all nations and all peoples to the goal of a non-violent world order free of nuclear weapons.

The ultimate power to bring about change rests with the people. It is not the power of weapons or economic strength which will determine the shape of the world beyond nuclear weapons. That will be determined in the minds and the hearts of thinking men and women around the world. For, as the Dhammapada of the Buddha teaches us:

"Our life if shaped by our mind;
We become what we think.
Suffering follows an evil thought
As the wheels of a cart follow the
oxen that draw it.
Joy follows a pure thought
Like a shadow what never leaves.
For hatred can never put an end to hatred;
Love alone can.
This is the unalterable law."

ANNEX I

A AUSTRIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ARGENTINA GREECE INDIA MEXICO SWEDEN TANZANIA ICELAND SWITZERLAND RUSSIA

Date : Jun 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Action Plan for ushering in a nuclear-weapon-free and Non-Violent World Order

(Annexure to Prime Minister's U.N. Address on Disarmament)

1. Humanity stands at a crossroads of history. The world has lived too long under the sentence of extinction. Nuclear weapons threaten to annihilate human civilization and all that humankind

has built through millennia of labour and toil.

Nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States alike are threatened by such a holocaust. It is imperative that nuclear weapons be eliminated. The recently signed INF Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union is a first major step in this direction. This process must be taken to its logical conclusion by ridding the world of nuclear
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weapons. The time has also come to consider seriously the changes in doctrines, in policies, in attitudes, and in the institutions required to usher in and manage a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world. Peace must be predicated on a basis other than the assurance of global destruction. We need a world order based on non-violence and peaceful coexistence. We need international institutions that will nurture such a world order.

2. We call upon the international community to urgently negotiate a binding commitment to an action plan for ushering in a non-violent world free of nuclear weapons. We suggest the following action plan as a basis for such negotiations:

2.1. STAGE I (duration: 6 years,
from 1988 to 1994)

2.1.a. Nuclear disarmament:

2.1.a.i. Elimination of all Soviet and United States land-based medium - and shorter-range missiles (500 to 5,500 kilometres) in accordance with the INF Treaty.

2.1.a.ii. Agreement on a 50 per cent
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cut in Soviet and United States strategic arsenals (with ranges above 5,500 kilometres).

2.1.a.iii. Agreement on a phased elimination by the year 2000 A.D. of United States and Soviet short-range battlefield and air-launched nuclear weapons.

2.1.a.iv Cessation of the production of nuclear weapons by all nuclear-weapon States.

2.1.a.v. Cessation of production of weapon-grade fissionable material by all nuclear-weapon States.

2.1.a.vi. Moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons.

2.1.a.vii. Commencement and conclusion of negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

2.1.b. Measures collateral to nuclear

disarmament:

2.1.b.i. Conclusion of a convention to outlaw the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons pending their elimination.

2.1.b.ii. Declaration by the United States and the Soviet Union that the fissile material released under the INF Treaty would be utilized for peaceful purposes only and accordingly be subjected to supervision by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

2.1.b.iii. Declaration by all nuclear-weapon States of their stockpiles of nuclear weapons and weapon-grade fissionable material.

2.1.b.iv. Cessation of direct or indirect transfer to other States of nuclear weapons, delivery systems, and weapon-grade fissionable material.

2.1.b.v. Non-nuclear-weapon Powers to undertake not to cross the threshold into the acquisition of nuclear weapons.

2.1.b.vi. Initiation of multilateral negotiations, to be concluded by 1995, for a new treaty eliminating all nuclear weapons by the year 2010. This treaty would replace the non-proliferation Treaty, which ends in 1995.

2.1.c. Other weapons of mass des-
truction:

2.1.c.i. Conclusion of a treaty banning chemical weapons.
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2.1.c.ii. Conclusion of a treaty banning radiological weapons.

2.1.d. Conventional forces:

2.1.d.i. Substantial reduction of NATO and Warsaw Pact conventional forces, especially offensive forces, and of weapon systems in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

2.1.d.ii. Multilateral discussions in the Conference on Disarmament or in the United Nations on military doctrines with a view to working towards the goal of a purely defensive orientation for the armed forces of the world. The discussions would include measures to prevent surprise attacks.

2.1.e. Space weapon systems:

2.1.e.i. A moratorium on the testing and deployment of all space weapon systems.

2.1.e.ii. Expansion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

2.1.f. Control and management of the arms race based on new technologies

2.1.f.i. Arrangements for monitoring and assessing new technologies which have military applications as well as forecasting their implications for international security.

2.1.f.ii. For research in frontier areas of technology where there are potential military, applications, new technology projects and technological missions should be undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations in order to direct them exclusively to civilian sectors.

2.1.f.iii. Commencement of work, under the aegis of the United Nations, for the formulation of guidelines to be observed by Governments in respect of new technologies with potential military applications.

2.1.f.iv. Commencement of negotiations for banning technological missions designed to develop new weapon systems and means of warfare.

2.1.g. Verification:

2.1.g.i. Acceptance in principle of the need to establish an integrated multilateral verification system under the aegis of the United Nations as an integral part of a strengthened multilateral framework required to ensure peace and security during the process of disarmament as well as in a nuclear-weapon-free world.

2.2. STATE II (duration: 6 years, from 1995 to 2000)

2.2.a. Nuclear disarmament

2.2.a.i. Completion of Stage I reductions by the United States and the Soviet Union and the induction of all other nuclear-weapon-States into the process of nuclear disarmament.

2.2.a.ii. Elimination of all medium-and short-range, sea-based, land-based and air-launched nuclear missiles by all nuclear-weapon States.

2.2.a.iii. Elimination of all tactical battlefield nuclear weapons (land, sea and air) by all nuclear-weapon States.

2.2.a.iv. Entry into force of the comprehensive test-ban treaty.

2.2.b. Measures collateral to nuclear disarmament:

2.2.b.i. Negotiations on the withdrawal of strategic nuclear wea-
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pons deployed beyond national boundaries.

2.2.b.ii. Completion of the ratification and entry into force of the convention prohibiting the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons.

2.2.b.iii. Conclusion of the new treaty eliminating all nuclear weapons by the year 2010 to replace the non-proliferation Treaty.

2.2.c. Space weapons:

2.2.c.i. Agreement within a multilateral framework on banning the testing, development, deployment and storage of all space weapons.

2.2.d. Conventional forces:

2.2.d.i. Further reduction of NATO and Warsaw Pact conventional forces to minimum defensive levels.

2.2.d.ii. Negotiations under the Conference on Disarmament on global conventional arms reduction.

2.2.d.iii. Removal of all military forces and bases from foreign territories.

2.2.e. New and emerging technologies:

2.2.e.i. Completion of negotiations on banning technological missions aimed at the development of new weapon systems.

2.2.e.ii. Completion of negotiations on guidelines in respect of new technologies with potential military applications.

2.2.f. Comprehensive global security system:

2.211. Negotiations on and establishment of a comprehensive global security system to sustain a world without nuclear weapons. This would include institutional steps to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations relating to the non-use of force, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the right of every State to pursue its own path of development.

2.2-f-ii. Arrangements for the release of resources through disarmament for development purposes.

2.2.f.iii. Elimination of non-military threats to security by

such measures as the establishment of a just and equitable international economic order.

2.2.f.iv. The strengthening of the United Nations system and related multilateral forums.

2.2-f v. The commencement of negotiations for the establishment of an integrated multilateral verification system under the United Nations.

2.3. STAGE III (duration: 10 years, from 2001 to 2010)

2.3.a. Elimination of all nuclear weapons from the world.

2.3-b. Establishment of a single integrated multilateral comprehensive verification system which, interalia, ensures that no nuclear weapons are produced.
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2.3.c. Reduction of all conventional forces to minimum defensive levels.

2.3.d. Effective implementation of arrangements to preclude the emergence of a new arms race.

2.3.e. Universal adherence to the comprehensive global security system.

3.1. There has been a historically unprecedented militarization of international relations during the last four decades. This has not only enhanced the danger of nuclear war but also militated against the emergence of the structure of peace, progress and stability envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations.

3.2. To end this dangerous militarization of international relations, we must build a structure firmly based on non-violence. It is only in a non-violent democratic world that the sovereignty of nations and the dignity of the individual can be ensured. It is only in a non violent world that the intellectual and spiritual potential of humankind can be fully realized.

3.3. The prospect of a world free from nuclear weapons should spur us to start building a structure of international security in keeping with the fundamental changes that are taking place in the world political, economic and security environment.

3.4. In a shrinking and interdependent world, such a structure has to be comprehensive, its components supportive of each other, and participation in it universal.

3.5. A world order crafted our of outmoded concepts of the balance of power, of dominance by power blocs, of spheres of

influence, and of special rights and privileges for
a select group of nations is an unacceptable anachronism. It is
out of tune with the democratic temper of our age.

3.6. The new structure of international relations has to be
based on scrupulous adherence to the principles of peaceful
coexistence and the Charter of the United Nations. It is
necessary to evolve stronger and more binding mechanisms for the
settlement of disputes, regional and international. The diversity
among nations must be recoginzed and respected. The right of each
nation to choose its own socioeconomic system must be assured.

3.7. Concomitant changes will be called for in the
international economic order. The interdependence of all the
economies of the world makes a symbiotic relationship between
development in the South and stability and growth in the North.
In a just and equitable order, access to technology and
resources, on fair and reasonable terms, will be assured. The gap
between the rich and the poor nations will be bridged.
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ANNEX II

A TOTO POLAND

Date : Jun 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

New technologies and the qualitative arms race: working paperby India

Introduction

1. Paragraph 39 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special
Session of the General Assembly, the first special session
devoted to disarmament (General Assembly resolution S-10/2), had
the following provision:

"Qualitative and quantitative disarmament measures are both
important for halting the arms race. Efforts to that end must
include negotiations on the limitation and cessation of the
qualitative improvement of armaments, especially weapons of mass
destruction and the development of new means of warfare so that
ultimately scientific and technological achievements may be used
solely for peaceful purposes."

2. A decade has passed since the adoption of the Final Document. During this period, efforts for "arms control" in both bilateral and multilateral forums have focused primarily on the quantitative expansion of arsenals. At no stage have the qualitative aspects of the arms race been addressed, even though it has been known for some time now that a very large part of the huge sums currently spent on armament by the major Powers is devoted to making qualitative improvements in the existing weapon systems and to developing new systems. As a matter of fact, most of the nuclear " arms control" agreements provide for the upgrading of the existing weapon systems and specify "permitted" areas for further improvement of weapons. This kind of arms control, which does not address itself to the structural nature of the arms race, has not curbed and cannot curb or reverse this race. Real disarmament cannot be achieved without addressing the problem of the qualitative arms race.

3. The total expenditure on military research and development (R and D) -90 per cent of it by the five nuclear-weapon States and the Federal Republic of Germany -is estimated to be approximately one tenth of the trillion dollar total global military expenditure. Military R and D today is 25 per cent of the total expenditure on R and D. The scale of expenditure on military R and D and the pace of technical change in the military sector are unprecedented historically. This is the result of the emergence in the post-Second World War period of a large number of industrial and research establishments devoted exclusively to the design, Production and refinement of new weapon systems. Development of weaponry is now no longer an undirected, accidental byproduct of the advancement of science and technology. Instead, it has become an all-embracing purposive preoccupation, where every new scientific and technological development is examined for its potential military applications and steps are taken to translate that potential into real weapon systems.

4. There are certain historical imperatives for the growth of science and technology. These, in turn, influence patterns of production, consumption, distribution, policies of Governments as well as relations among nations. Progress in science and technology and the changes that it brings about are a part of historical pro
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cess and no attempt to halt that process because of the unwelcome nature of some of these changes is likely to succeed. However, dedicated deployment of science and technology for military purposes, irrespective of its consequences for humankind, is another matter. It is the latter that is mainly. responsible for the new destructive dimensions acquired by the arms race. It is the duty of the international community to put a restraint on such an orientation.

5. New weapon systems are often developed without reference to the political climate or even the prevailing security doctrines. Quite often this takes place without reference even to the actual weapons developed by the adversary. Each side presses ahead with the development of weapons designed to counter hypothetical weapons, sure in the belief that the other side would be doing the same. Technological possibilities of developing weapon systems often acquire an inexorable character and inevitably get translated into reality. The history of weapons development in the post-Second World War period is replete with examples of such a selfpropelled momentum overtaking whatever meagre results "arms control" measures may have achieved.

6. It is thus evident that the prospects for real disarmament will remain bleak so long as this technological arms race is allowed to continue unabated. The pressures of competitive technological armament obstruct further progress in disarmament and even threaten to destroy the limited progress made so far. The current controversy over the 1972 ABM Treaty, because of the pressure of development of new space weapons, is an obvious illustration.

The now arms race

7. Today, the world stands on the threshold of a new arms race. A number of technologies that have the potential of transforming completely the methods of war-fighting and the nature of warfare are in advanced stages of development. The maturity and application of these technologies would have far-reaching implications for international security and would be a major setback to efforts for disarmament. The following are some of the areas in which new and emerging technologies with far-reaching military applications are taking shape:

(a) Nuclear weapons

Intensive research and development work by laboratories has led to a major breakthrough in the design of nuclear weapons. The past few years have seen increased interest in the so-called "third generation" nuclear weapons.

The first generation nuclear weapons are based on fission; the second generation on fusion. The second generation weapon design has increased the sophistication and improved the yield-to-weight ratio of nuclear warheads. The central feature of the third generation nuclear weapons is the ability to pick and choose specific effects of nuclear weapons and enhance them, while suppressing the unwanted ones. The neutron bomb, or the enhanced radiation weapon, is the precursor of the third generation nuclear weapons.

A number of third generation nuclear-weapon designs are being

actively explored. These include the X-ray laser, in which the energy of the nuclear explosion is channelled into focused beams of intense X-ray radiation. The gamma ray laser, microwave weapons and nuclear devices that can generate powerful electromagnetic pulses are other third generation concepts that are being explored.

Concurrently, more accurate and precise modes of delivery of nuclear warheads are being explored to avoid the large col
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lateral damage, inevitable in less accurate delivery. The manoeuverable re-entry vehicle (MARV) is one such technology that is likely to dramatically increase the ability to deliver nuclear weapons with pin-point accuracy. The Earth-penetrating nuclear warheads design is another example of militarily usable nuclear explosions.

New directions in the use of nuclear energy for military purposes are also evident. Plans to deploy compact and powerful nuclear reactors in space are in advanced stages of development. The new military space missions for reactors include the powering of beam weapons, battle stations and supporting satellites. Accidents in already existing nuclear space systems have not been uncommon. Increased use of nuclear power in space could have dangerous ecological consequences.

(b) Defence against nuclear weapons

A variety of new and exotic technologies are being developed under the programmes to build defences against nuclear missiles. These include technologies for weapon systems, surveillance, acquisition and tracking, and battle management.

The weapon systems being developed include kinetic energy weapons. Kinetic energy weapons derive their destructive energy from the momentum of propelled objects. Electromagnetic rail guns, which can propel objects to very high speeds, are another kind of new weapon under development.

In directed energy weapons, consisting either of lasers or of particle beams, energy propagated at the speed of light is used to destroy or disable targets. These weapon systems can be based on Earth or in space. Laser systems powered by both chemical and nuclear sources are being developed.

Although these new technologies and weapons are being projected as "defensive" they also have offensive possibilities. They could be particularly useful as antisatellite weapons. Some of them could also be used against Earth-based objects.

(c) Chemical and biological weapons

In the past, the problems and costs of effectively integrating chemical and biological weapons into military doctrine and organization have acted as barriers against widespread military enthusiasm for chemical. and biological warfare. But new technological developments could remove these barriers and facilitate greater use of chemical and biological weapons. One such technological innovation is the "binary" munition for nerve gases.

The past few yeares have seen the enormous explosion in mankind's knowledge of the molecular and cellular processes of life. There is also the emerging ability to manipulate these processes through genetic engineering and biotechnology. If these abilities are tapped for military purposes, there could be a new race to develop hideous weapons for chemical and biological warfare.

(d) Electronics, computers and artificial intelligence

The impact of the revolutionary developments in electronics and computers on military technology and strategy is already pervasive. The impact is seen in the transformation of weapons into "smart" systems, such as precision-guided weapons systems and cruise missiles. There is also the existing large-scale use of high performance computers in command, control and communication and intelligence functions.

The ongoing revolution in electronics and computers is further transforming the
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nature of warfare. Weapon systems are moving from the "smart" to the "intelligence" phase. Unprecedented capabilities for command, control and intelligence (C???3I) systems required for enhanced warfighting capabilities are 'under development. A whole range of surveillance and target acquisition systems, sophisticated sensors, and high-speed automated data handling systems are being built.

Of particular importance is the development of fifth generation computers and artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence techniques are likely to be used initially in aiding soldiers in handling enormous information in a very short time in a complicated environment. Artificial intelligence techniques are also being considered for the development of autonomous vehicles and automated battle management systems. The impact of the new developments in computer hardware and software extend from conventional warfare to nuclear war-fighting and strategic defence.

(e) Conventional weapons

The words "conventional weapons" could already be a misnomer with the increasing accuracy, lethality and range of 4 (conventional"

weapon systems. There is an increased versatility in both launch platforms and warheads. The advances in weapon technology have already led to the conceptualization of strategic warfare without nuclear weapons. The use of ICBMs is being contemplated with conventional weapons. New types of delivery systems, such as transatmospheric vehicles and space planes capable of speeds ranging from 5 to 30 times the speed of sound and large payload capabilities, are being developed. These vehicles can operate in both atmosphere and space and can negotiate intercontinental distances in 10 to 15 minutes. The space planes, capable of horizontal take-off from and landing at normal airfields, lend themselves to greater use and flexibility in utilizing near-Earth space for military purposes and in carrying out a variety of offensive missions in a short span of time on Earth.

Implications of the new arms race

8. These developments have far-reaching implications for international security and peace. If allowed to proceed unchecked, they would bring about radical changes in the means of war-fighting and in security doctrines. They point to a highly complex strategic environment fraught with risks of staggering proportions. One consequence that can be predicted confidently is a fresh spiralling of the arms race at a qualitatively different, if not higher, level.

9. It is also evident that they carry a much greater risk, of outbreak of war, particularly nuclear war. Many weapons already operate in a semi-automated or fully automated mode. Automation of entire weapon systems, however, would result in a quantum jump in the dangers. Improvements in C???3I facilities and the deployment of surgical weapons may create an illusion of stability. However, in reality, control would become increasingly decentralized and real time for decision-making would be reduced drastically to durations too short to permit human beings to play any interactive role. The risk of war as a result of an accident, or misjudgement would be much greater.

10. Furthermore, most of the new weapons systems are offence-dominated. And even the defensive ones have the effect of making offensive strikes possible with greater impunity. Together with the immensely increased accuracy and lethality of these weapons, this is likely to increase the incentive for pre-emptive strikes. There is, therefore, going to be greater likelihood of early use of such weapons. These new developments could lead towards a renewed arms race in both offensive nuclear weapons and building defences. Further, these developments threaten to introduce these weapons into outer space, which has so far remained free from them.
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11. Moreover, a reasonably accurate assessment of the capabilities of new weapon systems, force levels, force targets

and force postures and deployment is going to be extremely difficult in a period of rapid technological change. There would, therefore, be a tendency to proceed on the basis of "worst-case" scenarios, which would result in an increase in the instability of the security environment.

12. Discreet and selective deployment of tailored nuclear weapons with little collateral effect may tend to increase their perceived utility and hence their usability.

13. The increasing lethality and accuracy of non-nuclear weaponry has brought such weapons closer to small nuclear weapons. But the non-nuclear nature of the powerful new weaponry may tend to make it more acceptable morally and politically, and hence more usable as compared to nuclear weapons.

14. The distinctions between tactical and strategic weapons, and conventional and non-conventional weapons would become blurred leading to erosion of thresholds.

15. The existing barriers against chemical and biological warfare could be eroded as a result of the new technological developments. The unleashing of chemical and biological warfare technologies is fraught with grave consequences for the security of mankind.

16. These new trends have complicated the problem of the monitoring and verification of emerging weapon systems. Many of these systems will be smaller in size, more mobile and more flexible in terms of carrying out a variety of missions. The most threatening in this regard are the cruise missiles. Other examples are the anti-satellite weapons, which can be fired from a variety of mobile platforms and dual-purpose delivery vehicles. In fact, we may have already come to the point of no return in this regard.

17. The new weapon capabilities are likely to be available only to the two super-powers and their allies for a long time to come. It would, therefore, provide them with hegemonistic capabilities, increasing their predisposition to engage in coercive diplomacy.

18. The new technologies pose a serious theat to the existing arms control and disarmament agreements by offering technological and strategic incentives to nations for breaking out of the current restrictions. They would also introduce new complexities for disarmament agreements under negotiation, making new agreements difficult.

Need for action

19. The real challenge in the field of disarmament is to devise arrangements for controlling the new arms race, which has already started on the basis of new and emerging technologies. The time

for doing so is now. For, otherwise, it will be too late. The third special session devoted to disarmament is the most suitable occasion for discussing this problem and for taking timely action for managing it.

20. The problems posed are far from simple. It is neither possible nor desirable to put a stop on the growth of science and technology. To distinguish technology as constructive or destructive is a complex task. Nor is it easy to sharply categorize research from development or from testing for development. However, we have no choice but at act. Faced with the growing theat of the largest and the most elaborate military R and D programme ever undertaken, namely that relating to ballistic missile defence systems, it is critical that we face the issues of the qualitative arms race directly and squarely.

21. If pursued in the context of a comprehensive disarmament programme seeking to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and reducing conventional armaments to the minimum needed for defence, the efforts to control the qualitative arms race would be of great significance and indeed necessary.
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Suggestions for action
(a) increased transpaxency

22. Reliable information on what is happening on the other side can remove a major reason for , persisting with the qualitative refinement of arsenals on a unilateral basis - namely, the fear of being caught by surprise by technological breakthroughs by the adversary. Conversely, lack of such knowledge frequently leads to exaggerated projections based on case" assumptions and creates pressure for undertaking whatever the adversary might be presumed, at worst, to be doing.

23. Moreover, it is the right of the public to have access to information at the global level on issues of life and death. And the Member States owe it to their peoples to provide access to such information. Further, increased public awareness of the. implications of technological developments with military applications is the most effective way of putting a measure of restraint on these developments. It is also the duty of the world scientific community to be alert in this regard, to anticipate developments and to make the world aware of their implications.

24. The following suggestions are, therefore, put forward for achieving greater transparency and understanding in this critical and sensitive aea:

(i) Technology assessment and forecasting panel: The Secretary-General should have at his disposal a technology assessment and forecasting panel consisting of a small group of eminent scientists and strategists. The task of the panel will be to

identify and monitor those developments in the field of new and emerging technologies which have military applications, assess their likely impact on international security, and make projections based on such monitoring and assessment. The Secretary-General should consult this group

from time to time. On the basis of such consultations and periodic reports to be submitted by the group, the Secretary-General should disseminate their assessment and forecasting on a wider basis, including through reports to the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Conference on Disarmament.

(ii) National panel of experts: Each member Government should make more or less similar arrangements at the national level. It should constitute a panel of scientists which should report periodically to the Government and should be available for consultations from time to time. It should widely disseminate the information and assessment provided by the panel. The Governments, in turn, should submit an annual report to the Secretary-General. The Conference on Disarmament should also impress upon all member Governments that, whenever an emerging technology appears to have the potentiality of leading to the development of new weapons and new means of waging war, the details of such technologies should be given wide publicity.

(iii) Unit in the Department for Disarmament Affairs: A unit should be established in the Department for Disarmament Affairs to monitor and study the implications of new technologies with potential military applications. The Secretary-General's panel should be able to draw upon the information and study compiled by the unit.

(b) New technology projects and technological missions

25. There should be greater international co-operation in the field of research in new and emerging technologies
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with a view to deploying them for peaceful purposes., For his purpose, new technology projects and new technological missions should be undertaken under the aegis of the United Nations. This will result in avoiding duplication of efforts in this high-cost area, fostering trust and promoting global progress and stability.

(c) Banning of technological missions clearly designed for developing new weapons

26. Negotiations should also start for banning those technological missions which are clearly designed for the development of new weapons and means of warfare. For example, there should be a ban on the development of. ballistic missile defence systems.

(d) Guidelines in respect of new technologies with potential military applications

27. Guidelines should be drawn up under the aegis of the United Nations in respect of new technologies with potential military applications. To begin with, the guidelines could be voluntary in nature. They should be observed by Governments, where they are directly responsible for carrying out military R and D, and also recommend for observance by private laboratories and research institutions. Emphasis in the guidelines should be on transparency, the widest possible dissemination of information nationally and internationally, consultations with and reports to national authorities and the United Nations. They should also include such regulatory measures as may be found feasible. The Secretary-General should set up a group of experts for evolving a set of guidelines.

ANNEX III

Disposal of the warheads on the nuclear missiles covered by the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty)

Working paper by India

Summary

The INF Treaty left open the question of disposal of the nuclear warheads on the missiles that are to be destroyed. Both the United States and the Soviet Union are free to decide what to do with the fissile material contained in the warheads, including the option of recycling it into new warheads for use on other missiles not covered by the Treaty. Such a course of action would be against the spirit of the Treaty and would considerably diminish its value as a nuclear disarmament measure. This is a matter of concern for all nations. The question of the disposal of these warheads, therefore, assumes crucial importance.

It is proposed that the United States and the Soviet Union be urged not to recycle their fissile material into other nuclear weapons and to place it under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), while keeping it in their custody. They should be urged also to make the accumulated fissile material available for energy production, to the maximum extent feasible. At the same time, there should be a freeze on further production of nuclear weapons and simultaneous cut-off in the production of fissile material for weapon purposes.

1. The problem

1. The INF Treaty left open the question of the disposal of the

nuclear war
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heads on the missiles that are to be destroyed in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty. Both sides are free to decide what to do with the warheads, particularly the fissile material contained therein. They have the choice of recyling this material into new warheads for use on other missiles not covered by the INF Treaty.

2. The Treaty has been rightly acclaimed as the first nuclear disarmament measure ever taken by the nuclear-weapon States. If the parties to the Treaty are free to utilize the fissile material contained in the nuclear warheads covered by the Treaty for producing new warheads, the value of the Treaty as a nuclear disarmament measure would be diminished considerably.

3. It can be argued that the fissile material belongs to those two countries and that they are, therefore, free to dispose it off as they please. However, just as nuclear disarmament is the concern of all nations, so is the question of what happens to this fissile material. The world has the right to expect that the INF Treaty will be observed not only in letter but also in spirit. The question of the disposal of the warheads, therefore, assumes crucial importance for all nations in the world.

H. Magnitude of the fissile material
involved

4. The minimum amount of fissile material that the 2,000 warheads released under the INF Treaty would contain would be 10 to 20 tons, in case they are plutonium devices, and about 2 to 3 times that amount, in case they are enriched uranium devices. This is a very rough estimate because the exact amount can be estimated only on the basis of information about the yield of each warhead.

5. The obvious way of utilizing plutonium or enriched uranium for peaceful purposes is to feed it into a fast breeder or power reactor for generating energy. The

above amounts of plutonium or enriched uranium could provide fuel for generation of about 1,000 megawatts of power for some years.

6. These appears to be rather trivial amounts. However the entire question has to be considered on the basis of the assumption that the INF Treaty would be a true disarmament measure and that what is involved is not only the release of 10 to 20 tons of plutonium contained in the warheads covered under the INF Treaty, but a much bigger amount that will be available in the event of total nuclear disarmament. Even the agreement on the implementation of 50 per cent reduction in the strategic arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union would yield fissile materials many times higher than 10 to 20 tons.

M. Options for disposal

(a) For military purposes

7. The chemical explosives used to bring the sub-critical masses of fissile material together are of small explosive power and can be easily exploded away.

8. In view of the fact that most missiles are designed to carry specific payloads, there may not be much scope for reusing the warheads on the missiles covered by the Treaty on other delivery vehicles. Redesigning the delivery vehicles suitably in order to use these warheads may be a cumbersome process. Therefore, the most likely military use for the fissile material would be to recycle it into new warheads.

(b) For peaceful purposes

9. As already stated, the fissile material can be used in fast breeder or power reactors for generating energy. Weapongrade uranium would need to be diluted considerably as it is 93 per cent U-235, whereas the enriched uranium required for currently established power reactors is only 3 to 5 per cent U-235. <pg-193>

10. Using the fissile material as an input for generating energy would release some capacity in existing reprocessing/enrichment plants and thus help in bringing down the cost of internationally traded plutonium and enriched uranium. It can also help in conserving world uranium reserves. Moreover, considering the global scarcity of energy, any move for supplementing the existing energy resources will be beneficial for the world as a whole.

11. The option of diluting the weapongrade uranium might be regarded as wasteful after the prohibitive cost incurred in reaching such a high level of enrichment. However, this is not a valid consideration because, if the objective of nuclear disarmament is universally accepted, then the costs incurred in acquiring any nuclear weapons are themselves wasteful. They are in the nature of "sunk costs". What is pertinent to the utilization decision between the alternative option is only the additional cost that would have to be incurred to enable utilization of the fissile material.

12. Enriched uranium can also be used after suitable dilution for nuclear-propelled submarines and high temperature gascooled reactors. However, given the limited requirement of such facilities ' this may not be a viable option but only a supplementary use.

13. Another option is to use the fissile material for peaceful

nuclear explosions. The full potential of peaceful nuclear explosion is yet to be explored and there is a strong case for doing so, particularly when surplus fissile material might become available.

14. Three options are available for the purpose of exercising control over the fissile material:

First, the material remains in the custody of the owner country, free from controls except those imposed by the country itself.

Second, the material is physically handed over to an international agency, i.e., IAEA. It may be recalled that at one stage a proposal for the creation of an international nuclear fuel authority under IAEA was considered. However, no agreement could be reached on it. Most of the arguments given at that time against this idea, i.e. problems relating to transport, efficiency of reprocessing in a centralized place, guarantee of safety, etc., still remain valid.

There is a third alternative, according to which the material remains in the physical control of the owner country, but Is placed under IAEA safeguards. The involvement of IAEA in this question could be regarded as a part of the verification system of the INF Treaty.

IV. Suggestions for action

15. The United States and the Soviet Union should be urged not to recycle their fissile material into other nuclear weapons and to place it under the supervision of IAEA, while keeping it in their physical custody. They should also be urged to make this accumulated fissile material available for energy production, to the maximum extent feasible. The usual procedure for verification, such as a declaration of initial inventory and on-site inspection for accounting for its use, should be followed. The owner country would have the option to withdraw the fissile material for use for peaceful purposes, under intimation to IAEA.

16. Any such measure would be meaningful only if it is accompanied by a halt to the further production of weapon-grade fissile material. Therefore, along with the disposal of the fissile material as suggested above, there should be a freeze on further production of nuclear weapons and a simultaneous cut-off in the production of fissile material for weapon purposes.

17. Both the United States and the Soviet Union have accepted, in principle, IAEA safeguards on selected civilian faci-
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lities. There should, therefore, be no difficulty in their agreeing to place the fissile material released under the INF Treaty also under IAEA safeguards, once it is agreed that this

material is not to be utilized for military purposes.

DIA USA GERMANY PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech at Budapest

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's speech at the Banquet hosted in his honour by Mr. Karoly Grosz, Chairman of the Council of Ministers at Budapest on Jun 10, 1988:

My wife and I are touched by your very gracious words of welcome. They spring from the heart of a friend.

I would like to thank your Government for the understanding shown when I was compelled to postpone my visit to Hungary. We were facing one of the worst droughts in memory. We have overcome the crisis through determined action without letting our development falter.

It is indeed a pleasure for us to be in the land of the Danube, in one of the world's most beautiful cities. Your magnificent buildings are testimony to a rich history. To be here is to recall such legendary figures as Lajos Kossuth, Sandor Petofi and Istvan Szechnyi who contributed so much to the making of modem Hungary.

Hungary has a wealth of culture and tradition. It is a land of high intellectual attainment, of impressive economic transformation and significant scientific achievement. We have watched with admiration your tremendous efforts in rebuilding your country after the second world war.

We also followed with deep interest the profound changes you have undertaken to meet changing requirements. We salute that success that you have achieved. Your people look to the future with confidence.

I congratulate you on the party conference held a few days ago. On behalf of the Government and people of India, we wish you well in your endeavours. We are confident that they will contribute to

the greater prosperity and well-being of the Hungarian people, and to your efforts for peace and understanding in Europe.

Your Excellency, diplomatic ties between our two countries are only four decades old, but our cultural contacts have a much longer history. The path opened by Alexander Cvsoma De Korosi on his pilgrimage on foot to India from 1821 to 1842 has been kept open by several Hungarian indologists. Sanskrit has been taught in Hungary since 1873, and Hindi for the last 30 years.

Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Hungary in 1926 made a profound impact on Indo-Hungarian relations. In contemporary times, we have maintained close political links between our two countries. Our economic and scientific ties are growing.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Your Excellency, after years of nuclear darkness, there is at last a glimmer of light. The ratification of the INF Treaty marks an important beginning towards the goal of nuclear disarmament.

I have come to Budapest from New York where I addressed the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament. The world cannot live under the perpetual threat of nuclear war. We do not believe in theories of the 'Balance of Power' or 'Mutually assured destruction'. At the United Nations, India has put forward an action plan which aims at the total elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2010.
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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Hungary and India have been partners in the search for a new international economic order. We value your support. There is much that lies ahead of us. The developed countries are still to understand the essential complementarity between the economies of the North and the South. The global. economy is interdependent. Once that is fully realised, the doors will open for greater justice and equity in the international economy in the interests of all.

INDIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS

In our neighbourhood, we have taken many initiatives to promote peace and cooperation. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation has made a good beginning. Our agreement with Sri Lanka last July is putting an end to the ethnic conflict in that country. It also contributes to maintaining security in our region, free from external interference.

We want friendly relations with China. We want peace on our border. We stand ready for a settlement of the border issue through peaceful negotiations which take into account the

national interests of both sides.

In Afghanistan, the Geneva accords offer the only way out. They must be scrupulously observed by the signatories. Only then can Afghanistan remain a truly independent, sovereign, non-aligned nation. The need of the moment is national reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Our efforts to improve bilateral relations with all our neighbours have, unfortunately, not been always reciprocated. Terrorism and secessionism in India finds support and sustenance abroad. We have repeatedly asked that such interference be ended through effective, demostrable measures.

India and Hungary have a strong commitment to peace. In our talks today, we discussed matters of common interest and concern. We hold identical or closely similar views on many international issues. I have greatly benefitted from hearing your views and perceptions, especially with regard to emerging trends in Europe. Our talks will strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

/Your excellency, 62 years ago Rabindranath Tagore, while planting a liden tree in Balatonfured, said: "I am planting this tree in remembrance of my stay here, for nowhere else was I given what I received here. It was more than hospitality, it was the awakening of the feelings of kinship. I sense and I know I have come to the land of a nation which is emotional akin to India."

My wife and I feel the same today.

I ask you, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, to raise you glasses to:

- this kinship between the peoples of India and Hungary

- the health and long life of General Secretary Karoly Grosz

- the growing friendship and cooperation between India and Hungary.
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NGARY USA INDIA CHINA AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND

Date : Jun 10, 1988

Volume No

1995

Prime Minister's Remarks on the Naming of River Side Park atBudapest after Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru

The following are Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi's remarks on the naming of River-Side Park after Jawahar Lal Nehru at Budapest on Jun 11, 1988:

Jawahar Lal Nehru loved people. Jawahar Lel Nehru loved nature. River-Side Park brings together the extraordinary scenic beauty of this city and the ordinary people of Budapest. There could be no more fitting tribute to the memory of Jawahar Lal Nehru than to name this Park after him. The people of India join me in expressing to you our deep gratitude for this thoughtful and moving gesture.

This year, we are commencing the centenary celebrations of his birth. We are delighted and honoured that Hungary proposes to participate in the centenary celebrations in such a significant manner. Nehru belonged to a generation of revolutionaries who placed love of country above personal comfort and worldly ambitions. They threw themselves into the struggle for freedom at a time when there was little or no prospect of freedom being achieved within their own lifetime.

What distinguished Jawahar Lal Nehru and his contemporaries was their commitment to fight the mightiest empire known to history, not by force of arms but by non-violence. They succeeded. The lesson they left for our time is that the only way of definitely overcoming violence is by non-violence. Non-violence comprises the values of truth and tolerance, compassion and concern for all humanity, coexistence and the celebration of diversity. We seek a world order founded on nonviolence. It is the only hope for durable peace and enduring goodwill among the peoples of the world.

Jawahar Lal Nehru's vision extended well beyond the frontiers of India to encompass the whole world. He sought freedom not only for his country but for oppressed people everywhere. He drew his inspiration from not only the millenial civilisation of India but from thought and experience everywhere. He sought peace, progress and prosperity not for India alone but for the whole world.

We hope that when those who live in Budapest come here to stroll in these sylvan surroundings, to seek peace and quiet or listen to the laughter and play of children, they will sometimes pause and reflect for a while on this noble man and his life work and his contribution to India, to the world and to friendship between India and Hungary. Thank you.

Date : Jun 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

Indo-Romanian Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 01, 1988 on the 9th session of Indo-Romanian Joint Commission:

Romania has agreed to step up its imports of iron ore from India to a level of 5 to 6 million tonnes annually on a long-term basis upto the year 2000 AD. This is substantially higher than the present level of contracted purchase which is around 4 million tonnes. The concerned organisations in India and Romania are expected to negotiate and conclude a long
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term agreement to this effect shortly. This is indicated in the Protocol of the 9th Session of the Indo-Romanian Joint Commission for Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation which was held in Bucharest from 26th to 28th May, 1988. The Protocol was signed on behalf of India by the Commerce and Finance Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari, who is also Co-Chairmen of the Joint Commission and Mr. Ilie Vaduva, Minister of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation and Co-Chairmen of the Romanian side, last Friday in Bucharest.

The Joint Commission reviewed the Indo-Romanian economic relations in general as well as progress in implementation of the Protocol of the 8th Session. Both sides agreed that there was good scope for further expansion of economic, commercial, scientific and technical ties particularly in view of the long-term cooperation agreement signed during the visit of President, Nicolae Ceausescu to India in March, 1987. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to take measures to increase the volume of trade by 2 to 21/2 times in the next 5 years. The level of bilateral trade between India and Romania was Rs. 216 crores in 1986. However in 1987 the volume of trade declined to Rs. 107 crores. During the current year, it is expected to reach Rs. 250 crores. Both sides noted that the present level of bilateral trade did not reflect fully the potential for growth in economic relations. In the light of the deliberations of the Joint Commission and the directions given by the two Co-Chairmen, specific areas of cooperation between the two countries have been identified with a

view to strengthening bilateral trade and economic relations.

In order to increase and diversify trade, both sides have agreed to take effective steps to implement the existing long-term contracts for both imports and exports. It noted that long-term contracts were already existing for iron ore, bauxite, manganese ore, cotton and steel products and both sides expressed interest in further extension of such contracts beyond 1990. The Indian side expressed interest in the conclusion of such contracts for newsprint, petrochemicals etc. while Romania suggested that such contracts may also include equipment for the petroleum and steel sectors. It was agreed that steps would be taken by both sides during the current year to negotiate such contracts on mutually agreed items. It was decided that the trade basket would be further diversified for which both sides would prepare lists of additional items and also that effective steps would be taken to implement the existing long-term contract. In this context, it was agreed to take steps to effectively implement the iron ore contract for the current year.

The two sides also discussed the question of third country trade and agreed that the concerned commercial organisations on both sides would finalise the arrangements based on mutually identified items.

Romania has evinced interest in further economic and technical cooperation in the fields of metallurgy and steel projects, chemicals and petrochemicals, petroleums, power and certain manufactures.

Both sides reaffirmed their interest to promote joint ventures in various fields such as machine building, machine tools, metallurgical equipment, oilfield equipment, electronics and food processing machinery industry. The possibility of joint ventures for production of footwear for exports was also discussed.

Regarding third country cooperation, it has been agreed to pursue possibilities of cooperation in a number of areas including projects relating to power, steel, textiles, cement plants and civil and industrial projects. For this purpose, joint efforts would be made to identify the areas of cooperation, and contracts with third countries. The possibility of marketing joint ventures would also be explored.

With regard to new areas of cooperation, it was agreed that expert teams
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in various sectors, especially coal and petroleum, would visit both countries to identify such areas.

In order to further promote trade contracts between business organisations of the two countries, the Indian side has proposed

the revival of the Indo-Romanian Joint Business Council which was set up some time ago with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) as its counterpart and suggested that the next meeting of the Council should be held at the earliest to strengthen bilateral economic relations.

During his visit to Romania, Shri Tiwari called on President Nicolae Ceausescu and he also had meetings with Mr. Gheorge Pareschir, Finance Minister of Romania.

AN ROMANIA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Jun 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOUTH KOREA

Indo-Korean Joint Business Council

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 02, 1988 on India Korea Joint Business Council meeting:

The Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. R. Dasmunshi, has stressed the need to expand and diversify trade with South Korea. Inaugurating the 9th meeting of the India-Korea Joint Business Council here today, Shri Dasmunshi said during the last one decade bilateral trade between the two countries increased from an insignificant level of US $ 17 million in 1976-77 to about US $ 329 million in 1987-88. Observing that the level of bilateral trade was not commensurate with the vast potential that exists, Shri Dasmunshi said that a number of items had been identified for exports to South Korea in a bid to diversify the trade. These include agricultural products, light engineering goods, chemicals and allied products, electrical items dyes and dye stuffs, paints and varnishes and medicines.

Shri Dasmunshi called upon the Council to consider ways to step up exchange of technologies between the two countries, especially in areas like textile machinery where India had already developed technological competitiveness through tie-ups with almost all major international manufacturers of textile equipment. On the other hand, new technologies were needed in a number of areas such as electronics, computers, chemicals, auto parts, oil drilling equipment, deep sea fishing, shrimp farming and mineral exploration where tie-ups with Korea would be mutually beneficial.

Stressing the scope for collaborations in consultancy and project exports, Shri Dasmunshi said India was now in a position to offer complete package of consultancy, planning, designing, operation, and maintenance. He said Indian and Korean expertise and skills could be combined optionally for undertaking projects in diverse fields like railways, roads, water supply, town planning, irrigation and flood control as well as in engineering, agrobased and fertiliser industries and oil exploration in the two countries as well as in third countries.

Referring to foreign investment, Shri Dasmunshi said India looked forward to a larger participation by Korean companies in India particularly in exportoriented industries and areas of high technology. While in recent years there had been a marked rise in foreign collabo-
<pg-199>

rations and inflow of foreign investment, the progress of Indo-Korean collaborations had been relatively slow since the first such collaboration took shape in 1982.

The Minister observed as a fellow developing Asian country, India had particular interest in expanding trade and economic relations with Korea and said the present environment within India and Korea was highly conducive to promoting closer economic and commercial ties between the two countries. The Government's timely policy initiatives had mitigated the impact of the drought, while a series of policy measures had led to a marked increase in exports in 1987-88,

The Indian delegation at the JBC meeting is being led by Shri Rohit Mehta, President, FICCI, with Dr. D. C. Kothari, Chairman, Indian Section of the India-Korea JBC as Co-leader. The South Korean delegation consisting of 29 businessmen is led by Mr. Rhee Suk-Hi, Acting Chairman, Korea-India Joint Business Council. The deliberations will cover the entire gamut of Indo-Korean bilateral economic relations and its future development.

REA USA INDIA RUSSIA LATVIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jun 02, 1988

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Indian Peace Keeping Force Contingent Leaves Trincomalee

The following is the text of a press release issued in Madras on Jun 07, 1988 on return of IPKF Contingent:

A contingent of the Indian Peace Keeping Force which is not required operationally, in view of the ground situation, left for India, today, from Trincomalee. The contingent included engineering equipment, BMPs, Armoured Personnel Carriers, guns and equipment besides personnel.

Today's return of the IPKF contingent back home, is part of the on-going process of constant reappraisal of operational requirements to implement the Indo-Sri Lanka accord.

Shri J. N. Dixit, Indian High Commissioner in Colombo specially flew in for the occasion to bid good-bye to the IPKF contingent. Lt. Gen. A. S. Kalkat, GOC, Indian Peace Keeping Force was present at Trincomalee jetty from where the Indian troops embarked the vessels 'VISHWA VIKRAM' and 'KONKON SEWAK'. Addressing the home-bound Indian troops, Lt. Gen. Kalkat said: "You have served with honour and distinction, and, successfully fulfilled the mission assigned to you".
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I LANKA INDIA MALDIVES CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 07, 1988

Volume No

1995

TURKEY

Cultural Exchange Programme with Turkey

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 08, 1988 on the signing of a Cultural Exchange Programme with Turkey:

A Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Turkey was signed at Ankara on Friday last. The programme was signed by Shri Manmohan Singh, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Pulat Tacar, Director General of Cultural Affairs on behalf of Turkish Governmnet. This is the fifth Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Turkey and it envisages exchange of expertise in the field of 'education,

science, art, culture, youth and sports and exchange of Radio and Television programmes between the two countries.

The highlights of the fresh agreement between the two countries envisages that both sides will allot four research scholarships of eight months duration each and the two countries will exchange two university teachers in the fields relating to Engineering and Technology. A chair of Turkish studies will be established at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, and the Indian side will provide a visiting scholar for teaching Sanskrit at the Ankara University. It was also agreed that both sides will exchange dance ensembles consisting of about 20 persons. Apart from this, both sides will organise film weeks in each others countries. The two countries will exchange delegations of five students between 12-15 years of age, and they will also encourage cooperation in the fields of sports, physical education and training.

RKEY INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

HIL's First Exploratory Oil Well in Vietnam by 1989

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 12, 1988 on HIL's first exploratory oil well in Vietnam:

Hydrocarbons India Limited (HIL), an ONGC subsidiary, engaged in overseas oil exploration operations expects to drill its first exploratory well in Vietnam in 1989.

HIL recently signed in Hanoi, a production sharing contract with the Vietnam Oil and Gas Company (Petrovietnam). The contract was signed by Major-General S. C. N. Jatar, Chairman and Managing Director of HIL and Mr. Truong Thien, Chairman, Petrovietnam.

A team of HIL is already in Ho Chi Minh City to collect available seismic data to work out a programme and expects to start its own detailed seismic surveys early next year.

The total exploration area covered is about 14,160 sq. kilometres in Nambo Sea Shelf in Southern Continent Shelf of Viet
<pg-201>

nam. HIL is to carry out seismic surveys of approximately 6,000 line-kilometres and drill two exploratory wells over a period of four years.

The present contract covers the first phase of four years for exploration but, in the event o an oil discovery, it is likely to be extended up to 25 years.

On the commercial discovery of oil, the exploration costs of HIL are recoverable from the oil produced and the balance oil will be shared between the two companies in varying proportions depending upon the available quantities.

HIL's investment for exploration work is estimated to be about 25 million dollars. This is the first time that an Indian exploration company has ventured abroad, taking full exploration risk.

The contract has a special provision for training Vietnamese personnel in various disciplines of oil industry. Training in upstream petroleum activities would be carried out in the Institutes of ONGC while Engineers India Ltd. will take care of training in downstream petroleum activities. Indian Oil Corporation is entrusted with the task of training in marketing.

The contract follows the economic cooperation protocol signed by the two countries in January 1987.

The HIL-Petrovietnam contract, apart from being the first major South-South collaborative venture in the petroleum sector between two developing countries, is also the first petroleum contract approved by Vietnam Government under their new foreign investment law.

ETNAM INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TOTO USA

Date : Jun 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

YUGOSLAVIA

Indo-Yugoslav Protocol on Trade and Economic Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 21, 1988 on Indo-Yugoslav Protocol on Trade on Economic Cooperation:

India and Yugoslavia have agreed to raise the level of bilateral trade turnover to US $ 250 million in 1988 on a balanced basis. during 1987, bilateral trade amounted to around US $ 200 million. Both sides have also agreed on a series of measures to attain the increased level of trade turnover. It has been agreed to take steps to promote growth of trade through the linked deal mechanism. Under this mechanism, Yugoslavia has agreed to import consumer goods worth US $ 25 million from India, in 1988 while India has indicated that public sector organisations here will make their imports from Yugoslavia through this mechanism. Both sides will encourage the volume of bilateral trade through trade flows taking place outside the link deal mechanism also.

Long term contracts are also likely to be concluded in due course on several items of interest to India and Yugoslavia. These may include import of petrochemicals, newsprint, rails and steel & steel products by India and export of coffee, machine tools, automotive components, leather goods, Maruti cars and vehicles, iron ore and pellets, manganese ore, bauxite and entertainment electronics to Yugoslavia. India's total exports to Yugoslavia in 1987 were around $ 66 million.

This is indicated in the Protocol which was signed here today at the conclusion of the 17th Session of the Indo-Yugoslav Joint Committee for Economic Coopera-
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tion (17-21 June, 1988). The Commerce and Finance Minister, Shri N. D. Tiwari, who led the Indian delegation to the session, signed on behalf of India while Dr. R. Knotic, Member of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia and Co-Chairman of the Indo-Yugoslav Joint Committee signed on behalf of Yugoslavia.

The two sides have reviewed the existing link deal arrangement which was signed by the two countries in 1984 and have agreed that in view of the mutually beneficial results attained during this period the arrangement may be extended for a period of 2 years beyond 30th September, 1988. It has been agreed that the list of commodities to be exchanged under this arrangement would include the basket of commodities exchanged earlier and all other items as may be mutually agreed upon by the State Trading Corporation (STC), the nodal agency on the Indian side and the Yugoslav Chamber of Economy.

Shri Tiwari said the Agreement signed today reflected a commitment on both sides to ensure that while planning for growth in bilateral trade, efforts would jointly be made to see that it increases on a balanced basis.

In the, field of industrial cooperation the two sides have agreed to further mutual cooperation in diverse fields including energy and power projects, agricultural machinery, agro-complexes, food

processing industries, machine tools and hand tools, railways, shipbuilding, electronics and telecommunications. Cooperation possibilities for industrial and power projects both in Yugoslavia and third countries are being explored. India also proposes to hold an exclusive electronics exhibition in Yugoslavia and has offered reciprocal facilities for Yugoslav organisations.

It has been agreed that the next ministerial meeting under the Tripartite Agreement between India, Yugoslavia and Egypt would be held as early as possible so as to strengthen its application for industrial and techhnical cooperation.

An agreement for the offer of US $ 50 million credit from the Yugoslav Bank of International Economic Cooperation to the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) had been signed in April, 1987. The two sides have agreed now to set up a mechanism for exchange of information about suitable projects through exchange of business delegations etc. so that utilisation of the credit could start. It has agreed also that experts from both sides would meet shortly to decide on the issues relating to the draft of the Bilateral Shipping Agreement submitted by the Yugoslav side in March, 1988, and also that outstanding issues would speedily be resolved through discussions between the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and its Yugoslav counterpart.

The two sides have agreed to hold the next round of discussions on the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement shortly with a view to concluding the final Agreement by the third quarter of 1988.

Bilateral cooperation in the fields of tourism and scientific and technical cooperation will also be intensified.
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GOSLAVIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC EGYPT

Date : Jun 21, 1988

July

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Date : Jul 01, 1988

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1995

EUROPEAN ECONOMICC COMMUNITY

Indo-EEC Cooperation Programme in Industry and Energy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 02, 1988 on Indo-EEC Cooperation programme in Industry and Energy:

India and EEC have agreed to set up a joint EEC-India Energy Management Centre with a view to strengthening Cooperation in the field of Energy Management. This was decided in a meeting held

recently at Brussels between the Union Minister of State for Industrial Development, Shri M. Arunachalam and EEC Commissioner Mr. Claude Cheysson during the Minister's tour.

It was also agreed to set up an Energy Bust Programme. Experts from India and EEC have already visited and both sthese schemes in the energy sector would be implemented soon.

During dissussions, it was also agreed that the proposed Technological Information Centre would be structured to further India's objective of ensuring access to Data relating to modern industrial technology available in Europe and elsewhere for dissemination to the public and private sector.

It was also noted with satisfaction that the Commission had initiated necessary preparations for the proposed Software Workshop in Europe to introduce Indian Software companies to European users.

Steps have also been initiated for increasing inter-action between enterprises of India and EEC countries in the field of Machine Tools, Medical and Surgical Equipments.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in various sectors and it was hoped that considering enormous new possibilities existing for mutual cooperation, the present discussions would furthur impetus to Indo-EEC Cooperation in Industrial Sector.

It was agreed to call the next meeting of the Indo-EEC Working Group on Industrial Cooperation by October, 1988.

The purpose of the Minister's visit to the EEC was to give further impetus to Indo-EEC Industrial Cooperation Programme which covers a wide range of areas of mutual cooperation, namely, Industrial Standards, Quality Assurance, Conformance Testing, Electronics, Technological Information Centre, Energy Management Centre and other specific projects.

In the area of Industrial Standards and Quality Assurance, the main thrust of the programme is to place Indian experts for training at Community and Member-States Level and to depute European experts to India to assist in drawing up and implementing Indian Standards. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in relation to industrial standards.

It was agreed that the cooperation in the field of industrial standards is of long range significance in the context of the rapidly industrialising economy in India and the European Community moving towards a single unified market in 1992.
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A INDIA BELGIUM

Date : Jul 02, 1988

Volume No

1995

FINLAND

Increase in Textile Export Quota for Finland

The following is the text of a press release issued in New DOW on Jul 05, 1988 on increase in textile export quota for Finland:

The Government of India and Finland have reached an agreement recently under which export-quota for bed linen meant for Finland have been fixed at 192.5 tonnes for 1988 with a growth rate of 3% per year. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Poornalingam, Director, Ministry of Textiles and Mr. Jorma Jullin, Director, Department of External Relations led the Finnish side.

The first-round of talks which were held between the two sides in April this year, were inconclusive. The second-round of talks took place in Helsinki on June 30, 1988. At the talks, the normal flexibilities provided in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the two countries in 1986, were also agreed upon. MOU provides for a limit of 11 per cent of carry forward, 61% of carry over, swing of 5% and a ceiling of 11% for both carry forward and carry over put together.

The MOU was signed between the two countries for export of textiles in November, 1986. It is valid for a period of five years w.e.f. 1987. Under MOU, three products were to be exported to Finland namely blouses and shirts, socks and winter shirts. For 1987-88, our total textile exports to Finland was of the tune of Rs. 10.33 crores.

NLAND INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 05, 1988

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Indo-Franch Cultural Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 08, 1988 on Indo-French Cultural Exchange Programme:

A new Cultural Exchange Programme between India and France for the years 1988-89 (10th in the series) has been signed here today. Shri Manmohan Singh, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development, and Shri Samuel De Beauvais, Additional Secretary, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Affairs, Government of France signed on behalf of respective Governments.

The Cultural Exchange Programme envisages co-operation between the two countries in the fields of Education & Science, Art & Culture, Social & Human Sciences, Public Administration, Museology, Archives, Archaeology, Literature and Publishing, Radio, Television and Films and Youth and Sports, more particularly through:

(1) establishment of co-operation between universities I institutions of both countries in various fields,
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(2) exchange of experts, scholars, artistes, musicologists and youth delegations;

(3) exchange of books and publications;

(4) holding of exhibitions and book fairs in the two countries;

(5) organising film weeks and, participation in each other's international film festivals; and

(6) offer of scholarships to each other's nationals in different subjects.

The Cultural Exchange Programme also recognises the success achieved by the 'Festival of India' in France which concluded in June, 1986. It also envisages the holding of the 'Festival or France' in India in 1989.

ANCE INDIA USA

Date : Jul 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

India and France to Cooperate in More S & T Areas

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 08, 1988 on Indo-French Cooperation in Science and Technology:

After three days of deliberations, Indo-French Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science & Technology agreed to further extend mutual cooperation in various S&T areas. New areas identified for cooperation are: water treatment; management and engineering; Medical techniques in emergencies and catastrophies; Computer-aided manufacture; Lowcost housing technologies; Biotechnology; Earth Sciences; Materials; and Aerospace engineering.

Dr. Vasant Gowariker, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology signed the Agreed Minutes on behalf of India and Dr. Samuel De Beauvais, Additional Secretary, Directorate General of Cultural, Scientific and Technical Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signed on behalf of France. H.E. Mr. Andre Lewin, Ambassador of France in India was present during the deliberations as well as the signing ceremony.

Earlier in June, 1988, the meetings of the Scientific Council and the Governing Body of the Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR) took place in Paris, in which 14 projects for joint research were approved by the two Governments in 12 thrust areas identified by the Scientific Council.

During deliberations it was agreed that on-going projects as Well as new. proposals would be pre-reviewed by a Consultative Committee consisting of Members of the Scientific Council of IFCPAR and some additional experts if necessary. Their comments would be discussed at the Joint meeting to be convened on the eve of the next meeting of the Scientific Council of IFCPAR scheduled to take place in India during January, 1989. This decision has been taken with a view to sharpen the focus of specific activities in thrust areas of mutual interest for a meaningful cooperation.

The Department of Science & Technology has also, in a major way, strengthened the process for reviewing on-going activities in the areas of science & technology under various international agreements. The review will be done by eminent scientists drawn from research laboratories and institutions. This has been decided with a view to bring about cohesion and objectivity in the implementation of programmes by various implementing agencies.

ANCE INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Jul 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Shri Bhajan Lal's Address at International Cooperative Alliance

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi, on Jul 08, 1988 on Shri Bhajan Lal's address at International Cooperative Alliance:

Agriculture Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal today called upon the developed countries to promote transfer of technology and strengthen trade with developing countries through the international cooperative movement.

The Minister who was addressing the Twenty-ninth Congress of International Cooperative Alliance in Stockholm said that India on its part would be happy to share its knowledge and experience with cooperators in all developing countries whether they be in Asia, Africa, Latin America or West Asia.

Shri Bhajan Lal is a Special Invitee to the ICA Congress which represents national cooperative organisations throughout the world.

Stating that India attached great importance to the cooperative movement, Shri Bhajan Lal told cooperative leaders from all over the globe that the already strong movement was being further consolidated and strengthened to particularly benefit weaker sections of the society.

COOPS TAKE RAPID STRIDES IN INDIA

Drawing attention to the rapid strides cooperative movement had taken in India, the Agriculture Minister said that in the 40 years of country's independence the number of cooperatives had gone up from 1,80,000 in 1950-51 to 3,15,000 at present. The total membership of cooperatives had swelled to 150 million and the membership of rural cooperatives itself had shot up from 4.4 million to 70 million.

Referring to the vast reach and scope of cooperative activities, the Minister said that today the cooperatives were advancing Rs. 32 billion as agricultural credit and were marketing agricultural produce worth over Rs. 40 billion.

COOPS IN KEY ECONOMIC AREAS

The cooperatives, Shri Bhajan Lal said, were producing 4.8 million tonnes of sugar constituting 56 per cent of the country's sugar production. The cooperative sector fertiliser plants produced 3.2 million tonnes of fertiliser which was 18 per cent of the total fertiliser production. The cooperatives distributed in all 3.1 million tonnes of nutrients accounting for 35 per cent of the production.

The Minister said that cooperatives under Operation Flood were a success story all over and impressive progress had been made in handlooms, fisheries, poultry, horticulture and food processing.

Shri Bhajan Lal particularly mentioned the achievements of women cooperatives in several spheres and stressed the need to strengthen them, seeing that women constituted half the world population.

SOCIAL PURPOSE INSTRUMENT

Recalling that India's first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru wanted to convulse the country with the cooperative movement and that the late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi recognised it as potentially the most powerful instrument of social purpose, Shri Bhajan Lal quoted from Rig Veda - "Let us move together, speak with one voice and let our thoughts be similar." That indeed was the essence of cooperation, he added.
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DIA SWEDEN USA

Date : Jul 08, 1988

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1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

World Cautioned Against Declining Food Production

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 12, 1988 on declining food Production in the world:

India today cautioned world nations against the serious setback in food production with cereal production, falling below consumption for the first time in four years and urged them to come together to tackle the problem of food faced by millions around the globe.

The warning came in India's statement before the Food and Agriculture Organisation Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok through Agriculture Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal who is leading the Indian delegation to the Conference.

Stating that many developed and lowincome countries were facing foodgrain shortage following decline in world agriculture production, Shri Bhajan Lal said that although FAO had forecast better' foodgrains availability this year, the gravity of the situation could not be overlooked because another bad year would have grave repercussions.

Urging mutual cooperation between nations, the Minister said that experiences should be shared to make optimal use of natural resources which needed to be conserved for posterity. India, he said, would be happy to share its experience in the development process.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION IN FOOD PRODUCTION

Recalling India's contribution in agriculture and food production in the region, Shri Bhajan Lal said that with only 2.5 per cent of world's cultivable land and 15 per cent of world population, India had boosted its agricultural growth rate from a mere 0.3 per cent in pre-independence years to 3.5 per cent after 1977.

Productivity had doubled, wheat production had increased seven times and rice production had gone up three-fold, the Minister added. Impressive increases had also been recorded in production of milk, eggs and other commodities.

CENTURY'S WORST DROUGHT

Recalling the country's worst drought of the century last year, the Indian Agriculture Minister said that despite the calamity, dip in foodgrains production had been restricted to only 4.2 per cent which established the resilience of its agriculture to face such onslaughts.

The country-wide drought was managed through an integrated strategy evolved by the Central Government and over-seen by Cabinet Committee headed by Prime Minister himself. The States had been extended financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 14.5 billion apart from what the States provided from their own resources. As a result not a single starvation death had occurred, the Minister said.

SPECIAL FOODGRAINS PRODUCTION PROGRAMME

Shri Bhajan Lal said that to make up the shortfall in foodgrains production due to consecutive droughts, a special Foodgrains Production Programme had been launched to achieve a production of 166 million tonnes this year and 175 million tonnes by 1989-90. It was estimated that the country's foodgrains requirements will go upto 240 million tonnes by the turn of the century and India was making all out efforts to meet the target.

The Minister said that for the Special Foodgrains Production Programme 169 districts in 14 States had been selected to increase productivity and production of five focus crops - wheat, rice, maize, arhar and gram. To boost production a subsidy of Rs. 900 million would be available to small and marginal farmers for
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drilling 600,000 new wells and tubewells. Besides, 1 million new wells would be provided free of cost to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes farmers living below the poverty line.

Shri Bhajan Lal enumerated the various measures aimed to provide a thrust to agricultural production and said that the financial outlay for agriculture and irrigation had been enhanced by 40 per cent in the Union budget. The price of urea had been reduced by 7.5 per cent, interest on agricultural loans had been reduced and additional institutional credit of Rs. 30 billion had been made available to the agricultural sector.

COVERING PRODUCTION RISK

The Minister referred to the crop insurance scheme covering paddy, wheat, pulses, oilseeds and coarse grains so far to underwrite production risks and said that in the last two years Rs. 2.6 billion had been paid to meet claims of farmers.

To ensure that farmers got better prices for their produce, a pilot scheme was being launched to offer them soft loans against pledged produce which they could store in their barns to be sold when it would fetch good price. As it were, the Government had been continuously increasing the minimum support prices of various commodities.

The Minister said that FAO was the only world Organisation concerned with food and agriculture and 'expressed the hope that its regional body would provide a new thrust to the joint efforts of nations to ensure a better future in terms of food availability.

DIA USA LATVIA

Date : Jul 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Shooting Down of Iran Air Airbus

The following is the text of the message dated July 4, 1988 from the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi to His Excellency Mr. Mir Hossein Moussavi, Prime Minister of Iran, on the shooting down of an Iran Air Airbus by US forces in the Gulf on Jul 03, 1988:

I am deeply distressed to learn about the shooting down by the United States Armed Forces of a civilian Iran Air Aircraft over the straits of Hormuz resulting in the tragic loss of a large number of innocent lives. The Government and people of India join me in conveying heartfelt sympathies to the families of the bereaved. May they have the strength and fortitude to bear this tragic loss.

We have consistently maintained that great power naval presences in the Gulf are aggravating tension in the region and we had called for the utmost restraint on the part of all concerned. The act of violence perpetrated yesterday demonstrates only too clearly that peace in the region must be restored speedily through a process of negotiation which takes into account the legitimate interests of all parties and not through futile resort to force.
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AN USA INDIA

Date : Jul 03, 1988

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Iran

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi On Jul 04, 1988:
The Government of India deplore the shooting down of an Iranian civilian aircraft by United States Armed Forces over the Straits of Hormuz; on July 3. The use of military force against clearly civilian targets is unjustified and has led to the tragic loss of large number of innocent lives.

Among the bereaved are some Indian families. The Government conveys its fullest sympathy to all bereaved families. The US Administration is urged to thoroughly investigate the circumstances of the military acton and to speedily identify those responsible for it.

Government have consistently maintained that Great Power naval presences in the Gulf are aggravating tension in the region and have accordingly urged the utmost restraint by all concerned. The act of violence perpetrated yesterday has demonstrated only too clearly that the peace in the region must be restored speedily by a process of negotiation which takes into account the legitimate interests of all parties, not through futile resort to force.

A message from the Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Iran has been released separately.

AN INDIA USA

Date : Jul 04, 1988

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Fiji

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 07, 1988:

India deeply regrets the promulgation of the Internal Security Decree by Fiji which has been given retrospective effect from 1st March 1988. It gives extraordinary powers to the Minister for Internal Security and provides for very harsh, indeed, draconian measures. While the ostensible reason for the Decree is the seizure of illegal arms in Fiji, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the real motivation is political and that its provisions are likely to be used against the people of Indian

origin as already evident from the individuals taken into preventive detention. The need in Fiji is for national reconciliation and the promotion of harmony between the different ethnic groups in the interests of stability, peace and progress. The Decree should be rescinded, the political detainees released and civil liberty and democratic rights of all Fijians fully restored.

JI INDIA USA

Date : Jul 07, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lanka

In response to a query, the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs made the following statement in New Delhi on Jul 12, 1988:

It is regrettable that the LTTE have chosen not to respond positively despite the earnest endeavours being made by the Government of India to invite them back to the process of the democratic politics. The Government of India will continue. its various efforts in persuading them. The Government of India remains fully committed to implementing the Accord as it provides a fair and lasting basis for bringing about peace and normalcy to Sri Lanka.
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I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Jul 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Kampuchea

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 16, 1988:

A meeting of Senior Officials from selected Non-aligned countries was held in New Delhi on 15th - 16th July 1988 to consider a possible Non-aligned Initiative for resolving the Kampuchean question. The initiative for this Meeting was taken by the Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

The following countries participated in this Meeting:
(1) Cuba
(2) India
(3) Indonesia
(4) Vietnam
(5) Zimbabwe

It was chaired by H.E. Dr. E. K. Mashingaidze, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe.

This was an exploratory Meting to suggest possible ways for finding an end to the conflict in Kampuchea. After a comprehensive exchange of views, the Meeting recommended that the Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement might send a Special Envoy to get in touch with the four Kampuchean factions to obtain their views on the possible settlement. This Nonaligned Meeting is complementary to the Jakarta Informal Meeting which will take place on 25th July, 1988.

It was decided to hold a Second Meeting of Senior Officials from the selected Non-aligned countries in Harare tentatively on 10th August, 1988. That Meeting will be held in order to continue exchanging views for making recommendations on the future course of action for finding a politically negotiated settlement of the Kampuchean question, including the possibility of holding a Ministerial Meeting for this purpose.

DIA ZIMBABWE CUBA INDONESIA VIETNAM USA

Date : Jul 16, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Iran-Iraq War

The following is the. text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Afftirs in New Delhi on Jul 18, 1988:

We greatly welcome the reported news that Iran has found it possible to accept the Security Council Resolution 598. We hope and pray this would pave the way for a cease-fire and a lasting peace in the area. We wish the U.N. Secretary General all success in his endeavour.

AN IRAQ INDIA

Date : Jul 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

China

In response to a query from the press the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs made the following statement in New Delhi on Jul 29, 1988:

It is Government's policy to strive for a peaceful settlement of all outstanding questions with China and to resolve disputes through peaceful negotiations. In this connection contacts at the political level and talks at the official level are not mutually exclusive. Political level contacts with China have taken place from time to time. Eight rounds of official level talks have also been held. The dialogue is an ongoing one. Existing initiatives are continuing and a fresh initiative would depend on their outcome.
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INA INDIA USA

Date : Jul 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S TOUR ABROAD

President's Banquet Speech in Moscow

The President, Shri R. Venkataraman, made the following speech at the banquet hosted in his honour at Moscow on Jul 06, 1988 by His Excellency Mr. A. Gromyko, President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

My wife and I are deeply touched by your affectionate welcome and by the warmth of your hospitality. I bring to you and through you to the Soviet people the greetings of 800 million people of India. On their behalf I thank you for the kind words and sentiments you have expressed about my country and people.

It is always a pleasure for me to be in Moscow and to enjoy the splendour of the. city and the friendliness of its people. This is not my first visit to this beautiful city and to this great country. I have been here on a number of occasions. Each time that I have come, I have been overwhelmed by the magnitude of the Soviet Union's progress and its statesmanship. Our discussions today have been characterised by sincerity and understanding, and were held in a very cordial atmosphere characteristic of the relations between our two countries.

Every highlevel visit exchanged between our two countries represents a milestone and further strengthens our friendship. Our relations have steadily and rapidly developed and deepened over the decades. This is a remarkable phenomenon, perhaps without precedent in relations between two great countries subscribing to different political and social systems. This should, however, not come as a surprise because our two countries have a common objective of peace in the world, based on traditions which have their roots in the development of material and spiritual resources within. We have shared history and are confident of sharing our future.

INDO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP

Equality, mutual benefit, mutual respect, concern for each other's interests are the hallmarks of our relationship. The Indo-Soviet Treaty of 1971, in the conclusion of which you, Mr. President, played a prominent role, market the consolidation of our friendship. Our relations have now acquired a new dimension. The political understanding between our countries has deepened further, following the conclusion of the Delhi Declaration. This has found expression in a remarkable increase in the exchange of visits at the highest levels. The excellent rapport between the political leaders has permeated all levels and has received

strong and active support from contacts at the people's level.

Among these contacts, the yearlong-Festivals of India and the Soviet Union occupy a special place. They are unique events that will remain indelible landmarks in the history of Indo-Soviet friendship, They have brought millions of people in both the countries closer and given an impetus to all-round cooperation between our two countries. New vistas of cooperation have opened in science and technology, and innovative forms of economic cooperation have been envisaged that promise to raise our economic exchanges to unprecedented heights. The perestroika in your country is bringing about fresh and exciting changes in the economy, in the social and political processes in your country and in their external manifestations. We in India wish your initiatives every success.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The growing arsenals of infinitely dangerous weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, have made disarmament the concern of the entire world community. With the signing of the INF,
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Treaty between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan in Washington last December and its recent ratification, the nuclear disarmament debate has achieved an important breakthrough. We have moved from mere measures to regulate the growth of nuclear weapons to actually destroying weapons, in other words from arms control to actual disarmament. Though the INF Treaty covers only a small fraction of the nuclear weaponry in the world, it may open the way for verification procedures which would be of relevance for subsequent larger steps towards nuclear disarmament.

It is unfortunate that the proposal for a 50% reduction of strategic nuclear weapons could not be realised. It is nevertheless a good sign that the dialogue continues. India fully supports all these efforts and is determined to continue to work for achieving the goal of complete and universal nuclear disarmament. We have been making our contribution in this regard in the nonaligned movement within the framework of the Group of Six, at the UN and in other world bodies.

The Delhi declaration on Principles of a Nuclear Weapon-Free and Non-violent World remains our guiding principle. It embodies not only the hopes and aspirations of our two countries but of all humankind. It is heartening to see that with the passage of time more and more countries are accepting the validity and viability of ideas contained in this historic document.

We have to conceptualise, develop and propagate the frame-work of the postnuclear world. From the recently concluded Third Special

session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament very valuable ideas emerged in this regard. it is now for the world community as a whole to think how the goal of entering the 21st century without nuclear weapons is to be realized.

'Regional' conflicts continue to rage throughout the world. Though 'regional' in a technical sense, they are nonetheless of global significance in this inter-dependent world of ours. A serious beginning to end some of these conflicts has however been made.

AFGHANISTAN

The Geneva Agreement on Afghanistan is a historic document that provides a reasonable framework for the return of peace to that troubled land and our common neighbour. Moreover, it strengthens the credibility of the United Nations' role as a peace-keeping organisation. It is regrettable that some of the parties are ignoring both the letter and the spirit of the Geneva Agreements. What Afghanistan needs, above all, is peace and non-interference from outside, so that the Afghan people can themselves resolve their internal issues and decide their destiny. Of course, Afghanistan also needs the sympathy and assistance of the international community to resettle the millions of refugees who have started returning to their homes.

In pursuit of short-term, often selfish interests, one should not forget the huimanitarian and human aspects of the problem. India is ready to make its contribution, both bilaterally and multilaterally to this effort. Afghanistan is our neighbour and we cannot be indifferent to what happens there, particularly as developments in Afghanistan directly affect India's security.

PAKISTAN

India's keen desire to have friendly and good neighbourly ties with Pakistan is well known and India has taken a number of initiatives in this regard. However, these sentiments have not been reciprocated by the Government of Pakistan as reflected in their involvement with terrorists activities directed against us. This along with a number of other negative actions taken by Pakistan such as their clandestine nuclear weapons programme have thwarted the process of normalisation of relations between the two countries.
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INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS

South Asia is our home. Geography, history, culture and tradition have ordained for the peoples of the region and an inescapable intertwined destiny. We have inherited a troubled and complex legacy from colonial times. We have to rise above narrow interests and artificial barriers so that the countries of the

region are left free to work out their own future amongst themselves without outside interference. It is in this spirit that we are conducting a dailogue with our neighbours no matter how difficult and slow the process may be. It is in the same spirit that India and Sri Lanka signed an agreement just under a year ago in an attempt to bring to an end the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. The countries of the region are cooperating within the framework of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) whose guiding motto is collective self-reliance.

The 20th century has been unique. it has witnessed the emergence of a large number of independent countries, emphasised their inter-dependence and ushered in great scientific and technological achievements, revolutions in communications and transport. These have brought in their wake, an imperative demand for democratisation in inter-State relations. The situation in the world today has become so complex that the hundreds of years of mankind's experience of diplomatic practice and inter-State relationships do not provide ready answers. Political thinking has to keep pace with the changed situation. It has been rightly said that war is made in the minds of men. Peace too is made in the minds of men. And in their hearts. It is upto the present generation to ensure the future safety of our world, and to preserve for the succeeding future generations the thousands of years of civilisation we have inherited and built upon.

On occasions like this, one seeks inspiration from the thoughts of men who have earned the epithet of 'great' because of their ideas and vision. We seek inspiration today from the ideas of Marx and Mahatma Gandhi, Lenin and Jawaharlal Nehru and from their humanistic ideals and values. The moral and ethical teachings of the world's philosophers and leaders who have guided our thinking for centuries, must now become an important unifying factor rather than a divisive one. The need of the hour is for bold, innovative and new thinking and a new moral paradigm in inter-State relations.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Indo-Soviet relations rest on the solid foundation of shared values. Our two countries are interested in the quest for a peaceful and secure world, and in creating conditions for the development of their material and spiritual needs. There is no doubt that a bright future awaits our relations, based on the firm foundation that, preceding generations have built.

I would request you to raise your glasses in a toast to the vision; to the evergrowing friendship between our two peoples; to the further advancement and prosperity for the great Soviet people; and to the health and well-being of your Excellency and Madame Gromyko.

Date : Jul 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S TOUR ABROAD

President's Speech at the Closing Event of Festival of India inUSSR

The President, Shri R. Venkataraman made the following speech at Moscow on Jul 08, 1988 on the occasion of the closing event of the Festival of India in USSR:

We have gathered here today to mark the culmination of a great and historic venture, of a voyage of discovery, of understanding and friendship.

India and the Soviet Union have had many fruitful partnerships in the past. But in the Festival of India in the USSR and the Festival of USSR in India, the part
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nership has been altogether unique: The common men, women and children of our great lands have journeyed across thousands of miles, in this unique partnership and have come to each other's doors, to be welcomed and befriended. The Festival of India in the USSR which comes to a close today, has traversed the length and breadth of the Soviet Union, giving to the people. of this country, the many-splendoured images of India: India in her great variety and versatility, in the ripeness of her ancient wisdom and in the verve of her eternal youth.

A year ago, General Secretary, Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi sprinkled the waters of the sacred Ganga and the mighty Volga over a sapling jointly planted by them in the Kremlin. That young tree represents our common desire to strengthen further the bonds that have linked your country with ours. The waters of the two great rivers symbolize the selfrenewing energy of our two civilizations.

History has been witness to many manifestations of this energy.

Even before the inauguration of the Christian Era, the people of our countries had forged vital links: links which brought to each other, products of their hands, their minds - and their very souls. Excavations in Uzbekistan and Tadjikistan have uncovered the remains of Buddhist stupas, statuary and paintings, which represent a harmonious synthesis of India and local artistic

traditions and perceptions. Individual travels such as that of Afanasy Nikitin, who came to India in the 15th Century, helped to keep our perceptions of each other perpetually fresh. In the 17th and 18th centuries. Indian settlers came to Trans-Caucasia, as evidenced by the Indian Temple near Baku in Azerbaijan. And of course, there were trade links. What your great writer Pushkin has described as "the noble promptings of the Spirit" inspired distinguished Russians to attempt translations of great specimens of Indian literature - of the Bhagavad Gita in the 18th Century, followed by that of Kalidasa's Sikuntalam.

Simultaneously, Russia's great minds began to interest and influence the best of India's minds. Engaged as he then was in an inner and outer turmoil, Mahatma Gandhi found in the works of Leo Tolstoy a perception of epic importance. Replying to letters from Gaindhiji, Tolstoy offered his unstinted moral support to the causes held dear by Mahatma Gandhi who, in token of admiration, named his Ashram. in South Africa, "Tolstoy Farm".

The influence of that immortal son of your, V. I. Lenin, on our freedom fighters was similarly momentous. As I said in my speech of welcome to General Secretary Gorbachev in the Central Hall of Parliament in New Delhi in November, 1986, our admiration for the Soviet people reached its peak at the time of the Great October Revolution of 1917. Poet Rabindranath Tagore termed your Revolution "a new era". Almost at the same time, our Tamil poet Subramanya. Bharati wrote a poem in which he described the Russian Revolution as "a new civilization".

Our beloved leader Jawaharlal Nehru visited the Soviet Union in 1927 for the decennial celebrations of the Revolution and came back profoundly impressed with Soviet planning. In a book he wrote then, Nehru spoke with great feelings of the Soviet Union as "the country of the hammer and sickle, where workers and peasants sit on the thrones of the mighty." It is to Nehru's introduction to the planning process in Soviet Russia, that we owe our methodology of planned economic development.

Our ties came to be cemented firmly during the Prime Ministerships; of the late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and the late Smt. Indira Gandhi.

The idea of offering to our friends overseas a glimpse of the cultural heritage of India through Festivals, originated with Smt. Indira Gandhi. It would have given her great satisfaction to know that for 12 months India brought to the Soviet people not only in Moscow and the other major cities, but also to people in remote
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parts of your great and friendly country, a glimpse of the best we have in our traditions in the fields of music, dance and theatre. Several events have sought to involve children; others

were of special interest to women. Exhibitions on themes ranging from architecture to the bounty of nature, on science and technology, and seminars among leading scholars from both countries, have helped build a greater rapport between our peoples in different walks of life.

We have been heartened by the response that our artistes have got. For many of them the visit to the Soviet Union has been a voyage of discovery, both personal and professional. One thousand eight hundred performing artistes, twenty major exhibitions and eighty feature films and numerous conferences and seminars have toured your country.

Likewise, we in India have opened our doors - and our hearts - to the splendid array of Soviet representations during the Festival of USSR in India. Your Bolshoi ballets, the Moiseev Ensemble, the Hermitage treasures and the circusm to mention just a few, have entranced us. Wherever your artistes have travelled in India they have been greeted with tremendous cheers and ovation and treated like kindred souls.

While, therefore, it is true that the Festival of India draws to a close today, and the Festival of USSR in India will end in November this year, Festivals can never terminate. They mark the ending of one season and the beginning of another, in the continuous procession of time. The new season that our two Festivals mark is a season of renewed cooperation in the many new areas which have opened up before us. Many people have already begun to explore opportunities for deepening our cultural and commercial exchanges.. A number of joint ventures and productions in the field of music, dance and theatre have emanated. These will, doubtless, be pursued.

May I, on behalf of the Government and the people of India thank the Government and the people of the Soviet Union for their warm and generous response to the Festival of India. If our Festival here and your Festival in India have succeeded in enriching understanding between our peoples at the human level, at the intellectual level, and between Governments at the political level, we would have truly achieved the objective which we set for ourselves when we launched on these splendid reciprocal initiatives.

Let us recall, on this occasion, the Delhi Declaration signed in November 1986 by General Secretary Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi which reinforced the spirit of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed in 1971 by the two Nations. May India and USSR march on, in the spirit of that Declaration, to achieve what our ancient text, the Rigveda enjoins us to;

Meet to-gether, talk to-gether;

May your minds comprehend alike

Common be your action and achievement:

Common be your thoughts and intensions:

Common be the wishes of your hearts ...

So there may be thorough communion among you.
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DIA USA RUSSIA UZBEKISTAN AZERBAIJAN SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Jul 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S TOUR ABROAD

President's Speech at the Unveiling of Mahatma Gandhi's Statuein Moscow

The President, Shri R. Venkataraman made the following speech at the unveiling of the Mahatma Gandhi statue at Moscow on Jul 08, 1988:

I bring to you the warm greetings of the-people of India on this memorable occasion of the unveiling of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. It is indeed a fitting finale to the year-long Festival of India in the Soviet Union.

The people of India cherish the memory of Mahatma Gandhi as the Father of the Nation. He was not merely the leader of our struggle for freedom but he was the leader of social changes which transformed India from a medieval society into a modern one.

His teachings on the equality of man, religious tolerance, adherence to truth and non-violence and on freedom of thought and expression at once lifted him from a mere mortal to the level of sage and saint. His exhortations for a higher quality of life did not confine themselves to the narrow limits of his own country, or his own times. He stood for universal brotherhood and for a life of Peace and Harmony among the nations of the world. He inspired and led three Revolutions in our own life time - a revolt against Racialism, a crusade against Colonialism and a campaign against Violence. Gandhiji lived to see the success of his first two revolutions, namely, the revolt against Racialism and the crusade against Colonialism but before he could achieve

the third, namely, his campaign against Violence, he became the victim of violence at the hands of a religious fanatic. In his martyrdom, Gandhiji is now regarded as the apostle of non-violence and an angel of Peace. But the movement against violence is still on and nations are trying hard to grapple with the monster of terrorism.
The doctrine of Ahimsa or non-violence propounded by Gandhiji has national and international relevance.

In its application to internal conditions in India, Gandhiji stood against all forms of discrimination. Gandhiji considered untouchability as a curse and fought relentlessly for its eradication. No person could become a member of the Indian Congress unless he abjured untouchability. He fought for equal rights of worship in temples to the untouchables and succeeded in throwing open temples to them.

Gandhiji's movement for freedom contributed to the emancipation of women who during his days were under severe social disabilities.

When a large, number of women joined the freedom struggle, faced the Imperialists' violence and went to jail, their place in society and in their future participation in Government was assured. No wonder that when India became independent a number of women filled the offices of Ministers, Ambassadors, Legislators and so on.

Gandhiji had a unique concept of capitalists. He said that they were not the owners of all the wealth but only trustees for those who helped them to acquire it ' namely, for the society at large. He was against the exploitation of Man by Man and championed the cause of labour. He organised the earliest Textile Labour Union and guided labour in the path of the peaceful settlement of industrial disputes.

In short, he preached the gospel of love between man and man. In this, Gandhiji was profoundly influenced by the philosophy of the immortal Leo Tolstoy. Gandhiji was drawn to Tolstoy's emphasis on the dignity of the human spirit and the superiority of Right over right.

The doctrine of Ahimsa in its external application rests on the abhorrence of war. In an age where nations are arming themselves to the teeth with deadly weapons
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of destruction, Gandhi stands out as a beacon beckoning erring humanity to the right path. Scientists today acknowledge the destructive potential of nuclear weapons and its capacity to destroy the entire human species.

The nuclear arsenals of some of the great powers are capable of

destroying the world .14 times over! There would be no victor nor vanquished, no humans nor life after such a catastrophe.

Gandhi condemned the arms race and the nuclear explosions.

It is in this context that we, people of India, welcome the Delhi Declaration and the constant and consistent efforts made by General Secretary Gorbachev for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The INF Treaty and the further prospects of progress towards nuclear disarmament are hopeful signs in a dismal atmosphere. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi made an impassioned plea at the U.N. for the progressive reduction of nuclear weapons leading to its elimination at the turn of the century. This only shows that though Gandhiji himself is no more, Gandhism lives in our country.

The path of universal brotherhood, of love and peace that Gandhiji taught us, is the path that USSR and India tread together.

SSIA INDIA USA

Date : Jul 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S TOUR ABROAD

President's Banquet Speech at Ulan Bator

The following is the text of the President, Shri R. Venkataraman's speech at a banquet given in his honour by the Mongo lian presidium Chairman, J. Batmunkh in Ulan Bator, on Jul 13, 1988:

My wife and I consider it a great honour to be in your beautiful country. We regard this visit as an opportunity to renew an association that is ages-old.

India and Mongolia have been linked by the closest possible bonds of history. Our arts no less than our cultural and religious traditions have intertwined over the centuries. And so, Your Excellency, we meet today in your land not as strangers but as fellow sons and daughters of Asia.

Even within the few hours of our arrival here, we have obtained many glimpses of the remarkable progress your country has

achieved during the last sixand a half decades. Feudalism and Serfdom have been abolished but, what is more, they have been replaced by a social order in which all the people of your country are provided with an opportunity to lead a life of dignity and comfort. At the same time there is here a sense of continuity.

In a real sense Mongolia represents an equipoise of the past, the present and the future. This is evident in the simplicity of your pastoral life as much as in the vigour of your forward looking industrial initiatives. You respond to the gong of the monastery as well as to the hum of the factories; you are in tune-spontaneously with traditional as well as modern music. Where until not long ago, life harked back to old times, we see today the bustle of activity and progress. Mongolia is, verily, a land of destiny where one of the most ancient homes of Man has transformed itself into a modern nation-state.

The Mongolian State has ensured that its people are provided with the best in terms of education, health and social welfare. The Mongolian State's commitments to the Meals set forth by the architects of the second Socialist State in the world are truly impressive.

This city of Ulan Bator is today a symbol of what the people's will can achieve. A great renewal and change is to be seen here which has brought to the site of an ancient capital the vibrant dynamism of modem times.

The recent history of our two nations have been marked by a profound respect
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for each other and a consciousness of our shared legacies. We in India have viewed with appreciation and empathy, your country's socialist orientation. This is but natural, since India on its part has experienced the depradations of Imperialism and Colonialism and has adopted Socialism as one of its most cherished ideals.

The Indo-Mongolian Joint Declaration of 1973 which resulted from the visit of your former President the late Mr. Yu Tsedenbal, is the historic document on which our bilateral relations are based. India and Mongolia have cooperated in diverse fields, particularly in the agriculture and health sectors with notable success. It is gratifying that efforts continue to widen the scope of our cooperation to newer horizons, especially those in the realm of Science and Technology. New vistas are opening up for a creative interaction between our peoples. I have no doubt Mongolia and India can set an example in the best traditions of South-South cooperation.

Both our countries are aware of the tensions and pressures that

beset our respective regions. It is now clear that the Asian-Pacific region will play an increasingly crucial role in the world of Tomorrow. A new perspective of Asian-Pacific security has recently been elaborated by the Soviet leader Gorbachev. It constitutes a major contribution to building trust, friendship and cooperative interaction between peoples around the world. In the philosophy of Non-alignment and the Bandung principles are to be found similar ingredients of a system of collective security without military alliances. We would also view the ideas recently put forward by Mongolia on concluding a treaty on the non-use of force and nonaggression among Asian and Pacific countries in the same context.

India has striven to promote trust and friendship between neighbours in the subcontinent. We value and fully subscribe to the goals of SAARC.

PAKISTAN

Trust and friendship, however, are not a one way lane. India's keen desire to have friendly and good neighbourly ties with Pakistan has not been reciprocated by the Government of Pakistan, as reflected in its involvement with terrorist activities directed against us. Together with a number of other negative actions including a clandestine nuclear weapons programme Pakistan has thwarted our endeavours towards normalisation of relations.

SRI LANKA

In the case of Sri Lanka, India is firmly resolved to secure the full implementation of the historic agreement of July, 1987, so that a durable solution to the ethnic problem in that beautiful Island is realised.

CHINA

India attaches great importance to improved relations with China. We believe that India and China, which are heirs to great civilizations, can resolve all outstanding issues amicably consistent with our national interests.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would once again like to say how honoured we feel in visiting your great and ancient land. May I now invite you to join me in a toast: to the good health of His Excellency Chairman of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural, Mr. J. Batmunkh and Madame Batmunkh; to the growing cooperation between the governments of India and the Mongolian People's Republic; to friendship between the peoples of India and the Mongolian People's Republic; and to the cause of greater prosperity and goodwill among all peaceloving peoples of the world.

NGOLIA INDIA USA INDONESIA PAKISTAN MALI SRI LANKA CHINA

Date : Jul 13, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S TOUR ABROAD

President's Address at the meeting of Representatives of Mongolian People

The President Shri R. Venkataraman made the following speech at the meeting of representatives of Mongolian people at Ulan Bator on Jul 14, 1988:

My wife and I thank you warmly and sincerely for your kind words welcoming us to your beautiful country and the warm sentiments expressed by you about my country. We also thank you for your gracious hospitality. During this short time we have been able to see this very beautiful city of Ulan Bator, the vigour and elan of your people, the industrialiration on which you have embarked with such success as well as the many significant links of culture and arts that unite both our countries.

Like India, your country has been the crucible of many cultural influences. Your language represents a fine blend of diverse strains such as Turkish on the one hand and Manchu on the other. Even during the 16th century, translation of Buddhist lore into Mongolian had occupied a prominent place in the literary activities of the Mongols. In Ligdan Khan's time, it is recorded that a large group of translators had worked to translate into Mongolian the Buddhist "Tripitaka" a selection of ancient Indian Buddhist sutras comprising more than a 100 volumes. As with language, so also in the realm of ideas, Mongolia has served to unite different traditions. Mongolian literature and thought comprises vital elements of the Buddhist, the Islamic and the Confucian thought. The extremities of your mate contrasts with the equable mellowness of your people's temperament.

The progress Mongolia has made during the past several decades has been truly remarkable. There has been a veritable transformation from feudalism to socialism, from poverty to prosperity, from superstition to science which leaves an indelible impression on any one who has had the opportunity to visit this beautiful land.

In India, too, our struggle for independence was the precursor to

our efforts for self-reliant progress and for social emancipation and to recover for India her traditional, historic, place in the vanguard of human civilisation. Our primary goal has been the rapid eradication of poverty. We have sought to realise the full potential of our human resources while harmonising them with the growth requirements and employment needs of our economy.

We have pursued growth within the framework of two crucial concerns: the freedom of our country and the rights of our people. To this end, we have built strong institutions to guarantee the democratic rights of our citizens and to overcome the many challenges to our independence and integrity.

In the face of efforts from various quarters to undermine the democratic political system of our people, we have remained ever vigilant and have thwarted all such efforts. Our quest for self-reliance in foodgrains has served us well. These four decades have seen India achieve self-sufficiency in food and efficient distribution among the people.

The industrial infrastructure has-also been strengthened. We are now in the frontline of newly independent countries. in the production of basic industrial goods. AM impressive rate of overall growth has, been registered during the present decade.

Not only has there been industrial growth in absolute terms, Indian industry has shown an ability to diversify and to produce goods of considerable sophistication.

We are proud of the cooperation that has been developed between us and many
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countries of Asia and Africa in the construction and management of railways, hospitals, power plants, airports and a variety of small scale industrial plants.

It is gratifying that we are collaborating in the agricultural and health spheres to the common benefit of both people. Indeed earlier today we signed the Indo-Mongolian Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology and also initialled the work-plan under the Indo-Mongolian Protocol on Agricultural Research and Education for the next two 'years. There is much we can learn from each other by sharing our experiences in science, technology and agricultural research.

These agreements will provide the framework for such enhanced cooperation and live up to the guiding principles of the Indo-Mongolian joint declaraion of 1973.

We have realised that peace and stability are the prerequisites to ensure progress and prosperity of the people. We have worked relentlessly during the past forty years in various multilateral

fora such as the United Nations and Nonaligned movement, to eliminate colonialism from the face of the earth and to promote disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

India's desire to seek the end of conflicts goes beyond any particular part of the world. It is a matter of pride for us that our work against the arms race exemplified in the Six Nation Five Continent initiative for peace and disarmament and the New Delhi declaration striving for a nuclear-weapon-free non-violent world, has led to the building up of world opinion in that direction. We have welcomed the recent talks between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. We are conscious of the motivation behind the efforts at securing an early agreement between them on reduction of strategic nuclear weapons.

While the disarmament agreements of these two great nations are most welcome, nuclear disarmament is a global issue and a multilateral approach is necessary to ensure a satisfactory overall solution. It is in this spirit that the Prime Minister of India made a proposal at the third United Nations Special Session on Disarmament for a time bound Action Plan for the elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. India's commitment and efforts for the eradication of inequalities among states and the promotion of a better environment for welfare and prosperity of all people is well known and surpasses narrow regional or subregional parameters.

There is need for greater international cooperation and the strengthening of the international institutional framework which is under pressure. A new structure of international relations must be built, based on respect for political systems based on different ideologies, on the right of each state to pursue the economic system of its choice and the celebration of diversity. This is precisely the viewpoint of the non-aligned movement.

NON-ALIGNMENT

Non-alignment is based on the desire of nations for freedom of action. It stands for national independence and self-reliance. It is a refusal to be drawn into the fruitless rivalries and conflicts of others. It is an affirmation of the need for self-confident cooperation among all countries irrespective of differences in socio-economic systems.

Non-alignment is synonymous with peaceful coexistence. We have noted with appreciation the efforts of your country to adopt this posture in your relations with other countries particularly those in your immediate neighbourhood.

Before I conclude, I would like once again to express my profound thanks to

you, the people of Mongolia, and to your Government, for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to us and to express the hope that we will continue to work together as in the past to increase our mutual cooperation in jointly fighting for a better world.

I now give you the good wishes of the labour force of India and wish you prosperity.

NGOLIA USA INDIA

Date : Jul 14, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech at Amman

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, made the following speech at the State Banquet hosted by His Majesty King Hussein I at Amman on Jul 11, 1988:

My wife and I are touched by the warmth and affection with which we have' been greeted in this historic and beautiful city of Amman. The city and its people truly live up to its ancient name Philadelphia - the city of brotherly love.

A young state in an ancient land, Jordan has been enriched by the heritage of many civilisations. It was somewhere here, in the Jordan Valley, that humankind first abandoned its nomadic life and settled down to cultivate crops. The Dead Sea Scrolls have greatly magnified our knowledge of the early history of this region. The majestic ruins of Petra are a symbol of a rich and diverse past.

Jordan has the unique distinction of being a centre of pilgrimage for three of the world's great religions, which have deeply influenced the development of Indian civilisation.

Jordan straddles the great trade route that once linked Indian and Europe. There has been communication and commerce between our lands long before recorded history. Arabs first settled in India when thousands of years ago, intrepid Arab traders navigated the intervening seas.

Interaction between India and the Arab world contributed significantly to, human knowledge, particularly through science and literature. It was the advent of colonialism that broke a flourishing social, intellectual and commercial relationship.

Jordan and India shook off foreign domination after prolonged struggle. Here, in Jordan, Your Majesty's great-grandfather, Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali, led the Great Arab Revolt of 1916. For his liberation of the Arab lands, a grateful people named him the Grand Saviour. In India, we revere Mahatma Gandhi as the Father of our Nation. He led our struggle for freedom. He taught us that if we wanted independence to endure, we would have to resolutely devote ourselves to the cause of non-violence and peace and the eradication of injustice, oppression and poverty.

We have observed with admiration how under your Majesty's dynamic and enlightened leadership, Jordan is developing rapidly into a modem state. Your people enjoy the fruits of economic progress and scientific advancement.

Over the years, our bilateral relation have acquired depth and maturity. Both Jordan and India have ambitious development programmes that open up significant prospects for enlarged cooperation. We must work towards tapping the full potential. <pg-223>

We have abiding memories of the last visit of Your Majesties to India. It strengthened the bonds of friendship between our two countries. It is gratifying that we have been able to maintain a continuing dialogue on matters of interest and concern. I greatly value our personal friendship.

We have intensified the process of consultation on bilateral, regional and international issues. Our discussions will consolidate our relations further and enrich our political understanding.

NON-ALIGNMENT

Jordan and India share an active and abiding interest in the Nonalined Movement. Nonalignment is based on time-tested principles of peaceful coexistence. It has played a pivotal role in exposing the dangers of an international system based on power blocs and doctrines of deterrence,

Today, the leaders of these same military alliances are beginning to see the futility of their earlier postures based on concepts which the Nonaligned Movement has long opposed. They are moving away from the unbridled hostility of the Cold War. There is, at least, acceptance of the idea of nuclear disarmament. The Nonaligned Movement must note the change in the global political environment and respond to the new opportunities and emerging

challenges.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

We welcome the INF Treaty ratified at the Moscow summit last month by General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan. It is an important step on the road to-disarmament. But it is only a first step, and much more must be done if nuclear disarmament is to make meaningful progress.

At the Third Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament, we put forward a phased, time-bound Action Plan for complete nuclear disarmament. We count on your support for this realistic and feasible programme of action.

PALESTINE

Your Majesty, the situation in West Asia compels attention. The struggle of the brave Palestinian people for their legitimate rights has entered a new and critical phase. Their accumulated anger can no longer be contained. Not all the brutaility and violence unleashed by Israel can crush the Palestinian intifida.

There can be no peace without justice. The illegal occupation of Arab territories must be vacated. The Palestinians have an inalienable right to self-determination. They have a right to their homeland. These rights must be recognised.

India's support for the Palestinian cause is as unstinted, as it has been consistent. We believe that the most viable framework for a just, durable and comprehensive peace settlement is a United Nations sponsored international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

We greatly appreciate Your Majesty's tireless efforts towards bringing about a just and durable settlement in West Asia. It is a tribute to Your Majesty's statesmanship that the idea of the International Conference received its first unanimous endorsement at the Extraordinary Arab Summit in Amman last November.

The Algiers Summit last month further consolidated the gains of Amman. We welcome the unanimous reiteration of Arab moral, political and economic support to the Palestinian struggle and the attainment of its legitimate objectives. An Arab consensus is indispensable to the Palestinian cause.

IRAN-IRAQ WAR

The Iran-Iraq war continues to cause untold suffering. It has taken a heavy toll of the human and material resources
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of two members of the Non-aligned Movement. The escalation of foreign presences and foreign intervention have further aggravated tension in the region. Recent incidents illustrate the growing dangers. This trend must be reversed. The war must be ended. We support the efforts of the United Nations to bring about an early negotiated settlement.

AFGHANISTAN

There have been important developments in our region. The Geneva Accords on Afghanistan are the only basis for peace and stability. But they can succeed only if they are scrupulously observed. Unfortunately, the Accords are not being respected by all parties. Blatant interference from outside continues.

The people of Afghanistan must be left free to determine their future and build a national consensus.

We look forward to the emergence of a united and non-aligned Afghanistan free from foreign interference.

SRI LANKA

The Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement has paved the way for the settlement of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. It has assured the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. It has strengthened security and Non-alignment in the region.

Elsewhere, however, there are disturbing trends. Terrorism in India continues to be actively supported from across our borders. Terrorists are being incited, trained and armed. There is a clandestine nuclear weapons programme which is being condoned by those who should most actively condemn it.

Your Majesty, we place the highest value on this opportunity to renew our dialogue. I have benefitted greatly from our talks. My wife and I have been overwhelmed by your kind and gracious hospitality. We look forward to welcoming Your Majesty and Queen Noor once again in India.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now request you to join me in proposing a toast: to the health and well-being of His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty, Noor-al-Hussein; to the progress and prosperity of the people of Jordan; and to the continuing close friendship between Jordan and India.

RDAN USA INDIA RUSSIA ISRAEL ALGERIA IRAN IRAQ AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND SRI LANKA

Date : Jul 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech in Belgrade

The following is the text of the speech made by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, H. E. Mr. Branko Mikulic in Belgrade on Jul 13, 1988:

My wife and I are delighted to be in Yugoslavia.

There are strong bonds of friendship between our two countries.

These bonds owe much to the farsighted vision of Josip Broz Tito and Jawaharlal Nehru.

Their policy of Non-alignment has become a key factor for peace and stability in a strife-torn world. I feel especially happy to be amidst our Yugoslav friends with whom, arm-in-arm, we have followed the path of Non-alignment.

For President Tito, Indira Gandhi had much admiration and affection. After his passing away, she carried forward into the succeeding era our close and mutually beneficial interaction. We also recall the immense contribution made by Indira Gandhi to strengthening and diversifying the relationship between our two countries and to our work together in international forums.
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I would like to express my deep appreciation to Your Excellency for your kind words about my country and myself. We are touched by the gracious hospitality that has been extended to us.

Our bilateral relations are close. We cooperate with each other in the Nonaligned Movement and at the United Nations. Your Excellency's visit to India two years ago gave a fresh impetus to our mutual exchanges. It is a matter of satisfaction for us that on major issues, there is close identity of views, imbued with a' deep understanding and respect for each other's perceptions.

NON-ALIGNNMENT

The Non-aligned Movement has become a powerful force in international relations. Its influence is now being felt beyond the circle of countries that adhere to the Movement. This is reflected in the resumption of the dialogue between the major

nuclear weapon powers. We hope that this will lead to more cooperative interaction in the international community. The emerging opportunities must be availed of to carry the Non-aligned Movement forward to the new vistas, to new fields of thought, and to new areas of action opened by the prospect of a world without nuclear weapons. For this to be successfully accomplished the primacy of the United Nations as the principal forum of international negotiations has to be restored. We should continue our work together towards this end.

The endeavours of Yugoslavia and India in multilateral forums are complemented by our efforts at regional cooperation. We support your quest for peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. We are with you in your insistence that there must be strict adherence to the principle of not resorting to force and not using armaments, forces, bases and other military facilities against Non-aligned Member States of the region. We also laud Yugoslavia's efforts at promoting Balkan cooperation.

SAARC

In our region, we are building the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. We have made progress in important areas of interest to our people and are engaged in enlarging the scope of our cooperation.

SRI LANKA

In July last year, India and Sri Lanka reached a historic agreement to bring to an end the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and ensure its territorial integrity and to safeguard security and Non-alignment in the neighbourhood. This agreement bears testimony to the fact that Non-aligned countries through their own efforts are fully capable of demonstrating the political will and statesmanship required to resolve even the most intractable problems. Despite the difficulties that have been encountered, considerable progress has been made in implementing the agreement. We appreciate Yugoslavia's expression of support for the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord.

Yugoslavia and India set out almost together on the path of planned development. We have followed with interest your accomplishments in reorganizing and restructuring your economy. Your agriculture has prospered. Your industrial infrastructure has been strengthened and diversified. There is an impressive range of Yugoslav manufactures now available in international markets. You are among the most industrially advanced of the developing countries. You have had to cope with the stresses and strains of an adverse global economic environment. This is a consequence of the inefficiencies and inequities of the present international order.

INDIAN ECONOMY

In India too we have long faced these pressures. Colonialism left our economy weak and stagnant. The Industrial Revolution had not only passed us by but deliberate efforts had been made
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to de-industrialise India. Jawaharlal Nehru pointed out that our independence would not be real unless we ensured for ourselves a self-reliant economy with agricultural self-sufficiency, and a modern industrial sector with a high scientific and technological capability. He recognised that for our economy to progress the principal responsibility for development would have to be assumed by the government. Our achievements today are a tribute to his vision and energy. Our successes in agriculture have been significant. They have confounded the cynics and the critics who forecast only shortages and famines. During the drought last year, which was among the worst in memory, the economy demonstrated its mew resilience. There has even been more remarkable transformation in the industrial sector. We have shown our ability to absorb, adapt and generate high levels of technology. We have instituted major programmes of poverty removal. We have set ourselves that target of eliminating abject poverty by the turn of the century. It is a formidable challenge. We intend to be equal to it.

I recall, Excellency, your observation in 1986 that the excellent political understanding between Yugoslavia and India was not matched by strong economic cooperation. It is, therefore, a matter of great satisfaction that since your visit we have injected a new dynamism into our bilateral economic relations. We must set ourselves the goal of making our cooperation in various areas a model for South-South cooperation.

The talks that we have already had have been very useful. We shall have opportunities to continue our dialogue during the next two days. I am confident that we will be able to impart a further impetus to our cooperation in the years to come.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in raising your glasses to the health of His Excellency the President of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia and Madame Mikulic, to the progress and prosperity of your people, and to abiding understanding and friendship between India and Yugoslavia.

Thank you.

GOSLAVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA INDIA SRI LANKA RUSSIA

Date : Jul 13, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Message in the Book of Honour at Tito Memorial

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's message in the, Book of Honour at Tito Memorial, Belgrade on Jul 13, 1988:

India reveres the memory of Josip Broz Tito, friend and companion to Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. I pay my tribute to a great soldier and statesman, who led his people to freedom and showed the world the path of peace, friendship and cooperation. His towering personality and inspiring example will remain forever engraven in the hearts of all those who love liberty and are dedicated to disarmament, development and to a new international order based on high human values.

GOSLAVIA INDIA

Date : Jul 13, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Address at Assembly of Yugoslavia

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's address at the Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at Belgrade on Jul 14, 1988:

I am deeply honoured by this invitation to address the Supreme Body of the State Authority of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. I bring to you the greetings of the Indian Parliament and to the friendly people of Yugoslavia the affection and good wishes of the people of India.
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NON-ALIGNMENT

A visit to Yugoslavia is a visit to that hallowed soil on which Josip Broz Tito, Jawaharlal Nehru and their colleagues founded the movement of Nonaligned Countries. It was at Brioni in 1956 that Nehru, Nasser and Tito agreed on the need to transform the shared principles and perceptions of the proponents of Nonalignment into Joint International Action. It was here in this building that in 1961 that the first conference was convened by the leaders, of the Movement. They noted that while: "War has never threatened mankind with graver consequences than today... Never before has mankind had at its disposal stronger forces for eliminating war as an instrument of policy in international relations."

In responding to that challenge, the first summit set out the basic postulate of Nonalignment: The rejection of the view that "war, including the cold war, is inevitable" and the affirmation of our "unwavering faith" in organising the life of the international community" without resorting to means which actually belong to a past epoch of human history."

The quarter century that has elapsed since our Movement's beginnings in Belgrade have been confirmed the remarkable prescience of Nehru .. Tito and their colleagues. In country after country and continent after continent, the resurgent forces of nationalism have rolled back empires built on military might. The people's will and the institutions of international democracy have stalled and often reversed armed intervention and inteference in the internal affairs of others. The practioners of permanent hostility are learning to their cost the disastrous consequences of barren conflict and relentless escalation. The world is beginning to see that the only valid basis for the Organisation of the life of the international community is a nonviolent world order free of nuclear weapons and based on peaceful co-existence.

Was it coincidence that brought together remarkable men like Tito and Nehru?

Or is there something deeply embedded in the ethos of life within our nations which has evolved into our advocacy of Nonalignment as a way of life among Nations.

Few countries can match Yugoslavia or India in our plurality of religions, our multiplicity of languages, our many cultures and sub-cultures. Both of us are, multi-racial, multi-lingual, multi-religious societies. Each of us in our own way, is a microcosm of the world, a living example of the celebration of diversity.

Through thousands of years, we have learned that the roots of togetherness lie in the acceptance of diversity, even as the roots of hostility lie in the denial of diversity. Denial takes the form of alienation and therefore, tends to violence. Acceptance takes the form of synthesis and, therefore, promotes

nonviolence. Together, truth, tolerance and nonviolence form the basis of Nonalignment. They lead to the vision of one humanity and one world.

Drawing from their national experience, Yugoslavia and India have affirmed the right-indeed, the need-for different states to follow different paths of development. We both believe that the path which every country follows derives from its history and civilization, reflects the state of its development, and is the outcome of its national genius. We believe that every country must be left free to pursue the national destiny which it seeks. When within our countries we have declined the straitjacket of uniformity we do not see how for the world as a whole there can be a single straitjacket. Many of those who believe their system to be the only valid one have sought to impose that system on others by force of arms rather than force of example. In this nuclear age, the pursuit of dominance in this brazen fashion is a recipe for disaster. Non-alignment is the assertion of the possibility of all the diverse systems of the world living together in peace and harmony. We believe the mutual interaction of systems promotes the evolution of societies by the emulating what is finds of value in the other. The cross
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fertilization of ideas and experience is an essential attribute of peaceful coexistence.

It was Mahatma Gandhi who taught us that non-violence is not an escape from reality. It is the best instrument for ensuring that right means are used for attaining right ends. Without the right means, the ends themselves are perverted. Jawaharlal Nehru applied this concept to international relations. The basic flaw in doctrines of deterrence is that they are founded in the right to resort to violence, whereas peaceful coexistence is predicated upon and promotes the norms of nonviolence. In this nuclear age, survival itself depends on relegating war as an instrument of policy to the dustbin of history. The obsolete practices of the past can have no place in the restructuring of the world order that is required to provide for a non-violent world free of nuclear weapons.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Even in rival camps of military alliances, the Non-aligned world view is gaining acceptance. When the two major nuclear weapon powers declared in Geneva that a nuclear war cannot be won and must not be fought, they were giving contemporary expression to the considerations we have urged ever since the inception of our movement. Through the Delhi declaration of November 1986, general secretary Gorbachev joined us in affirming that "Non-violence should be the basis of community life." After four decades of deepening nuclear gloom, we can see on the distant horizon the faint glimmerings of a new dawn. The Washington summit brought

forth the first ever agreement to actually put in motion a process of nuclear arms reduction. The Moscow Summit rafified that accord and reinforced it with the promise of carrying forward the process of Nuclear disarmament. The international community is now poised to make new beginnings, to push forward with disarmament, hopefully within the framework of a time bound programme, perhaps even to look beyond disarmament to a new world order firmly anchored in nonviolence and faithful to the principles of peaceful coexistence.

With this in view, we submitted an action plan to the recently concluded Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly. The action plan is a concrete expression of the principles and perceptions that have guided the Non-aligned movement. We have spelt out a series of integrated measures to usher in a system of comprehensive security for all. We have set a specific date - the year 2010 by which, in three stages, nuclear disarmament must be completed. In each of the stages, the plan envisages specific responsibilities for the major nuclear weapon powers, the other nuclear weapon powers, and those who do not possess nuclear weapons, including those on the threshold. We would also like to see conventional forces reduced to the minimum levels required for defensive purposes. This would be accompanied by steps to forestall the application of emerging technologies to conventional weapons, nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Our plan emphasizes that disarmament by itself is not enough. It must be buttressed by an abiding commitment and by specific measures to create an international ambience of coexistence and non-violence that would be to the benefit of all and prevent the world from sliding back into confrontation and conflict, into waste and war ' We have stressed that the process cannot be successfully accomplished anywhere but under aegis of the United Nations.

We hope that the new understanding between the two major nuclear weapons powers will grow and take firmer shape. We would wish to see the military blocs abandon their traditional positions and start joining us on the platforms that only we have occupied so far. The challenge before our movement is to recognise the momentous chanegs that are occuring in the world polity. These changes are a
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vindication of all that we have urged through the long nuclear night. If in the face of these changes, we content ourselves with repeating the catechisms of the past, Non-alignment runs the risk of being marginalised, even rendered obsolescent. Our most urgent task, therefore, is to study and understand the implications and consequences of the changes that are taking place. We must avail of the new opportunities and rise to the new challenges.

We must ensure that the emerging order addresses itself to the concerns, the development and the future of that vast segment of

the international community - two thirds of all countries of the world - who together constitute the non-aligned movement. It is not a task which can be left to a small Directorate of Powers, however strong or influential they might be. As sovereign equals, each of us must have our say in the restructuring of the world order. We must have institutions for deliberation and decision-making which reflect the aspirations of a true democracy of nations. We must have a charter of peaceful coexistence that all of us subscribe to and which each of us respects. Non-alignment has stood as the bulwark against the danger of our destinies being held hostage to the rivalries of outside powers. As we boldly move into the new age, we must ensure that no one and nothing wrenches from our hands that control over our destinies which we have struggled so hard and for so long to secure.

For you, as for us, the independence of nations is the basis for building on the interdependence among nations. Yugoslavia and India have worked together to persuade the international community to establish a world economic order which strengthens the prospects of development while reinforcing stability and steady growth in the global economy as a whole. We have argued that growth in the developing countries would foster the continued prosperity of the developed. We have also argued that stagnation and regression in the developing countries jeopardize the health of the entire world economy. We have to regretfully note that, in terms of action on the ground, our arguments might appear to have fallen on deaf ears. But the considerations we have urged are making an impression on the minds of thinking people everywhere. Eventually, in matters of development as in matters of disarmament, the world begin to see things our way. In the meanwhile, it is for us to set the example by promoting cooperation among the developing countries.

Over the years, Yugoslavia and India have shown themselves to be unafraid of imaginative new initiatives. Some of these might not have had a smooth passage, but the important thing is that they were tried. We must persist. The basic lacuna in South-South cooperation is the inadequacy of information and, knowledge about each other.

Even between such well-established, long-standing partners as our two countries, there remain vast gaps of knowledge and insufficient information about the range of work being done. There is not yet an instinctive turning to each other. We must see how this can be ensured. Some of the research and training institutions set up in Yugoslavia have started making a contribution to this endeavour.

Your efforts merit the gratitude of the entire developing world.

There are many specific areas in which Yugoslavia and India - both developing countries, both committed to their respective forms of socialism - have much to gain from each other's

experience.

The most general and enduring of these lessons is the ability , to respond constructively to emerging challenges while remaining true to basic principles and fundamental concepts. The process of development is a process of change, a process of evolution, a process of moving forward. It is a process where success
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itself engenders new opportunities - and new problems. Often, the answers of the past are no longer appropriate to the concerns of the present. You have undertaken imaginative experiments in the management of public enterprises. We too are doing so. It is important for all of us who define socialism as going beyond the capture of the commanding heights of the economy to see that public enterprises become the standard bearer of good management, greater efficiency, higher productivity, lower costs and better quality. There have been problems and setbacks along the way; you have experienced them so have we. But in the process we have both learned important lessons. You have promoted workers' management in the running of industry.

It is a system which has attracted worldwide attention.

We in India have made our contribution to the evolution of the theory and, practice of development. Our green revolution has extended high technology to a backward agricultural economy where the overwhelming majority of cultivators are small and marginal farmers. Our programmes of poverty elimination through integrated rural development and rural employment generation are, perhaps, the most extensive and effective in the world. We have developed our human resources in such a manner that there are probably no more than two or three other countries with a larger reservoir of technical and technological skills. In some areas, our scientists and technologists are working close to the frontiers of human knowledge. Our attempts is to make ex. cellence in the most sophisticated areas of human endeavour serve the cause of the poorest, the weakest and the humblest.

We in India place the human being at the very heart of the development process. If our focus shifts to only the material indices of growth, we will gain little and loss much. We have to carry forward into the era of accelerated, widespread and equitable growth the values which have sustained our civilisation.

These are some of the intangible but critical issues of development which are neglected in statistical tables and computer graphics. They must constitute a key element in the exchange of experience among the countries of the South. Our cooperation should incorporate into the development process the flowering of the human personality and the retention of our ethical values and beliefs.

In our respective regions, we have each worked sincerely and earnestly at promoting understanding and cooperation. The difficulties have been formidable; the achievernents, therefore, all the more commendable.

Your region, through much of recorded history, has been the crucible of conflict and collision between the great empires of old. Caught up in the schemes and strategems of outside powers the Balkans have suffered much in the past from the ravages and depredations of others. Under the heroic leadership of Marshal Tito and his Partosans, Yugoslavia finally wrested control over its destiny. You have inured yourselves against the designs of others. Now you are engaged in expanding the ambit of cooperation in your region. It is a matter of great historic significance that a few months ago Yugoslavia was host to the first-ever Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Balkan countries. We congratulate you on its success. We wish you well in your endeavours. Strong regional cooperation is the most reliable guarantor of protection from the machinations of outside powers.

In South Asia, we have known much conflict and privation, the tragedy of colonialism and the agony of partition.

There are many bilateral problems to be resolved, many apprehensions to be allayed, many dangers to be thwarted. <pg-231>

We have consistently refused to let these difficulties freeze us into postures of hostility.

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS

We have joined our neighbours in establishing an association for the promotion of regional cooperation which abstracts itself from bilateral disputes and concentrates on joint endeavour in areas identified by common interest. We have fostered cooperation in a range of activities that impinge upon the lives of our people. It is a unique, exciting and promising experiment in overcoming the prejudices of history, in rising above the past to fly into the realms of the future.

We are the inheritors of the mantle of Nehru and Tito.

We have shown the world the mettle of our independence, of our fierce determination not to let anyone tamper with that independence.

We have shown the world our commitment to self-reliance, coupled with our commitment to cooperation among nations.

We have urged the world to forsake nuclear weapons, to move rapidly to general and complete disarmament, to eschew deterrence

in favour of peaceful coexistence, to build a world order based on peace and justice, on international democracy and equitable development.

We pledge ourselves to continue the noble work which the. founding fathers. of our respective nations began.

My grateful thanks to you, Mr. President, for giving me the opportunity to reiterate this pledge on the floor of this august House.

GOSLAVIA INDIA USA SWITZERLAND RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CHINA

Date : Jul 14, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Address to the Yugoslavia -India FriendshipSociety

The following is the text of the. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's address at the inaugural ceremony of the Yugoslavia-India Friendship Society, in Belgrade on Jul 14, 1988:

It gives me great pleasure today to inaugurate the Yugoslavia-India Friendship Society which has been established just a few days ago. The friendship between India and Yugoslavia goes back to a number of generations right from President Tito and Prime Minister Nehru. This friendship not only has brought Yugoslavia and India together but it is a friendship which has shown the world a new direction to take, away from confrontation, away from deterrence, from power blocs, to a world where peace and coexistence and human values count for more than military strength or money power. When we look at the Nonaligned Movement today, which was started in Belgrade, it was born in Brioni but began in Belgrade in 1961, we find that some thoughts, the thoughts of President Tito and Prime Minister Nehru, have now gone well beyond the boundaries that anyone can imagine. The world is thinking on the same lines. Even more important than that, even among the major power blocs there is a new thinking on the lines of the Non-aligned Movement. Today we are seeing fairly rapid change and development of international relations, shifting closer towards what the Nonaligned Movement had held. At such a time it is essential that all those who firmly believe in nonalignment, who believe in peaceful co-existence, who believe in multi-lingual, multi-racial,multi-regional society move

together and work together. Such nations must get together to see that the direction that is
taking place is positive.

Again, today in the world we see major economic disparities. Colonialism and imperialism in the old sense have en-
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ded. But there is a new type of economic colonialism which is coming up very rapidly. We have spoken, your Prime Minister and I, about South-South cooperation, about Indo-Yugoslav cooperation. Invariably, whenever we have such cooperation at government level it boils down to government action on both sides. That is why I feel that a society such as the Indo-Yugoslav Friendship Society can do a lot to help pick up from where we cannot go beyond. And if we really want to have good cooperation between our two countries it is essential that this cooperation goes beyond the government to the people at the cultural level, technical level, even at the specialised level. Unless there are more exchanges, unless people at every functional level of both countries get to know each other better, it is going to be very difficult for them to turn to each other in time of need.

Inevitably today South-South cooperation has become crucially important. We find ourselves, and I am sure other nations too find, that for solutions we look towards the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, Germany and Japan, while solutions can be available and normally are available among the other developing countries. We do not make use of it because we do not know what we have. Perhaps one of the biggest challenges that we have to face is to break these barriers that are left over of the past and see how we can have an environment in which we automatically look to each other for solutions to the problems. This can only be done with a very high degree of interaction between us. I hope that you will be able to accomplish it. We will do our best to help you.

And wish you all the best.

DIA YUGOSLAVIA USA GERMANY JAPAN

Date : Jul 14, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech at Brioni

The following is the text of the speech delivered by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the Banquet hosted by H.E. Mr. Raif Dizdarevic, President of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at Brioni on Jul 14, 1988:

I am enchanted to be once again on this emarald isle. I have memories of visiting it as a young boy. It retains it idylic charm. No wonder it was so dear to the heart of President Tito.

NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

Brioni is renowned not for its beauty alone. In the roll of honour of the Nonaligned Movement, its name has a special resonance. For it was here, 32 years ago, that three great statesmen from three different continents - Tito, Nehru and Nasser - met to jointly declare to the world the basic principles of Nonalignment. Over the years, the Nonaligned Movement has steadily grown in strength. It now embraces two-thirds of the international community. It has become a historic force, striving for world peace by opposing global polarisation. It has affirmed the right of all countries, irrespective of size or strength, to independence of opinion and action in international affairs in the light of their own best judgement. It has asserted primacy of the political approach over the militaristic approach to the solution of inter-state disputes.

In drafting the Brioni Declaration, the three leaders were guided by their specific national experience, tempered by a lofty global vision. To Jawaharlal Nehru and his people, it was the realisation of a long-held dream. We saw Nonalignment as the natural outcome of our freedom struggle. We had emerged from two centuries of colonial oppression to proclaim our voice in the world. We were not about to make our independence hostage to the designs of others. Besides, our freedom struggle was a unique essay in Nonviolence. We had successfully demonstrated that it was possible to pit nonviolence
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against the might of the most powerful empire known, to history. We, therefore, sought a world in which the dominance of arms would give way to the resolution of disputes by pacific means alone. Finally, the rich diversity of our country had taught us that it was entirely possible for people of different faiths, different ways of life, different philosophies and different religions to live together in friendship and harmony. To us, peaceful coexistence among different systems appeared to be the natural and desirable order. We saw Nonalignment as the path to peaceful coexistence.

At Brioni, Jawaharlal Nehru kindered souls in Tito and Nasser.

With incredible courage and unflinching resolve, Josip Broz Tito had successfully led Yugoslavia to national liberation. He was determined that never again would his country's independence be compromised. In 1950 he declared: "Independence cannot be bartered". With the creative vision for which he was renowned he safeguarded his country's independence not through a policy of national isolation but through active solidarity with peoples and movements the world over who were struggling to be free.

Gamal Abdel Nasser represented the resurgent voice of Arab nationalism. His nationalization of the Suez Canal was, in many ways the watershed in the modern history of West Asia. He faced great odds in asserting the independence of Egypt. With fortitude and perseverenace, he led his people from dependency to freedom.

The vision of these three great statesmen has been vindicated by the march of history. There is now universal recognition that the accumulation and escalation of nuclear arms is no answer to the problems of international security. The arsenals have become the harbinger of global extinction. Vast resources are consumed in an unending search for parity which could be much better deployed on development and growth for all. Technological sophistication in weaponry is acquiring a logic of its own, with refinements in the means of mass destruction. Telescoping the time available for reaction to developments into a matter of hours or even minutes and possibly, in the not too distant future, into seconds and micro-seconds. In effect, this amounts to eliminating human control over matters of war and peace, life and death. It means, the mortaging of human destiny to computers programmed for collective suicide.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The major nuclear weapon powers are now showing signs of tiring of being on the treadmill of escalation. They are now beginning to see that the ultimate answer to the threat posed by nuclear weapons must lie in the elimination of these dreadful machines of war. The inter-linkages between the different means of dealing death are also becoming clearer. I refer to the other means of mass destruction, to the need to reduce conventional weaponry and forces to minimum defensive levels, to the need to restrain the application of new technologies to military purposes. I refer also to the need for us to look beyond a world without nuclear weapons to the kind of world order we would wish to construct.

We have inherited from our founding fathers the principles and goals of the Non-aligned Movement. The challenge, before us is to imaginatively explore ways of keeping the Non-aligned movement aware and responsive to present concerns and evolving challenges. Now is the time to ensure that the process of disarmament is complemented by a push towards a new world order in which everybody forsakes deterrence for peaceful coexistence and

violence for non-violence, a world order in which there is a sense of equal participation and no domination by a small group of nations, however powerful. It is only such an order which would be capable of sustaining a nuclear-free world for the benefit of all. Yugoslavia and India have always worked together on issues of dis-
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armament and the restructuring of the world order. We look forward to your continued cooperation and support in this endeavour.

APARTHEID

While we look to the future, there remain some of the unfinished tasks of the past. The Non-aligned movement has contributed to the liberation of nearly hundred countries. But colonialism still remains entrenched in Namibia, victim to extraneous and irrelevant considerations which have prevented the Security Council from implementing its own plan for the independence of Namibia. In South Africa, apartheid continues because those with the economic capacity to interdict this evil practice are largely unwilling to effectively use their power for the cause of human rights and human dignity. The only ways of limiting the bloodbath which seem, imminent in South Africa is comprehensive, mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Tragically, those powers whose economic and military links with Pretoria are the strongest, have neither let the United Nations act nor acted themselves. On the other hand, the Non-aligned countries have demonstrated their commitment to resisting invasion, colonialism and apartheid in Southern Africa by establishing the AFRICA Fund. Yugoslavia has made a generous contribution to the fund. The tide of history is on our side. We shall prevail.

IRAN-IRAQ WAR

We are deeply distressed by the continuing conflict between the Non-aligned countries, Iran and Iraq, which has inflicted untold tragedy on the innocent people of both countries and caused great harm to the Movement. Yugoslavia and India are united in the view that Iran and Iraq should resolve their differences through peaceful negotiations. There has been a sharp escalation of outside military presences in the region. The shooting down of an unarmed civilian aircraft is one index of the dangerous consequences of the continuation of the war. We appeal to both our brothers in the Non-aligned movement to heed the call of the United Nations and desist forthwith from continuing the war.

INDIAN OCEAN

In derogation of the 17-year old UN Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, the military presences of outside powers has dangerously escalated. In the Mediterranean, the

increasing militarization of the region has resulted in pressure of all kinds being exerted on the Non-aligned countries of the area even as we wish to see effect being given to the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, so also would we support the transformation of the area of the Mediterranean into a region of peace, security and cooperation, free from conflict and confrontation. The Valletta Declaration marked an important step in the enlargement of the areas of concern of the Nonaligned movement.

We thank you for the warmth of your hospitality and the affection showered on us. Our great leaders, Tito and Nehru, have passed into history but their work endures. It is our sacred duty to ensure that the legacy they left is protected and cherished. They would have wanted us to carry the Movement forward into what our great national poet, Rabindranath Tagore, described as "Everwidening thought and action."

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in a toast: to the health of His Excellency, the President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Madame Dizdarevic, to the continued flourishing of the Non-aligned Movement, and to abiding friendship and cooperation between Yugoslavia and India.
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GOSLAVIA USA EGYPT INDIA NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA IRAN IRAQ MALTA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 14, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech in Madrid

The following is the text of the speech made by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister of Spain, H.E. Mr. Felipe Gonzalez in Madrid on Jul 15, 1988

My wife and I are delighted to be in Spain. It is the fulfilment of a longcherished desire.

We are honoured that when he set sail in the Santa Maria, Christopher Colombus was looking for us. Unfortunately, he was stopped by a large continent that just happened to lie in the way. Otherwise, I might have been able to speak to you in

Spanish.

Both in Spain and in India, two great literary figures dominated the transition from the 19th to the 20th centuries, two voices of humanity, two poets who stirred the human spirit: Juan Ramon Jiminez and Rabindranath Tagore. Their mutual admiration resulted in a literary relationship between our two countries that endures to this day.

The freedom struggle in India was entering its final, decisive stage when the Civil War broke out in Spain. The issues raised by the Civil War were of the greatest significance, not just for the people of Spain but for all humanity.

Jawaharlal Nehru visited Spain in 1938, and came away much moved by the indomitable courage of the human spirit that he saw there. In his writings, he compared the war in Spain with the fight for India's Independence. At his initiative, the Congress party organised humanitarian relief.

Your Excellency, we have followed with interest the remarkable political evolution in Spain under the sagacious guidance of His Majesty King Juan Carlos I. We have pleasant memories of the visit of Their Majesties; to India in 1982.

Spain and India are both democracies engaged in providing their people with a better quality of life and a higher standard of living. The recent resurgence of Spain on the world stage is an eloquent testimony to Your Excellency's dynamic leadership.

We too are engaged in the task of building our nation. Forty years ago, we inherited a stagnant colonial economy. But in these four decades, we have made substantial progress.

Our agricultural production has trebled. We are now self-sufficient in foodgrains. Our economy has demonstrated its resilience by emerging from one of the worst droughts in living memory without any interruption in the development process. We have built a sophisticated and diversified industrial base.

We believe there is growing scope for India and Spain to expand their economic relations. Businessmen and entrepreneurs of both countries should cooperate for mutual benefit and expansion of trade particularly in areas of high technology.

Your Excellency, economic growth and development cannot be separated from peace and tranquility in the world. We have seen enough suffering, death and destruction. Europe has known only too well the horrors and tragedy of war.

There is now an even more terrifying peril. Since atomic bombs reduced Hiroshima and Nagasaki to rubble, the world has lived under the constant threat of a nuclear holocaust.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

We do not believe that the doctrine of deterrance and the system of power blocs can ensure real peace. As long as there are nuclear weapons, the danger will remain that they will be used. Nuclear
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weapons cannot be disinvented, but they can be outlawed. There can be no enduring peace until there is nuclear disarmament and a world order based on the principles of peaceful co-existence, rooted in non-violence.

To this end, we presented a timebound Action Plan at the Third Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament. The Plan incorporates an integrated set of measures and a phased programme of nuclear disarmament accompanied by steps to promote general and complete disarmament. It imposes obligations on all states, the major nuclear powers, the other nuclear powers and non-nuclear nations.

It seeks to prevent the applicaion of emerging technologies to military purposes. It limits the existence of conventional weapons and forces to minimum defence needs. It constitutes a holistic view of comprehensive global security not only through disarmament, but by ensuring that nations do not regress once they progress towards this goal. We look forward to your cooperation in making this Action Plan a reality.

We are encouraged to believe that there is now greater recognition of the imperative need for disarmament even outside the Nonaligned Movement.

We appreciate Spain's deep understanding of the Nonaligned Movement and its goals.

APARTHEID

It is a matter of deep regret that some powerful nations have yet to take decisive action against the racist regime in Pretoria, and its abhorrent practice of apartheid. Apartheid can be destroyed through the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions under the UN Charter. The alternative is a blood-bath too horrifying to contemplate.

INDIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS

We are committed to improving our relations with all our neighbours. We want a peaceful border with China. We look forward to a settlement of our differences taking into account the national interests of both countries.

Unfortunately, our efforts for friendly relations in our neighbourhood are not always reciprocated. A clandestine nuclear programme is being pursued. Terrorism in our country is being actively assisted from across our borders. We have persisted in our dialogue in the hope that eventually long-term mutuality of interest' will be recognised and good sense will prevail.

Your Excellency, for me this visit has been very productive. The discussions we have had and the understandings we have reached will, I am sure, go a long way towards cementing our friendship and building stronger ties between our two countries.

My wife and I would like to thank Your Excellency and Senora Gonzalez for your warm and gracious hospitality. We hope to see you both in India soon.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in raising your glasses to the health and happiness of Senor and Senora Gonzalez; to the prosperity and wellbeing of the people of Spain and to the growing friendship between India and Spain.
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AIN USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC JAPAN SOUTH AFRICA CHINA

Date : Jul 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Prime Minister's Address to the Confederation of Spanish Business Organisations

The following is the text of the Prime, Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Address to the Confederation of Spanish Business Organisations in Madrid on Jul 15, 1988:

I, am pleased to be with this group of leaders of Spanish business and industry. We have watched with admiration the political resurgence of your nation and the growing strength and maturity of your economy. It is a tribute to the sagacity and far-sightedness of your leaders. It is testimony of your qualities as builders of the economy. It is evidence of the abilities of your people.

Spain has made impressive progress in many fields. Your membership of the European Economic Community was a turning point in the life of your nation. An even more significant phase will

begin in 1992 when the Community moves towards fuller economic and political union.

My visit to Spain demonstrates the importance we attach to expanding our bilateral relations. I have been greatly encouraged by my talks with President Gonzalez. We are taking steps to further our cooperation in the political and economic fields.

Relations between our two countries have been conditioned by an interesting historical accident. When Christopher Colombus set out to discover a new sea route to India, he hit upon the Americas instead. And so it came about that Spain looked towards the New World of the West rather than the ancient civilizations of the East.

As a result, our old contacts with your early seafarers were broken. Since trade followed the flag in those days, and since our colonial masters zealously guarded their empire and protected their economic domination of their colonies, India and Spain emerged into the modern era with little more than nodding acquaintance of one another.

But one of the advantages of a modest starting point is that even small gains are significant, and the potential is so much greater.

Consider our trade. It is a mere quarter of one per cent of Spain's total trade. Indo-Spanish joint industrial collaobrations number a mere 32. They should be much larger. We are delighted that the number of Spanish tourists visiting India has doubled in three years, but at 14,000 visitors we have room for many, many more. We are keen that all this should change.

We would like there to be a much greater flow of trade and industrial joint ventures between our two countries.

Some preparatory work has been done. A comprehensive double taxation agreement is under negotiation. Indian business delegations have visited Spain recently and returned optimistic about the prospects. But more needs to be done, and we are confident that follow up action after this visit will contribute to converting the potential into reality.

Like Spain, India too has witnessed momentous changes. In 40 years of independence, a backward., stagnant colony has been transformed into a modern, self-reliant and fast growing economy. The famines of the past have been replaced by self-sufficiency in food - even in years of exceptionally severe drought, such as 1987.

We have built a basic capital goods and consumer industries very largely through our own efforts. We are rapidly moving into frontier areas of research and development.

Perhaps nothing reflects the progress we have made better than the range of products we now manufacture and the areas of our research and development. We design and build nuclear power stations, aircraft, ships, sophisticated machine tools and contemporary communications equipment. We have produced remote, sensing satellites and our own launch vehicles.

We have our own technology to make silicon and a range of sophisticated electronics applications in space and defence. Indian scientists and technologists are working in advanced metallurgy, super conductivity, biotechnology and the new materials sciences. In many of these fields they have significant achievements to their credit, and we are confident of our ability to carry the results of their research into our factories.

In spite of an adverse international economic environment, we have performed well. Since 1980, the economy has grown at 5 per cent per year, and despite the drought-related slow-down in 1987, the momentum is picking up. This year, if we have a normal monsoon, our economy will grow at 7 per cent.

We are proud of what our farmers and workers, our entrepreneurs and managers have achieved. They have, transformed the face of our land. But our peoples' aspirations are high and their expectations are rising. Our tasks are demanding, and we must redouble our efforts if we are to accomplish them.

We must continue our battle against poverty. Our young men and women have to be provided employment opportunities. We must generate more production and distribute income and wealth equitably.

Our basic approach is one of selfreliance and equitable development. This approach has yielded rich dividends. It has enabled us to build a strong foundation for rapid growth in the future. At the same time, we recognise that much more needs to be done. There is scope for greater efficiency, higher productivity and faster modernisation.

In the last three years we have taken several steps which have shown encouraging results. We have reduced the rates of corporate and personal taxation. We have provided fiscal and other incentives to industries which venture into priority areas. Our priorities are exports, high technologies, industrial modernisation and the opening up of under-industrialised areas. We have greatly reduced the extent of bureaucratic control over business and industry. A very large segment of our corporate world, businessmen and entrepreneurs are now no longer required to obtain licences to invest. We have recently introduced the concept of growth centers to stimuate investment and encourage dispersal of industry.

The stock market is vibrant and the number of investors has risen ten-fold to many million in the space of just five to seven years. New and more sophisticated instruments of finance are now commonplace. Public interest in corporate affairs and corporate interest in public issues have been radically transformed.

We have encouraged much greater domestic competition in industry. This has already shown results. It is also important to encourage greater international competition. Indian industry has grown in a highly protected environment. It is not possible to suddenly subject it to the full force of international competition. It must be given time to adjust and this is what we are doing. We are gradually subjecting Indian industry to the pressure of international competition. I am confident our businessmen will be able to complete internationally.

We foresee a mutually beneficial role for private foreign investment and foreign technology in our industrial development. Thus far the level of foreign investment in India has been very modest. This is partly because we have in the past preferred foreign technology without investment.
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We do not intend to open the doors indiscriminately. We will remain selective in our approach. But we recognise that for our industry to be competitive and to grow more rapidly, it needs access to the most sophisticated technologies and to markets abroad. Foreign investment which contributes to our achieving these aims will be welcomed in India. We welcome a larger flow of both private capital and technology from abroad in priority areas.

We have set our sights high. We have no time to lose. We seek to create an economic environment in which we can step up economic growth above the 5 per cent already achieved. We will aim for an industrial growth rate of ten per cent or even more. We plan to increase food production by 50 per cent before the turn of the century. These goals are ambitious, but they are the least we must aim for, if we are to fulfil our obligations to our people. We are fully confident that we Will.

A SPAIN INDIA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech at Ankara

The following is , the text of the speech made by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Turgut Ozal in Ankara on Jul 17, 1988

Here, in Turkey, we stand upon the bridge of history, the bridge which links Asia and Europe, the bridge over which the intellectual, spiritual and material treasures of the East reached the West, the bridge over which the power and the technology and the thoughts of the Occident flowed to the Orient. To be in Turkey is, therefore, to be imbued with a deep sense of the past, of the grandeur of world civilizations, of the immense accomplishments of the human mind.

For us in India, the remembrance of your country is resonant with the rich contribution you have made to our languages, our philosophies and our cultures. The very name of one our great languages Urdu-derives from Turkish. Islam initially came to us - as it did to almost everyone-from Arabia, but the Turkish impact was of great significance in the Islamic contribution to our culture and civilization, to our art and architecture, to our costumes and our cuisine. The traditional friendship between our countries was reflected in the medical mission which a renowned Indian freedom fighter, Dr. M.A. Ansari, led to Turkey in 1912 during the Balkan Wars., One of his companions, Abdur Rahman, stayed on in Turkey and was later Kemal Ataturk's envoy to Kabul. The injustices inflicted on Turkey at the end of the First World War ignited the first major mass movement which Mahatma Gandhi led against British imperialism. Kemal Ataturk was the shining example whom Jawaharlal Nehru often placed before himself and his people in describing the vision of India which inspired us to struggle for our freedom. In a speech to a conference of students in Calcutta in 1.928, Nehru said:

"The world changes and is changing., rapidly. If we cannot adapt our society to the new conditions, we are doomed to perish. We have seen what can be done in a brief span of years and even months by a Kemal Pasha who is not afraid to break through ancient custom and prejudice. What has been done in Turkey can be done in India., But it can only be done in the manner of Kemal Pasha, by fearlessIly facing obstacles and removing them and not waiting till the crack of doom for slow reform."

To my grand father's great regret, he was never able to meet the great Ataturk.

Given the deep and abiding links we have with your country, it is a matter

of regret that in the last three decades or so our contacts have been so few and so weak. Now our relationship is being renewed and revitalised. This rediscovery of India owes much to the initiative taken by your Excellency after your visit to India two years ago. We look forward to making up for lost time. We are encouraged by the remarkable pace at which we have succeeded in building the infrastructure of an all-round productive relationship between our two countries. As the Turkish proverb says:

"bakar-san ba
 bakmaz-san-da olur."

If you cultivate the field,
It grows into an orchard.
If you let it lie fallow,
It becomes a barren wasteland.

India and the Turkish Republic share many important features, among them: democracy, secularism and modernization.

As the largest democracy in the world, with an uninterrupted history of representative institutions since independence, we welcome the steps taken in recent years to strengthen democracy in Turkey.

Your secularism was designed to meet a somewhat different challenge to the challenge we face in our country. Kemal Ataturk declared that while

"We owe our awakening today to yesterday, to the past the Republic of Turkey can never be the land of sheikhs, dervishes, disciples and lay brothers ... the Republic wants new generations whose intellect is free, whose conscience is free, whose learning is free."

The achievements of Ataturk's Republic of Culture remain a remarkable, inspring example.

Our secularism too has to face the forces of obscurantism. We have known the consequences of the dangerous, explosive mixing of religion with politics.

We have been violence and hatred stalk our land in the name of God. Against this, we have set the ancient lessons of our history. India is a land of many religions, where the spiritual is not denied but affirmed in many forms. For five thousand years, starting with what we today call Hinduisim, spiritual currents have flowed into the country and blended with our own spiritual reservoir into tolerance, understanding and mutually enriching contact. This has given us our composite culture of today, which is both our pride and our joy. Among these religions

is Islam, whose message of brotherhood responded to a deep need in our society. Mahatma Gandhi said:

"My reading of the Quran has convinced me that the basis of Islam is not violence..the Quran teaches nonviolence..the very word Islam means peace, which is non-violence."

Our secularism is based on a deep respect for all our religions. At the same time, our secularism regards religion as a personal matter, an individual choice. It enjoins the state to neither interfere in religion nor allow religion to interfere in the affairs of the state. None is favoured or discriminated against on the basis of religion. All religion is cherished and all communities are assured equal political and civic rights.

Turkey under Ataturk became a byword for modernisation. In recent years, we have watched with admiration the considerable achievements of the Turkish economy under your leadership, despite the difficult world economic environment. The modemisation of our economy and society is the single greatest national task we, have set for ourselves. The challenge is to eliminate poverty, remove unemployment, ensure education and health for all, foster efficiency, absorb and engender tenhnology, reach out to the very frontiers of human endeavour without losing the basic value of truth and non-violence, and of tolerance and compassion upon which we have built our civilization. We
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see the human being as this focal point of development. The human being has material needs, which must be satisfied, but also a spiritual dimension, which must equally be given sustenance. The individual and society are threatened by the crass materialism which development spawns unless this is consciously countered. Therefore, we wish to blend the promotion of prosperity with the preservation of all that is of value from the past. We want to see the removal of social evils like superstition, ignorance, prejudice and discrimination while retaining those good features of our society which have imparted stability and continuity to our way of life. Turkey faced and succeeded in finding a solution to this conundrum. One of the instruments was the Halkevleri, a concept which bears resemblance to our Zonal Cultural Centres through which we seek to involve our people at large with all that is of the best in our civilisation.

NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

Arising from the rich diversity of India and our living experience in fostering harmony among people of different languages, faiths, cultures and convictions, we deeply cherish the values and principles of non-aligned. The non-aligned movement has made a decisive contribution to the dismantling of colonialism. It has helped safeguard the independence and

security of two-thirds of the world community. It has shown us how to raise our voice, without fear or favour on international issues. It has espoused the cause of peace, development, disarmament and democracy among nations. We welcome the resumption of the dialogue between the major nuclear weapon powers. We believe this presents the opportunity for a global dialogue for restructuring the world order on the basis of peaceful coexistence and non-violence to sustain a world beyond nuclear weapons.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

To this end, we have submitted to the United Nations an action plan which envisages the total elimination of nuclear weapons in three stages by the year 2010, accompanied by measures to reduce conventional arms and forces to minimum defensive levels and steps to forestall the application of emerging technologies to military purposes. We have stressed that general and complete disarmament must be the precursor to a peaceful, non-violent world order, without which the danger would remain of a relapse into war, oppression, exploitation. Such methods of conducting international relations should be relegated forever to the past. We seek your cooperation and support in the consideration of this action plan.

APARTHEID

Tomorrow, all lovers of peace and justice, all those who believe in human rights and human dignity, all those who are opposed to racism and bigotry will be celebrating the seventieth birth anniversary of one of the greatest men of our time, Nelson Mandela. He has become the symbol of the most noble strivings of the human soul. A quarter century of cruel incarceration has done nothing to whittle his calm determination, his fortitude, his singleness of purpose, his profound love of liberty, his determination to secure for his people their inalienable rights. Apartheid is sustained through Pretoria's economic and military links with a few outside powers. In the end, that will avail them nothing because apartheid will be crushed. Nelson Mandela and his people shall be free. This is our pledge to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi who in South Africa began his struggle for freedom, equality, justice and dignity for all people everywhere.

IRAN-IRAQ WAR

When we think of how much peace and harmony mean to people everywhere, the full horror of the unabated war between Iran and Iraq bears down upon us. Turkey shares a border with both. Our relations with both countries are ancient and highly valued. Moreover, both comba-
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tants are members of the non-aligned movement. The war must end.

Its continuation only draws in unwanted and dangerous outside presence. We have recently suffered the terrible consequnces - involving, among others, many innocent Indian lives - of the escalation of the conflict and the presence of outside military powers. We appeal to all concerned to heed the call of the United Nations and put an end to this awful tragedy.

PALESTINE

The other continuing tragedy in this region is the denial to the Palestinians of their inalienable right to a state of their own in their homeland. The heroic uprising in the occupied territories is a reminder of the need to immediately convene an international conference on the question of West Asia under the aegis of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO to seek a durable settlement.

AFGHANISTAN

In recent years, a major achievement of the United Nation has been the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan. The provisions of the accords must be respected by all parties. The people of Afghanistan need to be left alone to work out their destiny as an independent, non-aligned country, The need of the hour is national consensus, national reconstruction and national development. Afghanistan must be encouraged and supported in its efforts towards this goal. Nothing could be more dangerous than, by force of foreign arms, to foist on the people of Afghanistan the kind of forces of reaction whom Kemal Ataturk rejected when he established the Republic of Turkey.

Your Excellency, we are following with great interest the efforts which you and Prime Minister Papandreou are putting into promoting a breakthrough in relations between Turkey and Greece. We wish you success in your quest for peace and friendship.

In what you are doing there is a lesson for all of us. History is in part the treasure-trove of each nation. History is also in part a burden. Wisdom lies in delving into the treasures but shaking off the burdens. There is little of worth to be secured through conquest by anger or conquest by fear. What is of enduring value can be secured only through conquest by love, conquest by peace, conquest by cooperation.

What I am trying to say is best illustrated by the delightful Turkish folk tale of Nasr-ud-din Hodja's encounter in a hamam with Taimur Lang, the Conqueror of the World.

Taimur asked the Hodja:

"How much am I, the Conqueror of the World, worth?"
The Hodja replied:

"Not more than fifty akches."
Surprised Taimur said:

"How can that be? Even the bathrobe I am wearing is worth fifty-akches."

"Yes" replied the Hodja, "it is the bathrobe I am pricing."

We thank you, Excellency, for the warmth of your hospitality and the great sincerity with which you are helping build a new, dynamic relationship between our countries. We were deeply shocked by the dastardly attempt on your life and profoundly relieved that you escaped serious injury. We hope and pray that you will be with us for many years to cultivate the garden of our friendship.

I would like to invite you, ladies and gentlemen, to raise your glasses in a toast to His Excellency Turgut Ozal and Madame Ozal, to the renewal of centuries of close relations between India and Turkey and to the warm and friendly people of your great country.
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RKEY INDIA USA AFGHANISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SOUTH AFRICA IRAN IRAQ SWITZERLAND GREECE

Date : Jul 17, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Joint Press Statement on 70th Anniversary of Nelson Mandela

The following is the text of a Joint Press Statement made by the Prime Minister of India awl the Prime Minister of Turkey in Aukara on Jul 18, 1988:

Today, the peoples of - Turkey and India are commemorating the Seventieth Anniversary of a great man, a symbol of peace and freedom, Nelson Mandela. His fight for the eradication of apartheid, has won the respect of all those who believe in human rights and human dignity. We are confident that this anachronistic disgrace to humanity with its political, economic and social ramifications will be, buried in the dark pages of history with the least possible delay. On this occasion we extend our fervent wishes for his immediate unconditional release.

DIA TURKEY UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jul 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR ABROAD

Suo Moto Statement by Minister of External Affairs

The following is the text of a Suo Moto statement by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of External Affairs in Lok Sabha Rajya Sabha on Jul 29, 1988, regarding Prime Minister's visits abroaa during June and July, 1988:

The Prime Minister visited Syria, Federal Republic of Germany, New York (UN) and Hungary from June 4 to 11, 1988, He also visited Jordan, Yugoslavia, Spain and Turkey from July 11 to 20, 1988. This was the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Jordan and Spain. To Syria, it was a visit by an Indian Prime Minister after a gap of 31. years while the visit to Turkey was after an interval of 28 years. The Prime Minister received a warm welcome in all the countries visited. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere and were characterised by goodwill on both sides. During these visits, Prime Minister reviewed matters of bilateral, regional and international concern with leaders of these countries with a view to further strengthening of bilateral ties and extending cooperation with these countries on regional and international issues.

In the discussions with Syrian President Hafez al Assad and Premier Zoubi there was complete agreement on enlarging and diversifying bilateral exchanges. In the regional and international sphere, the Syrian side gave its assessment about the situation in the Middle East, Lebanon, and on the Iran-Iraq war. We on our part apprised the Syrian leadership about the situation in our region. The discussions revealed a broad consensus of views between the two sides. There was general appreciation of the Indian stand. Decisions were taken on exchange of visits and a meeting of Joint Trade Committee which took place on 27-28 June. An invitation was extended to President Assad to visit India.

The visit to FRG was overdue as the last visit by an Indian Prime Minister was in 1971. Visit was also opportune because in recent years Indo-FRG relations have developed considerably. FRG is now

our largest trading partner in West Europe. In terms of new collaborations approved by Government of India it ranks only after USA. It is the biggest bilateral aid donor from amongst West European countries. FRG Government has also been indicating their interest in a high level political dialogue with India. An exceptionally
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warm reception was accorded to Prime Minister.

Prime Minister visited Stuttgart, Munich and Bonn and had discussions with Chancellor Kohl, Foreign Minister Genscher, Economics Minister Dr. Bangemann, Minister for Economic Cooperation Dr. Hans Klein, Chairman of SPD Dr. Vogel and Minister-Presidents of Baden-Wuerttemberg (Mr. Spaeth) and of Bavaria (Mr. Strauss).

There were two rounds of talks with Chancellor Kohl in which bilateral and international issues were discussed. It was agreed that annual political consultations between the two Foreign Offices will be held regularly. Regular seminars to promote cooperation at the academic, industrial and scientific level between the two countries will be held. Collaboration in science and technology will be promoted by setting up a joint consultative committee to review on-going cooperation and take up new proposals. There would be enhanced cultural exchanges. A Festival of India will be held in FRG in 1990 and a reverse Festival of FRG in India in 1991.

At Bonn Prime Minister addressed a special session jointly hosted by Federation of German Industries. German Association of Industry and Trade and German Foreign Policy Association. It was made clear to the German audience that while India had no intention of opening its market completely by removing all restrictions, foreign investment was welcome and would be facilitated by removing procedural delays and other difficulties which are not linked to basic policy decisions.

For the modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant, the German Federal Government offered a DM 660 million financial package.

The visit contributed to reinforcing Indo-FRG relations in various areas.

Prime Minister's visit to New York was primarily to address the third Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Dis-armament (SSOD-III). Prime Minister presented before the General Assembly his vision of a nuclear Weapon-free and nonviolent world. Following the Prime Minister's statement, India tabled farreaching proposals on a whole range of disarmament issues. The centre-piece of these proposals was a time-bound and phased programme of action for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2010. The most essential features of the

Action Plan presented by India is the binding commitment by all nations to eliminate nuclear weapons during a specified period of time. In addition, India presented papers on new technologies and qualitative arms race and a question of disposal of warheads in the nuclear missiles covered by the INF Treaty. Prime Minister availed of the opportunity of his halt in New York to have meetings with Presidents Najbullah of Afghanistan, President De La Madrid of Mexico and President Vassilou of Cyprus, as also with Deputy Premier Co-Thach of Vietnam, United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

Prime Minister visited Hungary on 10th and 11th June at the joint invitation Of President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Mr. Janos Kadar and the newly elected General Secretary of the HSWP and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Mr. Karoly Grosz. Previous Prime Minister level visit from India to Hungary was by Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1972. Prime Minister was given an unprecedented welcome in keeping with the very close political relations and the high level of goodwill on both sides.

The exchange of views on international and regional issues was useful. Hungary supported India's stand on Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Kampuchea. Hungary also expressed its full agreement
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with the Action Plan out lined by the Prime Minister in his New York speech delivered at the Special Session on Nuclear Disarmament.

On the bilateral side, ways and means were discussed to expand commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries. The two sides decided to increase the trade turnover to US $ 200 million by 1990. It has also been decided to hold the 8th Session of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission at New Delhi in October 1988. Both sides expressed great happiness at the cultural cooperation between the two countries. Hungary would actively participate in the Nehru Centunary Celebrations. During the visit an agreement between Doordarshan and Hungarian TV was signed. Prime Minister extended an invitation to Mr. karoly Grosz to visit India which has been accepted.

Prime Minister visited Jordan from July 11-13, 1988, the first ever visit by an Indian Prime to that friendly country. Prime Minister was accorded a very warm welcome and the visit received extensive media coverage. He had talks with King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Rifai.

Prime Minister's discussions with the Jordanian leadership were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere and were characterised by frankness and goodwill on both sides. The Jordanian side gave its assessment of the evolving situation in the Middle East and the Iran-Iraq war. Prime Minister in turn briefed the Jordanian leadership about the situation in our region and India's

relations with its neighbours. The visit also provided an opportunity for an indepth review of the entire gamut of Indo-Jordanian bilateral relations. The talks focussed on providing a further boost to bilateral exchanges, particularly in the economic, commercial and scientific fields on an institutionalised basis. The visit of an Indian Private sector team in September 1988 and of a TFAI exhibition in September 1989 were agreed upon. The possibility of Joint ventures was also explored.

Prime Minister paid a visit to Yugoslavia from July 13 to 15, 1988. The previous Prime Ministerial visit was that of Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1983. Yugoslav Government accorded great importance to this visit and invited Prime Minister to address the Yugoslav Assembly and specially called a session for this purpose. Prime Minister held talks with President Dizdarevic, Prime Minister Branko, Mikulic and Party President Suvar.

The relations between the two countries have been strengthened. The visit has resulted in providing directions for more cooperation between India and Yugoslavia on bilateral and multilateral issues.

Yugoslavia extended total support to Prime Minister's Action Plan on Disarmament, it called for more vigorous pursuit of Smt. Indira Gandhi's initiative for an international conference of money and finance. On our side we lauded Yugoslavia's initiative on the Balkan Foreign Ministers' Conference and efforts to promote Mediterranean security. As two of the founder-members of the Nonaligned movement it is important for India and Yugoslavia to new political directions in view of the far reaching changes in the international environment and the need to maintain and enhance the effectiveness of the Non-aligned Movement in this context. Consultation and contact would be confirmed between the two countries for this purpose, as also with a view to intensifying South-South cooperation and reviewing the world economic situation in order to formulate proposals for the resolution of the existing problems, including the debt crisis.

Bilateral cooperation has been strengthened by this visit. Three Agreements Protocols were signed during this visit. These include an agreement on Information and Broadcasting; a programme for Science and Technology Cooperation over
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the next three years; and a protocol on Bilateral Cooperation in Sports. Several decisions were taken to expand trade on a balanced basis as well as to intensify economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation.

In Spain, Prime Minister had 'three rounds of talks with Prime Minister Falips Gonzalez during which apart from the internal situation in the two countries the whole gamut of Indo-Spain

bilateral relations a-, well as regional and international questions of interest to the two sides were discussed. In addition to exploring possibilities of strengthening political, economic and cultural relations between the two countries, an exchange of views took place on East-West relations, EEC matters, disarmament, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka etc.

French Prime Minister Michel Rocard who was vacationing in Spain during PM's visit expressed interest in meeting PM and a tripartite meeting of PM, Gonzales and Rocard took place on July 18 morning at which, inter alia, EEC and disarmament matters were discussed.

Prime Minister also addressed a group of top level Spanish industrialists and entrepreneurs with a view to encouraging greater commercial activity between the two countries.

The principal agreements understandings that emerged from the visit are as follows:

It was decided to intensify the political dialogue between India and Spain. Spanish Prime Minister has accepted the invitation to visit India, Spanish Foreign Minster has also been invited and the visit should materialise before the end of the year. Spain is interested in maintaining a regular dialogue with India on NAM matters which we have welcomed. They reiterated their strong endorsement of the Six-Nation Initiative and promised support for our action plan on disarmament.

As part of the efforts to intensify economic and commercial relations it was agreed: (i) to consider reviving the Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy which lapsed in 1977; (ii) to explore join ventures cooperation in fisheries which is an area of much promise. Spain also showed interest in joint ventures in pharmaceuticals; (iii) Spain which will assume the Presidency of the EEC from January 1, 1989 indicated that it would help India to expand I safeguard its interests in the EEC and within the EEC it will help to promote the North-South dialogues; (iv) pending agreements on tourism and science and technology will be expedited (v) Spanish Government will use its influence with Iberia so that its flights to India which were suspended in February this year will be resumed; (vi) the 'two sides will participate in the important Trade fairs in the respective countries.

Regarding Indo-Spanish cooperation in defence related R&D, a team from Spain will come to India for further discussions. Spanish side showed interest in developing cultural relations including promotion of Spanish language teaching in India.

Prime Minister's visit laid the foundations for deepening political, economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

Until 2/3 years ago relations between India and Turkey had been in substantial notwithstanding the historical interaction between the two countries, the admiration of our leaders such as Gandhi and Nehru for Kemal Ataturk and the principles of secularism and democracy on which Ataturk based the Turkish Republic which we share.

However, the coming to power of Prime Minister Ozal in 1983 and Turkey's decision to explore new foreign policy options, including towards India as a leader of the non-aligned countries, created a climate favourable to improving of India-Turkey relations. Following Ozal's visit to India in April 1986 relations between
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India and Turkey have developed rapidly in political,, economic, commercial, cultural and other fields.

The Turkish side extended unprecedented diplomatic courtesies to Prime Minister. In addition to two round of private talks, extensive discussions took place between the two Prime Ministers during the several engagements in which they were together. Prime Minister also called on President Evren.

The following three agreements were signed during Prime Minister's visit:

1. Maritime Agreement
2. Mutual judiical assistance in civil and commercial matters
3. Mutual judicial assistance in criminal matters.

In addition to the above, an agreement was signed between IRCON and the Turkish National Railways for a US $25 million railway electrification project.

Inter alia, it was agreed that: i) a banking delegation led by the Governor of the Central Bank of Turkey will visit India in October November; ii) further negotiations for finalising the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement will be held in Delhi in December 1988; and iii) Turkish side will send an agricultural delegation to India in early spring 1989.

In addition to bilateral matters there were extensive discussions at various levels on regional and international issues such as Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Iraq-Iran war, West Asia, Turkey's relations with Greece and Bulgaria and the Cyprus dispute.

Prime Minister invited President Evren and Prime Minister Ozal to visit India. The invitations were accepted.

We welcome Turkey's bid for closer understanding with us. To

begin with it is necessary to establish the required infrastructure for building up relations. While airlines and direct PTI links already exist, the signature of a maritime agreement and progress on cooperation in the banking sector will create the additional infrastructure needed. Prospects of raising the level of trade are good, but in order to avoid imbalance in our trade, it would be necessary for India to work for project experts, the beginning of which has been made with the railway project.

Just prior to Prime Minister's visit Turkey imposed restrictions on export of inverter components to Pakistan and also formally lifted the ban on the Gandhi film.

The visits have provided a fresh impetus to our growing relations with the respective countries and we look forward to a strengthening of our cooperation with them both bilaterally and in international forums.

RMANY SYRIA HUNGARY USA JORDAN SPAIN TURKEY YUGOSLAVIA INDIA IRAN IRAQ LEBANON AFGHANISTAN CYPRUS MEXICO VIETNAM SRI LANKA FIJI PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU BULGARIA GREECE

Date : Jul 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Struggle Against Apartheid

The following is the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi's message on the occasion of 70th Birth Anniversary of Nelson Mandela. The message was read by Special Envoy of Prime Minister, Shri N. Krishnan at a function organised by the World Youth Action Against Apartheid in New Delhi on Jul 18, 1988:

Freedom loving forces across the world have elected to commemorate Nel-
<pg-248>

son Mandela's seventieth birthday on July 18 as a fitting occasion to demand his unconditional release along with all other political prisoners held in South Africa. Mandela has been continuously under detention for twenty six long years. The only crime of which he stands accused is that he demands freedom and majority rule for his people. Despite his prolonged

incarceration, Mandela's patriotic spirit remains powerful and undaunted. His message remains one of sweet reason, not anger. He continues to inspire the dispossessed and repressed majority in South Africa in their struggle to dismantle the abhorrent and archaic system of apartheid.

We in India salute this guiding force of South Africa's liberation struggle. Today we join others in demanding his freedom. We had honoured Nelson Mandela by bestowing on him the 1979 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding. In his acknowledgement of the award which was smuggled out of Robben Island Prison only in 1981 he referred in moving terms to the manner in which his political thinking was influenced by Jawaharlal Nehru's experience and vision. Indeed as far back as in 1953 in his speech which was read to the Conference of the Transvaal ANC he quoted the following passage from Jawaharlal Nehru:

"There is no easy walk to freedom anywhere and many of us will have to pass through the valley of death again and again before we reach the mountain tops of our desires".

On Nelson Mandela's seventieth birthday, we could not do better than solemnly rededicate ourselves to the cause so dear to him. While insistently demanding his immediate unconditonal release so that he can participate in a dialogue for political reform in South Africa, we must also redouble our efforts to sensitise international public opinion into bringing about the application of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa. It is only in this way that the Pretoria regime can be brought to its senses on the urgent issue of dismantling apartheid to which Nelson Mandela has so heroically devoted his life and energy.

UTH AFRICA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ANGUILLA

Date : Jul 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Mandela, a Shining Symbol of Indomitable Human Spirit

The following is the text of speech of Vice President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma made in New Delhi On Jul 18, 1988 to mark the 70th Birthday of Mr. Nelson Mandela:

I deem it a special privilege to associate myself with the 70th birthday anniversary celebrations of Nelson Mandela and I do so not only on my personal behalf but on behalf of the Government and the people of India.

The previous speakers spoke at length about Nelson Mandela. From what we have heard there is not a shadow of doubt that there can very few, if indeed any, political prisoners who are known and admired the world over as Nelson Mandela is.

The several honours and awards he has received from various parts in the globe all testify to his unflinching courage, unwavering determination and utterly selfless devotion to the cause which is dearer to him than life itself - that of liberating the oppressed people of South Africa.

Since the age of 24 when he began to involve himself with the liberation struggle in South Africa, Nelson Mandela had to spend many months either in prison or underground. In a letter from underground on 26th June 1961, he spelled out his testament of faith:
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"For my own part I have my choice. I will not leave South Africa nor will I surrender. Only through hardship, sacrifice and militant action can freedom be won. The struggle is my life. I will continue fighting for freedom until the end of my days. "

At the end of the Rivonia trial on 12th June 1964, he and seven others were sentenced to life imprisonment for alleged acts of sabotage against the apartheid. State. In his statement during the trial on the dock in Pretoria's Supreme Court, he said:

"During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination. I have fought against black domination. I have cherished my ideal of a democratic free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if need be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Of those who received the life sentence, one was acquitted subsequently and another released three years ago. Govan Mbeki was freed last November. Those who still languish in prison to this day since then besides Nelson Mandela are Walter Sisulu and three others.

We have heard some moments back what the distinguished representative of the ANC in India said about Nelson Mandela. May I assure him that we in this country have the greatest admiration for this freedom fighter of Africa.

It is out of admiration for this bravest of the brave that the

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding was conferred on him. The Award was conferred on him, according to the citation, in recognition of his fight against oppression and race prejudice and in the cause of human brotherhood and equality. At a special ceremony in New Delhi on 14 November 1980, as our External Affairs

Minister pointed out, President Oliver Tambo of the ANC accepted the Award on behalf of Nelson Mandela. In presenting the Award, the President of India had said: I quote:

"In honouring Nelson Mandela with the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding today, the people of India salute a man of indomitable spirit, who holds firm1y that all men are equal in the family of man."

Nelson Mandela was aware of this honour conferred on him and in a long letter from prison some months later he was modest enough to write to us as follows:

"Although I have been singled out for this award I am mindful that I am the mere medium for an honour that rightly belongs to the people of our country".

Nelson Mandela is a shining symbol of the indomitable human spirt and the fight against oppression, equality and discrimination. These evils having been identified and strenuously opposed by India from the most ancient times. Our philosophy of humanism propounds the concept of oneness and equality of all human beings. The Rg. Veda enunciated this principle most emphatically in the words:

There is only one race-of human beings. It is this thought that has imbued the Indian ethos and value systems for countless centuries, and it is this philosophy that inspires India's determination relentlessly to fight against aparthied in all its forms. I would like to recall the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru from his speech in Parliament on December 6, 1950: 1 quote:

"It is the issue of racialism that is of paramount importance .... regardless of how long it takes us to settle the issue, we shall not submit to racialism in any part of the world".

Our great leaders have consistently striven in this direction. Smt. Indira
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Gandhi had said in a speech on August 25, 1982: 1 quote:

"From the days of Mahatma Gandhi, who lived and worked in South Africa for some years, we have firmly opposed racial discrimination. When our own Government came to power under Jawaharlal Nehru, we enacted laws for greater equality in our

own land and our first major international initiative in the United Nations was a crusade against racial discrimination and apartheid. We share the deep agony of the black and coloured people who suffer in South Africa. We share their faith in their ultimate victory. We are aware of the problems you have faced as their neighbour and well-wisher. We realise the responsibilities of the Frontline States Zimbabwe is now free. So shall Namibia be. And, indeed, in the not too distant future, South Africa too will be free of oppression, opening the doors of opportunity to people of all races. I salute the gallant freedom fighters of South Africa, whose shining advocate Nelson Mandela is...India stands solidly with you."

Smt. Indira Gandhi in her address at the 38th session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 28, 1983 had said: I quote:

"Almost my first conscious thoughts were admiration for those who fought for freedom and concern for those who suffered. Nelson Mandela, a flaming symbol of freedom and many others are behind prison bars but their voices cannot be stilled."

Similarly, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has reiterated India's and Non-aligned Movement's unflinching and dedicated support to the cause of freedom, equality and humanism the world over. Our Prime Minister had said on March 22, 1985, 1 quote:

"Racial discrimination is a continuing outrage against civilisation. It dehumanises both the victim and the oppressor and violates the cardinal principle of democratic equality .... Opposition to racial discrimination is fundamental to the Non-aligned Movement. Successive summits have denounced the policies of the racist regime of South Africa and reiterated the solidarity of the Non-aligned with the struggle of the South African people. The tide of history cannot be indefinitely stemmed. The day is not far off when the South African people's struggle for racial equality will be crowned with success. Their endeavours have the support of freedom-loving people everywhere. India and the Non-aligned Movement stand with them."

In observing Nelson Mandela's 70th birthday today, India joins the rest of the world in calling for his unconditional release and that of other political prisoners in South Africa and in reminding the minority white regime that its policy of brutal repression can only harden the resolve of freedom-loving people in that country to continue with their struggle. The regime should see the writing on the wall unless it wishes to witness South Africa engulfed in further bloodshed and violence. Apartheid cannot be reformed but must be dismantled entirely. The days of white supremacy are over and the winds of change are blowing with increasing intensity.

While paying tributes to Nelson Mandela, we should neither forget

nor ignore his loving wife Winnie and their two daughters. The emotional and spiritual support the three have given him all these 25 years he spent in prison demonstrates not only the sustaining power of their affection but also their love of freedom and concern for the oppressed and the suffering in South Africa. We have been told that for some time Nelson Mandela can neither speak to his wife or daughters except through an intercom nor feel the touch of their hands. More than once Winnie and the two daughters have rejected Pretoria's terms for the release of Nelson Mandela. We admire them for the courage of their conviction.
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In conclusion, may I commend the role of non-government organisations like the World Youth Action Against Apartheid in mobilizing international opinion in support of the campaign to free Nelson Mandela and against South Africa's abhorrent practice of apartheid.

May I also on behalf of the Government of India and the people of India convey to our dear friend Nelson Mandela our best wishes on his 70th birthday. May the prison doors soon swing open for him to enable him as a free man to complete his struggle for the people of his land.

UTH AFRICA INDIA USA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Rehabilitation Work by IPKF Commended

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 15, 1988 on rehabilitation work by IPKF in Jaffna:

The government and civil hospitals at' Jaffna, which had nearly stopped functioning owing to damaged buildings, inserviceable equipment and X-Ray machines have started functioning to their optimum capacity. This has been made possible by the untiring efforts of the IPKF personnel and its experts including doctors and nursing assistants. New X-Ray machines and equipment has been provided. Generators and pump sets have also been installed to restore the electricity and water supply.

The Director General of Hospitals at Jaffna has commended the work put in by the IPKF, which has brought relief to the Peninsula and saved many a life.
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I LANKA INDIA

Date : Jul 15, 1988

August

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Date : Aug 01, 1988

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1995

AFRICA

India to Continue Assistance to African Countries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 11, 1988 on India's assistance to African countries:

The Union Industry Minister, Shri J. Vengala Rao has reiterated India's commitment for assistance to Africa for its industrial development and South-South Co-operation in general.

This assurance was- given by the Industry Minister when Prof. A. Adedeji, U.N. Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa called on him here last evening. Prof. Adedeji is visiting India as the head of 4-member delegation,

Prof. Adedeji thanked the Minister of Industry for extending cooperation for industrial development in Africa. He expressed satisfaction at the commissioning of African Regional Centre for Engineering Design in manufacturing executed by HMT (International) at a cost of US $ 3.50 lakh and promotion of small scale industries in Africa executed by National Small Industries Corporation at a cost of US $ 4 lakh.

Prof. Adedeji commended the rapid industrial growth achieved by India within a relatively short time span. He also spoke highly of the rapid progress made by the country in various fields since his last visit to India.

The Economic Commission for Africa was established in 1958 with Head Quarters at Adis Ababa (Ethiopia) by the UN Economic and Social Council. It is the first inter-governmental organisation in Africa whose geographic scope covers the whole continent. ECA headed by Prof. Adedeji as the Executive Secretary.

DIA USA RUSSIA ETHIOPIA

Date : Aug 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

President's Message on the Eve of Independence Day 1988

The following is the text of the President, Shri R. Venkataraman's broadcast to the Nation on Aug 14, 1988 on the eve of Independence Day, 1988:

Tomorrow we will be celebrating the forty-first anniversary of our Independence. On this auspicious occasion I extend my warm felicitations to all Indian nationals, residing within and outside the country.

'August 15' is a date with emotional appeal. It reverberates with echoes of the immortal slogans of our freedom struggle: the celebrated call of Mahatma Gandhi: 'Do or Die'; the declaration of Lokmanya Tilak: 'Swaraj is our Birth right'; the song
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of Subramania Bharati: 'Viduthalai! Viduthalai!' and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's vibrant order of the day: 'Dilli Chalo!'. Above all, August 15 brings to mind the image of Jawaharlal Nehru, with his radiant enthusiasm for our future, hoisting the national flag on the ramparts of the Red Fort.

We are also reminded today of the song on the Flag that was sung throughout the country during our long and ardous struggle:

(this matter in Hindi)

Let us, this day, pay our reverential homage to the heroic leaders who fought under that banner. Let us also pay our homage to the countless foot-soldiers of the struggle who fought in its various phases sacrificing their homes, studies and jobs for the sole satisfaction of achieving Swaraj.

Gandhiji once said:
The word 'swaraj' is a sacred word, a vedic word, meaning self-rule and self-restraint, and not freedom from restraint which 'independence' often means.

As we look back over the four decades of Swaraj we can derive legitimate pride over the fact that self-rule has come to be truly and firmly established in our country. The democratic form of governance - which is based on the principle of self-restraint - has taken firm and unshakeable root in our soil. Eight general

elections have been held in the country since Independence, apart from numerous other elections to State legislatures and individual by-elections. All these have shown the maturity and decisiveness of the Indian electorate. The Indian voter has, indeed, become conscious of his political rights and though he may be unlettered and wearing the humblest clothes, he is using the electoral process skilfully for democratic self-expression.

A polity has thus come into being in India which represents and reflects Indian opinion in all its vibrant diversity.

The tree of Indian democracy is today strong of root and large of girth. But like all trees this one also attracts the illicit woodcutter's eye. I refer to certain elements in our society which for their selfish and narrow ends seek to undercut and undermine the electoral process. No words can be too strong to condemn the saboteurs of parliamentary democracy in our country. To interfere with and thereby to seek to thwart the mechanism of the ballot is to lay an axe at the very foundations of our polity. Political parties whether ruling on in opposition have a grave responsibility for ensuring fair and free elections.

I would appeal to all parties to remember Gandhiji's words about the twin. ingredients of Swaraj, namely, self-rule and self-restraint. Let all political parties and groups make sure that no one acting in their name takes liberties with election procedures. Election ethics are not a matter of procedure alone; they are the veritable life-breath of the political system which our people have given unto themselves. Free and fair elections are the fountain heads of democracy. Let not the source be sullied.

In this, all political parties and groups, as well as administrators and the police 'in charge of election arrangements will have to regard themselves as trustees of the voters' sovereignty. They will have to act with integrity and impartiality.

I would also like to share with fellew-citizens today my fervent hope that the elected, representatives of our people will always so act as to justify the trust reposed in them. I am reminded on this occasion of a statement made by Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on the day he assumed the office of Chairman of the Rajya Sabha:

A democracy is likely to degenerate into a tyranny if it does not allow the opposition groups to criticize fairly, freely and frankly the policies of the Government. But at the same time. .
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their right of criticism should not degenerate into wilful hampering and obstruction of the work of Parliament.

These words of our sagacious former President, whose birth

centenary falls this year, deserve our deepest attention. The functioning of our legislatures ought to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to our people in the face of their many challenges.

PUNJAB

Friends, as you are aware, the rhythms of normal activity in some parts of the country have been repeatedly disrupted by terrorist attacks which leave a trial of innocent blood. Simple men, women and children who have nothing to do with politics, much less with the politics of extremism, are the victims of these attacks. The killing in Punjab of those who have spoken up for communal harmony and the unity of our country, has caused the greatest anguish to me. Government is, of course, addressing itself to the task of meeting the terrorist challenge at many levels. But violence cannot be met or countered by any quarter other than by the people themselves refusing to be cowed down into fear or hatred. I would urge our people to continue to hold fast to the values of tolerance, friendship and amity that have marked our natoinal life down the ages. Let communal hatreds which are aberrations in our national life, belong to the past. And may peace prevail in the country.

DISARMAMENT

The outlook for world peace, in the meantime, has taken a positive turn. In the area of disarmament, the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the INF Treaty at the Moscow Summit has been a welcome development. There is a growing realisation by all the peoples and almost all the governments of the world, of the urgent need to rid the world of nuclear weapons. It is to further this objective that India proposed a time-bound Action Plan for ushering in a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world order at the recently held Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament. The Action Plan gives operational form to the principles and ideas of the Five Continent Peace Initiative and the Non-aligned Movement. The Plan underscores our belief that nonviolence and the principle of peaceful coexistence are crucial to the world and, particularly, to the developing countries. Our country cannot afford to divert its energies from the tasks of development.

Last year, when I addressed you on the eve of Independence Day, the nation was in the grip of a serious drought. The rains had failed in large parts of the country for three years in a row. It is gratifying that notwithstanding that lean period and a resultant decline in grain production, our strong buffer stock and efficient public distribution system absorbed the shock. We are happy that despite the severe drought the food production was lower only by less than 5% as compared to the previous year. Likewise, despite the set back caused by drought the industrial

sector achieved a growth of about 8% and our all power generation increased by seven and-a-half per cent over the previous year.

This year the monsoons have been favourable. I am confident that widespread and copious rains will restore the pace of progress in all sectors. While the overall position in respect of the monsoons is heartening, the havoc caused by floods, in Assam, Bihar, U.P. and Gujarat have distressed us all deeply. They point, once more, to the need for a long-term plan for dealing with such natural calamities.

Be it disaster-relief or disaster-avoidance, or be it any other area of activity, the agencies of the State and the people must pool their resources and work together. Nationhood consists of a partnership between the people of a country and its government. This partnership cannot function without both proceeding in
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unison. Let us then march, shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand, towards a fulfulment of our Swaraj through self-rule and self-restraint.

I will conclude with a stanza composed by Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai, the illustrious Tamil poet, whose birth centenary falls this year.

Never forgetting Gandhi,
Never abandoning compassion,
Never deviating from the path of truth and peace,
Let our country's freedom
Be a beaconlight
Unto all mankind.
Jai Hind"

A INDIA RUSSIA MALI

Date : Aug 14, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Prime Minister's Independence Day Address

The following is the text of an English rendering of the Address of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi from the ramparts of the Red Fort, in New Delhi on Aug 15, 1988:

My congratulations to you on Independence Day today. The monsoon has been very good this year. I want to congratulate all our farmers, farm-labourers, brothers and sisters because, after many years, we have had such a monsoon.

On this day, we have to think of the future and also look back. On the one hand, we have to see where we have to take the country, how we have to carry our people forward and on the other hand, we have to ponder over the difficulties we have emerged out of, and how we can improve things in future.

When we look back over the last four years, one thing that we notice is the economic improvement in the country. We have to recall that monsoon was very bad in 1984 and 1985. Then there was drought in 1986 and last year's drought was the worst in living memory. Yet, the country steadily moved forward.

Last year, we fought the drought with all our strength. From Delhi, from the Centre, we paid early attention to it and initiated strong measures. Our effort was to see that as far as the drought was concerned we should not bring politics into it and that our attention should be focussed on the people who were suffering under drought and needed relief. We devoted last year to this and our entire attention was concentrated on those people. India came out of this drought and the pace of our development did not halt, although it slowed down a bit. We did move forward and with strength.

The world was a witness to how India faced the drought and it realised that India had become a strong country capable of facing major calamities. The world also realised that there is nothing that can suppress India or stop it from forging ahead.

I want to congratulate all those who put their shoulders to the job of meeting the challenge of the drought - whether they were in politics, administration or in any voluntary organisation. Above all, I would like to congratulate our farmers and farm-labourers who faced the drought with determination. As I said, even though the country was reeling under drought, Its pace of development could not be halted. The country moved ahead even under those conditions. The performance of our infrastructure was very good. Likewise, the process of industrialisation continued at a fast pace and we did not allow it to falter.

For the first time, the country came out of such a difficult period and the pace of development did not suffer. For the first time, we did not go to others with a begging bowl. That we were able to achieve this is a matter of great pride. We
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were able to do it because of the work done by Panditji and Indiraji during the last 40 years - the result of which we see

today. Even while passing through difficult times, there was no slackening of attention we devoted to the poor. We reinforced our programmes of poverty alleviation, programmes for women, for development of children and for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We worked for the rapid and effective implementation of these programmes. Never before have so much of resources been invested in poverty alleviation programmes as had been done during these years.

Even so, sometimes certain painful incidents occur. A few days back, a major incident occurred in Jahanabad. it brought down the prestige of the entire country. Our endeavour will be to prevent recurrence of such incidents. I am aware that our laws have their lacunae and we are unable to take the kind of action we would like to. If need be, we' will change the laws to ensure that such incidents are not repeated and that the guilty are swiftly and suitably punished. Similarly, we have to ensure that our minorities get full opportunity to progress and make their contribution to nation building. Our weaker sections also require help and we will provide it to them. We have to ensure that the backward classes in our country are strengthened and that they get an opportunity to progress.

Our economic position has become strong and, during these years, we have also strengthened the country politically. You may recall how the country was placed three and a half years ago in November 1984. You will recall that a dark cloud hung over it and the single question that agitated the hearts and minds of people was - what will happen to the country; whether India will remain united or disintegrate? Indiraji had been assassinated, there were riots in Delhi, the conditions in Punjab were bad, there were agitations in Assam and Mizoram, terrorism stalked Tripura and a new agitaton had started in the Darjeeling hills of West Bengal. In the South, the people were concerned because of the serious Tamil problem in Sri Lanka.

When we look around us to today, we find a great improvement. There has been an Accord wtih Sri Lanka which we hope soon be fully implemented. Meanwhile the concern among the people in South India has been removed. Peace has come to Darjeeling following an agreement. There has been a settlement in Tripura bringing terrorism to an end. Peace has been restored in Mizoram and also in Assam. There have been changes in the Punjab situation though not to the desired extent. When we compare the Punjab of 1984 with the Punjab of 1988, we see the difference. The same old feelings are no longer there. Today the administration is firmly moving ahead together. The people of Punjab have stood up firmly for the country and everyone in Punjab is determindly facing the challenge of extremism and terrorism.

PUNJAB

We have demonstrated that if we want we can act firmly and show a firm hand. The Operation "Black Thunder" showed to all of us and to the whole world that India's security forces can act firmly and with great discipline. It also proved that the terrorists are mere terrorists and that religion finds no place in their hearts. The kind of things they did in that holy place, have perhaps never before been indulged in any sacred place in the country. We had never witnessed such desecration of a holy place and, I hope, we never have to see such a thing in future.

We are taking swift action to secure our borders to prevent infiltration and control terrorists. We regret that terrorists are still getting help from across the border. We hope that those helping the terrorists will soon realise the seriousness of their mistake. We would not like to take any action that may force them repent later.
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During these years, we have totally changed the country's spirit. The depressing dark clouds of 1984 prevail no more. Today, people find a strong country forging steadily ahead with pride. Today, no one raises the question of disintegration of the country because India has proved to the world that it is a power which cannot be weakened by anyone.

But, there is a weakness which we have to completely eliminate. We have to destroy the communal forces. We have to ensure that secularism is strengthened and that no one mixes religion with politics. If a law is required or any other action is called for, we will do that. But we will fight the communal forces with we will all our strength. Our endeavour will be to unite all those who want to fight communalism and carry them together to fight these forces. It is our constant endeavour that the spirit of amity among religions prevailing in India, is not only maintained but strengthened.

We have also given a great deal of attention to India's security. Today, our armed forces are stronger than everbefore. We are today capable of facing aggression from many sides. This was never the case earlier. We have provided a great deal of impetus to defence research and development and to technology and science. For the first time, our Defence technology has forged ahead and is now comparable to that of the advanced countries. In many areas we are a level with them and, we hope that in the coming years we will strongly move ahead in this direction and show to the world that India can fully stand on its own feet and can totally face any challenge. No one can deviate us from our path.

On this day, I would like to congratulate my brothers and sisters in the arm ed forces for their discipline, their pre severence and for their determination. It is due to their strength that we can afford to sleep peacefully every night.

In the same manner, we have taken the prestige of India to great heights in the world during these years. We desire friendship with all. We desire that the whole world is swathed in the spirit of humanism and unity so that we are able to-devote ourselves to poverty alleviation and to improving the lot of the weaker sections.

NON-ALIGNMENT

We wish that the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi - the ideals of Ahimsa and tolerance - are spread throughout the world. We have made every endeavour to propagate these principles to every comer of the world. Through the Non-aligned Movement, we have carried this spirit to 101 nations of the world. We have moved even farther to carry this spirit even to those countries who did not subscribe to these principles. These principles were carried to the great powers too and they have made their impact. We hope to move ahead on this path with greater determination and create, in the world, a new environment of peace, tolerance, unity of mankind and progress. This was the path shown to us by Pandit Nehru and by Indiraji. We will not deviate from this path and will move ahead with determination.

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS

We desire friendship with all our neighbouring countries. We wish that all of us would cooperate to work for the development of our peoples. We initiated this cooperation through the SAARC and the movement has progressed well. There are still many problems and the path is not easy, but the difficulties are not of our making. We have friendship in our hearts and we have tolerance. We want our region to be strong, and we will strive nard to this end.

AFGHANISTAN

In our neighbourhood, a conflict has been going on in Afghanistan. We are happy that an agreement has been reached and that peace will be restored there. It
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is, however, essential that the agreement reached in Geneva is followed and that there is no deviation from it. If the Agreement fails, it will lead to the weakening of the entire region. We hope that all the concerned parties will observe the Geneva agreement.

APARTHEID

There is today only one part of the globe - South Africa - where racial discrimination is still practised. India, even before Independence, came out against apartheid, under the leadership of Gandhiji and later under Jawaharlal Nehru. Even today, with all

our strength we are raising our voice to end apartheid, with all our strength. We will not rest till apartheid is ended; till slavery is banished from the world.

PALESTINE

Similarly India is also firmly supporting the Palestinian movement. We would like an agreement to be reached so that Palestinians find a home and return to their motherland. We want peace to return to that part of the world.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

If poverty has to be removed and if weaker nations have to progress, then it is essential to have nuclear disarmament. No country in the world has raised its voice in favour of nuclear disarmament as strongly as India. For the first time, an Action Plan was presented to the United Nations which would lead to disarmament and peace throughout the world. For the first time we presented a programme to secure everyone's cooperation. We hope that nation will soon veer round and accept our plan. We know that it cannot be achieved quickly. This is not an easy path.

About 40 years ago, Jawaharlal Nehru had framed a new foreign policy based on the principles enunciated by Gandhiji. About 30 years ago Panditji had raised the flag of non-alignment. Today we find that for the first time there has been some action on disarmament and on non-alignment 30 to 35 years after Jawaharlal Nehru had raised the question of disarmament, an agreement has been reached on destroying nuclear weapons. We know that it is not an easy path. Nor will we be able to complete the course quickly. But we realise that. if there has to be peace in the world and if countries like India have to progress and become strong and above all if the poor peoples of the world have to be uplifted, then we have to cease spending funds on weapons and divert those resources to erase poverty and uplift humanity. We are moving firmly in this direction and we will not allow any infirmity to creep in.

India's stock has risen high in the world. The country has earned recognition and has participated in many major world decisions. We hope that in the coming years also India will continue to play its role in world affairs. We will carry the traditional spirit of India to the entire world, because only then will we be able to carve out the right path and reach the principles and ideology of Gandhiji to all corners of the world.

Today, on 15th August, we have to look to the future. We have to recognise the challenges before the country. There are many challenges but if I were to list them, I would rate poverty and unemployment as the main challenges, followed by the task to make our country great and to reach it to the summit of glory where it was before the country was enslaved. We have to do a lot to

remove poverty. We have initiated many programmes, but a lot more has to be done. If we have to remove poverty and provide employment, we have first to look at our villages. When we look at rural India, we have to look at the farmers and farm-labourers who face enormous difficulties. Our effort is, that, before anything else, we should help this sector to progress. If we really have to develop agriculture, we have to pay serious attention to land reforms. If land
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reforms are not brought about, particularly in eastern India, the green revolution will not be able to reach there. We will look at this problem seriously and try to resolve It.

We have found that over the years we had the same agricultural plan for farmers of the plains, for the hills, for desert areas and the South. We have changed all that. We have divided the country into 15-16 agro-climatic zones. We now minutely examine the problems that the farmers face, what kind of soil they have, what are their irrigation needs, how much fertiliser and what seed they require and what crops they should sow. For the first time we are examining all this minutely. We hope that this year our agricultural sector makes fast progress. We are making every effort to raise our level of production and return to the targets we fixed three years ago, because only then we shall be able to help our farmers and the farm-labourers.

We are also faced with another enormous problem. During the last 40-50 years our population has increased tremendously. While a lot of development has taken place, we find that where three-four persons subsisted on a bigha of land, there are 30-40 persons living off the same land. Agricultural land has been utilised for constructing roads, hospitals, schools and other institutions. A lot of development has taken place but in the process land has become scarce. What we have to ponder is how much people can subsist on land. We have also to consider how others can be provided employment. What is most essential is that employment is provided in the villages itself. We have to remove unemployment and we have to begin with the villages itself. This is what we are striving to do.

We have to see how value addition to farmer's produce can take place, that the produce is processed, sells better and the farmer gets a good price. We have to establish small processing plants to reach the farmer's produce even to far off places. Our endeavour would be to introduce the produce of Indian farmers to the whole world and export our fruits vegetables and foodgrains. I have, in the Government ' given special attention to this. We hope that we will be able to achieve rapid development especially in the backward and rural areas.

At the same time, we have also to ensure faster industrialisation because without it employment cannot be generated and

unemployment cannot be removed. We have to identify new areas of employment. The world is changing. A lot of changes have taken place in industry as also in the life-styles. We have to keep pace with it and to find out new areas of employment. We have moved fast in this direction also and hope that in the coming months and years we will find a seachange in the country, so that the country get stronger. Our poor and our youth will find employment and we will be able to move rapidly ahead. There is a great drawback that we have not been able to overcome. I receive many complaints that our programmes do not fully reach the grass-root level in rural areas. We have to think why this happens. I had had many meetings and debated the matter for hours. It then became clear that unless we made our Panchayati Raj institutions stronger and handed over responsibility to the people down below the line, nothing could be achieved. Gandhiji had said this very clearly. He had said that his concept of Swarat did not mean that power should concentrate in the hands of a few. Rather it meant that the people should have the capability to check misuse of power. This is what we also want to do. If it requires a change in the law or even an amendment of the Constitution, we will certainly do it and leave no lacunae. We will see that power vests in t e hands of the people because we know that this is the only way to ensure the success of our programmes and to take them to the masses.

When we look towards the future, our thoughts turn to our nation and our
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country. We have to consider what kind of India we would like to make. We shall remove poverty and we shall eliminate unemployment, but in what image shall we mould our country! Our endeavour should be to take the country to the heights, to which it belonged about 250-300 years ago, before people from different comers of the world set out to discover India. We shall be able to achieve this only when we strengthen the unity and integrity of India and battle all those who wish to weaken the country. India will get to be strong only when every part of the nation is strong. India will remain strong only when the Centre remains strong. We will see that no one is able to weaken the Centre and that the Centre remains strong. We together carry on our shoulders, the country's heritage. All of us are carrying forward the traditions of Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indiraji. We have to ensure that we follow their principles and their ideas. At the same time, we have to remember that it is we who have to find answers to the problems facing us today. We will not be able to find the answers in history. We have to carve out our own path with courage and determination. We have to remember that, if need be, we will have to make sacrifices. Gandhiji made the sacrifice. Panditji made sacrifices and Indiraji sacrificed herself. All of us should be ready for whatever sacrifices are to be made. I am also ready to make sacrifices to make the country strong, to make it go forward, to take it to the piracle and make a place for

itself in the world.

Let all of us pledge today that we will eradicate poverty and unemployment from the country, make India great and be ready for whatever sacrifices are required. Today, on 15th August, I pledge from the ramparts of the Red Fort that together we will restore India to its glory.

Jai Hind.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SRI LANKA AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND SOUTH AFRICA PERU LATVIA

Date : Aug 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

India and Indonesia Agree to Diversify Trade

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 05, 1988 on bilateral trade between India and Indonesia:

India and Indonesia have agreed on a number of steps to diversify and expand bilateral trade relations. Recognising that the present level of two-way trade did not reflect the existing potential, both sides have agreed that there is need to impart greater dynamism to the trade by diversifying the items of import and export. In this context, it was agreed that India could explore the possibilities of exporting items like textile, power and food processing machinery, chemicals, alumina and iron ore pellets to Indonesia.

It has also been agreed that delegations from the Indian textile machinery industry as well as the chemicals and pharmaceuticals sector will visit Indonesia in the near future. The Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) will invite a delegation to explore possibilities of import of power generation equipment by Indonesa.

This is indicated in the agreed Minutes of the 3-day official level meeting on Trade and Economic Relations between India and <pg-261>

Indonesia which concluded here today. The minutes were signed by the Commerce Secretary, Shri A. N. Varma, on behalf of the

Government of India and Mr. Poedji Koentarso, Director General for Foreign Economic Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia ' and leader of the 7-member Indonesian delegation, on behalf of the Indonesian Government. Both Mr. Koentarso and Shri Varma in their remarks characterised the agreement as reflecting a joint effort to substantially enlarge and strengthen bilateral trade ties between the two countries. The trade turnover in 1987-88 was valued at only Rs. 108.95 crores, consisting of exports to Indonesia of Rs. 26.56 crores and India's imports from Indonesia at Rs. 82.39 crores.

Following the deliberations, the two sides have agreed that the State Trading Corporation (STC) and organisations to be identified by the Indonesian side will explore the possibilities of entering into counter-trade or other mutually beneficial arrangements for import of bulk items which could be linked to exports to Indonesia.

In order to promote participation in joint ventures in Indonesia, a Seminar on "Investment Opportunities in Indonesia," to be organised by the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), will be held at the time of the next Joint Business Council meeting in New Delhi.

In the area of economic cooperation, both sides have agreed that bilateral relations could be further strengthened in the field of small and medium industries. In this context, the activities of the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and the National Research Development Corporation of India (NRDC) will be supported and enlarged to further strengthen cooperation with Indonesia in the small sector.

The Indonesian delegation took note of the Indian suggestion for special consideration to Indian offers for participation in projects in Indonesia, particularly in the fields of civil construction, power generation, railways, machine tools, irrigation works and water management.

It has also been agreed that pending the establishment of a Joint Commission, senior officials of both countries will meet on a regular basis to discuss bilateral trade and economic issues.

India's major exports to Indonesia consist of items like cotton, chemicals, textile yarn, handtools, machine tools and auto parts, while major items of import from Indonesia are palm oil, nickel products ond also fertilizer, paper and cement. At present, the balance of bilateral trade is in favour of Indonesia.

DONESIA INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Aug 05, 1988

Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao Hosts Dinner in Honour of Mr. AliAlatas

The following is the text of the speech of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of External Affairs at dinner hosted by him in honour of H.E. Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, in New Delhi on Aug 25, 1988:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to India, on your first visit to our country after you became the Foreign Minister of Indonesia. I would like to heartily welcome you, your wife and the Members of the delegation.

As Your Excellency is aware, our two countries are linked by historical and cultural bonds which stretch back several centuries. Trade, commerce, cultural and religious interaction flourished between our two countries since historical times. With the coming of the colonial era 'the natural evaluation of our relations sufferred a setback. This reversal has been overcome after both of our countries regained their independence. Indonesia had to wage an armed struggle to rid itself of the imperialists, while we in India, under
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the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru fought the British through non-violence.

NON-ALIGNMENT

After our countries became independent, we restarted developing friendly relations with each other and tried to give substance to these relations in different fields such as political economic, trade, cultural etc. Both of our countries have pursued a policy of Non-alignment and peaceful co-existence. We have come a long way since the Bandung conference of Asian Prime Ministers was held in your country in 1955. Both India and Indonesia are co-founders of the Non-aligned movement and we have been present at all the summits of our movement since the one held in Belgrade in 1961. Your visit to India, Excellency, is primarily related to the forthcoming Non-aligned Foreign Ministers Conference which will be held in Cyprus. We have exchanged views on this Conference and we find that there is a broad similarity on different matters.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

In India, we have been watching with great interest developments that have been taking place in South East Asia be cause this is a region which is close to us and with which we have had historic ties. For the first time after many years, a chance has appeared for reducing tensions in this area. I am referring to the recent moves which have been made for the resolution of the Kampuchean problem. We were greatly impressed with the way in which you personally convened the recently held Jakarta Informal Meeting, Certainly, a breakthrough was achieved at that Meeting, in that various factions were able to get together to find the solution to their problem. Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement also took an initiative in the matter. We regard the JIM and NAM initiatives as being complementary and mutually reinforcing. We sincerely hope that these and other processes will lead to a negotiated political settlement of this complex and difficult problem. The people of Kampuchea have sufferred tremendously and it is time that they returned to a normal peaceful existence.

Excellency, this has been a very brief visit and I sincerely wish that you will find time to pay us a longer visit in the near future. We would like you to go and see other parts of India as this will give you an idea of the various development programmes, which we have undertaken after our independence. I cherish the memory of my own visit to your beautiful country in 1984 when I had a chance to see some of the artistic skills and development programmes of Indonesia. I would again like to heartily welcome you and your delegation and may I now request you, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in a toast to the health of our distinguished guests and to the further development of warm and friendly relations between our two countries.

DONESIA INDIA USA YUGOSLAVIA CYPRUS

Date : Aug 25, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

India, FAO Collaboration in Jute

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 01, 1988 on India-FAO collaboration in jute:

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on June and Allied Fibres, of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is being hosted by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, in New Delhi from 2nd to 4th November, 1988.
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It is for the first time that the FAOIGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres is being hosted outside Rome, the headquarters of the FAO. Representatives from eighty-seven countries and from the United Nations and other international organisations like the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). UNCTAD/GATT, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank, UNIDO are being invited to participate in the Conference.

A Memorandum of Responsibilities regarding the international conference was signed here today by Mr. E. Bojadzievski, the FAO Representative in India and Bhutan on behalf of his Organisation and Dr. J. K. Bagchi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, on behalf of the Government of India.

The Intergovernmental Group of Food and Agriculture Organisation has contributed immensely to the evolution of stabilisation measures through indicative price mechanism in the raw jute sector in the international market. The Intergovernmental Group has also helped timely dissemination of important statistics for helping policy making in the jute sector. FAO has also taken up regular studies regarding competition between jute and synthetics which have been extremely helpful to the producing countries for monitoring the developments in this crucial area.

India is one of the leading producers of jute and jute goods in the world. Jute and jute products have traditionally been an important export item in India's export trade. With 4 million cultivators and more than 2 lakh workers involved in it, the jute sector plays a crucial role not only in the Eastern sector of the country but also for the national economy as a whole. The conference, which is being held for the first time outside the FAO headquarters, would give an opportunity for interaction and exchange of ideas between representatives of jute growing countries on the one hand and countries that import jute goods on the other. The presence of representatives from a large number of international organisations would help towards better understanding of various issues concerning jute and allied fibres.

DIA ITALY BHUTAN USA

Date : Aug 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

JERUSALEM DAY

Speech by Shri K. K. Tewari

The following is the text of the speech made by Shri K. K. Tewari, Minister of State for External Affairs in New Delhi on Jerusalem Day on Aug 20, 1988:

I am gratified to have been invited to participate in today's function organised to observe Jerusalem Day in commemoration of the sacrilegious attempt nineteen
years ago to bum down the holy Mosque of Al-Aqsa.

The Israeli occupation of the Holy City of Jerusalem and efforts to Judaize it have resulted in many acts of violence and desecration against this revered shrine and against other places of worship.
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The City of Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world. It has through the ages had historical, religious and cultural affinity with many a people. Today, it symbolises a spiritual centre for almost half of humanity. Its unique character is enhanced by the special significance it holds down to the present times for the three great monotheistic religions which originated in West Asia - Islam, Judaism and Christianity. For the Muslims the City in terms of religious sanctity is second only to Mecca and Madina. It is the first Qibla of Islam and the place of Miraq of Prophet Mohammad to Heaven. It is a matter of deep regret that over the years, the Al-Aqsa Mossue and the Holy Precincts have been subjected to a series of attacks and violations.

The unique status of Jerusalem has been fully accepted in our times. The League of Nations mandate for Palestine, granted to Great Britain in 1922, assumed full responsibility for "preserving existing rights" in all the Holy Places. The UN Partition Plan for Palestine also specifically acknowledged the international and religious importance of the Holy City and envisaged a special status for Jerusalem as a demilitarised 'Corpus separatum'. However, Israel occupied the western part of Jerusalem in 1948 and the eastern part in 1967. Since then in contravention of the principals and ideals of international law under which Israel is at best only an occupying state, it has made concerted efforts to alter the City's historical, topographical and demographic character. Furthermore, the Israeli authorities have taken a number of measures which are in direct and flagrant violation of their status as an occupying power. This includes the annexation and declaration of Jerusalem as the

capital of Israel.

India has strongly opposed Israeli occupation of Jerusalem and its attempts to alter the nature of the Holy City. India considers Jerusalem a part of Arab territory and fully supports the Arab stand for recovery of Jerusalem from Israel and for the preservation of places of religious worship like the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Considering Jerusalem as an integral part of the Arab homeland India has denounced the move by some countries to shift their Embassies to Jerusalem.

India's stand on Jerusalem is in keeping with its overall support for the Arab-Palestinian cause. This goes back to the 1920s when Mahatma Gandhi and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru saw the general Arab (including Palestinian) struggle for independence as part of the wider fight against imperialism and colonialism. Indian leaders even at that time emphasized the unacceptability of the formation of a state (Israel) on the basis of religion. In 1947, India was part of the United Nations Commission on Palestine and had suggested a federal state for Jews and Palestinians with Jerusalem as the common capital. India voted against the partition plan in 1948, which established two separate states: Israel and Palestine.

Since then it has been our unequivocal stand that unless the Palestinians receive justice there can be no lasting peace in West Asia. We have actively assisted in efforts to get the peace process moving. We believe that the most viable forum to negotiate a settlement is a UN sponsored international conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the dispute including the PLO. Unfortunately in the face of Israeli intrasigence all progress has been blocked. Palestinian frustration at the prolonged stalemate has burst forth in the uprisings in the occupied territories. Notwithstanding Israeli brutality and repression the brave Palestinians have refused to be subdued. International sympathy is with them. We hope fervently that they will soon achieve their legitimate aspirations.

On this important occasion I would like to reiterate India's deep sympathy for the plight of the Palestinian people and its firm commitment to the restoration of the just and inalienable national rights of
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the Palestinian people including the right to self-determination and an independent state in their homeland.

India in this context renews its call for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem and for restoration of the Holy City and the glory of its religious places so that people of all religions can practise their faith freely. Peace can be founded only on justice and tolerance not

only illigeal occupation and violence.

RAEL USA INDIA IRAQ

Date : Aug 20, 1988

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Closer Cooperation in Education and Culture

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 16, 1988 on Cooperation in education and culture between India and Mauritius:

India will assist Mauritius in the field of computer and higher education as also for holding an International Symposium on Education. This was decided at a meeting held here today between Mr. A. Parsuraman, Mauritian Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, who is on a state visit to India and Shri L. P. Shahi, Minister of State for Education and Culture. Both the Ministers reiterated the strong ties of friendship which bind the two countries which has much similarity in culture. Senior officers from the Department of Education and Culture also participated in the deliberations.

Discussions were also held on active implementation of the Sports Protocol between the two countries and more intensive collaboration between the Mauritian College of the Air and the Indira Gandhi National Open University. The early commencement of the construction of the building of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Culture in Mauritius was also discussed. India would also assist the Mauritian Commission on Tertiary Education, the setting up of a Copy Right Unit in Mauritius and in the field of Industrial Vocational Training.

The visiting Minister has asked that more seats particularly in the field of Medical studies should be earmarked for Mauritian students in Indian Institutions.

Mr. A. Parsuraman will visit Indian Space Research Organisation, the Centre for Studies on Atmospheric Science, the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore and the Raman Research Institute which has a joint venture with the University of Mauritius for setting up a Radio-telescope in Mauritius for galactic observations.

The Mauritian Minister will be visiting Madras, where the will call on the Governor, meet Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu, Secretary of the Department of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments. He will also meet Shri M. P. Sivanganam, Chairman of High Level Committee for Tamil Development, Dr. Agasthialingam, Vice Chancellor of Tamil University, ThanJapur, Dr. Kulandaisamy, Vice Chancellor, Anna University, Madras. The visiting Minister will discuss about holding an exhibition in Mauritius with exhibits from
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Museum of Tamil University and the Temple Architecture Museum of Madurai temple. Mr. A. Parsuraman will also explore the possibility of deputation of temple architects from the Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments for repair, renovation and planning of temples in Mauritius.

The visiting Mauritian Minister will also pay a visit to the Madurai Kamraj University which has a programme of areas studies on Mauritius, and have discussions with the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Krishnasamy. He will deliver a lecture on "Mauritius today and tomorrow" at Madurai.

URITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Aug 16, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Human Rights

The following is the text of a statement made by official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi an Aug 09, 1988 on alleged humas rights violations by India in the Amnesty International report:

The Report of Amnesty International released to the Press today presents happenings in India in a very onesided and distorted manner. The Report tends to highlight stray incidents of alleged violations of human rights but minimises the numerous rights and freedoms enjoyed by Indian national and the independence of the Press in India.

India's Commitment to universal human rights is total and

unqualified. Its epic manifestation is our freedom struggle and our continued support to freedom for all across the world. Its inevitable implication is the final elimination of all forms of exploitation. The enshrinement of the Fundamental Rights in our Constitution, our open system, our rule of law and our independent judiciary are well known as major vehicles for ensuring proper shocks on the violations of human rights. Specific charges of alleged violations, however, are thoroughly investigated. While most of the charges have been found to be baseless, wherever such charges have beeen proved, exemplary action has been taken against the guilty.

DIA USA

Date : Aug 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Iran-Iraq War

The following is the text of a statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 09, 1988:

The Government of India welcomes the announcement of the ceasefiire in the Gulf from August 20 and the subsequent direct talks between the concerned parties under the auspices of the UN Secretary General for arriving at a just and durable peace. India has always sought early termination of the conflict and we look forward to cooperation with both Iran and Iraq towards post-war reconstruction.
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AN IRAQ INDIA USA

Date : Aug 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Fiji

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 11, 1988:

Six rugby players from Fiji have recently gone - three with Brig. Rebuke's official approval - on a tour of South Africa. In the past, rugby players from Fiji who defied the international, sporting boycott of South Africa faced disciplinary action on return. This is no longer the case. International media have reported that Rabuka now sees an identity of interest of Fiji with racist South Africa and the Fiji Times itself has queried where this latest step leaves the Fiji Government's policy on South Africa. This warming up to the regime in Pretoria betrays a disturbing facination with racial discrimination. Instead of pursuing racist policies and embracing a regime which believes in institutionalised racist discrimination, it would be better for Fiji to return to the times when racial harmony prevailed in those beautiful islands. The present action is in open defiance of the world consensus to fight apartheid in sport and should be universally condemned.

JI INDIA SOUTH AFRICA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Aug 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 19, 1988 on US press reports alleging India's suspected involvement in President Zia-ul-Haq's death:

A report carried by a section of the US media listed India among others which might have wanted the Pakistan President dead. The insinuation against India in this report is totally baseless, absurd and mischievous.

KISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Aug 19, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Nepal

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 23, 1988:

Both the President of India and Prime Minister have conveyed their condolences to Nepal at the havoc caused by the recent earthquake which affected areas in Nepal as well as in Northern India. India has offered relief assistance to Nepal. Our Embassy in Kathmandu has conveyed this offer to His Majesty's Government of Nepal and is discussing with the Government of Nepal the nature of relief suplies required in the affected areas. Our Embassy would also be discussing with His Majesty's Government other relief measures that may need to be taken up.
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PAL INDIA USA

Date : Aug 23, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Cyprus

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, in New Delhi on Aug 26, 1988:

We welcome the news that the luncheon meeting organised by the UN Secretary General for reviving the inter-communal dialogue in

Cyprus has been successful. We are glad that talks between the two sides will begin at the highest level on September 15 in Nicosia to be followed by further high level meetings with a view to finding a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem by June 1, 1989. We believe that the general atmosphere of dialogue that his developed in this region in recent months creates favourable conditions for finding a lasting solution to the communal problem in Cyprus which is consistent with the preservation of Cyprus's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-aligned status.

PRUS USA INDIA

Date : Aug 26, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Turkey

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 30, 1988:

It would be recalled that during the visit of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Turkey from July 17-20, 1988, H.E. Mr. Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister of Turkey had announced that his country would be contributing to the AFRICA Fund. The Turkish Government has now informed us, in India's capacity as Chairman of the Fund, that it will contribute an amount of US Dollars 500 thousand in project financing. The Turkish Government hopes to shortly identify and reach agreements bilaterally on the projects to be undertaken.

With the announcement of the Turkish pledge, the total number of countries contributing to the AFRICA Fund now stands at 48, with pledge of over US Dollars 264 million in cash, kind and project assistance.

RKEY INDIA USA

Date : Aug 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Yugoslavia

The following is the text of a statement made by Me Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 30, 1988:

The Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Natwar Singh, who is on a visit to Yugoslavia, met the Yugoslav President Mr. Raif Dizdarevic, Foreign Secretary, Foreign Affairs, Budimir Loncav. He is also scheduled to meet the Yugoslav Prime Minister Viramko Mikulic today. The discussions covered NAM, forthcoming non-aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference in Cyprus, regional and bilateral and global economic issues. Mr. Loncar also referred to the recent visit of the Indian Prime Minister and requested for a close follow-up of the discussions arrived at.
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GOSLAVIA INDIA USA CYPRUS CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Aug 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

International Conference on Refugees Returnees and DisplacedPersons in Southern Africa

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 31, 1988 on International Conference on Refugees, Returnees & Displaced Persons in Southern Africa (SARRED) held at Oslo, 22-24th August, 1988:

Prof. K. K. Tewary, Minister of State for External Affairs has just returned from Oslo where he led an Indian delegation to the International Conference on Plight of Refugees, Returnees, & Displaced Persons in Southern Africa (SARRED). The Conference was held on the initiative taken by the Organisation of African Unity which was endorsed by a resolution of the General Assembly of the

United Nations. It received active assistance and cooperation of the Government of Norway, the Secretary General of the U.N., the UNHCR and the UNDP. The Conference, which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Norway, Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, was attended by President Traore of Mali in his capacity as the Chairman of OAU, President Mugabe, in his capacity as Chairman of NAM, and the Secretary General of the U.N. India was unanimously selected as one of the four Vice-Presidents of the Conference, which was presided over by the host - Norway.

About ninety countries, several at Ministerial level and more than sixty NGOs attended the meeting. A special invitee to the Conference was the renowned Dutch football player Ruud Gullit, who is an ardent supporter of the anti-apartheid cause.

The Conference concluded on 24th August with the unanimous adoption of the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees & Displaced Persons in Southern Africa. The main points of the Declaration are:

(i) the human tragedy of uprootedness and displacement of persons in Southern Africa now affecting some 5.4 million persons has reached unprecedented proportions;

(ii) the primary causes of this tragedy are South Africa's apartheid policy, its illegal colonial occupation of Namibia as well as its destablisation activities carried out against the neighbouring States;

(iii) the presence of a large number of refugees and displaced persons has stretched the economies of these States almost to a breaking point requiring additional material assistance from the internatonal community;

(iv) the linkage between relief, recovery and development assistance was reiterated;

(v) OAU members as well as the international community, were called upon to redouble their efforts and implement the principles of burden sharing;

(vi) the Conference strongly condemned the systematic and continued wanton military or armed attacks on refugees and innocent civilians in Southern Africa.

The Conference also adopted a Plan of Action designed to promote (a) emergency preparedness, (b) needs assessment and delivery of assistance, (c) recovery and development, and (d) mobilisation of resources.

AFRICA FUND

Due to active initiative of the Indian delegation laudatory

reference was made
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to the AFRICA Fund which is headed by Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement. One of the major achievements of the delegation was to secure the recognition for the work of the AFRICA Fund by the Conference with the inclusion of a paragraph on the ARICA Fund in the Declaration of the Conference describing it as "a significant step for strengthening the economic and financial capabilities of Frontline States and the National Liberation Movements of South Africa and Namibia". The Conference also recommended international support to the Fund.

APARTHEID

India, also joined the African countries in resisting a move by certain quarters to dilute the resolution that South Africa's apartheid policy, its illegal occupation of Namibia, its policies in the region, its direct and indirect acts of aggression, intimidation and destabilisation are root causes of the tragic humanitarian crisis unfording in the region.

Prof. Tewary, in a hard hitting speech reiterated India's abhorence of apartheid and traced India's consistent and pioneering role in the world movement against apartheid and racism, flowing out of her own struggle for freedom from colonialism. He emphasised the need to impose and implement comprehensive and compulsory international economic sanctions against the racist South African regime. He promised India's continued assistance to alleviate the sufferings of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Southern Africa, but warned that time was running out. Mere expressions of sympathy and support he emphasised, would be meaningless unless the international community acted fast, without any further delay.

Prof. Tewary also addressed the meeting on behalf of the AFRICA Fund, of which the Prime Minister of India is the Chairman. He informed the meeting that the AFRICA Fund, whose objectives are: (i) to strengthen the economic and financial capability of the Frontline States to fight the apartheid regime of Pretoria and to support the Liberation Movements in South Africa and Namibia, and (ii) to assist the Frontline States to enforce sanctions against South Africa and to cope with any retaliatory economic action by the racist regime, had made encouraging progress with as many as 47 countries from the North and the South, the East and the West, representing about one third of 'the community of nations, having pledged an amount equivalent to US $ 264 million in cash, kind and project assistance. He announced that as a modest but symbolic contribution, the AFRICA Fund had decided to contribute US $ 50,000 as assistance to be rendered through the UNHCR for returnees and displaced persons in the Frontline States affected by the actions of the Pretoria regime in South Africa.

During his stay in Oslo, Prof. Tewary had fruitful meetings with the Foreign Minister and the Mnister of State of Foreign Affairs of Norway. He also had discussions with the Prime Minister of Norway during a dinner hosted by the latter in honour of the leaders of visiting delegations. In these discussions the Norwegians expressed their support for the AFRICA Fund and commended India's efforts to mobilise international support and resources for the Frontline States in Southern Africa and Liberation Movements in South Africa and Namibia. They also discussed bilateral matters including economic cooperation between the two countries. The Norwegian leaders expressed their sympathy for the victims of the recent earthquake in Bihar. The Prime Minister of Norway recalled with warmth her visit to Delhi and asked Prof. Tewary to convey her best wishes to the Prime Minister.

Apart from these meetings Prof. Tewary had fruitful discussions with the Zambian, Afghanistan and Ugandan Ministers and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
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DIA NORWAY USA MALI SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AFGHANISTAN UGANDA ZAMBIA

Date : Aug 31, 1988

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

President Zia-ul-Haq's Death

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi signed the Condolence book in Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi on Aug 18, 1988. The Prime Minister wrote the following:

In this hour of sorrow my heart goes out to Begum Zia and the other members of the family. May God give her the strength to bear this stragic loss with fortitude. My deepest sympathies are with the people of Pakistan. I wish them well.

India and Pakistan are bound by innumerable ties of history and culture. India looks forward to building healthy and friendly relationship with Pakistan. We will strive for it.

KISTAN INDIA

Date : Aug 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Union Cabinet Adopts Condolence Resolution on Demise ofPresident Zia

The Union Cabinet met in New Delhi on August 18, 1988 and passed a Condolence resolution on the demise of President M. Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan in a tragic air crash on Sep 17, 1988. The following is the text of the condolence resolution:

The Government and people of India are shocked and grieved by the sudden and untimely demise of President M. Zia-ul-Haq. They share in the deep sorrow of the Government and people of Pakistan. In this hour of tragedy, India's profound sympathy goes out to the Government and people of Pakistan and, particularly, to Begum Zia and other members of the bereaved family.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 17, 1988

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Statement by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao

The following is the text of a statement made by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of External Affairs at the Fifth Session of SAARC Council of Ministers held at Kathmandu on Aug 11, 1988:

I am very happy to be in this beautiful city of Kathmandu to participate in the 5th Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers. The snow-clad peaks of the Majestic Himalayas surrounding the Kathmandu valley beckon us on to a new endeavour. I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to His Majesty's

Government of Nepal for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to us and for the excellent arrangements made for our meeting.

This is an opportunity for me to renew old ties and establish new ones with my distinguished colleagues from the neighbouring countries. I had the privilege of being actively associated with the process which led to the launching of re
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gional cooperation on an organised basis in South Asia and which prepared the ground for the establishment of SAARC. I am glad to return to the mainstream of South Asian cooperation of which I was so much a part four years ago.

Regional cooperation under SAARC has come a long way since then. SAARC is now well established as an institution. The areas of cooperation have increased from 9 that we had originally included in the Integrated Plan of Action, to 11. In addition, altogether new inter-sectoral activities have been mounted.

The range of activities now being undertaken under SAARC is indeed very impressive. Our doctors, field workers, health professionals, drug counsellors, terra-cotta artists and meteorologists, to name only a few categories, are exchanging experiences, learning from each other and discovering common areas of interest and concern. Multilocational trials of crops have started. Telecommunication and aviation links between the member countries now stand vastly improved. Soon after the Dhaka Summit, two new areas were brought within the umbrella of SAARC cooperation. These were: Women in Development and the Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse.

The Bangalore Summit launched five new ideas for bringing our peoples closer to one another. We have already achieved remarkable success in translating these ideas into concrete schemes and even commencing the implementation of some of them. The SAARC countries have now started sharing a common broadcasting experience through the SAARC Audio Visual Exchange. We are about to establish SAARC Chairs, Fellowships and Scholarships. Work has begun to standardise the format for exchanging bibliographic information under the SAARC Documentation Centre. Representatives of our banks are due to meet shortly to work out the modalities to facilitate travel under the SAARC Organised Tourism Scheme. The Youth Volunteers Programme is also now ready for implementation.

The Kathmandu Summit saw the culmination of two other major efforts undertaken in the SAARC. The SAARC Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and the agreement establishing a Food Security Reserve were signed at the Kathmandu Summit. Today all the member countries have ratified the Convention and we have decided that the Food Security Reserve will come into force with

effect from tomorrow.

We have also made a beginning towards fostering cooperation for the management of disasters which frequently visit our region. and in the field of environment which has a vital bearing on the present development of our countries and on the future of the coming generations. At the Kathmandu Summit, we decided to undertake a comprehensive study of these problems. The study is expected to bridge the gaps in the current national efforts and policies; map out the scope and identify projects for regional cooperation; and help in arousing public consciousness about the problem of the degradation of the environment.

Mr. Chairman, there is now a desire among the member States to consolidate the gains in the sectors already covered, rather than to extend cooperation to new sectors. There is also a welcome measure of realism in dealing with proposals for establishing regional institutions. At the same time, there is an air of deja vu about the activities currently underway. There is a feeling that we are undertaking the same kind of activities even while we are covering new grounds. While saying so, I do not intend to underestimate the valuable contributions of the current activities to our development, particularly to building human resources, and their tremendous confidence-building potential. These activities have immensely enhanced our awareness of what we have, what we need and how we can share what we have.
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Inspite of this, something vital seems to be needed. I am here referring to the absence of cooperation under SAARC in the spheres of production, trade, money and finance which traditionally, have constituted the very essence of cooperation under regional economic groupings.

An important step in the direction of initiating cooperation in the hard core economic sectors was taken at our last meeting in Kathmandu when we agreed that a study be undertaken on the trade flows between the countries of the region, their trade regimes and their industrial protection systems. The idea is to explore the possibility of cooperation and harmonisation of policies in these areas, to out line various approaches to and recommend a blue-print of cooperation. India will fully participate in the study. We have already selected our experts who will represent us in the forthcoming meeting in Islamabad at which the scope, terms of reference and methodology of the study will be defined. However, Mr. Chairman, even without this elaborate study, the complementaries and benefits of cooperation in these areas are well-known, since we have inherited common physical and institutional infrastructures. We have together a market of one billion people. Our region constitutes a vast area where practically everything can be produced and, therefore, fruitfully exchanged in keeping with the principle of competitive cost advantage. We could perhaps, therefore, request our experts to

examine and recommend some steps which are simple, equitable in tern-is of conferring benefits on all of us and, at the same time, effective. We would be happy if such a recommendation can be made and a decision on cooperation in at least some of these areas taken at the next Summit, pending fuller examination of the entire gamut.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mr. Chairman, developments of momentous significance in international relations have taken place since we met here last year. The INF Treaty between the United States and the USSR is the first. genuine disarmament measure in the post-War period. It has also coincided with a relative relaxation of East-West tension and set into motion a process of confidence-building between these two major powers. The current detente has opened up prospects for resolving issues which seemed to be intractable only a year or so ago. This has affected the situation 'n our neighbourhood also. We must do whatever we can to facilitate the ongoing process and to ensure that peace returns to the regions which have for years been strife-torn.

While there is a relative brightening up of the political horizon, the global economic scenario remains uncertain and gloomy. The world economy is limping along its path of slow growth and the prognosis for the future does not hold out much promise for acceleration. With this level of growth, it will not be possible to absorb the large scale unemployment in the industrialised countries, to bring about an improvement in the living conditions of the vast majorty of the people in the developing world and to make a beginning towards dealing with the long term dimensions of the debt problem. This will also mean the postponement of the structural changes that are essential from a long term point of view.

Our region has done relatively well inspite of the global economic crisis. However, our external economic environment is steadily deteriorating. We have, therefore, increasingly to rely on our own resources and on mutual cooperation to reduce our vulnerability to external economic forces.

A major development in this respect has been the conclusion of the Agreement on General System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries at the Ministerial meeting held this year in Belgrade. The Agreement provides an agreed and viable framework for exchanging trade concessions among developing countries and undertaking supportive measures
<pg-274>

in the fields of finance and payment. We should use this framework fully by undertaking more ambitious rounds of trade negotiations.

Mr. Chairman, our ability to contribute to the strengthening of the GSTP, and for that matter, to other ventures of South-South Cooperation, critically depends on our ability to forge links of cooperation among ourselves in trade, industry, money and finance. Today, we stand poised to take a major, may be a historic, decision, if we so wish, to undertake schemes which can have a direct impact on the growth and prosperity of our nations and living conditions of our peoples. Let us work together in reaching our common goal of making SAARC a truly effective vehicle of regional cooperation.

PAL USA BANGLADESH INDIA PAKISTAN YUGOSLAVIA

Date : Aug 11, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister's Message to Mrs. Winnie Mandela

The following is the text of a message, sent by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to Mrs. Winnie Mandela on Aug 18, 1988

We were greatly concerned to hear of Nelson Mandela's illness and relieved to learn that he is responding well to treatment. The people of India join me in wishing him a speedy recovery. On 12 August, the Indian Parliament unanimously adopted resolutions demanding the immediate and unconditional release of your husband from detention. If Pretoria does' not heed the insistent demand of the 'international community, the regime will have to face the consequences.

UTH AFRICA INDIA USA

Date : Aug 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

Syrian Information Delegation Calls on Shri Bhagat

The following is the text of a pressrelease issued in New Delhi on Aug 29, 1988 on Syrian Information Delegation's visit to India:

A three-member Syrian Information Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Adib Ghanam, Deputy Information Minister of Syria, called on the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, Shri H. K. L. Bhagat, here today.

The two Ministers reviewed bilateral matters of mutual interest especially in the field of Radio, TV and Films.

Welcoming H.E. Mr. Adib Ghanam, Shri Bhagat referred to the existing close relations between India and Syria and hoped these would be further strengthened.

Shri Bhagat informed the visiting delegation in brief about the spectacular
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progress made by India in the fields of Radio and Television. Shri Bhagat said that Radio and TV were playing a vital role in projecting the socio-economic transformation taking place in India. In fact, they were acting as a catalyst for development.

Shri Bhagat said that at present AIR was providing its service to 94.5 per cent of population and 86 per cent area of the country, which would be increased to 97.7 per cent and 91 per cent respectively by the end of 7th Five Year Plan. Similarly, Indian TV was rapidly expanding and strengthening its reach to serve the country more effectively.

Commending India's role in world peace and in new Economic Order, H.E. Mr. Adib Ghanam hoped that India would play equally big role in new Information Order.

Earlier the delegation had a meeting with Shri G. K. Arora, Secretary, Information and Broadcasting, and other senior officers of the I&B Ministry in which various issues concerning dissemination of news and information through mass media were discussed.

The delegation arrived this morning from Syria and was received by Secretary Information and Broadcasting at the Airport. The other members of the delegation are Mr. Abdul Nabi Hejazi, Syrian Radio and TV Director General and Mr. Zuheir Jennan, Director of Foreign Relations, Ministry of Information, Government of Syria.

The delegation will remain in India for a week. As a follow-up of the discussions, the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had recently with President Assad of Syria, the delegation will,

during this visit, sign a bilateral Information Agreement.

RIA INDIA GHANA USA

Date : Aug 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Strategic Planning for Indo-American Software Trade Network

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 08, 1988 on Indo-American software trade:

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, has welcomed the proposal for the visit of a delegation, in October this year, of Chairmen and Presidents of leading American companies to explore areas of interest in computers, software and telecommunication; these being areas of high priority for India.

The visit of this delegation has been proposed by Mr. Michael Dukakis, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in veiw of the growing interest In India among high-tech companies located in Massachusetts.

Shri Gandhi, in his reply to Mr. Dukakis, has welcomed fruitful collaboration between the two countries especially in such areas which would improve India's export potential. Earlier, while proposing the visit of American delegation, Mr. Dukakis had written to Shri Gandhi that such a development will bring closer business and culture of both countries.

For sponsoring strategic planning for an Indo-American Trade Network to promote mutual development of software trade programmes, Department of Elec-
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tronics has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Office of International Trade and Investment (OITI), Massachusetts. The MOA was signed by Shri K. P. P. Nambiar, Secretary, Department of Electronics and Mr. Andrew C. Bagley, Executive Director of OITI.

The Indo-American Trade Network will include a Tradeport (trade centre/teleport) in Massachusetts and a number of technology parks with teleports in India linked via gateways to a space segment. The first and principal gateway for India will be in

Pune. The Massachusetts hub will connect software companies throughout the US over the national network.

The Massachusetts Tradeport and Indian technology parks with teleport will be planned and configured for the software company markets and with support services and facilities to meet the Indian and US software requirements for research and development, education and training, and joint ventures.

The strategic planning study will cost US $ 250,000 and will be shared equally by Department of Electronics and Offices of International Trade and Investment. 'Me payments will be made by both sides in three equal instalments.

The Indo-American joint study team will:

- Survey a representative sample of Massachusetts candidate companies in each US customer category of market demand for Indian software products and services;

- Analyze and develop estimates for the US customer market by market component, customer category and market size;

- Identify and develop software business services required at the Indian and Massachusetts nodes of the network to meet US software market demand requirements;

- Develop and evaluate a general and technical plan and configuration for the Indo-American Trade Network to meet the technical and business needs of software industries of India and Massachusetts;

- Develop a plan for promotion and marketing of the Indo-American Trade Network to customers; and

- Assemble directories of prominent Massachusetts and Indian software companies.

On the completion of initial critical study, OITI and DOE will negotiate a longterm Memorandum of Agreement for implementation of the Indo-American Trade Network Project.

A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Aug 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

YEMEN

India and Yemen Sign Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 05, 1988 on Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and Yemen:

An Agreement for avoidance of double taxation of income derived from international air transport between India and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was signed today. Shri P. K. Appachoo, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue signed it on behalf of the Government of India while
<pg-277>

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Bin Mohamed Al-Hubeishi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in New Delhi, signed it on behalf of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Under this Agreement, Air India and ALYEMDA, the airlines of the two countries will be mutually exempted from income-tax in respect of income arising to them from the other country in any year commencing on or after the 1st day of January, 1983.
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MEN INDIA

Date : Aug 05, 1988

September

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Date : Sep 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Relief Operations by IAF Helicopters in Bangladesh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 02, 1988 on relief operations in Bangladesh:

Four MI-8 Helicopters belonging to Eastern Air Command of IAF have been rushed to Bangladesh and positioned at Dhaka airfield to carry out mercy missions and flood relief operations. The helicopters have since then commenced the required sorties.

NGLADESH INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 02, 1988

Volume No

1995

CUBA

India and Cuba Sign Science Protocol

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 18, 1988 on protocol on Science and Technology with Cuba:

India and Cuba have signed a Protocol on Science and Technology Cooperation. The Protocol was signed by Dr. K. R. Narayanan, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Dr. (Mrs.) Rosa Elena Simeon, President of the Cuban Academy of Sciences and alternate member of Politburo, at the conclusion of Shri Narayanan's recent visit to Cuba. The Protocol identifies areas of cooperation like agricultural sciences, biotechnology and genetic engineering, animal sciences, electronics and software, mineral processing, solar energy, remote sensing and communication, pharmaceuticals, molecular biology etc. The signing ceremony was held in the Ceremonial Protocol Hall after which Dr. Narayanan presented Dr. Simeon a computer of CLASS type manufactured by the Semi-Conductors Limited of India.

During his visit to Cuba from September 11 to 16, 1988 Dr. Narayanan also had discussions with Dr. Carlos Rafael Rodrigues, Vice-President of the Councils of State and of Ministers, on the development of bilateral cooperation between India and Cuba with special emphasis on the fields of electronics, bio-genetics, sugarcane derivatives and pharmaceuticals industry. They also emphasised the importance of scientific and technological cooperation as integral parts of South-South cooperation that would bring additional strength to the Non-aligned Movement.

Shri Narayanan also called on Mr. Ernesto Melendez, Minister for Economic Collaboration and other Cuban dignitaries. He visited some of the major research institutes of Cuba and expressed his admiration for the achievements made by Cuba in the field of high technology research as well as in applied research.
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BA INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

West Germany Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 07, 1988 on West German assistance to India:

Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) will provide DM 320.5 million (Rs. 249 crore) assistance to India for 1988. This will be direct Government to Government soft loan at the rate of interest of .75 per cent per annum with repayment period spread over 50 years including 10 years of grace period. An agreement to this effect was signed here today by the Finance Secretary, Shri S. Venkitaramanan and the FRG Ambassador in India Dr. Konrad Seitz.

Some of the important projects which will be financed out of this amount are Nevely Lignite Corporation, Ramagundum II Opencast mining projects, Waste Hit Recovery project of Maharastra State Electricity Board at Uran etc. In addition to these projects, import of capital goods of DM 115.5 million (Rs. 89 crore), general commodity aid of DM 45 million (Rs. 35 crore), imports by NSIC of DM 10 million (Rs. 7.8 crore) would be covered out of the assistance amount of DM 320.5 million.

RMANY INDIA

Date : Sep 07, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Defamation Bill

The following is the text of Prime Minister's statement made in New Delhi on Sep 22, 1988:

The Defamation Bill, 1988 was brought forward to protect the individual from defamatory speeches, writings and actions and to provide adequate and timely redress to the aggrieved. The Bill

seeks to codify the existing law on the subject and to take it forward in some areas. Defamation as defined in the Bill. is not an issue between Government and the Press but an issue between individual and individual, between a person aggrieved and a person accused. The Bill attempts to reconcile the rights of an individual with the right to freedom of expression of another.

A free press is an integral part of the inner strength and dynamism of our democracy. Without a free press, there can be no democracy. The imperishable values of our freedom struggle have gone into the making of the press in India. We uphold this legacy. We shall continue to do so. Our commitment to the freedom of the press is total. We have no intention of curbing, in any way, the freedom of the press.

The freedom and rights of the individual are equally sacred. It is this that
<pg-280>

makes the issue of defamation a serious issue.

The Bill seeks to resolve the issue in accordance with the basic principles of our Constitution and the laws. It has, however, aroused misapprehensions and misgivings. The Press and sections of the public have expressed their concern.

We lire alive to these concerns. We draw inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi who always responded to democratic expression of opinion. We, therefore, offered an unconditional dialogue on the subject. Some organisations and individuals have responded to this offer.

We feel, however, that there should be a wider and fuller national debate. In order to facilitate such a debate, and in keeping with our heritage and traditions. we have decided not to make the Defamation Bill, 1988 into law.

The issue of defamation remains.

It is our earnest hope that concerned citizens, jurists and the media will participate in the national debate on the issue of defamation. In course of time Government may, if necessary, create a suitable forum to carry forward the dialogue in a spirit of understanding and cooperation. A solution based on a national consensus will strengthen the institutions of our Republic.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 22, 1988

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Nuclear Plants

The following is the text of speech of Dr. M. R. Sreenivasan, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission made at 32nd Session of the General Conference of International Atomic Energy Agency at Vienna on Sep 20, 1988:

May I begin by extending to you my delegation's warmest felicitations on your election as President of the 32nd Regular Session of the General Conference? I am sure, our deliberations will benefit greatly from the, wealth of your experience and your deep understanding of the issues concerning peaceful uses of atomic energy. I consider it a privilege to address my friends and colleagues from this podium on a subject which is of common interest to all of us. I have always viewed the General Conference as a solemn occasion to renew our bonds and strengthen our common endeavour to deliver the promise that nuclear energy holds for the welfare of mankind. The Agency has a vital role to play in promoting international cooperation for wider utilisation of this energy.

The General Conference is an occasion to ponder over the broad trends and directions of the Agency and also its relevance to the evolving needs of the Member States. The main expectation of a large number of Member States is the fulfilment by the Agency of its statutory obligations to help them in harnessing nuclear energy for their economic development. The relevance of the Agency is dependent of its efforts and achievements in furthering the cause of nuclear energy for peace and prosperity.
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Mr. President, at the outset, I would like to touch upon the major issue that has challenged the spirit and dedication of the nuclear community of late. I am referring to the safety and environmental aspects of nuclear energy. Even though we all know that nuclear energy is safer and environmentally more benign than many other sources of energy currently in use, we should never cease our efforts to provide the maximum assurance regarding public safety and protection of the environment. I must appreciate the work done by the Director General in the post-Chernobyl period. The Agency's linkup with the Global Telecommunication System of the World Meteorological Organisation is a significant step in strengthening the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident. The Convention of Mutual Assistance; in the case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency would also facilitate international cooperation in the

event of a nuclear accident. These developments are confirmation of the advanced state of preparedness of the nuclear community to tackle a nuclear emergency situation. The completion of a concise, integrated statement of basic safety principles for nuclear power plants by INSAG and review of the Nuclear Safety Standards codes reflect the Agency's responsiveness to the sophisticated safety requirements of a nuclear world. My delegation congratulates the Director General and his staff for the) excellent work done in this regard.

My delegation is greatly impressed by the comprehensive and though-provoking opening remarks of our distinguished Director General. He has once again given ample evidence of that rare combination of qualities that has made him such an effective and dynamic head of a sensitive organisation like the IAEA. While endorsing much of what he has said in his presentation, I shall, however, make some remarks on certain issues addressed by him.

The Director General has pleaded the case for an international regulatory role being entrusted to the Agency in the interest of promoting nuclear safety. While commending him for the laudable objective that he has in mind, namely, a world shielded as much as possible from nuclear mishaps due to negligence or lack of expertise, we must bear in mind that sovereign governments regard the regulatory function, whether it is with regard to the safe operation of their nuclear facilities or indeed their physical protection in situ or in transit, as an area of their exclusive national responsibility.

We welcome the many initiatives already taken by the Agency with regard to the management and disposal of low and intermediate level radioactive waste, as well as of high level waste. This is no doubt an important area that has to be competently tackled in order to gain public confidence in both the present and future safety of nuclear energy production, as well as to allay unfounded fears of blighting the lives of countless generations yet to be born. While on this subject, I must note with considerable anguish the concern expressed by the OAU that all kinds of toxic wastes are being dumped on unsuspecting shores by organisations and institutions that could be expected to know the full consequences of much malpractices. It is not yet clear whether nuclear wastes have also been included in this exercise. We welcome the initiative proposed by the Director General in this matter.

Mr. President, we are also happy to learn from the Safeguards Implementation Report 1987 that there was no diversion of nuclear materials from peaceful activities safeguarded by the Agency to non-peaceful activities. Both the Secretariat of the Agency and the Member States concerned deserve credit for ensuring the efficacy of the system within the existing budgetary situation. At the same time, it is vital to restore the enthusiasm and dedication with which the Agency's technical cooperation was

initially conceived. If the regulatory aspects
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are allowed to dominate the Agency's programmes and budget, it would only hamper our efforts to turn nuclear technology into a universally acceptable too for development. I take this opportunity to pledge India's assessed share of voluntary contributions to the Agency's Technical Assistance Fund in 1988.

India continues to regard the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) as a valuable instrument for promoting regional cooperation among the developing countries. We have supported activities in the area of human resources development in RCA Member States by conducting training courses, workshops and seminars. During 1988 India will hold regional training courses on radioisotope production in research reactors and neutron activation analysis for mineral resource prospecting and material characterisation. We have planned to conduct more activities to include, areas of nuclear power such, as mineral prospecting, power planning, reactor safety, health and waste management. The RCA seminar held at Jakarta during June 1988 was useful in assessing the progress achieved so far and in identifying the manner in which the RCA activities should be directed in the future. Based on the need for manpower training in the Member States of the RCA, India recommends that the Agency may consider creating an institution within the Region for providing training facilities in different areas of nuclear science and technology. Such an institution could be built around an existing nuclear centre in the region under the Agency's assistance.

This year marks the completion of four decades of eventful existence by the Indian Atomic Energy Commission. During this period India has accumulated considerable wealth in terms of manpower and expertise in all areas of the nuclear fuel cycle. Our nuclear power programme continued to make steady progress and there was a 13 per cent increase in nuclear power generation over the previous year. A very important development during the year has been a decision taken by the Indian Government to start work an nuclear power units with an aggregate capacity of about 8000 MWe. Safety considerations continued to be given high priority at all levels of nuclear plant operation in India. A detailed review of PRWRs was carried out in the light of the Chernobyl accident. A Committee consisting of independent experts conducted a safety review regarding past performance and present status of two of our nuclear power plants. Emergency preparedness plans have been evolved to deal with emergency situations that may arise due to accident at any of the nuclear installations in the country. A number of seminars were held in different parts of the country to educate the public and clear their misunderstandings and apprehensions about nuclear energy.

As regards research and development, the main thrust in reactor engineering during the year was on the design of 500 MWe PHWR,

and further refinements of the 235 MWe PHWRs apart from setting up various experimental facilities at the 100 MW (thermal) WHRUVA reactor. The design of a 500 MWe prototype fast breeder reactor is progressing and our programme in the long term is to build fast breeder reactors to make optimal use of the nuclear fuel. We agree with the Director General's analysis that fast breeder reactors are an important energy option that the world may yet come to need in future years.

Some of the omissions in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, the Brundtland Commission, have been rightly referred to in the opening remarks of the Director General, such as, for instance, that nuclear energy production does not contribute to global warming or the greenhouse effect. A very important conclusion in the report is worth noting, and I quote: "For many reasons, especially including the failure of the nuclear weapons states to agree on disarmament, the Non-proli
<pg-283>

feration Treaty has not proved to be a sufficient instrument to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, which still remains a serious danger to world peace. We therefore recommend in the strongest terms the construction of an effective international regime covering all dimensions of the problem. Both nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states. should undertake to accept safeguards in accordance with the statutes of the LA-EA".

Mr. President, this is a historic year as we witnessed the conclusion of the first ever disarmament agreement in the form of INF Treaty between the USA and the USSR. We have welcomed this as an important step in the right direction and a bold departure from nuclear arms limitations to nuclear disarmament. While the INF Treaty may appear modest, it is nevertheless a giant leap in breaking the psychological and political barriers that had proved to be formidable stacles in the past. We sincerely hope that this process will be. carried forward to the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. India is deeply committed to the cause of disarmament. We have submitted an Action Plan to the special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly as a disarmament programme to be launched immediately. This plan calls upon the international community to negotiate a commitment to general and complete disarmament. As our Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said at the Stockholm Summit of the Six Nations Initiative, the resources meant for weaponry must be channelled for economic development and the pursuit of dominance must be replaced by co-existence and cooperation,

I wish to conclude by reiterating my country's support to the activities of the IAEA to realise the aims and ideals as enshrined in the statute. My country has immense faith in the contribution that nuclear energy can make towards economic development. The significance of the IAEA activities will

continue to depend on the extent of its role in assisting these Member States that have perceived a vital role for nuclear energy in peaceful purposes. I am sure that the Agency will strive to fulfil the hopes entrusted upon it in this regard.

STRIA USA INDIA INDONESIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SWEDEN

Date : Sep 20, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Two-Day NAM Conference on High Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 30, 1988 of the first Inter-Governmental Consultatibe Conference hosted by India Of Experts on New and High Technology areas from the Non-aligned and other developing countries:

India is hosting the first Inter-Governmental Consultative Conference of Experts on New and High Technology areas from the Non-aligned and other developing countries including the members of Group of 77. The two-day conference would be inaugurated by Shri K. R. Narayanan, Minister of State for Science and Technology here on 4th October, 1988. Nearly 100 delegates from about thirty countries including Pakistan, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kuwait, Malyasia, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe, Algeria and other non-aligned countries are expected to participate.

Themes for discussion include telecommunications and informatics, micro-electronics and computer software, biotechnology, renewable sources of energy and new materials.

The Conference will address itself to the various programmes, to attain self-reliance of the South in the spirit of Non-
<pg-284>

aligned Movement. These include creation of a forum for a constructive efforts towards the' development of the high technology areas, promotion of cooperation among the South-South countries for bringing new international economic order for the purpose of advancing knowledge and sharing the benefits of S & T among each other and to encourage steps to promote and collaborate on the mutually beneficial projects and programmes

related to high technology fields and to assist in their development.

The Conference would provide opportunities for greater interaction among the developing countries and would come up with a concrete plan of action for South-South Cooperation in the field of science and technology.

DIA PAKISTAN SAUDI ARABIA SENEGAL CUBA KUWAIT NIGER NIGERIA TANZANIA YUGOSLAVIA ZIMBABWE ALGERIA USA

Date : Sep 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

IRAQ

Indo-Iraqi Joint Commission

The following is the text of Press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 27, 1988 on the 11th Session of Indo-Iraq Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation:

The 11th session of Indo-Iraqi Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation is scheduled to take place between September 28 - October 2, 1988 in Baghdad. The two sides would be led by their respective Ministers of Petroleum. The official level preparatory talks for the session are to be held on September 28, 29 and 30. These would be headed by Shri A. S. Gonsalves, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Radhwan, Iraqi Deputy Minister. The two Ministers are likely to sign the Agreed Minutes in a ceremony to be held on October 2nd afternoon.

The forthcoming Session of the Joint Commission is significant on account of both traditionality and potential. Indo-Iraqi economic relations have been substantial over the past decade. Iraq, till sometime ago was India's largest market for project exports with executed contracts of over Rs. 5,000 crores. India has been procuring petroleum related products, sulphur and other items from Iraq on regular basis. As the Joint Commission Session is to take place shortly after the ceasefire in Iran-Iraq war, it is likely to provide an opportunity for detailed discussion on bilateral cooperation in ambitious Iraqi reconstruction programme. The three sub-committees of the Joint Commission on Trade, Industrial and Economic Cooperation and Technical and Cultural Cooperation would discuss these possibilities in depth

and hope to device, ways of boosting the bilateral economic cooperation.

On the sidelines of the Commission's proceedings, Shri Brahm Dutt, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas is likely to hold political discussions with the Iraqi leadership.
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AQ INDIA IRAN USA

Date : Sep 27, 1988

Volume No

1995

NON-ALIGNMENT

Statement by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao

The following is the text of statement made by Shri P. V. Narasima Rao, Minister of External Affairs at the First Plenary Session of the Nonaligned Ministerial Meeting in Cyprus On Sep 07, 1988:

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your unanimous election as Chairman of this Ministerial Conference. This is a tribute to your eminence, your
wisdom and your experience. We are confident that under your able guidance, the deliberations of our meeting will reach a successful conclusion. I assure you of the fullest cooperation of my delegation in the discharge of your duties. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the other Members of the Bureau.

Sir, may I, through you, convey our deep sense of appreciation to President Vassiliou for his thought provoking address this morning. It has indeed, set the tone for our deliberations. I must also place on record how greatly we have valued the leadership given to the movement over the past two years by President Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

With your country, Sir, India has very cordial relations. The Government and people of India look upon Cyprus and its enterprising and friendly people with the warmest sentiments. I bring you their sincere greetings.

I would also like to say how grateful my delegation and I are for the hospitality accorded to us and the excellent arrangements made for our stay and functioning here.

Only recently, one of our member countries, Pakistan has suffered the tragic loss of its leader. I would, once again, like to convey through the Pakistani delegation our heart-felt condolences to the people of Pakistan.

Mr. Chairman, we meet at a time of rapidly moving international developments, with far-reaching consequences. Change is in the air! in South-East Asia and Afghanistan in Southern Africa and Central America, in the Western Sahara and Cyprus. One could hardly have envisaged this a year ago. The acceptance of a ceasefire by Iran and Iraq, two great countries and important members of the Non-aligned Movement, is rightly the cause of relief and happiness for us all. After a difficult period, the two super powers have moved towards dialogue and greater understanding. There is renewed hope and confidence that the United Nations can play its rightful role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

We in the Non-aligned have cause to feel vindicated, since events have proved the validity of the basic principles of the Movement - that confrontation must give way to dialogue, that war must give way to reconciliation, that the yearning for peace and freedom can never be suppressed. Yet we are also painfully aware that the world still remains over-armed and under the threat of destruction. In South Africa the evil system of apartheid has not been dismantled. Fundamental freedoms are denied to the Palestinian people. Policies of domination and control continue. There is continuing degradation of the environment. It is clear that we must press on with our efforts.

There are other equally critical issues that affect us directly. We must work towards an international order conducive to the tackling of the age-old problems of hunger and disease, of poverty and under-
<pg-286>

development. Political freedom and economic development must contribute to the quality of life of the vast majority of our peoples.

We also need to examine how best the Movement can continue to play its historical role. Since its inception, our movement has steadily grown, both in number and influence. Our task is to enhance our capacity to meet the challenges ahead with strength and dedication, with confidence and vigour, with clarity and a sense of purpose;

Mr. Chairman, the critical issue of disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, has been one of the fundamental pre-occupations of the movement. We have followed with great interest the talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on reduction of nuclear arsenals. All of us have welcomed the

signing of the I.N.F. Treaty and the ongoing negotiations to reduce strategic nuclear weapons by 50 per cent. However, even when the reductions are brought about, the world will still remain menaced by the threat of nuclear war. The process therefore must be carried forward to its logical conclusion towards the total elimination of all nuclear weapons. India's own position on this was graphically set out by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during his address to the third Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament. He put forward a comprehensive Action Plan for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2010. The Action Plan calls for a binding commitment by all nations to eliminate nuclear weapons, in stages. The plan seeks the participation of all nuclear-weapon States in this process and changes in doctrines, policies and institutions to sustain a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman, we reiterate our conviction that international peace and security can be ensured only through general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, under effective international control. The leaders of the Six Nation Initiative have been voicing the international concern at the continuing threat that nuclear weapons pose to all life on earth. They have emphasised that there must be an end to the nuclear arms race and to its extension into outer space. They have called for an end to all nuclear weapon tests by all States as a means of achieving this goal. Their, call is, in substance, the same as the Non-aligned call.

Mr. Chairman, there have been important developments relating to Namibia. The Namibian people are engaged in a heroic struggle for freedom under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative. There seems to be an agreement on the elements for Namibia's attainment of freedom. The commitment of the Non-aligned Movement for right-thinking States the world over to that freedom is total. What Is needed now is the unreserved adherence by South Africa to international commitments, in particular the United Nations plan for Namibia embodied in Security Council Resolution 435.

While we see a glimmer of hope for Namibia, we remain deeply distressed at the situation in South Africa where there is no genuine move towards dismantling the hated regime of apartheid. However, in spite of its brutal policies of suppression, the regime there faces growing opposition day by day both within South Africa and without. We pledge to our brothers and sisters in South Africa our unflinching solidarity. We are confident that their struggle will, sooner rather than later, culminate in final victory.

Unfortunately, racism as a deliberate State policy and practised in an institutionalised form, is a phenomenon confined not only to South Africa. It is incumbent upon the Non-aligned Movement to condemn such practices wherever they exist.

Mr. Chairman, since its establishment at the Eighth Non-aligned Summit at Harare, the AFRICA Fund has provided a direct and practical demonstration of the
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solidarity of the Movement with the frontline States and liberation movements in Southern Africa. Contributions pledged to the Fund in cash and kind are equivalent to over 264 million US dollars. The initiative taken by the Harare Summit has thus yielded fruitful results.

Mr. Chairman, the Palestinians continue their struggle for a homeland. It is almost a year since the "INTIFADAH" began against the Israeli authorities in the West Bank. The uprising resoundingly demonstrates that 20 years of occupation and suppression have not dimmed the nationalism of the Palestinian people. Our meeting here should convey the strongest support of the Non-aligned countries to the brave Palestinians. Their struggle is our struggle. We once again call for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing, to resolve the Palestinian problem.

Sir, India has had the closest bonds of friendship with Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran which go back several centuries. We are very happy at the cessation of hostilities between these two great nations. We are confident that peace now will be consolidated, whatever the temporary setbacks.

Similarly, India has consistently supported a strong and non-aligned Afghanistan. India welcomed the signing of the Geneva Accords as a successful initiative to bring about a political settlement of a complex issue. The Accords should lead to a lessening of tensions in the region and the removal of the raison d'etre for the induction of sophisticated weapons into the area. There must be strict compliance with the Accords.

The 1980s have witnessed the most severe to setback to development. There has been little improvement in living standards in a vast majority of developing countries. In many of them, conditions are worse than twenty years ago. The 1980s are being labelled as the lost decade of development.

There is an urgent need for dialogue. But there is an even greater need to manifest our determination to find solutions amongst ourselves. Economic cooperation within the South itself is an essential pre-requisite for reducing the vulnerability of developing countries to external factors.

We are encouraged by the conclusion of the Agreement on the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) in Belgrade in April this year. This is an important achievement as it lays down the

legal and institutional foundations for trade expansion among developing countries, members of the Group of 77. It is our hope that the meeting on new and high technologies to be held next month in New Delhi will provide a sound basis for enhanced cooperation among developing countries in this area, which is crucial from the long-term stand point. These are the areas which the Non-aligned Movement should pursue with greater vigour.

Mr. Chairman, in the economic as in the political sphere, the great issues of our time can no longer be resolved by any exclusive concert of great powers. The voice of the majority cannot be drowned. The history of the second half of this century is largely an illustration of this basic truth. It is a period which has witnessed the downfall of mighty empires, the rise of colonial peoples to independent nationhood and the collapse of an international order in which the fate of millions of subject peoples could be decided in the chanceries of a handful of so-called Great Powers. In today's world, all powers, great or small, have their own importance and cannot be denied the right to make their legitimate contribution to solving the common problems of mankind. We, the Non-aligned, who represent the vast majority of the international community, must play our role iii the unfolding events.
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PRUS USA ZIMBABWE INDIA PAKISTAN AFGHANISTAN IRAN IRAQ SOUTH AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NAMIBIA ISRAEL SWITZERLAND YUGOSLAVIA

Date : Sep 07, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bangladesh

The following is tile text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 05, 1988:

Reacting promptly to an appeal by the Bangladesh government on 1st September, 1988 for assistance in relief and rescue operations for the victims of the widespread floods in Bangladesh, four Indian Air Force helicopters arrived in Dhaka this morning i.e. on September 2. These helicopters alongwith their crews have been placed at the disposal of the Bangladesh government to assist in relief and rescue operations.

NGLADESH INDIA

Date : Sep 05, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of English Cricket Team

The following is the text of a statement made by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi con Sep 09, 1988

The English Cricket Team of 16 members of the proposed Indian tour announced yesterday contains as many as 8 players having sporting contacts with South Africa. The Commonwealth Agreement against apartheid in sports of 1977, widely known as the Gleneagles Agreement, had raised the clear expectation that Governments and Sports Bodies would actively work towards reducing sporting contacts with South Africa with a view to ensuring that in this matter, the peoples and Governments of the Commonwealth might help to give a lead to the world. This has not been happening. Players who have willfully chosen to play in South Africa in disregard of these expectations are now being put on the English Test Team. It is clear that the U.K. Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) are not doing what was expected of them.

Last year, we had decided to allow the Reliance World Cup to take place in India with the clear understanding that a resolution tabled by West Indies and Zimbabwe to promote the campaign against apartheid in cricket was at that time under consideration and because we had been assured that the larger issue of the resolution would be sorted out at the meeting of the International Cricket Conference (ICC). There had also been an expectation that those players who had sporting links with South Africa would sever these links. This also did not happen.

The ICC met in Calcutta in a special session in December last year and again in London this July. Nothing could be resolved, largely owing to the attitudes of the UK TCCB, which we understand has introduced a new issue claiming a right of veto in favour of the founder members, England and Australia. It is, however, not possible for us to hold over decisions regarding grant of visas for the proposed tour in November until the next meeting of the ICC in January.

In view of the actions of the U.K. TCCB and the clear obligations of the Gleneagles Agreement and the U.N. Resolution against apartheid in sports, we must make it abundantly clear that we would not permit entry into India for purpose of the tour, any player having or likely to have sporting contacts with South Africa.
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DIA SOUTH AFRICA UNITED KINGDOM ZIMBABWE USA AUSTRALIA

Date : Sep 09, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Burma

The following is the text of statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 10, 1988:

Relations between peoples of Burma and India have been traditionally warm and friendly. These have been cemented by close cultural and religious affinities. There was also close interaction between the independence movements of our two countries. After attaining independence, Burma and India cooperated closely on bilateral and international issues.

We have been watching the recent developments in Burma with particular attention. We have noted the undaunted resolve of the Burmese people to establish a fully democratic structure in their country. This aspiration fully accords with India's firm commitment to democracy. It is our hope that the Burmese people will be able to fulfil their legitimate democratic aspirations for a representative government. The need of the hour is for the unity and consensus of democratic forces for a peaceful and orderly transition to permit free and fair elections.

India would be happy to cooperate in the task of building a better and brighter future for the people of Burma.

RMA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 10, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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 13, 1988:

This morning 115 Sri Lankan Tamil political detenues who were held at the Pussa Detention camp in South Sri Lanka were released by the Sri Lankan Government in accordance with the provisions of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement. Out of these 53 detenues are from Batticolava, district, 25 from Trincomalee, 10 from Jaffna, 5 from Mullaitivu, 10 from Colombo 5 from Babunia and 7 from other areas. These detenues who were released were met by officials of the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka who escorted them. to Indian Naval ship INF Mahish. The freed prisoners hailed from Galle at 10.30 today for Ckankaesanphurai in the Indian naval ship.

Government welcomes this release of political prisoners which is a further step in the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. Government is confident that the remaining political detenues who support the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement will be released in the coming days. This will contribute towards creating the necessary conditions for holding provincial council elections in the North-Eastern province.

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on September 14, 1988:

Government of India welcomes the Sri Lankan Presidential announcement on the holding of elections in the North-Eastern Province. Government believes that early elections to this Provincial Council are essential for restoring to the Tamils of Sri Lanka their political rights and for ensuring that the benefits of the Indo-Sri
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Lanka Agreement accrue to them in full measure.

The election announcement comes in the wake of the Sri Lankan Presidential proclamation merging the Northern and the Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Government has also started the process of releasing the remaining Tamil political detenues. Legislation to accord Tamil the status of an official language is also expected shortly. Legislation to establish Provincial Councils and devolve considerable powers on them has been enacted. Elections have already been held in all other Provinces. President Jayewardene has reaffirmed, on several occasions, his government's commitment to further improve the devolution package once elections to all the provincial councils have been completed.

At this juncture it is therefore of the greatest importance that all Tamil groups in Sri Lanka use this historic opportunity to come forward and participate in the forthcoming Provincial Council elections. Every effort will be made to enable the widest possible participation in the electoral process. All groups wishing to participate in the elections must lay down their arms and support the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. To facilitate this the IPKF will observe a five day ceasefire with effect from 0700 hrs on 15th September. Operational details of the ceasefire will be announced by the GOC, IPKF.

Government of India hopes that all Tamil Groups will take advantage of this opportunity and come forward to join the mainstream of life and play an effective role in ensuring the welfare of the people of the North-Eastern Province. It is only by the establishment of a representative Provincial Government that the aspirations of the Tamils in Sri Lanka will be realised. The setting up of the Provincial Council, reflecting the wishes of the inhabitants of the North and the East, offers the hope of a long lasting and durable peace and the resumption of normal life which has been disrupted by long years of bloodshed and suffering.

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on September 19, 1988:

India had declared a unilateral five-day ceasefire on September 15 to afford all Tamil groups, including the I=, to come forward and participate in the electoral process, which has already been initiated. The Sri Lankan President has taken several constructive steps to address specific Tamil grievances and carry forward the process of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. Further progress can only be made through the democratic process. It is imperative, therefore, for every person who is genuinely interested in the long-term welfare of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka, to come forward to participate in the electoral process.

2. The IPKF have received several requests from the citizenry in

the North and East for an extension of the ceasefire. They have expressed the confidence that if they are given this extra time, they will be able to persuade the LTTE to give up violence and join the democratic fold. Although these citizens have so far not succeeded in getting a positive response from the LTTE, in response to these requests the Government of India has decided, in consultation with the Sri Lankan Government, to extend the current ceasefire by another five days from 0700 hours on 20th September. This is the final extension of the ceasefire and will not in any way affect the election process which has already commenced.
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I LANKA INDIA USA MALDIVES CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 13, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Fiji

The following is the text of a statement mode by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi On Sep 20, 1988:

The Government of India has noted the broad features of a draft constitution of Fiji approved by the interim government. While the full text of the draft is still awaited, the information available so far indicates that no effort has been made to give. just and equitable representation to different communities in the proposed parliament. The deposed Prime Minister Dr. Bavadra has stated that "the constitution reduces the Indian people to third class citizenry in a country where they comprise about 50 per cent of the population". The Government of India notes with regret that the draft reportedly contains several provisions that are undemocratic, discriminatory and detrimental to the interests of peace, stability and racial harmony, such as the adoption of a communal franchise for all elected seats in the parliament.

The Government of India notes that the interim government has stated that a process of consultations will be initiated shortly on the draft constitution. It hopes that this process will be free and democratic to enable all sections of the population to participate in the formulation of a constitution acceptable to all. In this context the Government of India reiterates its

earlier call for the revocation of the Internal Security Decree.

JI INDIA USA

Date : Sep 20, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bangladesh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 20, 1988:

Four helicopters which were requested for by the Bangladesh Government on 1st September, and which arrived in Bangladesh within a few hours of the request being made, are being withdrawn at the request of the Bangladesh Government. From the 2nd of September till around the 12th, the 4 Indian helicopters were the only ones available in Bangladesh; they worked round the clock in continuous relief and rescue operations. During this period i.e., 2nd to 12th, the helicopters carried 90 tonnes of material to the remotest parts of Bangladesh. The helicopters were sent in, on the understanding that they would remain in Bangladesh as long as Bangladesh requires them.

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 29, 1988 on the Ganga and the Brahmaputra waters:

The Governments of Bangladesh and India have agreed to set up a Task Force, comprising experts from both countries, to study the Ganga and the Brahmaputra waters jointly for flood management and water flow thereof. The Task Force should look at both short-term and long-term measures, consult the existing studies and report in six months' time.
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NGLADESH INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 20, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Nepal

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 30, 1988:

His Majesty the King of Nepal arrived in Delhi on the evening of 29th September 1988. He had a meeting with Prime Minister today which lasted an hour and 20 minutes. They were on their own during this meeting. The delegations met separately.

Our delegation was led by Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs and included the Foreign Secretary and Joint Secretary (N) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Their delegation was led by their, Foreign Minister and included their Foreign Secretary and their Ambassador in India.

The King of Nepal came primarily in his capacity as Chairman of SAARC. He had earlier visited Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan, all in the last 2-3 days. We were the fourth stop on this leg. He came to India from Pakistan. Next week he goes to Bhutan and Bangladesh.

The two leaders and the two delegations had conducted a general review of all activities of the SAARC and discussed measures to further develop areas of mutual cooperation. There was special emphasis on areas of special interest to the common man in all the SAARC countries such as housing, invironment and food security. The bilateral matters between India and Nepal were also reviewed in depth.

PAL INDIA MALDIVES PAKISTAN SRI LANKA BHUTAN BANGLADESH USA

Date : Sep 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Vice President Inaugurates Seminar on Organisation of AfricanUnity

The following is the text of speech of Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Vice President, at the inauguration of a three-day Seminar on 'Organisation of African Unity at Twenty Five' held in New Delhi on Sep 06, 1988:

On the 25th May this year India joined the rest of the world in commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the OAU. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, which is organising this week's seminar on "OAU at Twentyfive", had also on that occasion arranged a special function to observe the silver jubilee of the OAU. In India, 25th May is observed every year as Africa Unity Day.

One of the striking features of the modern history of the last three decades is the emergence of Africa into freedom from years of European colonial rule and domination. In the decolonisation process which began in 1957 with the proclamation of Ghana's independence, the founding of the Organisation for African Unity on 25th May 1963 was a landmark. On that day, in Addis Ababa, 32 Heads of State and Government joined to sign the historic Charter of the OAU. Since then 18 more countries have swelled the membership of the OAU.
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The aims and objectives of the OAU as embodied. in its Charter are to promote the unity and solidarity of the African States; to coordinate an intensified effort to achieve a better life for the people of Africa; to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence; to eradicate all forms of colonialism in Africa; and to promote international cooperation in the context of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We are gratified to note that over the years the OAU has not only emerged as the living symbol of Africa's determination to free itself from foreign domination and exploitation and to assume control over its destiny but has also demonstrated commendably maturity and cohesiveness in dealing with several regional and continental issues. It has tackled a variety of complex political problems and conflicts including border disputes and has sought to further the orderly economic advancement of the Continent. We recall the special economic Summit held at Lagos in April 1980 which formulated the ambitious Lagos Plan of Action for Economic Development. We also recall the convening of the Second Special OAU Summit in November 1987 on Africa's debt crisis. These encouraging initiatives have earned for the OAU a secure place in world affairs whose voice is bound to be heard with attention and respect outside the Continent.

India wholeheartedly subscribes to the objectives and principles of the OAU whose Charter embodies the five principles of peaceful

coexistence, PANCHSHEEL, which form the cornerstone of India's foreign policy. India has consistently favoured settlement of all intra-African and inter-African problems and issues in the African context without any outside interference on the basis of OAU decisions and declarations.

With commendable wisdom and foresight the OAU adopted Non-alignment as the basic tenet of its foreign policy, thus strengthening over the years its close ties with the Non-aligned Movement. The Non-aligned Declaration adopted at the Cairo Summit of 1964 made special mention of the OAU in recognition of Africa's role in the movement. It is matter of satisfaction that all African countries are members of the Non-aligned Movement.

Our solidarity with the OAU is not confined only expressions of moral and political support. Within the constraints of our own development compulsions we have not been insensitive to the OAU's appeals for assistance. In 1985 we responded to such an appeal by contributing 57,000 million tonnes of wheat to the OAU Special Emergency Fund.

The Prime Minister's decision to send his special representative, a Minister of the Government of India, to participate in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the OAU at Addis Ababa reflected India's unflinching support to the OAU and to what it stands for. In his message, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said:

"The establishment of the OAU was an act of outstanding statesmanship... You can be justly proud of your achievements. We share your pride and joy on this occasion."

India's concern about the colonial exploitation of Africa and its support to the cause of freedom in that continent could be traced to the time of Gandhiji's 19-year long sojourn in South Africa. There he initiated himself into politics in a determined effort to plead the cause of the oppressed and the victims of racial discrimination. There Gandhiji evolved and tested the concepts of Satyagraha or non-cooperation and 'Ahimsa' or non-violence which he successfully translated into action on his return to India during his leadership of our freedom movement.

While being involved in the freedom struggle of India, our leaders were mindful that our brothers in the African Conti-
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nent were also struggling to become free. Not only Gandhiji and Jawaharlal Nehru but the entire nation considered our struggle as part and parcel of a campaign to break the colonial shackles on Africa and Asia. Related to this campaign was our decision in 1946 to snap trade links with racist South Africa and subsequently all ties with that country. It has been our consistent conviction and policy that our own independence attained after bitter struggle in 1947 would remain incomplete as

long as colonial domination persisted in any other part of the world.

We rejoiced when Ghana became independent on 6th March 1957 realising how much this event signified for the future of the Continent of Africa.

In support of Kenya's freedom movement, Jawaharlal Nehru deputed two Indian lawyers to defend Jomo Kenyatta who was being tried by the colonial British' administration.

At the Seminar on Portuguese colonies in New Delhi convened three months before our own liberation of Goa in December 1961, Nehru assured the liberation leaders from Portuguese Africa of India's help in their "task of coming out of the morass of colonial domination". At the first Non-Aligned Summit at Belgrade in September 1961 he denounced Portuguese rule and atrocities in Angola and Mozambique in the strongest terms. While the OAU condemned year after year Portuguese rule in Africa till its end in 1975 India joined others in keeping the issue alive at the UN and the Non-Aligned Movement.

There have been significant developments in Southern Africa in the last few weeks. As a result of intense international pressure and domestic compulsions the racist regime has shown some inclination to end its acts of aggression in Angola and to agree to the implementation of the UN Plan for the Independence of Namibia which it has been occupying illegally for over two decades. We are looking forward to the success of the current quadripartite negotiations which will hopefully ensure peace and stability in Angola and result in the emergence in the near future of Namibia as a free country.

In the African Continent only in South Africa the last vestige of colonialism remains. The racist regime should heed the writing on the wall and seek a constructive dialogue with the politically dispossessed for the establishment of majority rule. It should be brought to its senses by the application of comprehensive mandatory sanctions. It is our solemn conviction that the oppressed people in South Africa will soon see the long-awaited dawn of freedom.

The 24th Summit of the OAU Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa last May was characterised by new diplomatic initiatives aimed at ending bilateral and regional conflicts in the Continent. We are gratified to witness that there is a growing trend in Africa towards reconciliation and easing of tensions. In bringing about this development the OAU has played a significant role. As President Mussa Traore of Mali, the new Chairman of the OAU said at the concluding session, the 24th Summit was a summit of reunion with the entire Continent determined to eliminate the hotbeds of tension. Th prospects for African unity after a quarter of a century look brighter now than ever before.

This Seminar which brings together eminent personalities, scholars and journalists from Africa and India underlines the fact that we in India have a living interest in the achievements of the OAU and that the interaction between Africa and India is an ongoing process and is not limited to observations of anniversaries. The OAU Chairman has observed: "What has been done so far is significant and what remains to be done is even greater". I am sure the participants in this seminar will find it possible to review the past achievements of the OAU and to identify what measures are required to strengthen it and other organisations for regional cooperation in the future.
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I warmly welcome the Secretary General of the OAU, Mr. Ide Oumarou, and other distinguished participants from Africa to this Seminar. I hope each one of you will have an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country".

DIA GHANA ETHIOPIA USA EGYPT SOUTH AFRICA KENYA YUGOSLAVIA ANGOLA MOZAMBIQUE NAMIBIA MALI

Date : Sep 06, 1988

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Joint Press Release on The Fourth Bound of Talks between theDefence Secretaries of India and Pakistan

The following is the Joint Press release on the fourth round of talks between the Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan held in New Delhi on Sep 22, 1988:

The Pakistan delegation comprised the following:

i) Syed Ijlal Haider Zaidi, Defence Secretary

ii) H.E. Mr. Niaz A. Naik, Ambassador of Pakistan to India

iii) Maj Gen Raja Mohammad Iqbal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence

iv) Maj Gen Mohammad Akram, Director General, Joint Staff Headquarters

v) Maj Gen Jehangir Karamat, Director General M.O.

vi) Maj Gen Anis Ali Syed, Surveyor General of Pakistan

vii) Mr. Aziz Ahmad Khan, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

viii) Mr. Naimatullah, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence

ix) Mr. S. Shafqat Kakakhel, Minister, Pakistan Embassy, New Delhi

x) Brig. Zahir-ul-Islam Abbasi, Defence and Army Attache, Pakistan Embassy, New Delhi

xi) Mr. Kamran Niaz, Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy, New Delhi.

The Indian delegation comprised the following.

i) Shri T. N. Seshan, Defence Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

ii) Shri S. K. Singh, Ambassador of India to Pakistan

iii) Shri N. N. Vohra, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence

iv) Lt General B. C. Joshi, DGMO

v) Shri Satish Chandra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs

vi) Shri S. K. Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence
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vii) Maj Gen V. R. Raghavan, Additional DGMO

viii) Maj Gen D. D. Saklani, MG GS, Northern Command Headquarters

ix) Shri S. B. Mathur, Director, Ministry of Defence.

x) Brig. B. N. Raizada, Defence Attache in Pakistan

xi) Brig. R. K. Gulati, Ministry of Defence.

During his visit Mr. Ijlal Haider Zaidi, Defence Secretary of Pakistan was received by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and Shri K. C. Pant, Defence Minister of India. At these meetings the Defence Secretary of Pakistan conveyed the greetings and good wishes of the Pakistani leaders and their resolve to settle all matters through negotiations.

The discussions were conducted in a frank and friendly atmosphere and both sides reiterated their commitment to work for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Siachen issue in accordance with

the Simla Agreement.

It was agreed that the next round of Defence Secretaries' talks will be held in Islamabad in January/February, 1989.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S TOUR ABROAD

Speech at the Dinner Hosted by Her Majesty the Queen ofNetherland

The following is the text of the speech of the President of India Shri R. Venkataraman at the Gala Dinner hosted in his honour by Her Majesty the Queen of Netherlands on Sep 12, 1988:

My wife and I would like to thank you most warmly, Your Majesty, for the welcome that has been accorded to us. We are delighted to be in your beautiful country and I deem it a privilege to be the first President of India to pay a State visit to the Netherlands.

I recall with great pleasure the visit of Your Majesty and Prince Claus to India two years ago. India is far too big a country to be seen on a brief visit but, I believe, your Majesty was able to obtain a glimpse of the great diversity of our ancient civilization and its attempts to come to terms with the modern age.

Visiting the Netherlands the birth place of the great Masters of Art, Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh is for us, too, a cherished experience.

Mutual visits help consolidate the close and expanding friendship which characterizes Indo-Dutch relations.

We in India have long admired your efforts to contend with the forces of geography as well as history. Wresting vast flatlands from the sea by a process of water management, drainage and reclamation is an astonishing achievement of global proportions. Likewise, your citizens' determined resistance to foreign domination has earned our lasting respect.

In more recent times the Dutch pioneering spirit has also turned your country into a highly successful nation renowned

for its modem farms and factories despite the Netherlands' relative lack of natural resources.

Your Majesty, I am conscious of the fact that my visit to your country is taking place at a time when the winds of change are blowing over established systems of thought and politico-economic structures in many parts of the world. Here in Western Europe, after a long period of trial, effort and experimentation, a common European personality is acquiring definition. The Final Act passed recently by the European Parliament constitutes a major landmark in the evolution of the European Economic Community. New and rationalized opportunities for collaboration among the political constituents of Europe on the one hand and between these and different regions of the world, on the other will now open. The realization is growing that the world has, a stake in inter-dependence and that the global economy is, indeed, interlocked. Both our nations therefore are distressed over the fact that the North-South dialogue has run a ground. India looks to the Netherlands, as one of the influential and forward looking nations of the western world, to lend its support to the restoration of the dialogue.

Your Majesty, the world economy has been passing through a very difficult period. The problem faced by it cannot be resolved through partial solutions. For this purpose, we must reinvigorate the North-South dialogue. We appreciate the positive approach of the Netherlands in this respect. We share the objectives of maintaining an open and liberal trading system. It is our hope that the interests of the developing countries would be fully safe-guarded and their concern taken care of in the on-going negotiations in the GATT.

India has noted with deep satisfaction the relaxation of tensions in Europe. The dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States has led to what we view as a bold and historic agreement in the shape of the INF Treaty. The initiative taken by President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev promises further crucial steps on the path of global nuclear disarmament. The world must persevere determinedly on this path.

It is to this end, that the Prime Minister of India presented a time-bound Action Plan at the Third Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament. We expect this Plan to lead to a rational and meaningful debate in the UN and outside on this issue of vital importance to the human race.

The Non-aligned Movement to which we are proud to belong has been striving for conditions that will take the world nearer that ideal. The Non-aligned Movement is also taking a stand on other issues that affect the independence and dignity of peoples and nations.

An issue which we are agitated about is the continuing trauma of South Africa. Nelson Mandela's prolonged incarceration and his monumental patience reflect the saga of his people. It is time that the oppressed majorities in South Africa and Namibia come into their own. We have noted with satisfaction your Government's efforts to spur the European Community to act in line with the aspirations and demands of the international community.

We welcome the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, If properly implemented they could pave the way for the restoration of peace and stability in that part of the country. Accordingly, it is most important that the concerned parties strictly abide by their obligations under the Geneva accords. We also believe that the Afghans must be allowed to determine their future on their own and without any external interference.

We welcome equally the cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq. The end of this long-drawn fratricidal war opens up prospects of peace and stability in this region.
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In our own region we are committed to a policy of peace and friendship with all our neighbours. Under the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement we are committed to helping to end the ethnic conflict and to safeguard the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka based on the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of its Tamil minority. We are interested in normalising our relations with China through a negotiated settlement of the outstanding issues. We sincerely hope that . Pakistan will successfully withstand the shock of the recent, traumatic events there and a stable Government will be formed. , Equally we hope that certain policies such as involvement with terrorist activities directed against us and the pursuit of a clandestine nuclear weapons programme, which have thwarted the process of normalisation of relations between our two countries, will be eschewed in the interest of durable peace and understanding between close neighbours.

We believe that developing countries cannot afford the lixury of war and conflict. The only War they must wage is a war on want.

Ever since Independence we have been engaged in an effort to provide our people a fuller and richer life. While many problems remain significant strides have been made in several areas. The combination of centuries of farming experience and modem technology has led to self-sufficiency in foodgrains. The foodgrain production which stood at 50 million tonnes in 1951, has increased to 150 million tonnes this year. Our industry has grown at a rate of 8.7 per cent during the last four years. But what is more important is that the industrial base has become widely diversified to cover consumer and capital goods including those involving the use of the latest materials and technologies.

We have built a large pool of scientific and technical manpower which provides a firm base for growth. These developments have encouraged the Government to liberalise its industrial and economic policy regimes further. These development efforts of ours have been largely self-reliant, foreign assistance and investment have contributed not more than 7 per cent of the total public investment in the last Plan.

Population growth and the alleviation of poverty are the two main challenges we have to face. The Government has been engaged in facing these challenges. The current rate of growth in population is estimated to be 1.9 per cent. It is not often appreciated that this growth is due to the fact that in spite of the birth-rate going down, the death-rate has been going down faster.

Your Majesty, what has given us particular satisfaction is that our progress has been achieved within the parameters of democracy. We are proud of our democratic institutions, the openness of our society and the freedom that our people enjoy.

We in India have opted for parliamentary democracy because it is the only system which meets the requirements of a diverse society such as ours. We have held eight national general elections in India. The first of these was held in 1952 when 176 million people formed the electorate. In the last national elections held in December 1984, the electorate had 400 million registered voters, of which 64% cast their votes.

We feel proud that India is not only the largest democracy but also one of the healthiest and most vibrant democracies in the world. Adult franchise has created amongst the people of India, a renewed awareness of their right to shape their destiny. The Rule of Law and Justice has taken firm root in India and our people's faith in the institutions of justice is one of the most inspiring achievements of our polity.

If I have taken some time tonight to describe our current endeavours in India it is because I know of your interest in my country, its traditions as well as its present preoccupations. The relationship between
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India and the Netherlands is being developed and diversified in a variety of directions. We sincerely appreciate the interest that the Netherlands has taken in our development efforts. We are both aware that through concerted efforts our partnership can assume new and challenging dimensions.

I would like now, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, to raise your glass in a toast to Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Claus of the Netherlands, to the progress and prosperity of the friendly Dutch people, and to the further strengthening of the friendship between the Netherlands and

India.

DIA USA THE NETHERLANDS CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND IRAN IRAQ SRI LANKA MALI CHINA PAKISTAN

Date : Sep 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S TOUR ABROAD

Speech at the Reception hosted by the Mayor of Amsterdam

The following is the text of speech delivered by the President of India, Shri R. Venkataraman at the reception hosted by the Mayor of Amsterdam in his honour on Sep 12, 1988:

It is a joy for me, my wife and other members of my delegation, to be in the first city of the Netherlands. Amsterdam, has been rightly described as "a city rich in history, outstanding in art and colourful in appearance". To this string of adjective we can, I am sure, add that Amsterdam is a city generous in the warmth of its hospitality.

May I, Mr. Mayor, extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to you for this Reception which symbolises Amsterdam's spirit of friendship.

This is not my first visit to Amsterdam. I have had the pleasure of visiting it earlier and of being captivated by its beauty. Its centuries-old canals lined by historic houses and its world-famous dykes have etched themselves on my mind. They are an immortal symbol of Man's determination. Amsterdam was a small fishing village in the 13th Century. Today it is a glowing metropolis.

The Dutch poet Constantign Huygens it was, I believe, who wrote of this City as "Two Venices in One", a

Golden swamp with Heaven's plenitude replete

Storehouse of East and West, all water and all street

This evocation of Heaven reminds me, Mr. Mayor, of the fact that parts of the old City of Delhi, too, once consisted of alleys interwoven with canals. Water courses flowed into the massive Red Fort where they cascaded in myriad formations over marble and red

sandstone. Beholding that sight the Emperor Shahjahan said:

Be there ever a paradise on Earth It is this. It is this. It is this.

Amsterdam and Old Delhi share another point of similarity. Alongside the daily simplicities of home life, their intimate and narrow streets foster a classical culture. Amsterdam's old buildings breathe history. They speak of Spanish, French and Cossack arrivals, and of the dark and painful years of the wars. But cutting through all these they speak of a certain resoluteness and self-confidence for which the Dutch people - ancient and modern are respected.

The old Amsterdam with hundreds of houseboats and more than 500,000 bicycles has, today, added new and vibrant dimensions to its personality. Students from different parts of the world throng here, eating the cuisine of many lands, studying myriad disciplines. Amsterdam is a city of 90 islands that are linked by over 900 bridges. But Mr. Mayor, this is a city of bridges in more senses than one. It bridges
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intellectual and cultural gulfs as well. More than anything else Amsterdam bridges distances in Time. Amsterdam's gabled houses, with their beautiful cornices, blend harmoniously with the city's newer extensions: This constitutes a major achievement of your modern town-planning efforts.

Amsterdam reconciles the demands of conservation with a concern for man's habitat and contemporary living space. In other words, it reconciles the important with the urgent. The city of Amsterdam demonstrates how a balance can be attain. ed in a growing city between land and water, commerce and leisure, tourism and scholarship.

The spirit of world cooperation which the Netherlands stands for is tellingly reflected in the life-rhythms of this City. I understand that after your country's recent victory in the European Football Championship, a million persons, more than the resident population of the city itself, participated in massive celebrations without causing undue anxiety either to the city's authorities or to the police! No better tribute can be paid to a people's r": sources, inner and outer.

We appreciate the fact that many hundreds of Indian nationals live and work in your hospitable city.

There have been in this city, distinguished residents who have studied, visited and cherished India. I would like today to express our appreciation of their interest. We value the establishing of a new Centre for Asian Studies in your city and the studies on India being carried on by Amsterdam University and

your Free University.

According to our ancient Vedas, Mr. Mayor, the entire universe is one family:

Vasudheiva kutumbakam

I am sure the beautiful and historic city of Amsterdam will always keep that ideal before itself.

May I conclude by thanking you and Your distinguished colleagues in the Amsterdam City Council for this pleasant reception. I shall always cherish its memory Please accept, Mr. Mayor, as a token of our sentiments this gift from India.

E NETHERLANDS INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S TOUR ABROAD

Luncheon Speech at the Hague

The following is the text of the speech of the President of India, Shri R. Venkataraman at the luncheon hosted in his honour by the Netherlands Council of Ministers at the Hague on Sep 13, 1988:

It gives me very great pleasure to be in this historic Hall of Knights, in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness, Prince Claus. Our visit to the Netherlands as the guests of Her Majesty and of His Royal Highness, and this luncheon to which you have invited us, Mr. Prime Minister, reflect the warmth of Indo-Dutch relations. May I take this opportunity to thank you Mr. Prime Minister for your sustained interest in India and for the contributions that you have made to the partnership between our two countries.

We, on our part, have long admired your country. Centuries ago, from your ports, Holland's pioneering sons sailed eastward in search of spices. Their quest brought them to the shores of our country and our people came to know of the many qualities of the Dutch people: their bravery, their enterprise and their diligence. As a country which for millenia has been engaged in husbanding its land, India has admired the Netherlands for what

it has done over the years to turn its challenges into opportunities. We have marvelled at
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your pioneering work on reclaiming precious land from the sea, on cultivating its water-bound Soils with intense diligence and in drawing energy from the winds.

India is an ancient country with a history dating back thousands of years before Christ. During its long history several races have come to the country and have become assimilated into the Indian Culture. The fusion of populations has been so complete that the racial origin of present day Indians renders definition impossible. This plurality and multiplicity of succeeding civilisations and cultures still sparkle like different facets of a gem. Rabindranath Tagore, our great poet wrote in Bengal of this process:

The Sakas, phalanxes of the Hun, the Pathans and the Moghuls, all of them, became One Persona in India.

This fundamental unity and tranquillity of India received a setback in the colonial interregnum when the instrument of divide at impara was increasingly employed, by our alien rulers. Sown assiduously, the seeds of discord took root. But with the advent of freedom in 1947, the sagacious leadership of India adopted secularism and socialism as the avowed policies of the new State and ensured equality before law regardless of caste, creed or religion.

We have just celebrated the 40th Anniversary of our Independence, cherishing the legacy of our eclecticism. We have done so joyously but also introspectively.

We are aware that mere equality before law does not ensure happiness to a people. The need to provide the people adequate means of livelihood and a decent standard of living is an important and urgent task. The State comes into existence for the protection of life and property but it exists for providing a good life to its people.

Our highest national priority is the combating of poverty. When the world was marching ahead during the Industrial Revolution India remained dormant under colonial rule. Our agricultural production remained stagnant while our population was growing, thus leading to recurrent famines.

We know that productivity must now increase on our farms and in our factories, and that fair distribution has meaning only when the goods required for distribution are available. We have, therefore, bestowed our first attention to agriculture. The use of high yielding varieties of crop, festiliser and modern farm practices have led in a remarkably short period of time to what

we proudly refer to as the Green Revolution in India. This Revolution has made us self-sufficient in food and has given us, besides, a substantial buffer stock. After our recent experience of drought, we have started looking for technology for the use of drought-resistant varieties of seed and for water management. These steps, together with the supply of electric power for irrigation on a priority basis has helped us to contain the drought-induced decline in food production at 4.9 per cent. With the monsoon this year having been bountiful, we expect to achieve a much higher level of production.

During the initial years of our independence, we were short of everything food, clothing, capital resources and the like. We had to carefully husband our scarce resources and divert them into productive channels. India, therefore, adopted a planned economy so that the resources may be deployed according to national priorities. Successive five years plans have enabled India to industrialise the ' country to the extent of our being somewhere near the tenth position in the world in the volume of industrial production. The transformation of India from a benighted agricultural state into a modem industrial one could not have been achieved without planned development.

With the gradual disappearance of shortages, India has liberalised its econo-
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mic policies and encouraged entrepreneurs to go into diverse fields. Relevant technologies are imported and rapid modernisation encouraged. Today we stand third in the world in the number and volume of scientific and technical 'personnel and have launched into sophisticated areas like space research, and the generation of nuclear energy.

We have still a long way to go, if we are to provide a fair standard of living for our teeming millions of population.

Your country is one of those which understands the historical processes that have been at work in India and the rhythms of our present endeavours. More Dutch people are now learning about India and vice-versa and relevant experiences are being shared.

The Netherlands has contributed since 1963 to our development effort by providing bilateral assistance. We are gratified that our cooperation has in this decade, developed further in several fields - agriculture, air services, economic, technical and scientific collaborations, telecommunications, environment and culture. We are grateful, Mr. Prime Minister, to you and your colleagues for the initiatives taken in this regard. There are now over 200 collaborations in India with Dutch companies. These collaborations are greatly valued by us. Your wellknown company Philips alone is associated with over 60 Indo-Dutch collaborations.

Perhaps the most important aspect of our bilateral cooperation is in the Netherlands' traditional and unique area of expertise: Shipping and Ports. We have marvelled at the role played in European history by Dutch ports. They opened up and developed the European hinterland to world trade. Rotterdam continues even today to be a pivot of international commerce, linking Europe to different parts of the world. We, therefore, cherish your assistance in the modernization of our own ports and inland waterways through dredging and also in our ship building and repairs.

Dutch equity investment in India however, continues to be rather modest. We would like to emphasize that India encourages collaborations and assures a durable partnership with a large market in a democratic and stable political environment. We would, therefore, welcome greater Dutch investment in our priority areas. We believe that in our present phase of industrialisation where the accent is on modernisation and efficiency there is considerable scope for diversifying our economic exchanges. The Netherlands is today one of our important trading partners. But I am confident that the horizons of our partnership can be widened further.

Mr. Prime Minister, we have observed with admiration your Government's success in countering economic recession and curbing public expenditure while retaining the welfare content of your social service, limiting inflation, and making efforts to combat unemployment. We respect your national values in which individual self-expression, law, justice and ethical conduct occupy so high a place. We do so because we in India are actuated by the same principles.

We know, Mr. Prime Minister, the ability of the Dutch people to meet their challenges. No better example, even if symbolic, could be had of this determination than the fact you are now the European Football Champions, and have also done very well in world hockey, a game we taught to others!

May I now request you, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, to rise in a toast to Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Claus, Prime Minister Lubbers and members of his Government, and to the growing friendship between the Netherlands and India.
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DIA THE NETHERLANDS USA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 13, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S TOUR ABROAD

Speech to the Indian Community at the Hague

The following is the text of the, speech by the President of India, Shri R. Venkataraman at a reception hosted in his honour by the Indian community at the Hague on Sep 13, 1988:

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to meet all of you. It is seldom that I get the opportunity to meet people of Indian origin and Indian associations in other parts of the world. I am very happy to see that there is a large number of members of the Indian community and they are making it very good in life here. Every one is very successful in his respective profession and calling which he has taken. I may share a thought which some of the dignitaries in the Dutch Government mentioned to me, and I felt very proud. They. said that the Indian community here is not only a very efficient one, but a law-abiding one. It is a great credit to the country. They also said that they have identified themselves with Holland and they feel like any other citizen of this country. This again is what Panditji used to tell people of Indian origin living abroad: when you have come to another country and taken the citizenship there, your loyalty should always be to the country to which you have domiciled yourself. At the same time you must try to maintain your links with the country of your origin so that whatever expertise you manage to find for yourself may be transmitted to the country of your origin.

Many of you are aware of the recent liberation that has been made in the economic policies in India. There has been a misunderstanding about our planned economy and our controls in the past. They did not realise that at the time when we became independent we were short of everything - we were short of food, short of clothing,, short of necessities of life, short of capital, and whatever little resources we had to be deployed very carefully so that the country as a whole benefits. If we had not introduced those controls at that time, the diversification of industries which has now taken place would hardly have been possible. Twenty-five years ago I was Minister of Industries in Madras State and at that time when we tried to industrialise the state, the people used to come and ask only for a textile mill or a sugar mill. If I told them you go into engineering or to the chemical industry, they would shy away from it and say that we want only a textile industry or a sugar industry. On account of the controls that we introduced we were able to diversify the industries, we were able to tell them licences will be given if you go for engineering industries, chemical industries,

pharmaceutical industries and so on, and not if you wanted to go for the traditional ones. And on that account we were able to diversify our industries and you must be proud to learn that in the matter of industrial production we stand fourteenth in the world. A benighted agricultural India at the time of our independence, a country which used to import fountain pens from England, safety pins from Japan, today we are one of the industrialised nations and we bid fair to march ahead of the other developing countries and abreast of the developed, countries. Now those shortages have disappeared. Today we have surpluses in many areas. Today there is competition among the sellers. What was originally a buyers' market has now become a sellers' market. And here we find that the people are keen to sell, there is a competition, there is a desire for reducing cost, improving efficiency and so on. The result now is we can relax all our controls; there is no need for controls now' We have invited foreign capital, foreign investment, foreign technology and everyone of these things. What we want to do is to march ahead and abreast with the other countries of the world the developed countries. You people who have come here, come to other parts of the world, have developed a lot of expertise in
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the area of your specialisation and the country expects that you will contribute Your quota to further development of the country, of India. We hope that you will not only yourself do your bit, but encourage other people to come forward and assist in the process of development This is a sacred duty that you all pay your country of origin and the fact is it is one of the things in which both people will benefit - you as well as the country. You will benefit by finding opportunities of investment in our country and you will also be helping our country to march forward.

I am quite sure you will have a very pleasant and very happy stay in this country. Holland is one of the most friendly countries with India. The trade relationship between India and Holland is very large. In fact we are the second largest trading partners with the EEC. Therefore, there is every opportunity for us to take advantage of the expertise and the knowledge India gained here to the benefit of this country as well as ours. I wish you all the best.

I thank you once again for coming in such numbers and in giving me this opportunity of meeting you. Thank you.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC JAPAN

Date : Sep 13, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S TOUR ABROAD

Banquet Speech at Helsinki

The following is the text of the speech of the President of India, Shri R. Venkataraman at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the President of the Republic of Finland, H.E. Dr. Mauno Koivisto, at Helsinki on Sep 14, 1988:

May I at the outset convey my sincere thanks to you, Mr. President, for your gracious words of welcome. My wife and I are delighted to be in your enchanting country and to receive the warm hospitality showered on our entire delegation from the moment we touched your soil.

I would like to recall today, Mr. President, your visit to India along with Madame Koivisto, in February 1987. Two decades prior to that your late President Kekkonen had honoured us similarly by a visit. We regarded that visit as specially important since that was the first time a President of Finland was visiting any Asian country. One of my distinguished predecessors, Shri V. V. Giri visited Finland in 1971 and so did our late Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. All these visits reinforced the bonds between
US.

No two countries can, of course, be as disimilar from each other in geography and climate as Tropical India and Arctic Finland. One is sun-baked and the other ice-capped for most of the year. Barring Iceland's Reykjavic, this city of Helsinki is the northernmost among the world's capitals.

There is an Indian saying that

'A country is not its earth; a country is its people'.

If nature has predominated Finland's terra firma, the people of Finland have been no less determined. We have read in history books of how Helsinki was ravaged by a plague in 1710 and burned to the ground by fires in 1713 and 1808 only to rise again by the sheer determination of her people. We in India are aware of how the spirit of the people of Finland refused to break under any foreign yoke.

The Great October Revolution in Russia was accompanied by Finland's declaration of independence in 1917. That was a time of

great significance for us in India too. Mahatma Gandhi had just then returned from his struggle in South Africa to commence his historic programme of nonviolent civil resistance, that led, later to our own independence.
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Mr. President, your development in the post Second World War years as a dynamic and prosperous country constitutes a major and inspiring achievement. Your achievements are now universally acknowledged. We have noted with admiration how your gifted and hard-working people have converted a comparatively ill developed economy into an advanced and flourishing society. Substantially self-supportive in foodgrains, dairy products and root crops, Finland is now also able to export a variety of forest produce metal and engineering products, chemicals and textiles. India has been regularly importing paper and paper board from Finland, among other goods. It is gratifying that both Finland and India are making efforts to enlarge and diversify the trade exchanges.

The success of Indian third and the fourth Antarctic expeditions, for which the Finnish vessel 'Finn Polaris' was chartered, is a symbol of our fruitful cooperation. Both our countries have covered unchartered ground in developing successfully, economic and trade relations with countries having different social and economic systems. This has shown the world that differences in social and economic philosophies need not be a source of conflict.

Ever since Independence we have been engaged in an effort to provide our people a fuller and richer life. While many problems still remain, significant strides have been made in several areas. The combination of centuries of farming experience and modern technology has led to what we call a Green Revolution in India. Foodgrain production which stood at 50 million tonnes in 1951, has increased three fold and has ensured self-sufficiency in food. Our industry has grown at over 7.6 per cent annually in recent years. But what is more important is that the industrial base has become widely diversified to cover consumer and capital goods including those involving the use of the latest materials and technologies.

We have built a large pool of scientific and technical manpower which provides a form base for growth. These developments have encouraged the Government to liberalise its industrial and economic policy further.

Mr. President, we derive satisfaction from the fact that our development effort has been largely self-reliant. Our savings rate has reached 22 per cent of the GDP. Foreign assistance and investment have contributed not more than about 7 per cent of the total public investment in the, last Plan.

Population growth and the alleviation of poverty are two

challenges we face. All efforts are being made by the Government to deal with them. Our current rate of growth of population is estimated to be 1.9 per cent. It is, however, not always. appreciated that the reason for our population's growth is that while the birth-rate is going down, the death-rate has been going down faster!

Ours is a democratic society and the solution to these problems has to be found within democratic parameters. We are proud of our democratic institutions, the openness of the society and the freedom that our people enjoy.

South Asia is our home. Geography, history, culture and traditions have ordained for the peoples of the region an inescapably intertwined destiny. We have inherited a troubled and complex legacy from Colonial times. We have to rise above narrow interests and artificial barriers so that the countries of the region are left free to work out their own future amongst themselves without outside interference.

India wishes to have friendly and good ties with our neighbours. Good neighbourliness enjoins a code of conduct. It is, therefore, unfortunate that from across our borders encouragement has been: offered to terrorist activities directed against us. A clandestine nuclear weapons programme is being pursued in our <pg-306>

neighbourhood which cannot but vitiate the atmosphere in our region.

As we survey the world scene, Mr. President, we in India are deeply relieved that the fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq has ended and that prospects of renewed peace in this sensitive region have opened up. We call for a scrupulous adherence to the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan so that peace can return to that troubled State. We salute the indomitable Nelson Mandela who celebrated his 70th birthday in incarceration and call for more vigorous international action, which must include comprehensive mandatory sanctions,, to end the pernicous system of apartheid in South Africa.

Mr. President, we have followed closely and with admiration your foreign policy on which there is national consensus and we attach high importance to your contribution to the promotion of the North-South dialogue, to peace and to disarmament. We are aware of the contributions made by your country towards the detente between the East and West. Your policy of neutrality strikes a chord among the Non-aligned Nations to which India belongs.

Mr. President, you once said that the greatest threat for mankind exists in the form of weapons of mass destruction. We could not agree with you more. In our time no issue is more urgent and pressing for humanity than disarmament, especially nuclear

disarmament.

We are naturally gratified that the treaty on the elimination of intermediate range nuclear forces has been ratified and is being implemented. The INF treaty is a historic beginning which must be continued. The world cannot contemplate peaceful co-existence with the instruments of our own destruction.

To this end, the Prime Minister of India has presented a time-bound Action Plan at the Third Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament. The Plan incorporates an integrated set of measures and a programme of nuclear disarmament accompanied by steps to promote general and complete disarmament.

Mr. President, ever since Helsinki became the venue for the Soviet-American talks on the limitation of strategic arms began in 1969, it was clear that Helsinki, the city between the East and the West, will play an increasingly crucial role in the building of a new world order. To us in India, your achievements, both individual and collective, will always be an inspiration.

As a pluralist society which is keen to preserve and foster harmonious relations among our multi-lingual people professing different faiths, we have great admiration for Finland, with its tradition of tolerance among its people whether speaking Finnish or Swedish, whether Lutheran, or belonging to the Catholic or the Orthodox Church.

We are gratified to note the growing interest in Finland in Indian culture and we greatly admire the work of your Indologists going back to the days of Wallenius who as early as 1835 taught Sanskrit at the University of Helsinki. I am particularly gratified to learn that Kalidasa's Sakuntalam was staged in Kaupio in September 1987: we have also translated the Finnish national epic Kalavela into Hindi in our country.

Mr. President, may I conclude with renewed thanks to you and to Madame Koivisto for your warm and gracious hospitality.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in raising your glasses to the health and happiness of the President of the Republic of Finland and Madame Koivisto, to the prosperity and well-being of the gifted people of Finland, to everlasting friendship between India and Finland.
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NLAND INDIA USA PERU ICELAND RUSSIA SOUTH AFRICA IRAN IRAQ AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 14, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S TOUR ABROAD

Address at the Paasikivi Society

The following is the text of the Address of the President of India, Shri R. Venkataraman at the Paasikivi Society at Helsinki on Sep 16, 1988:

It is indeed a privilege for me to address this distinguished audience under the auspices of the Paasikivi Society. On this occasion our thoughts go back to the -former President of Finland, Juhokristi Paasikivi, a sagacious statesman and a great patriot. President Paasikivi left a deep and abiding imprint on Finland's foreign and domestic policies. Your Society has over the 30 years of its existence kept alive his political heritage by promoting serious thinking on foreign policy issues, the meaning of Finland's neutrality and democracy within the country. I would like to congratulate your Society on the success it has achieved in pursuing its goal.

I have been asked to speak today on the progress India has made since Independence and the challenges that lie ahead. In the time available I shall touch upon some of the salient aspects.

India became free after the conclusion of the Second World War on the 15th of August 1947. India's struggle for freedom was itself unique and was different from the armed rebellions known to history. Mahatma Gandhi who led the struggle for freedom for three decades preached that the movement should be peaceful, non-violent and without hatred or bitterness. Many of his own followers were sceptical of the method suggested but with Gandhi it was a creed and not a strategy. The participants in the struggle underwent severe repression at the hands of the Imperial power and yet did not retaliate or develop hatred towards the British. It is this unique feature of the freedom struggle that helped India remain in the Commonwealth notwithstanding the country becoming a republic after Independence.

One of the silent revolutions that occurred in the post-war world, is the voluntary transfer of power to the colonies heralding the end of colonialism. Wars of independence yielded place to peaceful transfers of authority to the peoples under imperial domination. In a sense Indian independence led the way for other liberation movements in the countries of Asia and Africa. India spearheaded the Decolonisation efforts in the United Nations and in other fora.

India's birth in the comity of free nations was, however, not without its pangs. The partition of the country led to the migration of more than 8 1/2 million people and fed the flames of communal violence, in the curbing of which Mahatma Gandhi made the supreme sacrifice. The division of resources and assets of the country, its civil and armed services, its transport and communication systems, the rivers and the ports; the existence of 562 Princely States, who were given the option to accede to one or the other of the Dominions as the new States were then called, or stay away from either of them, presented a formidable task. At the same time foundations had to be laid for new Institutions to replace the old ones. These were all accomplished in stages. But before I address myself to these, let me present to you a picture of what India is.

Geographically,, India covers nearly 33,000 sq. km. of area, its mainland spanning a distance of 3,200 hm. from North to South and 2,900 km. from East to West. It is the second most populous country in the world - with 800 million people as of now. The majority of India, 75% lives in 5,57,000 villages. Agriculture is a way of life for the bulk of the people and even though today it contributes 35 per cent to
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the Gross National Produce. 70 per cent of the labour force derives its livelihood from agriculture.

India is a pluralistic society of many religions, 15 official languages and several castes and communities. It is a land of great contrasts - where the bullock cart and space rockets exist side by side. It is a land where deep religious beliefs and ancient traditions live with the modern scientific thought and invention.

India has a federal structure administered through 25 States and 7 Territories. Today it is the largest functioning democracy. This vastness and complexity of India, with its great diversity and yet an essential cultural unity forged by historical linkages nurtured over centuries, must be kept in view for a full appreciation of the changes which have taken place.

The leaders who guided the destiny of the nation in the very critical period before and immediately after Independence bad the sagacity and the wisdom to define for the country the goal of a liberal and progressive India and set in motion the highest traditions of democracy.

A Constituent Assembly was convened in 1946 to frame the Constitution of India, which was adopted on November 26, 1949. This was perhaps the most important event of post-independence period. India was constituted into a sovereign, secular, democratic republic; and the Constitution secured for all its

citizens Justice: social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship and equality of status and of opportunity. Every citizen was guaranteed certain fundamental rights which can be enforced by the courts of law. There is to be no discrimination on grounds of religion, race. caste, sex or the place of birth and there is equal protection of laws for all. The rights include the freedom of speech and expression, of peaceful assembly and formation of associations, of free movement throughout the territory and freedom to follow any religion or faith or practice any profession. Special protection is guaranteed to the minorities. Above all there is right to life and personal liberty. This was a natural corollary to the rejection of the two nation theory propounded by the Imperial power, and despite creation of theocratic State in one of the Dominions, India opted for a secular State. The rule of law prevails in the country and the authority to interpret the Constitution and to enforce it, is vested in the highest court of the land. The Judiciary is highly in dependent and has jealously guarded the rights of the citizens. The press is free and virile.

Among the various models available, it was the parliamentary form of democracy which was adopted. Elections were to be held on the basis of universal adult franchise. Thus a very valuable right was acquired by the citizens, men and women, regardless of their economic status, religious belief or level of education. The first general election in the country was conducted in 1952. The size of the electorate then was 1.76 million. India has since conducted eight general elections, the last one in December 1984 by which time the electorate had grown to 400 million of whom 64% actually cast their vote.

The Indian parliament consists of two Houses. The House of the People has 542 members and thus on an average a constituency represents a population of 1.45 million. We also have a second chamber, the Council of States, to which elections are held indirectly. The Indian voter may be illiterate and ill-clad, but he has shown through the elections that he is sovereign, has a fine political sense and can hold the 'parties in power accountable.

India has a federal structure with elected legislatures at the level of the States. The Constitution defines the jurisdiction of the Federal and the State Governments. Further down, there are elected bodies at the district and village levels providing local government.
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We can say that these institutions have struck roots. There are States where the political parties in power are different from the party holding power at the federal level. The transition from one government to other and the changes in leadership have been smooth. A unique feature of India is the federal civil services which are shared by the States and the Central Government. The

members of the services are able to bring their experience at the ground level to bear on the formulation of federal policies and with the widened horizon and national perspective imbibed at the federal level, go back to the States to attend to the local administration with richer experience.

I referred earlier to the existence of a large number of Princely States. A major task accomplished soon after independence was their assimilation in the mainstream. It is a reflection of the statesmanlike policies followed by the leaders and the patriotism of the people in the States that this vast consolidation could be achieved without violence or upheavals. Kashmir also acceded to India. But those who can think of the nation only on religious lines, could not reconcile themselves to the accession, even though India has the second largest Muslim population in the I with world, enjoying full and equal rights other citizens. We had to face two conficts in 1948 and 1965 with Pakistan.

CHINA

With China we have had long cultural and historical links but the border has been an area of conflict in the recent past. We are interested in normalising our relations with China through a negotiated settleent of all outstanding issues.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

A fundamental consequences of India's transition from colonialism to independence has been the generation of forces of social change and economic growth. The economic stagnation of the pre-independence era can be gauged by the fact that trend growth rate between 1901 and 1946 was 1.2 per cent per annum in overall national income: With 0.3 per cent for agricultural production and 2 per cent for industrial production. Agro-based industries like cotton, jute and sugar dominated the industrial scene. A common feature of the rural economy was the recurrence of famines.

Against this backdrop the country opted for planned economic development. A long term growth rate of national product of nearly 3.5 per cent was achieved during 1950 to 1975. In the more recent period 1975-1985, the trend growth rate of GDP has gone up further to nearly 4.4 per cent. As a result the per capita national income (at 1970-71 prices) increased from Rs. 466 in 1950 to Rs. 798 in 1985 and this, has been achieved in spite of the fact that the population had doubled during this period. A major factor responsib1e for population growth has been improvement in health and a very significant fall in death rate. The average life expectancy which was as low as 32 years in 1951 had gone up to 54 years by 1981. Even more important have been the qualitative and dimensional changes in the economy. India has established a sustainable techno-industrial base, has achieved sufficiency in food production and a vigorous and dynamic base

for scientific and technological development. Production of foodgrains increased from 51 million tonnes in 1950-51 to. over 150 million tonnes in 1985-86, as a result the dependence on the imports of foodgrains which was quite significant during fifties and sixties has almost been eliminated. We have also been able to maintain a comfortable buffer stock of foodgrains of 26 million tonnes.

In the industrial sector also great changes have taken place. The aggregate industrial output has increased five-fold since Independence. The share of basic and capital goods industries has increased from less than 5 per cent to about 50
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per cent. A corner stone of the national policy has been the key role assigned to the Public Sector. There are certain areas such as the Railways, Communications, Aviation and Ports which are exclusively in the Government Sector. There are other key areas where the State has a critical and dominant role as in the case of steel, petroleum refining, power and minerals. On the other hand agriculture and most services are almost entirely in the private sector as also vast areas of industrial activity. In 1985, there were 221 enterprises in the Public Sector with an investment of Rs. 428 billion or about $ 35,000 million. A conscious effort has also been made to foster the small industries and more than 800 products are reserved for manufacture in the small scale. This has helped in dispersal of industries and generation of employment in rural areas. During the early years of our Independence, when resources were scarce, entrepreneurship limited and the little surpluses absorbed in consumption, a measure of control and regulation became necessary. This ensured equitable dispersal and diversification in the industrial sector. But we have now reached a stage when it is no longer necessary to maintain that degree of control and regulation of industries. With the gradual development and spread of industry and disappearance of shortages, India has liberalised its economic policies and encouraged entrepreneurs to initiate new ventures, with an accent on modernization.

India's development effort has also entirely been self-reliant. The foreign and other borrowings for which we are grateful to friendly nations, are envisaged to contribute about 6% of the investments in the Seventh Plan period. The rate of domestic savings doubled during 1950 to 1985 to reach a level of 22% of GDP. A major dent has been made on the poverty and unemployment problems. While in 1960-61 barely 45 per cent of the country's population was above what has been defined as the 'poverty line', by 1983-84 the percentage of population above the poverty line had increased to 62.6 per cent. This has been brought about by a determined effort at equitable distribution of gains from planned development, particularly in the agricultural and allied sectors.

While a substantial achievement in the expansion of educational

facilities has been made, increasing the literacy rate from 16.7 per cent in 1951 to 36.2 per cent in 1981, we have to cover a long way in tackling the problem of illiteracy and its associated effects on the pace of national development.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The thrust for the development of infrastructure has been matched by the development of human resources. A large pool of scientific, technical and managerial manpower has been created. The human resources needed for the management of our industrial, health and other social services and the research apparatus have been developed largely through domestic effort. This human resource pool has provided a firm base for rapid advances in the industrial and infrastructural sectors.

A notable feature since independence has been the significant growth of, and major support for, science and technology. This has resulted in the development of indigenous and self-reliant capabilities in key sectors of national development such as atomic energy, space research industrial, medical, agricultural and defence research, creation of a large infrastructure and three million trained S & T personnel. New areas such as biotechnology, ocean science, environment, micro electronics, informatics, new energy sources, etc. have also received high priority. Programmes, schemes, organisational structures have been instituted to minimise environmental disruption.

Despite the determined effort at development over nearly four decades period, we have to cover a large back-log which accumulated in the long era of
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stagnancy in the pre-Independence period. Indian economy faces a number of challenges.

GROWING POPULATION - MAJOR OBSTACLE

One of the major obstacles to improvement in the standard of life of the people is ever-growing population. At the time of our . Independence India's population stood at 342 million and today it has reached 800 million. The increase in population every year, equal to the entire population of Australia, very much dilutes the vast improvements in the economy and social services we are making. The problem gets further accentuated as the increase in population among the people below the poverty line is higher than those above the poverty line. Government are addressing themselves vigorously to educate the people on Family Welfare Schemes within the limitations of a free democratic society. Success in meeting this challenge must necessarily be slow and tied up with such other factors like education, economic development and social awareness. Still the birth rate which was about 40 per thousand in 1951 had come down to 32 in 1986. The

estimates of population growth in the Seventh Plan period (1985-90) are 1.96% per annum. A consequence of the overall growth in population is higher than average increase in the urban population which is generating pressures on civic services, housing and urban employment.

POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Two great challenges the Government faces is the removal of poverty and of unemployment. Despite all the economic progress we have made so far, these problems remain. Government is giving the highest priority to solving these through Rural Development Programmes, promotion of small industries, schemes for self-employment, fostering of the services sector and development of supportive infrastructure.

Substantial increases in the per capita availability of cloth, food articles such as edible oils and sugar and infrastructural services such as electricity and transport will have to be achieved to take the fruits. of development to the entire population.

The residual problem of poverty will have to be tackled by a more rapid growth process which ensures adequate resources for rural development. Similarly, the basic services in the areas of health and education will have to be made available in a more effective manner to the uncovered or inadequately covered sections of the population. This requires an enormous increase in the resources and in the programmes in these sectors.

The unemployment problem has to be viewed in the context of agriculture which provides the mainstay for decentralised employment in the economy and the restructuring of our GDP, wherein the industrial and services sectors are to grow at a much faster rate than agriculture. If agricultural production is to grow at the rate requisite for the needs of our population, agricultural productivity will have to increase manifold since land is limited. The industrial and services sectors will have to provide adequate jobs for the normal growth in the labour force besides catering to the shift from agricultural to non-agricultural occupation.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

As in the case of developing countries, our balance of payments situation is influenced largely by the adverse terms of trade facing the third world. We have made a determined effort at the building up of our exports but the imports continue to outstrip our export earnings. Self-reliance in terms of supply of basic commodities, industrial and agricultural, has been achieved but we have to strive for self-reliance in terms of technology which can build up our competitiveness to face upto the supplies and demands in the international markets. Lack of stability in the

international situation, particularly,
<pg-312>

in our region, continues to force us to commit a substantial chunk of our developmental resources towards defence requirements drawing away such resources from the greater economic priorities of the population. The availability of resources for development will continue to be determined by the commitment of the resources to defence needs in the wake of the external political environment.

India's emergence on the world stage coincided with the vision of one World as expressed in the United Nations Charter on the one hand, and the beginnings of the Cold War on the other. The division of the world into hostile blocs had already begun to plague the U.N. system, which itself relegated to a passive role those states which were not permanent members of Security Council. India actively supported the Principles and Purposes of the U.N. Charter and pleaded for a safer and more just World Order through the twin programmes of Disarmament and Development.

The need to protect the country's hard won freedom through an avoidance of entanglement in military alliances and resistance to all forms of hagamony, gave rise to the policy of non-alignment. This in turn promoted an enlarged area of Peaceful co-existence. The policy had the great merit of permanence and flexibility. Never doctrinaire, it was from the start envisaged as a positive and dynamic policy capable of evolving and adjusting to changing conditions. The formulation and evolution of this policy, has been strengthened through the development of a national consensus within India and the growth of non-alignment as a global movement over the last two decades.

Even erstwhile critics now admit that non-alignment had contributed in a significant measure to the shift from a climate of cold war confrontation to one of detente and cooperation, cutting across national and ideological frontiers.

Even before independence the calling of a non-governmental Asian Relations Conference in April, 1947, was an important recognition of the Asian personality, when the future of Republican China was still uncertain and the whole of South-East Asia was under colonial domination. The presence of West Asian countries and also Egypt as well as of the Central Asian Republics of the Soviet Union set the stage for the future course and development of the country's foreign policy and proved to be the precursor of Bandung and Belgrade.

With the recession of the colonial tide, the struggle against exploitation has taken the form of a cooperative endeavour to fashion a more just and equitable structure of international relations. The anachronistic vestige of colonialism and racialism represented by the Apartheid regime of South Africa continues to

be an affront to the international conscience and India has remained in the forefront of the struggle to dismantle the evil apparatus of apartheid. The main thrust in global terms has, however, shifted to ensuring an equitable economic order and the campaign for disarmament to rid the world of the fear of a nuclear holocaust and the opposition to hegemony in all its forms.

The five principles of peaceful coexistence, or Panchsheel, which India adopted with China in the fifties became the basis for the non-aligned approach. This approach has been fortified over the years culminating in the Delhi Declaration of November 1986 signed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev on Principles for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World. The Non-aligned Movement has also endorsed efforts to enlist the support of other like-minded countries for those principles. For example, the Six Nation Five Continent Initiative on Disarmament adopted in Delhi in January 1984 has been welcomed by the Movement although it comprises a number of States which are not members of it. It is in furtherance of
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the very same objectives that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi presented a time-bound Action Plan at the Third Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament. We expect the action plan to lead to a meaningful debate and an eventual acceptance of its elements and principles.

We greatly appreciate the sympathy and support that Finland with its tradition of neutrality has given to these endeavours. We appreciate Finland's presence as a guest in the Non-aligned Movement.

But today, India faces some challenges to its security from Great Power military activity in the Indian Ocean area, in the Gulf area, and the build up of the arms in the sub-continent and neighbourhood. These have compelled us to divert our valuable resources to strengthening of our defences. We hope other nations would understand India's position in this regard. We are determined to avoid conflicts and to find a peaceful solution to the problems that we face with Pakistan and China. India seeks a declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and notwithstanding the U.N. decision, the holding of the conference on Indian Ocean remains unrealised.

India has no territorial ambitions and does not covet others' territories. We want to maintain the territory present day India inherited. Nor does India want to play the role of a leader of the region or a movement. It firmly believes in the equality of nations based on mutual respect for each other. We wish to maintain good neighbourly relations with the countries around us. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation embodies this spirit. India has never shirked its international

obligations. It has contributed Peace Keeping forces during the Suez Crisis, in Korea, Indo-China, Congo and more recently, in Sri Lanka. It has likewise shouldered its share of the obligation in the Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

India is engaged in a crusade against medievalism and archaic customs and practices in its society, in building a modern secular democracy and bring a better life to her people.

Peace in the world is a pre-requisite for all progress and India will contribute its little mite for its achievement within our own life times.

NLAND INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN CHINA MALI RUSSIA AUSTRALIA PERU EGYPT INDONESIA YUGOSLAVIA SOUTH AFRICA CONGO KOREA SRI LANKA IRAN IRAQ

Date : Sep 16, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

The 10th Session of the Indo-Soviet Joint Committee

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 20, 1988 on the 10th Session of the Indo-Soviet Joint Committee:

The 10th session of the Indian-Soviet Joint Committee on shipping which concluded its session recently at Odessa (USSR), has agreed that areas of cooperation between the two countries by year 2000 AD in the technical economical fields of shipping would be studied by a working group to be set up by this Committee.

At the conference the Indian delegation was led by Mr. P. M. Abraham, Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Surface Transport whereas the Soviet
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delegation was led by Mr. G. D. Gerasimchuk, Vice Minister of Merchant Marine of the USSR.

The Committee reviewed the activities of the shipping service between the two countries which already has completed 32 years of collaboration.

Among the items discussed in the meeting include plan for

expanding cooperation in shipping by year 2000 AD, containerisation of cargoes and joint container service.

Measures to increase containerisation of cargoes were discussed. It was agreed that Indian sides participation in container service would start from October November, 1988. Modalities of operating this service would be worked out at working level. Cooperation and collaboration is progressing satisfactorily on understanding of parity in operation, both sides sharing benefits and burden. Both sides noted parity had been more or less achieved during 1987 and by end of 1988, parity position is expected to be mutually acceptable.

Measures to expedite remittance of freight for Indian vessels for transport from India to USSR were discussed. It was agreed that freight remittance would be further expedited by the Soviet side. The turnround of Indian and Soviet vessels at ports of India and USSR was considered to be quite satisfactory.

Both sides agreed to consider relaxation in the immigration facilities to the seamen in both the countries.

The Committee in addition to catering to bilateral cargo discussed the measures to have cooperation in carrying third country cargoes. For achieving this objective, the chartering organisations of the two countries viz. Sovfracht and Transport would work in close cooperation.

Large quantity of mineral oil is shipped from USSR to India. It was agreed that the Soviet side would continue to utilize Indian minimum range tankers for carrying oil. It was also agreed that all matters would continue to be settled bilaerally at commercial/Joint Committee level.

Whether to levy income tax or not on earnings for carriage of third country cargo by vessels of both sides would be discussed by both the sides shortly in India.

Indian side affirmed that an early decision would be forthcoming on the matter of admissible charges for detention of Soviet containers in India, so that the containerisation may progress further.

DIA USA UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 20, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Meeting of the Indo Soviet Business Cooperation Agreement

The following is the text of Press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 28, 1988 on the Seventh meeting of Joint Business Co-operation Agreement:

The Seventh meeting of Joint Business Co-operation Agreement between the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and the USSR Chamber of Commerce - Industry was held here today. Addressing the meeting the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. R. Dasmunshi, called upon the business, community of the two countries to identify the specific fields in which Soviet and Indian agencies could participate to their mutual economic advantage. He expressed confidence that both sides would give the highest consideration to such business proposals in view of the fact that India is the largest trading partner of the Soviet Union among the developing countries and in view of the special Rupee Payment Arrangement that characterises the Indo-Soviet Trade. Shri Dasmunshi said that the Rupee Payment Arrangement had stood the test of time over the past 30 years and had helped the Indo-Soviet trade
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to reach its present heights. The Minister recalled that the Soviet Prime Minister Mr. Nikolai Ryzhkov during his visit to India in November, 1987 had informed the representatives of Indian trade and industry that the Soviet Union would provide ample opportunities to Indian industrialists to set up joint ventures with Soviet organisations in different fields, not only in India and the USSR but also in third countries. Towards this end, it had also been assured that necessary powers would be delegated to various Soviet organisations to deal directly with Indian business without the intervention of Soviet Government to facilitate quick finalisation of contracts. Shri Dasmunshi suggested that the maximum advantage should be derived from joint business meeting like the present one to promote this goal.

From the Soviet side, Mr. I. P. Kanaev, Vice President of USSR Chamber of Commerce & Industry and other members of the Soviet delegation participated in the meeting. Members of the FICCI including its Chairman, Shri Rohit Mehta and Shri Raunaq Singh, Vice Chairman of FICCI, attended.

The following is the full text of Shri Dasmunshi's speech:

Mr. I. P. Kanaev, Vice President of the USSR Chamber of Commerce, Distinguished Members of the Soviet Delegation, Chairman of FICCI Mr. Rohit Mehta, Mr. Raunaq Singh, Vice-Chairman of FICCI and other Distinguished members of the FICCI, Friends and Colleagues,

I would like to say at the outset how happy I am to be able to participate in the discussions concerning interaction between business communities of the two countries. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev had set a target for increasing the bilateral trade by 2.5 times over a period of 5 years. It is this issue to which the JBC must address itself.

The expression 'Business community' in relation to the USSR would have sounded somewhat odd about a couple of years ago but presently the whole world is watching with interest the developments - 'Perestroika' and 'Glasnost' - that are taking place in the USSR towards restructing of the industrial, trading and financial institutions. Apart from these changes, rapid scientific and technological changes are also being witnessed in the USSR.

India on its part is also undergoing changes as it marches rapidly forward towards self reliance and high degree of modernisation. Even in drought year 1987-88 our industrial rate of growth was about 8% - 9%. Our exports are growing at the rate of more than 20% - 25% per annum in the recent past. Our bilateral trade is buoyant too. As these development processes proceed simultaneously, the situation throws up new prospects as well as challenges. To meet this situation apart from normal conventional exchange of trade the structure of which is also getting increasingly diversified new forms of cooperation like production cooperation, joint ventures, cooperation in services sector, etc. are developing. All this calls for dissemination of knowledge about the trade possibilities and about rules and regulations governing the new forms of cooperation.

It will be for the business associations of the two countries to collect and disseminate knowledge as well as to discuss the practical aspects as and when they come to surface. It is only through such discussions that all concerned in both the countries can get a quick grasp of the problems and proceed to sort these out. This is inevitable when new modalities and new concepts are being tried out. I am confident that the various business associations in both the countries will achieve full success in their efforts to provide knowledge and opportunities for discussion.

Each country not only works out its own priorities but also modifies the same in the light of experience and subsequent developments. The business communities,
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too, have to work within these broad parameters. It will, therefore, be useful for the business institutions in each country that they try to understand the priorities that have been set out and attract the attention of the actual enterpreneurs to

those areas of high priority so that there is better focussing of attention and efforts in selected fields rather than in diffused ways: This will ensure that good results are achieved in as short a time as possible.

I would particularly suggest to be JBC to list out specially the fields and organisations in the USSR and India where foreign participation and involvement would be welcome. I am confident that both countries would give the best considerations to these proposals, given the fact that India is the largest trading partner of the USSR among the developing countries and because of the special rupee payment arrangements subsisting between the two countries. These arrangements are the result of political relationship existing between the two countries. While referring to the rupee payment arrangement, let us reiterate, how well this system has stood the test of time over the past 30 years and has helped to galvanise the bilateral trade to its present commanding heights.

The business communities of the two countries are being encouraged in all possible ways to come closer and closer for exchange of technical discussions as in the final analysis the trade is conducted by the actual trading partners only while the Governments can at best create the conditions suitable for growth of trade. In this connection it may be recalled that when the Soviet Prime Minister Mr. Nikolai Ryzhkov visited India in November, 1987, he informed the representatives of Indian trade and industry that the USSR would provide ample opportunities to Indian industrialists to set up joint ventures with Soviet organisations in different fields not only in the two countries but also in third countries and that the delegation of powers to various Soviet organisations to deal directly without the intervention of the Soviet Government could be expected to facilitate quick conclusions of contracts. I would, therefore, suggest that maximum advantage should be derived from a joint business meeting like this one. Mr. Ryzhkov also suggested at that time that an Indo-Soviet Committee should be set up in India for coordination. The setting up of the Indo Soviet Steering Committee and the first annual meet of the same during the last two days has thus fulfilled this suggestion.

I would not like to take any more of your time as this could be spent on intense direct talks as to how to promote trading and industrial collaboration between the two countries.

I wish this Joint Business Meet every success.

A INDIA

Date : Sep 28, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Press Communique on the Conclusion of Soviet Defence MinisterGeneral Dmitry Yazov's Visit to India

The following is the text of press communique issued in New Delhi on Sep 29, 1988 on the conclusion of Soviet Defence Minister General Dmitry Yazov's visit to India:

The Soviet Defence Minister, General of the Army Dmitry Yazov, paid a four day visit to India from 26th September to 29th September, '88, at the invitation of the Government of India. This visit was part of a regular exchange of high level visits between India and the Soviet Union.

The previous visit of a Soviet Defence Minister was that of Marshal Ustinov who came in 1982.

Since then Indo-Soviet Cooperation in all fields including Defence has grown from strength to strength. The visit
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of General Yazov had, been preceded by that of Marshal Akhremeyov in December, 1987 and of Mr. Y. D. Maslyukov First Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman Gosplan in March, '88.

Early in February, '88 Shri K. C. Pant, Defence Minister of India, had visited the Soviet Union on the invitation of the Soviet Government. During the visit Shri K. C. Pant Had delivered Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's message to General Secretary Gorbachev and held wide ranging discussions on the international security environment and matters of mutual interest in Defence with Prime Minister Ryzkov and the Soviet Defence Minister General Yazov.

General Yazov was accompained by Marshal of Aviation, Yefimov; Admiral of the Fleet Chernavin; Army General Shabanov; Admiral Grishin and others.

During his stay in India, General Yazov was received by the President, Shri R. Venkataraman and the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He also had several rounds of talks with the Defence Minister Shri K. C. Pant.

The discussions were wide ranging and covered the international situation as well as the situation in the South Asian region. The two sides also exchanged views on Disarmament. General Yazov

indicated the latest progress in the talks on strategic arms limitation and the manner in which the INF Treaty was being implemented by the signatories. Defence Minister Shri K. C. Pant outlined the action plan on Disarmament as formulated by Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the steady development of cooperation between India and the Soviet Union in political, economic, scientific and other fields. They also reviewed cooperation in the field of supply of Defence equipment and in the development of Defence Production industry in India. General Yazov assured the Indian side about the Soviet desire to continue and strengthen this cooperation as this corresponded with the interests of both the countries and constituted a factor for peace and stability in the region and in the world. Both sides looked forward to the forthcoming visit of General Gorbachev.

During his stay in India General Yazov and the members of his delegation visited Chandigarh, Jodhpur, Nasik, Goa and Bombay, General Yazov was impressed by the determination of the Armed Forces of India, the skill of Indian pilots and by the progress achieved in the Indian Defence Production industry. He wished India, every success in the development of her economy and for promoting welfare of her people.

A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Sep 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

India and Syria Sign Agreement on Information Activities

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 02, 1988 on Indo-Syrian agreement on information activities:

India and Syria will encourage the dissemination of news and information through Radio, Television, Press, News Agencies and other information media so as to reflect the various aspects of the social, economic and cultural life of the two countries.

An Information Agreement to this effect was signed here today between India and Syria. The agreement was
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signed by Shri G. K Arora, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on behalf of Government of India and by H.E. Mr. Adib Ghanam, Deputy Minister of Information on behalf of Government of Syria.

The two countries will also exchange publications, printed and photographic material and shall encourage the holding of exhibitions, seminars and colloquia, visits of mass media and technical personnel, and of performing artists.

They will encourage cooperation among their information establishments including National Radio, Television, News Agencies, training and research Organisations, advertising and publishing establishments, press syndicates and information departments.

The agreement on cooperation among the information establishments in both countries shall be executed through work plans or protocols for specific periods of time, including the financial, technical or other conditions relevant to their execution.

Under the agreement, India and Syria undertake to have the competent establishments in their respective countries provide all assistance and facilities required by news reporters, press photographers, members of Press, information and movie teams of the other country on the basis of reciprocity.

The two countries will also encourage their mass media to use programmes relating to significant events such as National Days. They will hold periodical consultations for attaining the best results in realising the objectives of the Agreement. A Joint Committee would be set up which will meet annually to review the progress of the Agreement and to ensure its implementation.

The Agreement is initially for a period of three years and shall be renewed automatically for three year periods at a time.
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RIA INDIA USA GHANA

Date : Sep 02, 1988

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Date : Oct 31, 1998

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Indo-Australian Science Technology Cooperation

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on October 22, 1988 on steps to strengthen Indo-Australian Science Technology:

Shri K. R. Narayanan, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology now on a visit to Australia, has discussed with the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Robert Hawke significant aspects of the follow up action to the Indo-Australian Agreement of October 1986. They also touched upon the future directions of science and technology being planned in both countries with a view to enhance industrial and developmental applications in their respective countries. During the discussions some more areas of common interest were noted and the Australian Prime Minister expressed his desire to pursue "concrete cooperative activities."

The Australian Prime Minister conveyed his warmest regards to the Indian Prime Minister and hoped that his forthcoming Indian visit would further accelerate science and technology cooperation between the two countries.

Shri Narayanan had detailed discussions with Mr. Parry Jones, Australian Minister for Science, Customs and Business and reviewed the progress made in identifying specific cooperative activities by various organisations in Australia and India since the October 1986 Agreement. He also met Mr. John Button, Australian Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce to discuss matters related to future cooperation between the two countries in the field of science and technology.

Among the places visited by Shri Narayanan during his current visit to Australia are the National Science and Technology Centre and the CSIRO Office of space science and applications.
Oct 22, 1998

AUSTRALIA USA INDIA

Date : Oct 22, 1998

Volume No

1995

EGYPT

Indo-Egypt Joint Commission Deliberations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 29, 1988 on Indo-Egypt Joint Commission deliberations:

India and Egypt are to expand bilateral relations through increased cooperation in the fields of trade, industry and joint ventures. The trade basket is likely to be expanded to include non-traditional as well as traditional items. India has also offered-to expand its imports from Egypt so as to include new items, and has also proposed to consider

entering into long

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term arrangements for buying and selling through suitable financial mechanisms as well as counter-trade.

This was indicated by the Commerce Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, while addressing the 2nd Meeting of the Indo-Egyptian Joint Commission in Cairo recently,

India has further offered to share its expertise in the field of textiles involving use of textile machinery produced in India and Egyptian cotton. Other areas where India has offered know-how and plant machinery to Egypt are electronics, computers. auto-parts, oil drilling equipment, chemicals, agricultural machinery, shrimp farming and mineral exploration.

In the area of consultancy and project construction, India and Egypt have agreed to consider cooperation not only in each other's countries but also in third countries.

Shri Dinesh Singh, who is leading the Indian delegation to the Joint Commission meeting, has emphasised that trade between India and Egypt has great potential for growth. Yet the overall volume of trade between the 2 declined by 50 per cent as compared to the preceding year. Further, India's exports to Egypt have been confined to a few agricultural items while imports from Egypt were only of, petroleum and petroleum based products. Shri Dinesh Singh apprised the Egyptian authorities of India's capacities in the field of manufactures. He underline the need to diversify trade on both sides and said that India and Egypt can work closely to their mutual advantage in the true spirit of South-South cooperation.
Oct 29, 1998

EGYPT INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Oct 29, 1998

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1995

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Commerce Consultative Committee Discusses Trade with EEC

The following is the text of a press 'release issued in New Delhi on October 25, 1988 on Commerce Consultative Committee's discussion with EEC regarding Trade:

The Commerce Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, indicated here today that studies had been initiated to assess the impact of the proposed integration of the European Economic Community (EEC) into a single market by 1992 and its implications for India's exports to the EEC. India's commercial representatives in West Europe have been asked to keep track of the developing situation as well as suggest steps that would be needed to ensure that any changes in the existing pattern of the Community are not disadvantageous to India's exports. A similar exercise has also been initiated by the Ambassador of India to the EEC. Shri Dinesh Singh was speaking at a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Commerce Ministry, which discussed India's trade with the EEC.

The EEC with its 12 member-countries accounts for about 25% of India's total exports and 32% of India's total imports. Exports to the EEC have doubled from a level of Rs. 1,409 crores in 1981-82 to Rs. 3,956 crores in

1987-88. Imports from the region have also increased from 3,059 crores in 1981-82 to Rs. 7,431 crores in 1987-88. The trade deficit with the EEC, which -increased from Rs. 1,650 crores to Rs. 3,738 crores in 1986-87 declined to Rs. 3,576 crores, showing improvement in the terms of trade with the EEC in 1987-88.

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The members called for effective coordination between Ministries, particularly Commerce and Industry Ministries, on a timebound action programme to meet the challenges arising out of EEC's integration into a unified market. They expressed apprehensions that the process of integration, which would turn the Community into an economic giant, might have some negative implications for exports from India and the developing countries generally which needed to be analysed carefully. They pointed out that the proposed unification with the resultant economies of scale and rationalization of production capacities could lead to a further widening of the technological gap between the Community and its trading partners and also intensify competition between the developing countries themselves. All this could make the task of market penetration more difficult then it is at present. This has also to be seen in the context of the fact that one of the major problems of Indian exports has been that of selling abroad at competitive rates. Members suggested diversification of exports to cover a larger range of products and overall, a more aggressive strategy for effective penetration of the EEC market. India's exports to the EEC currently consist largely of textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, agricultural items and engineering products.

Welcoming the suggestions of the members, Shri Dinesh Singh assured them that the export policy would be geared to meet the challenges arising out of EEC becoming a single market as and when it comes. He also explained that thrust items as well as thrust markets for increasing exports to the EEC had been identified and suitable programmes were being implemented. He emphasised that increasing India's share of the EEC market would involve efforts not merely by the Government and equally by the trade and industry.

Referring to the imbalance in trade with the EEC, the Minister said the priority to technological upgradation was reflected in imports from EEC of items like boilers and machinery, mechanical appliances, iron and steel, chemicals etc.

One Member suggested that comparative data on India's position in the EEC vis-a-vis other third world countries as also the total global imports of the EEC should be made available to assess the percentage share of Indian exports. An assessment of the contribution of the Indian Trade Centre in Brussels was also suggested.

Referring to the overall export scenario, Shri Dinesh Singh said all efforts were being made to exceed the target of Rs. 18,795 crores set for 1988-SO so as to reach a level of Rs. 20,000 crores. Chemicals and jewellery exports very showing a very impressive growth while leather, textiles, engineering groups, tea and coffee were showing moderate growth. He said exports were not just a question of "transferring available surpluses" but gearing up of the industry so that it could meet the requirements of foreign markets and face international competition.

Members who attended were S/Shri Yashwant Sinha, Nitya Nanda Misra, V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao, Thmpan Thomes, R. Annanambi, Piyus Tirkey, George Joseph Mundackal, Prakash V. Patil, Vijay N. Patil, Chandresh P. Thakur, N. E. Balaram, A. Sreedhar and Jwala Kumar Javali.
Oct 25, 1998

USA INDIA BELGIUM

Date : Oct 25, 1998

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Indo-German Committee set up for Science and Teleology Cooperation

The following is the text of press 7-clease issued in New Delhi on October 27, 1988 regarding 1wdo-German Committee -set up for Science and Technology Cooperation:

A joint Indo-German Committee has been set up by the Department of Science & Technology to review progress of cooperation between the two countries in the field of science and technology. The three Members on the Indian side are Shri Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Technology Missions, Prof U. R. Rao, Secretary, Department of Space and Prof. Obaid Siddiqui of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay. The members from the Federal Republic of Germany are Dr. Horst Haeske, former Director, Batlelle Institute, Frankfurt, Prof. Gistert Putzlitz, Chairman of the Federation of National Research Laboratory and Dr. Werner Bretschwtrd, fornier Chairman, Daimler Benz.

India and the Federal Republic of Germany have had effective bilateral cooperation in science and technology for over a decade and a half now. A review of the various cooperation programmes had taken place during the visit of Shri K. R. Narayanan, Minister of State for Science and Technology to the Federal Republic of Germany. The committee constituted now would evaluate the progress and prospects of Indo-FRG cooperation in science and technology to enable both sides to take appropriate measures for strengthening it.

The Indian side will be assisted by the International Division of the Department of Science & Technology.
Oct 27, 1998

GERMANY INDIA USA

Date : Oct 27, 1998

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Prime Minister's Inaugural Address

The following is the text of inaugural Address at the Sesquicentennial celebrations of Times of India in New Delhi on October 28, 1988:

My congratulations to the Times of India on completing a hundred and fifty years. It is such continuity which gives strength and purpose to the building of institutions. A healthy democracy and a dynamic nation need institutions which impart stability, develop traditions, and maintain the link between the struggles of the past, the achievements of the present and the aspirations for the future,

The century and a half during which the Times of India has been a witness to and a Commentator on the affairs of the nation fall broadly into the three periods of roughly equal length. The first period saw the final subjugation of India to the Imperial will and Imperial interests. The second saw the emergence of that profoundly Indian brand of nationalism, which drew upon centuries of the accumulated wisdom of our civilization to overthrow the Empire by means unique to our country and its ethos. And the third period has seen the building of modern independent India.

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At this Sesquecentennial commemoration, it would be appropriate for us to recall the role of the Times of India not only since its present phase of Indian ownership began in 1946, but also during its first one hundred and eight years when it was very much part of the so-called "Anglo-Indian" colonial establishment. That will also give us the perspective within which to evaluate the contribution which the Times of India made to bringing the modem era to the life of the nation; to building the Indian press as a whole .both colonial and nationalist; and to all that the newspaper has done for the country in the post-Independence era.

Through the Imperial period, the Times of India was often embroiled in controversy and recrimination with the government of the day. But, in its essential perception of India and Indians, as of the relationship between the colonial power and its Indian subjects, the approach of the journal was virtually indistinguishable from that of the alien ruling class. Thus, in its inaugural issue, the paper's very first editorial voiced that unctuous hypocrisy so characteristic of colonial throught. It described the "millions" of India as: "steeped in the deepest ignorance (which) demand not only the enquiring study but the active benevolence of all.... In the strenuous exertions which the Government have of late made to educate the native mind, we recognise the first effectual assault upon the superstitions and ignorance of ages." It went on to say the following year that a major function of the paper would be: "to diffuse among the inhabitants of this country some little notion of the advantages to be derived.... from the moral, intellectual and social advancement of Europe."

Given this mindset, it was only a matter of time before the wrath of India burst upon them. In 1.857, the first War of Independence broke. The concentrated prejudices of the British mind found voice in the fulminations of George Buist who, for eighteen years till then, had nurtured the journal as its longest-serving Editor. He wrote: "It is one of the most dreadful things connected with the rebellion that it has disclosed to us .... that we have for a century been living in a den of wild beasts, without having tamed one atom of their ferocity." It is to the credit of the Indians who by then, had become majority shareholders in the group, that they removed the editor for venting his spleen in such an unseemly manner.

The Indian National Congress was founded just a little under half a century of the birth of the Times of India. Over the next six decades, the Congress grew from a small group of concerned men of affairs into a nationwide mass movement which swept aside the Empire and brought India to freedom and liberty.

Through most of those tumultous years, the Times of India found little to commend in the struggle for freedom. The swadeshi movement was deplored because the journal believed: "The (British) Government of India is the truest swadeshi of all. Its constant and incessant care for -the encour4gement and development of Indian industry is manifested in a thousand ways." The agitation against the British Rowlatt Act was described are being: "stamped with that brand of peculiar violence and callousness which, if unchecked, can only throw India back for a generation."

Of Gandhiji's first satyagraha, the journal said: "The satyagraha movement as a movement has failed, and has contributed to plunge India into dreadful confusions for reasons clearly anticipated by all who have practical experience in politics."

The Times of India described the fight for freedom as: "a worthless movement for Independence, boycott and civil disobedience fought with the most serious menace to the lives, prosperity and peace of our citizens." Gandhiji was assessed and dismissed in the following words: "The

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politician who would truly serve his country must have certain essential qualities. He must be able to gauge the character of his countrymen and of his opponents; he must have a knowledge of human nature, a practical sense which will tell him when to press on and when to retire, and he must have a certain consistency of policy and action. It is the misfortune of India that Mr. Gandhi has none of these qualities. He has invariably misjudged the character of his own countrymen and of his opponents; his ideas of human nature have not the smallest relation to the actual

facts, and the course of his political activities has been one long wobble from start to finish." And Jawaharlal Nehru was dismissed as a "socialist-cum-republican-cum-communist" whose: "generalities are the idle fancies of a half-educated youth ..... (whose) divorce from the realities of the Indian situation is so complete as to make his proposals little short of ridiculous."

Clearly today, the political views of the Times of India of the pre-Independence era would not be found acceptable by the country. Yet, it would be a mistake to limit our evaluation of the paper only to its political opinion of the time. We must also recognise that in a large number of areas - in commerce, in industry and agriculture, in culture and sport - the newspaper made an immense contribution to opening the windows of India to the world, to developing the spirit of inquiry and the scientific temper, to bringing modern thought and modern ideas to an ancient civilisation. It is also important to recognise that even if the politics of the Times of India were those of the colonial establishment, it was papers such as these that set the stage for the development of a nationalist Press.

An echos of freedom of expression was created which, despite the limitations of colonial autocracy, allowed the expression of nationalist views and created a nationwide audience for the cultivation of public opinion. Many of our nationalist leaders were editors and journalists of eminence, who wielded the power of the pen as their weapon in the fight for Independence. To this, the Times of India made a major contribution by establishing the Press as an institution in the country.

In the forty years since Independence, our free and independent press has engrained itself as an indispensable estate of our free and independent democracy. The Times of India as, in many ways, the doyen of the Indian press has played a leading role in this regard. For this, you justly deserve the nation's grateful thanks.

Democracy without a free press is inconceivable. Freedom of expression, freedom of opinion, the right to inform, the right of criticise, the right to cajole and the right to persuade are inherent to a healthy democracy. As a general proposition, democracy is the affirmation of the principle that no opinion, however, outrageous, can do as much harm as the suppression of that opinion, of course, as in all areas of human endeavour, an ordered society requires the self ordaining of certain limits. It will always be a matter of argument as to where those limits should be drawn - and who should draw them. We are firmly of the view that, in as large a measuse as possible, these limits should be drawn by the Press for itself. While, however, there are well-established norms and procedures for the other estates of democracy to regulate themselves, our Press - in common with the Press in many other democracies - is still searching for ways of reconciling the freedom of the Press with its larger national responsibilities. Ideally, legislation relating to the Press should be evolved by consensus within the Press itself, But the press is, by no means, homogenous. Even its consensus views cannot have binding applicability. And, in any case, the legislative process in the province of the legislature. There is, thus, a real problem in adjusting the conflicting claims and views of different sections of the press with those of the other estates of our

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democracy to determine the conditions under which the freedom of the Press can best operate in the larger interests of the nation. There are no simple solutions. We would like to engender a kind of democratic dynamic through which the limits can be defined with as much agreements as possible, and with as much mutual trust as can be established.

It is the legitimate business of the press to be critical of Government. Such criticism is a key element in the system of checks and balances which keeps democracy vibrant. Good Government itself benefits immensely from critical reaction to its programmes and policies. However, the fostering of an adversary relationship between the Press and the Government is not always conducive to good governance. Where adversary bias gets built into commentary, there is a tendency for those who are criticised to put on their ear muffs and get on with what they are doing as they were doing it. It disrupts true dialogue between Government and the Press, a dialogue which is potentially productive in a democracy and of great significance to the national interest. If, however, criticism is constructive, if it comes out of a spirit of guiding the government better towards a common goal, then the chances are that those who are criticised will, in their own interest, heed the criticism better. Of course, it is not for Government to prescribe whether a newspaper should adopt a partisan or a constructive role. It is also inevitable

that some sections of the Press would be partisan as a matter of political philosophy. Indeed, it is important that the editorial pages of a newspaper reflect its political line, although one would hope that the presentation of news would be straightforward and unbiased, with deliberate distortion being deliberately eschewed, and the language being free of tired cliches and jarring slang. Perhaps editors and journalists should ask themselves how what they write will sound a hundred and fifty years from now, so that history does not laugh at them as it does today at the establishment opinion Of a hundred and fifty years ago.

Of course, the role of the Press is far larger than that of merely influencing government action. It extends to moulding public opinion. It is perfectly legitimate for a newspaper to decide that it has no desire to influence the government of the day but to go out to the people to ask them to bring in an alternative. As government itself is elected by the will of the people, there can be no questioning the right of the Press, or any section of the Press, to persuade the people to change the government. Yet, the fact remains that, in our democracy, the electorate, from which Government derives its legitimacy, ends to be rather larger than the readership of the newspapers. As Shri Girilal Jain perceptively pointed out in an article he penned some years ago:

"The Press in India is essentially an urban middle class phenomenon."

I am glad that small and medium newspapers, especially those in regional languages, are beginning to penetrate rural and remote areas. Over time, readership is bound to increase and should be encouraged to increase. But, as of now and for sometime to come, it needs to be recognised that the people of India and public opinion in India constitute a substantially larger entity than the constituency of newspaper readers. And because readership is skewed in terms of class and interest, the values espoused by the Press tend to be linked to those of the Westernised elite. As readership expands, we hope we will get a more authentic Indian Press, a Press that seeks its inspiration from the people of India, from their concerns and from their view of the world.

As with all other branches of our democracy, and with all aspects of our evolving modern nationhood, there is scope for the Press to extend and deepen the ambit of its interests. Hitherto, much of our journalism has been political. The sys

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tem of news values has come to be based more on politics than on a holistic view of the totality of events taking place in the country and in the world. Politicians have long since discovered that our people's daily concerns are primarily with issues of welfare, development and social justice. Most Government activity is directed towards these ends. The Press, however, has not devoted to these issues the same level of talent or time which it does to politics. Perhaps it is this that accounts for the growing gap between what is considered newsworthy by the Press and what is regarded as attention-worthy by the Government. We are trying to use the electronic media to tell some of the stories that do not find much mention in the print media. We would be the first to confess that our of forts have not always been successful. Professional expertise in the electronic media is still well below that of the print media. After all, the Times of India is a hundred and fifty years old while Doordarshan is hardly a hundred and fifty months old! Even Akashwani, which has half a century of broadcasting to its credit, still has a long way to go in recounting the drama of nation-building credibly and interestingly. Evolving the art of development reporting and development commentary is the major challenge facing contemporary Indian journalism in both the electronic and the print media.

This sesquicentennial celebration marks an important milestone in the history of Indian journalism. In a range, diversity and depth, there are few countries which can match the achievements of our Press. There is probably no other country in the world which, in numbers, boasts as many newspapers as our does, in

as many languages and in as many different shapes, sizes and opinions as we have. The flowering of the free press in India has been made possible by our faithful adherence to the Constitutional provisions of freedom of expression. The genius of our people has produced the profusion of ideas, imagination and innovation which have gone into the development of our Press. As literacy spreads and prosperity grows, the role of the Press in the life of the nation will be progressively enlarged. We greatly welcome this enlargement and look forward to working with the Press in

building an India of which all our people can be proud.

We are the inheritors of a civilization which for thousands of years kept India in the forefront of human advancement. It is a heritage which was disrupted by two centuries of colonial rule. India must once again resume its vanguard role in world civilization. We are at a decisive conjuncture in international affairs. Much of what we have been urging upon the world since independence and before is now beginning to gain acceptance. There is a thawing of old rigidities, a new awareness that our message of nonviolence and peaceful coexistence is the key to a future of peace and prosperity for the world. However, all change presages new challenges. The nation as a whole has to rise to these challenges,

I invite our Press to join us in building our national destiny, in working out our role in the emerging world order. The example set by the Times of India, especially in the last four decades, is an object lesson in how good journalism can contribute to nation-building.
Oct 28, 1998

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 28, 1998

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission Meets

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 24, 1988 on the eighth session of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission:

The Eighth Session of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation began here today. The Indian delegation was led by the Union Industry Minister, Shri J. Vengala Rao while H.E. Dr. Peter Medygessy, Deputy Prime Minister of the Hungarian People's Republic led a high level delegation from his country.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Vengala Rao said that the successful visit of our Prime Minister to Hungary in June, 1988 marked a milestone in our relations. It provided an opportunity for exchange of views between the leaders of our two countries at the highest level. Our leaders stressed the importance of further expanding our commercial and economic bilateral relations. They decided to increase the trade turn-over between our countries to $ 200 million by 1990. The decision to hold the Joint Commission meeting this year was taken at their level. The Minister hoped that this Joint Commission meeting, would be able to provide shape and content to the mandate of the two leaders.

The Minister said that while the trade flow between our two countries had been growing steadily during the last three years, during which period it has more than doubled, the overall volume of trade still remained at a low level. During 1987, it was about $ 121 million. Moreover, the bilateral trade continues to be imbalanced against India. In this context, he stressed the need for growth in bilateral trade and reduction in the imbalance.

Shri Vengala Rao said that Hungary could step up import of traditional items like agricultural products, leather goods, mineral products, textiles and ready-made garments, handicraft etc. To this, would be added a wide variety

of non-traditional items like passenger cars mopeds, machine tools, castings and forgings, automobile components, electronic goods and components drugs and pharmaceuticals, iron ore pallets and many other items. He strongly urged that the Indian export basket to Hungary should be expanded and quantum increased to correspond to the growing capability of India without affecting the traditional exports.

The Industry Minister felt that an innovative and bold approach towards expansion of trade could help in achieving the twin objectives of expansion of trade as well as reduction of imbalance in trade. Our cooperation can be multi-dimensional. There are potentials for joint ventures, production cooperation, two-way trade, third country exports, third country projects, consultancy, utilisation of scientific and technological talent of each other and other means which we need to devise and innovate.

His Excellency Dr. Peter Medygessy, Deputy Prime Minister of the Hungarian People's Republic in his remarks said that Indo-Hungarian relations have been very cordial and friendly and he expressed the hope that such exchange of views would further strengthen economic relations between the two countries. He also hoped that the trade turn over between the two countries would be doubled in the next two years.

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H,E. Dr. Peter Medygessy, said that he was greatly impressed by the progress made by India in various fields, especially in agriculture, industry and science and technology. He hoped that both 1ndia and Hungary should expand and further strengthen their economic and trade relations for mutual benefit. He stressed the need for establishment of joint ventures between the two countries on permanent basis. This, he felt, would provide further impetus to the trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

After opening session, the Commission set up two Working Groups - one on Industry and Economic Cooperation and the other on Trade and Finance, to examine various issues in detail and to finalise an agreed report on matters within the ambit of their respective Working Groups.

Earlier Dr. Peter Medygessy called on Shri J. Vengala Rao, Union Industry Minister and exchanged views on topics of mutual interest. The Hungarian delegation arrived in the capital yesterday. This morning Dr. Peter Medygessy visited Rajghat, Shanti Van and Shakti Sthal and paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.
Oct 24, 1998

HUNGARY INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 24, 1998

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Two-Fold Increase in Trade between India and Hungary

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 28, 1988 on increase in trade between India and Hungary:

India and Hungary have agreed to raise the trade level to US dollars 200 million by 1990 from the present level of US dollars 100 million. Hungary has also offered a Government to Government 'credit of US dollars 200 million to

India. The terms and conditions of the offer are under negotiation between the two sides.

This was agreed upon at the 8th Session of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission meeting which concluded here today. A Protocol to this effect was signed by Shri J. Vengala Rao, Minister of Industry on behalf of India and H.E. Dr. Peter Medygessy, Deputy Prime Minister, Hungarian People's Republic for his country.

Hungary has also decided to buy first lot of 2000 mopeds from India. There are prospects of supply of mopeds to Hungary on a long-term basis. An Indian company has shown interest in setting up of a luxury Hotel as Indo-Hungarian joint venture in Budapest. Negotiations are currently going on to finalise this matter.

It was agreed that continuous efforts would be made both the sides to diversify the structure of bilateral trade and increase it further to the targetted levels. The Indian side emphasised that the current imbalance in trade against India should be rectified by expansion of Indian export basket to Hungary by adding a wide variety of non-traditional items to the list of items traditionally traded between the two sides.

During the extensive discussions held between Dr. Medygessy and Shri J. Vengala Rao, both the sides identified the sectors of electronics, industrial and engineering machinery, automobile and automobile components, agriculture and food processing industry, energy, drugs and pharmaceuticals and chemicals, tourism, telecommunications machine tools and science and technology etc. as areas where fruitful cooperation in the industrial sector was possible. They felt that in these areas, there were possibilities of several forms of cooperation between the two countries such

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as joint ventures, production cooperation, third country projects, third country exports, consultancy and utilisation of scientific and technical talent. Both sides agreed to encourage business organisations in both the countries to intensity their contacts in order to promote meaningful and stable business relations.

Additional items identified for export from India to Hungary include passenger cars, mopeds, machine tools, industrial and engineering machinery, castings and forgings, automobile components and electronic goods, components and electronic sofe-wares, drugs and pharmaceuticals, soya extraction, iron ore pellets and many other items. Indian side emphasised that exports of non-traditional items should not be at the expense of traditional items like coffee, tea, knitwear, ready-made garments, processed leather goods, as well as machinery items like hand-tools, machine tools, textile machinery, automobile components, compressors etc. The Indian side also showed interest in increasing import of several items from Hungary.

Dr. Medygessy explained the programme of reforms that Hungary intended to introduce and the measures already undertaken in both the political and economic spheres. These reforms were aimed at sweeping restructuring of the production sector in Hungary by, among other things, encouraging joint ventures and foreign equity participation and the opening of the Hungarian economy to the world by import liberalisation. Industry Minister also explained about the liberalisation measures introduced in India to facilitate and attract flow of foreign technology and investment for making Indian industry competitive, modem and efficient. Both sides felt that the dynamism imparted to the economies of the respective countries provide fresh avenues of cooperation between the two sides.

India had exported the first lot o Maruti cars to Hungary during 1987. During his visit Dr. Madygessy visited Maruti Car factory and was very impressed by the modern manufacturing facilities and techniques being used in the production of Maruti Cars. It was agreed that further lots of Maruti Cars will be exported at regular intervals in terms of the agreement between Maruti Udyog Ltd. and Mogurt Co. of Hungary.

During his stay in India, Dr. Peter Medygessy called on Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister and had purposeful discussions towards strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries. Dr. Medygessy also met and held discussions with Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister for External Affairs, Shri S. B. Chavan, Minister for Finance, Shri K. C. Pant, Minister for Defence, Shri Dinesh Singh, Commerce Minister and Shri Vasant Sathe, Minister for Energy and held discussions for strengthening economic relations and promoting trade and industrial cooperation

between the two sides.

Both the leaders held extensive discussions on all important aspects for strengthening bilateral economic relations between India and Hungary. The modality of the follow up of the decisions taken by the leaders of both the countries at the time of visit of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister to Hungary in June, 1988 were discussed. It was emphasised that considerable potential existed for enhanced and closer economic cooperation between the two countries in the background of excellent political and cultural relations.
Oct 28, 1998

HUNGARY INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date : Oct 28, 1998

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Statement. by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, at the 43rd Session of the UN General Assembly

The following is the text of a statement made by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister for External Affairs at the 43rd session of the UY General Assembly on October 4, 1988:

It gives me great pleasure to see a distinguished son and eminent representative of a country with which my country has close and cordial relations, preside over the 43rd Session of the General Assembly. T extend to you our warm falicitations on your well deserved election. We are confident that, with your exceptional ability and experience, the deliberations of the Assembly are already ensured success.

I should also like to place on record our deep appreciation for the effective leadership that your distinguished predecessor His Excellency Mr. Peter Florin provided to the 42nd Session of the General Assembly.

Mr. President, in his report on the work of the Organisation for 1988, the Secretary General is cautiously optimistic that "the sails of the small boat in which all the people of the earth were gathered seemed to have caught a light but favourable, wind." I take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the man who has played no mean role in the "careful and patient navigation" by which the vessel "has come within sight of large sections of the shote". The Secretary General Mr. Javier perezde Cuellar, has earned the admiration of all for the patience, the skill, the understanding touch and the grasp of the larger question as well as the small details involved in the various issues dealt with by the United Nations.

The decision to confer the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding on our distinguished Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Parez de Cuellar, was a tribute to his exceptional contribution to the cause of peace.

1988 has been the year of the United Nations. In the past few months, the patient and persistent diplomacy of the United Nations was capped by the signing of the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan, the entering into force of a ceasefire on the Iran-Iraq border, renewal of inter-communal talks in Cyprus, and the creation of an environment conducive to the resolution of the problem of Western Sahara. Even those who tended to pass judgements on the United Nations purely by the criteria of maintenance of international peace and security are happily acknowledging today that this is indeed an impressive record of which the United Nations can be justifiably proud.

India welcomes this reaffirmation of faith in the United Nations. For an overwhelming majority of members, support for the United Nations has always been an article of faith. The universalisation of this support during 1988, which we applaud, as we always did, will no doubt strengthen the capacity of the Organisation, not only in preserving peace, but also equally in tackling other scourage facing humankind such as poverty, hunger, ecological degradation, terrorism and narcotics. We trust that the United Nations will be reinvigorated not only in political terms but also in terms of concrete financial support. Let the coming decades be the decades of the United Nations. Let the all-round support which the United Nations always deserved, but seems to have got this year be always available to it hereafter.

Mr. President, India, along with the rest of the international community re

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joices in the transformation in the international climate during the past one year. We are indeed living through historic times. The dramatic improvement of relations between the super powers, for which we salute the leadership of the two countries, has had a positive impact throughout the world. History, however, teaches us that good times, like bad times, do not normally last for ever. But one may be forgiven on the present occasion, for entertaining the belief that the principal players have by now made a realistic assessment of the long-term interest of mankind along with their respective national interests and hence, the current thaw may be more lasting, unlike in the past.

The non-aligned movement, since its inception, has worked tirelessly precisely for such a turn in international climate. By taking principled positions on major issues of our times and by refusing to get entangled in the confrontation of competing military alliance, the non-aligned countries helped in containing conflict and thus contributed to the peace process which has always inhered in the minds of the millions, albeit rendered dormant and muted by the display of military might. Therefore, we, the non-aligned, could claim part of the credit for the improved state of affairs. But along with the credit, Mr. President, the movement needs to redouble its effort to make the peace process irreversible, no longer vulnerable to the braking machanisms which operated earlier, due to motivations too well-known to need recounting.

The new air of euphoria is totally understandable as its marks a welcome departure from the intense and often bitter rivalry between the major powers, which at times brought the world to the brink of a catastrophe. It seems to have been replaced now by a healthy competition for presenting proposals for strengthening peace, supporting the United Nations, saving the world from ecological disaster, among others. It is true Mr. President, that this long awaited spirit of change unfortunately has not extended to the economic field. We would therefore be well-advised to remain watchful and alert, while pursuing determined efforts to make the transformation to peace final and all-pervasive so as to comprehend all facets of human life and activity on our planet. While the primary responsibility would remain with the major powers, the rest of us and, of course, the United Nations, can and must play a very important role.

Mr. President,

The ratification of the INF Treaty by the United States and the Soviet Union was a historic first step which must, within an agreed time frame and in well-considered stages, lead to successive reduction,,, and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. While we are fully aware of the complexities involved in disarmament negotiations, we find that political will has enabled the experts to find satisfactory answers to what were projected as almost unresolvable -difficulties of adequate verification. Similar political will would be needed in solving the whole gamut of disarmament questions, beginning with the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons by 50 per cent already agreed upon.

Mr. President, these steps, each important in itself, have to be viewed in the perspective of a comprehensive scenario of total disarmament. Only thus they make sense and become effective and beneficial. At the Third Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament in June this year, my Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi had put forward a comprehensive Action Plan for 'the total elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2010. That Action Plan has received appreciation in the non-aligned movement, among other governments as well as

non-governmental organizations. We put forward our proposal to give concrete shape to the desire of a large segment of world public opinion for a time bound action programme to eliminate nuclear weapons. We should also take into account other related aspects including verification.

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Speaking about verification, Mr. President, distinguished delegates would recall that the delegations of countries participating in the Six Nation Initiative for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament had tabled a concrete proposal at the Third Special Session on Disarmament proposing the endorsement in principle of an International verification agency within the United Nations. It is the intention of the Six countries to revive this initiative at the current session.

The linkage between disarmament and development has been well-recognised by now. Hardly anyone can dispute the proposition that the resources being spent on armaments could be more profitably employed in peaceful developmental activities. The decisions taken by the United Nations Conference on Relationship between Disarmament and Development, held last year, need to be followed up and acted upon.

Regional conflicts have dominated the discussions of the current General Assembly Sessions. This is perfectly understandable. Success in achieving breakthroughs in most of these conflicts is attributed, and justifiably so, to the patient diplomacy of the United Nations as well as to the rapprochement between the two super powers. There is, perhaps, a lesson for all of us in this, particularly for the non-aligned and developing countries. If the tendency of seeking massive external military assistance and pursuit of dangerous nuclear weapon policies in the illusory hope of strengthening one's bargaining position with one's neighbours is resisted, there would be fewer regional conflicts and, consequently less dependence on ourside powers for solution of such conflicts.

India rejoiced at the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq which came into effect on 20th August, 1988. Thanks to the statemenship of the leaders of the two countries and to the efforts of the Secretary-General, the international community has been spared from witnessing the eight anniversary of the war. Ceasefire is an important first step and must be consolidated. The negotiations between the two countries currently underway, under UN auspices, must be pursued. The issues involved are complex and highly emotional for both states. India has been involved in discussing the issues in detail with the two countries as part of the efforts of the non-aligned movement. That experience makes me feel confident that the issues, though complex, will eventually be solved. India has the closest of ties with Iran and Iraq and we know that the two countries are anxious to get on with the stupendous task of reconstruction.

Mr. President, my country rejoices at the release of the Indian national, Mr. Mithileshwar Singh. We hope that all the other hostages would also be freed and reunited with their families at an early date.

India has welcomed the Geneva Accord on Afghanistan. We have had historical ties of deep friendship with the people of Afghanistan. The Geneva Accord have established a framework which would enable the people of Afghanistan to decided on their future free from foreign interference or intervention. While the withdrawal of Soviet troops has proceeded as per schedule, we are greatly perturbed at the persistent reports of violations of the Geneva Accord and hope that the Accords will be implemented faithfully by all the parties. In addition to restoring peace and stability to the region, the implementation of the Geneva Accords would also remove the ostensible cause for introduction of sophisticated arms into the area.

While positive developments have taken place in the Gulf as well as in Afghanistan, the continued Great Power naval presence in the Indian Ocean remains a factor contributing to tension and instability. We reiterate our call for the withdrawal of all military forces of outside powers from the Indian Ocean, so that it can emerge as a Zone of Peace.

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There is more than a glimmer of hope for the resolution of the conflict situation in South East Asia. The horrors suffered by the people of Kampuchea in the 70s must not be allowed to revisit them ever. The JIM dialogue in

Jakarta was a welcome beginning which we appreciate. We also applaud the initiative of the chairman of the non-aligned movement to explore ways and means in which the Movement can assist the efforts to solve the Kampuchean problem. Given India's historical ties with the peoples of South East Asia, we are ready and willing to contribute, in whatever way we can, to this process.

In our neighbourhood, we have watched with growing concern the trails and tribulations faced by the people of Burma with whom the people of India are bound by close ties of history and culture. India has always scrupulously avoided interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. However, we cannot but sympathise with democratic aspirations. We are saddened by the growing number of innocent deaths in Burma. We hope that a way will be found to end this tragic conflict as soon as possible.

There is renewed belief that the long delayed solution to the Namibian question is at hand. The responsibility for delay rests squarely with the South African Government which has, with impunity, refused to comply with its international commitments and obligations. The World community is committed to the emancipation of Namibian people engaged in a historic struggle for freedom under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative. India was the first country to accord diplomatic recognition to the representative of SWAPO. We look forward to welcoming Namibia as the 160th member of the United Nations at the General Assembly session next year.

While there is movement on the question of Namibia, the situation in South Africa itself shows no sign of improvement. The racist Pretoria regime countries its reign of terror, subjecting the people of South Africa to the most inhuman forces of oppression. The evil system of Apartheid cannot be reformed; it has to be abolished in to-to. South Africa must open a dialogue with the genuine representatives of the oppressed people. Nelson Mandela, the universal symbol of courage and fortitude, whose state of health is a cause for concern to all of us, must be released immediately and unconditionally, Effective pressure in the form of comprehensive mandatory sanctions must be applied, without invoking unconvincing arguments regarding their effect on employment of the oppressed people and so on.

The AFRICA Fund, established by the Movement of Non-aligned countries, has received pledges and contributions from a third of the world community. Described at the recent meeting of the non-aligned in Nicosia as an instance of the movement's capacity for collective action, the Fund demonstrates an international commitment to the frontline states and liberation movements of Southern Africa transcending geographical of political barriers.

Mr. President,

The international community should be opposed to racial discrimination no matter where it is practised. My delegation had referred last year to the unfortunate developments in Fiji that had distinct racial overtones. We had hoped that the groundswell of international public opinion would help restore the spirit of trust, harmony and concord which had prevailed in Fiji since its Independence. As a member of the United Nations and as a member of its Committee on Decolonisation, India had been in the forefront to fight for Fiji's independence. It is a matter of great regret to us that the situation in Fiji has considerably deteriorated during the past one year. There are clear indications that an attempt is being made to institutionalise racial discrimination in Fiji. We under

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stand that there is to be a process of consultation with the various communities before the draft constitution is finalised. We hope that this process will enable all sanctions of the people to participate in it in a non-discriminatory manner. There was a time when Fiji used to be described as "what the world should be like". The racial harmony, peace and tranquility in Fiji used to be a model for the world to follow. We hope that Fiji will return soon to those harmonious times.

Mr. President,

India's support to the right of self determination for the Palestinian people has its roots in our own struggle

against colonial rule. Many changes have taken place in the region; what has remained constant, however, is the determination of the Palestinian people. The message of 'intifadah' to the world is unambiguous: 20 years of occupation have utterly failed to suppress the fierce nationalism of the Palestinian people. It should also have made it clear to the world including Israel that territories illegally occupied cannot be retained for ever. Israel must withdraw from the territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem. We reiterate the call for the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle ,East, with the participation of all the parties, including PLO on an equal footing. Such a Conference, we believe, should facilitate the establishment of an independent homeland for the Palestinians and creation of conditions in which all the States in the region can live within secure and recognised boundaires.

Mr. President,

India has always supported aspirations of the people of Cyprus to live together as an independent and nonaligned country, with its territorial integrity intact. We deeply appreciate the resumption of dialogue between the two communities under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary General. We urge both sides to spare no efforts to find a solution to the problem within the time limit envisaged by the Secretary-General.

Similarly, we are heartened by the acceptance by both sides concerned of the, Secretary General's Proposals for finding a solution to the problem of Western Sahara. Here again, we hope that this question will be resolved satisfactorily so that the people of the territory as well as other countries in the Maghreb can live in peace and cooperation with one another.

In the Korean peninsula, which unhappily remains divided, there is an overwhelming sentiments in favour of peace, reconciliation and dialogue. We hope the aspirations of its people for peaceful reunification will find early fulfilment.

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration, which furnishes the philosophical basis for the human rights work of the United Nations, is of seminal importance. Like the Charter itself, -it points to the inter-dependence of human rights, social and economic progress and international peace and security. Over the past four decades ' the concepts embodied in the Declaration have been developed and enriched, particularly with regard to economic, social and cultural rights. It remains our firm belief that the inherent dignity of the human person requires full respect for his civil and political rights and equally economic, social and cultural rights.

Mr. President,

While there have been encouraging developments recently in the political sphere, the outlook in the area of international economic cooperation remains bleak. The low rates of growth of world trade and output in recent years will not suffice to resolve any of the major problems facing the world economy. High rates of unemployment in the industrialised countries persist, making it difficult for them to undertake structural adjustments necessary in the long-term. The major

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imbalance with their attendant uncertainities continue to persist. The outlook for the developing countries is even worse. Inadequate resource flows, deteriorating terms of trade and the heavy burden of external debt have all but halted the development process of these countries. They have retarted attempts to address the fundamental problem of poverty and deprivation. The 1980s are being characterised -is the 'lost decade of development'.

The policies of the major developed countries constitute the essential determinants of the external environment for the developing countries. There has been no coherent and considered effort to fashion the former on cooperative international action, taking into account their impact and consequences for the developing countries. Here it is useful to recall the proposals made by the developing countries for removing the structural deficiencies and the fundamental failings of the international monetary, financial and trading systems. The underlying structural and

systematic problems of the world economy have to be addressed by deliberate and cooperative international action that gives full recognition to global interdependence. Both the developed and the developing countries need to pursue convergent and mutually reinforcing policies in the interrelated areas of trade, money and finance.

The area of international trade is being increasingly characterised by an erosion of the accepted rules and regulations and by reliance on unilateral discriminatory action. Despite repeated affirmation of commitments on standstill and rollback, protectionism continues to grow unabated. Protectionist measures are imposed in areas where the developing countries have demonstrated their competitiveness and made investments for structural reforms. There has been little progress so far in the on-going Uruguay Round on Multilateral Trade Negotiations in areas of direct interest to the developing countries, such as safeguard, textiles, agriculture and tropical products. The Uruguay Round should provide an important opportunity for strengthening and preserving the multilateral trading system. It should also help to reduce tensions and distortions characterising the world trade system. The proposals being made in the new areas in the Uruguay Round have to be consistent with the right of developing countries to manage their economies in accordance with their national objectives and priorities, to regulate activities of transnational corporations and to channel investment into desired sectors of their economies. Such proposals should promote the autonomous and self-reliant development of these countries.

Another area of concern is the stagnation or decline, in real terms, of resource flows to developing countries. The international financial system has failed to assure the transfer of adequate resources on proper terms and conditions to developing countries and thus provide adequate financing for development activities. The alleviation of the current development crisis requires a more effective system that will guarantee an increasing flow of resources, particularly ODA resources, to developing countries and will guarantee the international monetary and financial institutions' access to adequate resources.

Mr. President, let us collectively recognise the need for evolving a more broad-based system for managing the world economy that reflects the interests of all groups of countries and provides an equitable and harmonious basis for the collective management of global interdependence. UNCTAD VII was a small step 'in this direction. In the coming days we must make use of other opportunities for building a renewed consensus on development directed against the global problems of hunger and poverty. The formulation and elaboration of an International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade provides one such opportunity.

The virtual paralysis of the North-South dialogue makes it all the more important for the developing countries to redouble their efforts for promoting collec

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tive self -reliance through ECDC. It has become imperative for the developing countries to build on complementarities in their economies. In this respect, the conclusion of the Agreement on the Global System of Trade Preferences in Belgrade earlier this year, was a significant achievement. It laid down, for the first time, the legal and institutional foundation for trade expansion amongst the signitory developing countries.

In our own region, the formation of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has provided a framework for wide-ranging economic and technical cooperation. Specific areas of mutually beneficial cooperation have been identified and practical measures are being implemented by member States.

One is however constrained to note that economic cooperation among developing countries has developed only partially and its full potential remains unexplored. What is needed is a hard look at concrete programmes to address, in the first instance and in the main, the elementary human needs of a large chunk of humanity. In these areas it is possible to make a better impact than has happened so far.

During the current year, many developing countries have been hit by natural disasters requiring urgent international relief operations. Large areas in Africa have been afflicted by prolonged drought. Jamaica has been devastated by a hurricane of unprecedented magnitude and Sudan floods. Our own region, South Asia, has witnessed widespread havoc caused by floods, above all in Bangladesh. Though we, too, have not been spared the

ravages of floods, it was our privilege as a friendly neighbour, to be the first to go to the assistance of the people of Bangladesh in response to an appeal from the Government of Bangladesh. A task force of experts from Bangladesh and India has been set up to study the Ganga and Brahmaputra waters jointly for flood management and water flow thereof.

Over the past two decades drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs has assumed proportions of a major global problem, affecting not only consumers but also posing serious problems for transit states. We hope that the plenipotentiary Conference scheduled to convene in Vienna later this year, in order to finalise a draft Convention on this question, will meet with success.

The United Nations is dedicated to the pursuit of the twin goals of peace and development. It can claim credit for significant achievements in both these. spheres and, in particular, in recent months we have seen encouraging progress in the resolution of complex political issues. But in the sphere of economic and social development, its major successes belong to past decades; its achievements recently have been relatively modest. We must renew our commitment to the eradication of the evils of poverty, disease and illiteracy through concerted international action. This is a struggle which must be waged in common by as humankind. As Jawaharlal Nehru told the Assembly in 1963; "The only war we want is a war against poverty and disease and its brood".

Mr. President,

Many centuries ago, India's sages gave the call "Let us move, together. Let us talk, together. Let us be of single common mind."

The renewed sense of community witnessed in the United Nations today gives hope that over the coming year in time for its forty-fourth session, the world body can set before itself a viable, specific agenda for the nineteen nineties which would help render our planet ready for the century drawing in upon it. Such an agenda must assess and chart the means for the fulfilment of the minimum needs of man. The world, as Mahatma Gandhi put it, has enough to fulfil man's need, but not his greed. This distinction between need and greed becomes all the more real and crucial at a time when geo-environmental, geo

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economic and geo-political imperatives have to be fully harmonised in the interest of survival. Runaway desires of imprudent humans must be tailored so as to be compatible with the capacity to fulfil them. If we collectively determine *to do that, this forum, the United Nations, is the place where we must begin. For the United Nations is as strong, and only as strong, as the will of its members.

And when we talk of members, let us not forget that behind the member states represented in this Assembly are the men and the women of the world. It is they who give this organization its flesh and its blood and should therefore legitimately dictate its aspirations and efforts. Their control over rulers who fall short or go beyond their mandate is not as palpable as it should be; but that is part of man's constant aspirations which the United Nations needs to be inspired by, in order to give effective voice to the dumb millions.

The United Nations should thus promote the ascendancy of peoples, translating into reality the relationships which thee peoples would wish to have among themselves.

Invested with a popular dimension, rooted in a time when the process of peace can be rendered irreversible and man's scarce energies 'given a chance to better his own being, this is the moment for the United Nations which, Mr. President, should endure until the mission for humanity is completed.

We must not fail.

Thank you Mr. President.
Oct 04, 1998

USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND CYPRUS IRAN IRAQ INDIA PERU INDONESIA BURMA NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA FIJI ISRAEL KOREA URUGUAY JAMAICA SUDAN BANGLADESH AUSTRIA

Date : Oct 04, 1998

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Japan's Loan Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 4, 1988 on Japan's Rs. 870 crore loan assistance to India:

Japan will provide loan assistance of Yen 87834 million (about Rs. 870 crore) to India during 1988-89. The amount will be used for the projects of Raichur Thermal Power Station Expansion, Ghatghar Pumped Storage, Tourism Infrastructure Development, Small Scale Enterprises Development Programme, Upper Kolab Irrigation, Upper Indravati Irrigation, Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant Rehabilitation, Mysore Paper Mills Modernisation and Renovation and Hoogly Dock and Port Engineers Modernisation. An Agreement to this effect was signed here today, by the Finance Secretary, Shri S. Venkitaramanan and Japanese Ambassador in India, Mr. Eijiro, Noda.

This year the Government of Japan has reduced the interest rate by 0.25 per cent per annum. The OECF loan assistance will not be repayable over a period of 30 years including a grace period of 10 years and carries reduced interest rate of 2.5 per cent per annum. Out of the loan assistance of yen 87,834 million an amount of yen 19,900 million is available to meet the local cost expenditure. The Japanese OECF loan assistance for 1988-89 represents an increase of 28 per cent (in yen terms) over the assistance of yen 68,477 million pledged by Japan to

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India for the year 1987-88. The loan assistance of yen 17,021 million for the Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant Rehabilitation Project, the Mysore Paper Mills Modernisation and Renovation Project and the Hoogly Dock and Port Engineers Modernisation Project represents a special OECF loan, extended by the Government of Japan for rehabilitation of these projects.
Oct 04, 1998

JAPAN INDIA USA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 04, 1998

Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

India to Construct Hospital in Maldives

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi, on October 11, 1988 regarding India to construct 2oo bed hospital in Maldives: A Memorandum of Understanding between India and Maldives on the construction of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Male was signed here today by Shri Motilal Vora, Union Minister 'for Health and Family Welfare and Dr. Abdulla Jameel, Minister of Health, Maldives. This agreement is a consequence of the visit of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India to the Republic of Maldives in February, 1986.

According to the agreement a 200 bedded acute referal hospital would be constructed by the Government of India ,in Male (Maldives). Besides construction of the hospital, the commitment of the Government of India also extends to the commissioning and management of the hospital as also training of Maldivian doctors and para-medical staff.

The Government of Maldives have requested India to undertake the management of the hospital for an initial period of five years from the date of commissioning, namely 1992. This would involve: (a) deployment of 16 doctors, 16 specialists, 87 para-medicals from India; (b) training of Maldivian doctors and specialists; (c) training of nurses and auxilliary nurses in institutes in India; and (d) maintenance of equipment and accessories during the period of Indian management.

The work of construction of -die hospital has been entrusted on a turn-key basis to the National Building Construction Corporation Limited (A Government of India enterprise).
Oct 11, 1998

MALDIVES INDIA USA

Date : Oct 11, 1998

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Chairman Yasser Arafat

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on October 5, 1988:

Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Delhi today. He came at 11.30 a.m. this morning and was received by Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs and Shri R. N. Mirdha, Minister for Textiles. He had lunch with the Prime Minister at 1.00 p.m. and this was followed by delegation-level talks. Our delegation was led by the Prime Minister and included Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State in the

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Ministry of External Affairs; Shri Alfred Gonsalves, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs; Shri Siddharth Singh, Chief of Protocol and Mrs. Kamlesh Kumar, Joint Secretary (WANA) in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Mrs. Meera Shankar, Director in Prime Minister's Office.

Chairman Yasser Arafat explained in detail to the Indian delegation the nature of problems which are confronting

the PLO as a result of the disengagement of Jordan from the West Bank. The Chairman further outlined for the Prime Minister and for the Indian delegation the future strategy that he and his organisation are studying, including the various options that are being considered to meet the situation created by Jordan's disengagement. He informed our delegation that these strategies and options which are being studied and considered by him and his advisers will be placed before the Palestinian National Council which is to meet shortly. (The dates & Venu of the meeting were not, however, mentioned by him). The Palestinian National Council will take decisions on the various options which are being put forward. Based on the decisions taken by the Palestinian National Council an international campaign will be mounted by the PLO. One of the foremost items on the agenda of this campaign will be the calling of an international conference on Palestine. For this purpose, the PLO will work through the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and through its other friends. We assured Chairman Yasser Arafat of our support in these endeavours. We told him that we would be glad to support him on any policy that was ultimately decided upon for the future of the Palestinian people. We assured him that we would coordinate our efforts fully with the PLO to ensure that maximum efforts are made to achieve a lasting solution to this problem.
Oct 05, 1998

INDIA USA JORDAN

Date : Oct 05, 1998

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India's Stand on Refugees from Burma,

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on October 5, 1988 in response to a querry from the press:

We have given clear instructions to our border authorities that no genuine refugees from Burma are to be sent back. India has a very long tradition of having given refuge to people of other lands in distress, who have come to our country; we have every intention of adhering to this principle. We are still checking on the precise number and status of the persons who are coming. If they are genuine refugees, you could be assured that they would be given the treatment that other refugees had in India.

There are well established international norms for determining who are refugees. We are quite liberal on these international norms. We will continue to uphold that liberal tradition and anyone who could be considered a refugee or who is worthy of getting this status, will not be turned back.
Oct 05, 1998

BURMA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 05, 1998

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on October 5, 1988 in response to a query about the alleged involvement of Indian Special Service Black Cat commandoes in the disturbances in Hyderabad Sind:

Such wild, baseless and unfounded allegations are totally without truth whatsoever. Such insinuations which appear to

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be motivated are not conducive to the building of an atmosphere of goodwill between the two countries. It is our hope that the Pakistani press will be more circumspect and varify its facts before publishing stories of this nature.
Oct 05, 1998

PAKISTAN INDIA

Date : Oct 05, 1998

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Discussions between India and China with a View to Signing a Science and Technology Agreement

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on October 6,1988:

The discussions are going on in New Delhi between Indian and Chinese delegations with a view to signing a Science and Technology Agreement. The Indian side is led by Dr. J. Dhar, Director in the Department of Science & Technology and the Chinese side is led by Mr. Wu Yikang, Commissioner in the Department of International Cooperation of the State Scientific and Technological Commission of China. The discussions will continue all through tomorrow.

The Chinese delegation will call on our Minister of State for Science & Technology, Shri K. R. Narayanan, tomorrow.

As you are aware, we have had with China for sometime an arrangement for exchanges on scientific and technological matters. These talks are aimed at raising the level on Government-to-Government basis, so that we may institute a programme of exchange between our scientific institutions on a systematised basis, with a view to exploring areas of joint research, for example in bio-chemistry, bio-technology and joint research. The two delegations are trying to identify areas where we could cooperate in executing joint projects. The draft of this is being discussed and it is possible it will be finalised tomorrow. As you are aware, we already have a cultural agreement with China which was signed in May this year.

From the 9th of October, for four days, we will have another Chinese delegation in Delhi. This is the Civil Aviation team from China. This will be the second round of discussions between the two sides. The first round was held in Beijing in August this year. Our delegation is led by Shri Vivek Patnaik, Joint Secretary in the Department of Civil Aviation and the Chinese delegation is led by Mr. Lu Guang Hua, Deputy Director in the Department of International Affairs in the Chinese CAAC. We are trying to find commonality of views to reach a civil aviation arrangement on the first, second and third freedoms which involves overflights, technical halts and rights to carry traffic from third countries. We have not yet come to a point where we can discuss the 5th and 6th freedoms, which is direct flights.
Oct 06, 1998

CHINA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 06, 1998

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir

The follou4ng is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on October 6., 1988 in reply to a query about infiltration in Jammu an a Kashmir:

There have been some press reports of infiltration in Jammu & Kashmir. We have also seen those reports. As is common knowledge now, the terrorists have been coming across our border both in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. We have known about their involvement in terrorist and subversive activities. So, it appears that this alleged number of 100 that the J&K authorities have apprehended would be part of the general group.

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This would appear to be an overall plan which has been in operation in J&K for some time. The fresh infiltration is not to be seen in isolation.

In response to another question by a foreign journalist as to who was arming and financing these terrorists, the Spokesman said that past experience of apprehended terrorists indicates that the infiltrators are armed, supported and trained by agencies of the Government of Pakistan. The initial interrogations that the State Government have carried out, as reported in the press, lead them to the conclusion that these infiltrators are, like the previous ones, trained, organised, financed and armed by Pakistan.

In response to another question as to whether we had lodged a protest with the Pakistan Government, the Spokesman said that we have conveyed our concern and indignation to the Government of Pakistan on more than one occasion and at various levels, e.g. Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary and the highest levels.
Oct 06, 1998

INDIA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Oct 06, 1998

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

President's Visit to Bhutan

The following is the text of a statement made by the official Spokesman 01 the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on October 10, 1988:

The President accompanied by Smt. Janaki Venkataraman will pay a State visit to Bhutan from 18th to 21st October at the invitation of His Majesty the King. The last visit by an Indian President to Bhutan was in 1974 when Shri V. V. Giri attended the King's coronation in Thimphu.

The President and His Majesty will utilise the occasion of the visit to hold discussions on matters of mutual interest. The President and his delegation will visit Paro, apart from the capital, Thimphu. The visit will conclude with the President participating in the inauguration ceremony -of the Chukha Hydel Project. The project is a bilateral endeavour which will benefit the peoples of both countries. It is in fact the largest Indian assisted project abroad.

In reply to queries, the Official Spokesman said that the Chukha Hydro-Electric project was the largest project undertaken by India costing Rs. 244 crores and was wholly financed by India. It is Asia's largest underground power house, 330 metres under the ground. The annual energy generation from this project will be 2024 million units and the annual revenue would be Rs. 350 million. All the equipment except for 220 KV cables has been supplied by the Indian manufacturers. All services have been provided by the Indian Central Water Power Commission and the Central Electricity Authority through the Water and Power Consultancy Services. All the contracts for the major civil works were also awarded to the Indian firms.
Oct 10, 1998

BHUTAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM RUSSIA

Date : Oct 10, 1998

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Foreign Secretary's Visit to China

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on October 10, 1988:

The whole range of issues were discussed by the Indian delegation led by the Foreign Secretary during its visit to China. The boundary question also figured as part of these discussions. The Prime Minister's visit was also discussed by the delegation both from the point of view of discussing substantive matters concerning

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the visit as well as details of the programme.

As for the discussions between Indian and Chinese delegations held in New Delhi on the Science and Technology agreement, the Official Spokesman said that discussions have gone well forward and considerable progress has been made in this respect.

The Chinese Civil Aviation team is still here in New Delhi and discussions are going on for a civil aviation arrangement between India and China.
Oct 10, 1998

CHINA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 10, 1998

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India's Alleged Involvement in the Recent Disturbances and Massacre in, Pakistan's Sind Province

The fol1owing is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on October 11, 1988:

In reply to a query about a statement by Mr. Naseer Ahmed Aheer, Pakistan Minister of Interior alleging that Indian trained territorists belonging to the Jiye Sind Movement were involved in the recent disturbances and mass massacre in Pakistan's Sind Province.

Our reaction to this is that following the recent disturbances in Sind, there appears to have been an orchestrated campaign in the Pakistan media to make out an Indian invovement in these incidents. It is unfortunate that even the Pakistan Federal Interior Minister is reported to have made similar allegations. These allegations are completely baseless. Our Mission in Islamabad has denied them and yet they are repeated. They are made in complete disregard of improving relations between India and Pakistan. We fervently hope that such unfortunate allegations will not recur.
Oct 11, 1998

INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 11, 1998

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Angolan's President's Visit to India

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on October 24, 1988:

The President of Angola, H.E. Mr. Jose Eduardo Dos Santos arrived in India today on an official visit. The Angolan President and his delegation had a 11/-2 hours discussion with the Indian delegation led by the Prime Minister. The Indian delegation also included the Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Commerce, Minister of State for Railways, Minister of State for Banking, Minister of State for Petroleum and Gas, Special Envoy to Prime Minister Shri N. Krishnan and Secretary (West) Shri Alfred Gonsalves. The talks were devoted to an indepth examination of the prospects of and problems relating to the question of Namibian independence. This consideration of the problems and prospects of Namibian independence included the issue of withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

It was agreed that the Angolan Ministers will have talks tomorrow with the Indian Ministers on bilateral matters.

As a result of Prime Minister's visit to Angola in May 1986 and the Angolan President's visit to India in April 1987, there are a number of projects under discussion, possible areas of cooperation being oil and gas where ONGC has expressed an interest, construction of a

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hospital in Luanda and some work by the Archeological Survey of India in renovating museums in Angola.

The Angolan President will leave India on the afternoon of 26th October, 1988.

In reply to a question on the Indian position on the Namibian situation, the Official Spokesman said that India supports the Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978 calling for the immediate independence for Namibia. We were. the first country to extend full diplomatic status to SWAPO in 1985 as the sole authentic representative of the Namibian people and this recognition includes the maintenance by SWAPO of a full diplomatic mission in Delhi. India is a member of the UN Council for Namibia and we are currently one of the Vice-Chairmen and in this capacity we are co-sponsors of the draft resolution on Namibia in the UNGA calling for the immediate independence of Namibia. We have been consistent supporters of all efforts in the UN to impose mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII. We reject the linkage of the issue of independence of Namibia with that of the withdrawal of Cuban troops. We regard this as an internal affair of Aongola.
Oct 24, 1998

ANGOLA INDIA USA CUBA NAMIBIA

Date : Oct 24, 1998

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament attached to MEA held on 25th October 1988

The following is the text of a statement made by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New. Delhi on October 26, 1988:

The Consultative Committee attached to MEA met yesterday. It was a little more than three hours meeting. The major portion of the time was spent in continuing the earlier discussions of the August meeting on the developments in the Soviet Union with special reference to perestroika and glasnost. There was also a brief discussion on Burma. Majority of members of the Committee were unanimous in their opinion that the developments in the Soviet Union relating to glasnost and perestroika were of vital significance to the world and of special importance to India. Decisions relating to multi-member candidature and other signs of glasnost were symbolic of a dramatic break from the past. The changes taking place in the Soviet Union in terms of domestic policy had their inevitable influence on Soviet foreign policy as well.

As a firm and consistent friend of India for the last 40 years, developments in the Soviet Union could not but have repercussions in this country. In expressing such views, a majority of members stressed that the rapid changes taking place in the Soviet Union need to be studied closely. A majority of the members of the Committee expressed high admiration for the courage, vision and statesmanship of President Gorbachev in chartering a new path for the Soviet Union. This path heralds an era of domestic liberalisation and a policy of detente in the realm of foreign policy.

The External Affairs Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao initiated the discussion by outlining the nature of the changes in the Soviet Union, including those which have taken place in the last. two months and drawing the attention of the members to the fact that several concepts, such as peaceful co-existence, necessity for disarmament, need for an absence of dogmatism in the field of politics and questions relating to the economic development, and other similar trends of thoughts, were now noticeable in the language being used as a result of glasnost and perestroika. The emphasis or, disarmament, peaceful co

<p-346>
existence and loosening of the economy from the strait-jacket of the past, were in a sense concepts articulated by Nehru, one of the founders of the Non-aligned movement. The External Affairs Minister underlined the fact that no system or ideological framework could claim a monopoly of wisdom or self-sufficiency in terms of thought and action. The process of learning, which was common to all systems, was an on-going one. It was heartening that this has received a remarkable impetus as a result of the glasnost and perestroika initiated by President Gorbachev. It was broadly agreed by the members of the Committee that the courage and boldness of direction of President Gorbachev had played a principal part in the process of lessening of global tensions. The resultant blunting of the earlier confrontationist policies had induced an evaporation of the clouds of suspicion which had hung over the relationship of the two super powers. The INF Treaty was the direct result of the realisation, engendered by such open policies, of the futility of nuclear armament and the necessity of disarmament.

Certain other members also stressed that Gorbachev's policies were a reaffirmation of the fact that the human spirit once re-awakened was a dynamic force; it was a recognition of the fact that freedom begets creativity. A majority of the members agreed with EAM that the Soviet foreign policy and its emphasis on 'proximation' and its objectives of peaceful co-existence, was the logical outcome of the domestic policies pursued by the Soviet Union under Gorbachev. It was agreed that any movement towards peace, freedom and democracy in the world was, of relevance to us.

BURMA

EAM echoed the feelings of all members when he expressed sympathy for democratic aspirations. EAM recalled in this regard the Indian statements both in Delhi and at the UN. In response to, queries, the EAM informed the members, of the Committee that India's policy with regard to refugees bad always been a liberal one. In the case of refugees from Burma also, instructions have been issued not to turn back any genuine refugees, seeking shelter in

India. In response to another query, the EAM clarified that so far 182 refugees had been accommodated in the States bordering Burma. The members of the Committee recognised that India had a long tradition of friendship _with the Burmese people. There were, age-old cultural ties of religion, of trade and commerce which bound the two peoples together. India would continue to follow events in Burma with understanding and sympathy.

It was agreed that the next meeting will continue discussion en Burma.
Oct 26, 1998

USA BURMA INDIA

Date : Oct 26, 1998

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Memorandum of Understanding Signed between India and USSR on Inland Waterways

The following is the text of a press. release issued in New Delhi on October 11, 1988 on a memorandum of understanding signed between India and USSR On Inland Waterways:

A memorandum of understanding with the Soviet Union and the Inland Waterways Authority of India was signed recently in Moscow.

The memorandum which was signed by Shri Xavier Arakal, Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and the Soviet Deputy Minister in the

<p-347>
Ministry of River Fleet Mr. N. G. Smirnov would help in improving transport facilities ,on the inland waterways in the country.

Under this memorandum, later in the year 1989, the Indian side will receive a delegation from the Ministry of River Fleet, USSR that will study the nevigation conditions on the Indian waterways and prepare jointly with the Indian specialists proposals for development and modernisation of the waterways and assistance in their implementation; development of passenger and cargo traffic network; design and construction of cargo and passenger terminals: scientific and technical assistance in solving problems of the inland waterways. Both sides will jointly determine the directions, objects and economic aspects of cooperation case by ,case by discussions.

Further both sides considered the possibilities of delivery to India of passenger ships, cargo ships, 450 hp and 600 hp tow-boats, 1000 tons platform barges, floating cranes of 5 tons capacity, dredgers with a capacity of up to 500 cubic mete per hour and other vessels. The Soviet side agreed to arrange a demonstration of these vessels on Indian waterways. The dates and terms will be agreed upon later.

Under this agreement Indian specialists could receive training in Leningrad Water Transport Institute with terms of training agreed upon additionally within the framework of existing Indo-Soviet agreements in the related fields.

Both side expressed a mutual interest in establishing a joint working group for cooperation in the field of inland water transport within the Inter-Government Soviet-Indian Commission for economic and scientific cooperation,

subject to government approval.
Oct 04, 1998

INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 04, 1998

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Cooperation in Power Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 5, 1988 on Indo-Soviet cooperation in power sector:

Discussions to promote further cooperation between India and Soviet Union in' power sector concluded here today. The Indian side was led by the Power Secretary, Shri S. Rajgopal and the Soviet side by Mr. A. P. Poddubsky, USSR Deputy Minister for Power and Electrification. The two sides reviewed the progress of on-going power projects taken up with the Soviet assistance in the country. The delegations agreed that the projects to be taken up with Soviet assistance in the Eighth and Ninth Plan periods would be identified by December, 1988 as st1pulated in the protocol signed in Moscow last May.

The Soviet Union has agreed to assist India in creating an additional capacity of 6000 MW in power sector in the next two plan periods. Of this, 4,500 MW will be in the Eighth plan period.
Oct 05, 1998

INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Oct 05, 1998

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

India and Soviet Union Sign Protocol for Cooperation in the Railway Sphere

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 13, 1988 on signing of a protocol between India and Soviet Union for cooperation in the Railway sphere:

India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol for cooperation in the railway sector. The protocol was signed in Moscow yesterday by the Minister of State for Railways, Shri Madhavrao Scindia and his Soviet counterpart, Mr.

N. S. Konarev. The important items of cooperation identified in the protocol are as follows:i) Procurement of 20 High H.P. Electric Locomotives from USSR;

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ii) Acquiring a set of track laying equipment for trial in India and its subsequent indigenous production;

iii) Soviet assistance in improving heavy haul freight operations, wagon repairs and maintenance facilities;

iv) Offer of Soviet Union to assist in initiating cooperation in the construction of Metro System in India on a turn-key basis including a financial package,

v) Procurement of equipment and instruments for railway electrification and maintenance of electric traction in India; and

vi) Development of ground-train radio communication system in India based on its extensive use by the Soviet Railways.

A new era of mutual cooperation in the field of Research and Development on Railways is likely to be heralded with the signing of this protocol. Both the sides will inform each other about the main directions of scientific research being carried out on the respective railways. It is also envisaged to develop a detailed programme for exchange of experts and scientists, exchange of publications and joint research projects. USSR agreed to impart training to 130 Indian Railway Specialists in various training establishments on USSR Railways.

India showed their keenness to get assistance of leading Soviet Coaches to train Indian Railways sportpersons. It includes training facilities in the Soviet Union for outstanding Indian Railway sportpersons and exchange of sport teams between the two countries.

The high level delegation which was led by the Minister of State Shri Madhavrao Scindia, included the Chairman, Railway Board Shri R. K. Jain and Member, Electrical, Shri V. C. V. Chenalu.
Oct 13, 1998

INDIA RUSSIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 13, 1998

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Coo1wration in Oil Exploration

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 28, 1988 on Indo-Soviet cooperation in oil exploration:

India and the Soviet Union have signed the Protocol at the end of meetings of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on Oil which reviewed the progress of cooperation between the two countries in the oil sector.

The Protocol was signed by Shri S. Balachandran, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural

Gas and Mr. B. Nikitin, Soviet Deputy Minister for Oil Industry.

The two countries are cooperating in the intensive integrated exploration for oil in the Cambay, Cauvery and West Bengal basins with Soviet assistance.

The Soviet have so far carried out 2000 line kilometres of seismic survey in Cauvery and 1700 line kilometres of seismic survey in Cambay basin. Two exploratory wells each are currently being drilled in Cauvery and Cambay basins.

Exploration in West Bengal is expected to be taken up during this season.

During discussions between the two sides it was decided to drill deeper wells in Cauvery basin in the light of experience

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gained by drilling of tubewells there. One well drilled in Cauvery basin has shown indications of hydrocarbons.

The Soviet side made an offer to carry out shallow offshore seismic surveys. It was decided that the technical details of the offer would be examined further to explore possibilities in this area.

At present Soviet crews are being utilised for workover for sick wells in the western region. So far 99 wells have been repaired which has resulted in a gain of 8.9 lakh tonnes of oil.

Under the bilateral cooperation programme the Oil and Natural Gas Commission gets its experts trained in USSR and experts from the Soviet Union are deputed to various ONGC institutes. The Soviet also carried out technical studies for ONGC in identified areas.
Oct 28, 1998

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TOTO

Date : Oct 28, 1998

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Swedish Aid for Social Forestry Project in Tamil Nadu

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 26, 1988 on Swedish aid for social forestry" Project in Tamil Nadu:

Sweden will extend to India a grant of 313 million Swedish Kroners (approximately Rs. 70 crore) during the period 1.4.1988 to 31.3.1993 for the Tamil Nadu Social Forestry Project phase-II. Agreement to this effect was signed here yesterday by the Swedish Ambassador and Mr. S. Vardachary, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of their respective Governments. The main components of the project are: the Free Patta Scheme, on common (Panchayat) land, for selected rural landless women; the Agro-Forestry in Drylands Scheme, on privately owned marginal or fallow drylands, for resource poor (small and marginal) farmers; the Community Wasteland Development Programme, with multi-purpose plantations on government and panchayat wasteland; the Interface

Forestry Programme, in public forests with improvement through reforestation/rehabilitation and water management, of adjoining revenue department and private agricultural lands; the Quality Seedling Production and Extension Programme, through kisan nurseries, extension services and applied research and development work; and a Research and Development Programme.

The project is an extension of the previous Tamil Nadu Social Forestry Project which expired in June this year.
Oct 26, 1998

SWEDEN INDIA USA

Date : Oct 26, 1998

Volume No

1995

TURKEY

Indo-Turkish Talks on Civil Aviation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 25,. 1988 on Indo-Turkish talks on civil aviation:

India and Turkey have decided to increase the frequency entitlement of Air India and Turkish Airlines on a conditional basis form two to three services per week. Turkish Airlines are likely to start the third service unilaterally, under a compensation arrangement with Air India. The two sides also agreed to provide greater security cover to each other's airline.

This followed discussions held recently in Ankara between the official delegations of the two countries. The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Shri S. K. Misra, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation and the Turkish delegation was headed by Mr. Ertan Yulek, Under Secretary, Department of Transport and Communications.

During the talks India also invited Turkey to avail of the facilities for training of pilots now available in India. An offer was also made to them to operate Tourist Charters to India, under the Government's liberalised tourism policy. India also offered to Turkey training facilities in Catering and Hotel Management.
Oct 25, 1998

TURKEY INDIA USA

Date : Oct 25, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Gandhi-Reagan Science and Technology Initiative Extended

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 5, 1988 on an agreement to review the Gandhi-Reagan Science & Technology Initiative:

An agreement to renew the Gandhi-Reagan Science & Technology Initiative was signed here today between India and the USA by Shri K. R. Narayanan, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Dr. William R. Graham, Science Adviser to the US President. Following is the text of the joint press release issued on the occasion:

The Gandhi-Reagan S&T Initiative (STI) renewal document was signed by Minister of State for Science & Technology Shri K. R. Narayanan, and Dr. William R. Graham, Science Advisor to US President, The annexure to the Agreement, which contains summary of the ongoing and new projects and constitutes the executive action, was also signed by Dr. John H. Moore, Deputy Director NSS on behalf of the US Government and Dr. Vasant Gowariker, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, which is the nodal department for the Science and Technology Initiative on behalf of the Government of India. The signing was observed by members of the Indian Senior Scientists Panel and members of the high-level US delegation accompanying Dr. Graham on his official visit to India. This highly successful partnership in scientific and technological cooperation between India

<p-351>
and the US emerged after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's US visit in 1982. It was renewed for an additional three years during Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's US visit in 1985.

The United States and India value highly their mutually beneficial cooperation in science and technology and recognize the key role of scientific research in economic development and the many benefits to be derived therefrom. The Gandhi-Reagan Science and Technology Initiative (STI) exemplifies a scientific and technological collaboration between equal partners. STI offers both the challenge and the opportunity to establish new activities that will not only advance world frontiers in science and technology but also provide very direct benefits - in both short and long term - to both our peoples and to the rest of the world. Bearing out the hopes of the two leaders , the past five years have seen important successes in many aspects of the STI program areas of health, agriculture, biomass, monsoon, and solid state science and engineering. Beyond these impressive research results, the STI has within itself the potential to stimulate collaboration between US ana Indian scientists in a broad range of fields.

New STI projects are expected to cover such diverse topics as superconducting supercollider, drought tolerance of rain-fed crops, tuberculosis, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

President Reagan and Prime Minister Gandhi, during their meeting of 20 October 1987, noted the key role of science and technology in enhancing Indo-US bilateral relations and the achievements and potential of their Science & Technology Initiative. The President and the Prime Minister thus directed to extend the Gandhi-Reagan Science & Technology Initiative for an additional three year period beginning in October 1988. Anticipating potential achievements from such joint research, India and the United States agree to consider the question of providing for protection and allocation on a mutually agreeable -basis of any Intellectual Property Rights arising out of the STI programme. To this end, the two governments will undertake bilateral discussions with appropriate representatives. In general, mutual approval on any research project is subject to the laws and regulations of the respective countries.
Oct 05, 1998

USA INDIA ITALY

Date : Oct 05, 1998

November

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Date : Nov 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Need to Balance Trade with Australia Stressed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 29, 1988 on need to balance Trade with Australia:

The visiting Australian Minister of Primary Industries and Energy, Mr. John Kerin, called on the Commerce Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, here today. They discussed matters relating to economic and commercial relations between India Australia and

exchanged views on issues likely to come up at the forthcoming, Ministerial level mid-term review of the Uruguay round of GATT multilateral trade negotiations due to take place in Montreal next month. Shri Dinesh Singh will be leading the Indian delegation at the Uruguay round. While expressing satisfaction at the increase in bilateral trade since 1983-84, Shri Dinesh Singh stressed the need to ensure a more balanced growth of trade and urged Australia to take effective steps to increase its imports of manufactured products from India, especially engineering goods. The Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. R. Dasmunshi, was also present.

During the last Indo-Australian Joint Trade Committee Meeting, it was decided to have a special programme of assistance through the Australian Market Advisory Services which will help. India to improve its share of the import market in Australia for engineering goods. In this context, the Minister sought Australia's support for a 3-year programme for promotion of engineering exports to Australia suggested by India. The issues of direct purchase of diamonds from Australia, project exports and cooperation in the wool sector also figured in the talks. India's interest in the award of a project for the supply of boilers for the Electricity Trust of Australia to BHEL was conveyed to Mr. Kerin.

Mr. Kerin, who is on a three-day official visit to India, is also scheduled to address a Seminar organised here by the Indian Woollen Mills Federation.

STRALIA USA INDIA URUGUAY RUSSIA

Date : Sep 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

First Meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Task Force Concludes -JointPress Release

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 22, 1988 on the conclusion of the first meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Task Force:

The Indo-Bangladesh Task Force set up at the New Delhi Summit on September 29, 1988 held its first meeting at Dhaka from November 18 to 20, 1988, pursuant to the mandate given to it. The Task Force held detailed discussions and agreed on the work programme

and the timeframe for completion of the task.
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The Task Force identified the short and long-term areas of cooperation for formulating structural and non-structural measures for flood management.

The Task Force expects to complete its work and submit the report to the two Governments by March, 1989. The next meeting of the Task Force will be held in mid-December, 1988 at New Delhi.

In continuation of the discussions at Heads of Government level, in September, 1988, held in New Delhi, the two Secretaries had an exchange of views on river water sharing. They will continue their discussions when they meet in New Delhi in mid-December this year with a view to reporting to their Governments in three months time.

The discussions were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. In the meeting, the Indian side was led by Mr. Naresh Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources while the Bangladesh side was led by Syed Shamim Ahsan, Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development & Flood Control.

NGLADESH INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Nov 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

BULGARIA

Expansion of Cooperation between India and Bulgaria Emphasised

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 18, 1988 regarding expansion of co-operation between India and Bulgaria:

The Ninth meeting of the Indo-Bulgarian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation ended here today with the signing of a protocol. Both sides agreed to initiate necessary steps to intensify their efforts for further strengthening the cooperation between the two countries and also identify new areas in the fields of agriculture, technology, industry and trade for expanding the area of cooperation. The protocol was signed by Shri Bhajan Lal, Union Minister of Agriculture, from the Indian side and from the Bulgarian side by

Mr. Ognyan Doynov, Member of Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and also the Minister and Chairman of Heavy Machine Building Association.

The protocol further says that both sides agreed to explore the possibilities of setting up a design and engineering centre in India for the development of food processing projects and equipment. They also agreed for the development and modernisation of projects/facilities in India connected with the processing of fruits, vegetables, meat and poultry, aseptic storage system, refrigeration facility and equipment for packing and bottling of different liquid food products.

India and Bulgaria would also collaborate in research areas and make use of expertise available in the two countries. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Agricultural Academy of Bulgaria would work out the details of collaborative programmes. The areas identified include exchange of germplasm in respect of important crops and plants; a study of advances in production technologies in respect of important field and fruit crops; exchange of breeding animals like sheep for improved milk production and sharing experiences in transfer of technologies.

India would also send expert teams to Bulgaria to identify the sheep suitable
<pg-354>

for meat and wool production and investigate the possibility of obtaining pureline poultry stock for experimental purposes for further commercial exploitation. It was also agreed that genetic materials on sunflower, soyabean, maize and rajmas should also be exchanged.

As regard industries, both sides agreed to encourage contacts between the concerned organisations of the two countries to promote two-way flow of technology, expertise, capital goods and joint ventures and also identify new areas of cooperation.

India and Bulgaria will also explore the possibility of further cooperation including joint development in the field of machine tools and robots, laser complexes, plastic welding devices and micro-processing control devices. Possibilities of joint working and marketing of each other's products in third countries will also be explored by HMT and MACHINOEXPORT (a Bulgarian undertaking).

Recognising the necessity of stepping up trade between the two countries, both sides agreed that attention should be paid to diversification of the structure of trade and enlargement of the basket of goods. They also agreed for studying of possibilities of increasing exports from India of tobacco, soya extraction, coffee, leather goods, textile, readymade garments, chemicals, pesticides drugs and pharmaceuticals, machine tools, earth moving

equipment, etc. and the imports from Bulgaria of plastic, chemicals, chemical products, newsprint and steel products. The two sides also agreed to encourage long-term exchange for mutual deliveries of goods in the fields of chemicals, pharmacuticals, electronics, etc.

Both sides strongly felt that in the view of number and nature of production items involved in the pharmaceuticals, chemicals and pesticides industries, it would be desirable to set up a joint working group on pharmaceutical and chemical industry to intensify discussions at various levels and at regular intervals.

LGARIA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Indo-Czech Protocol on Drugs Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 04, 1988 on Indo-Czech protocol on drugs:

India and Czechoslovakia today signed a Protocol for the promotion of economic, technological and commercial cooperation in the field of drugs and pharmaceutical. Shri H. K. Khan, Secretary, Chemicals and Petrochemicals signed on behalf of India and H.E. Mr. VL. Holat, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Affairs signed on behalf of Czechoslovakia.

According to Protocol there was a lot of scope for cooperation both technological and trade between Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) and the respective cunterpart agency in Czechoslovakia. IDPL showed keen interest in obtaining Czechoslovak technology for the manufacture of sera and vaccine and new cytostatic products and it was agreed that a separate Memorandum of Understanding specifically between IDPL and the Czechoslovak counterpart agency under the aegis of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India
<pg-355>

could be negotiated to concretise these possibilities of cooperation.

The Protocol refers to the foreign collaboration between SPOFA

and an Indian company for 6APA and 7ADCA which has already been approved and the proposal for setting up of the Penicillin project based on Czechoslovak technology was at an advanced stage of consideration and finalisation.

There was need to increase the quantum of trade in the pharmaceutical sector between the two countries and efforts be made to achieve the target set in the Trade Plan for the two countries in the field of pharmaceuticals.

Both sides appreciated the increasing cooperation between the two countries in the field of pharmaceuticals and expressed satisfaction on the level of development and the quality standards. Mr. Holat expressed happiness at the progress made by the Indian Pharmaceuticals sector.

RWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA RUSSIA

Date : Nov 04, 1988

Volume No

1995

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

GDR Offers Expertise in Lignite and Coal Sectors

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 28, 1988 on the offer of GDR expertise in Lignite and Coal. sectors:

The German Democratic Republic (GDR) today offered to share its expertise and know-how with India in the lignite and coal sectors. This was indicated by the GDR Deputy Minister for Heavy Engineering and Plant Construction, Dr. E. Roessner, when he met the Minister of Energy, Shri Vasant Sathe, here.

Dr. Roessner is heading the delegation to the third session of Indo-GDR Working Group on coal, lignite and power. The Indian delegation is being led by the Coal Secretary, Shri T. U. Vijayasekharan. The joint working group will further identify priorities and devise working steps for future cooperation in these sectors, Dr. Roessner said.

Shri Sathe said there was a good scope for strengthening collaboration in these fields. India was laying special emphasis in every collaboration of this nature on the achievement of higher productivity and capacity utilisation. As the production

costs were increasing there was an urgent need to achieve productivity targets without any kind of over-runs, he added.

The GDR is assisting India in the development of some coal and lignite projects including Neyveli lignite opencast mine and Niljai opencast coalmine.

DIA

Date : Nov 28, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-Violent World Order

The following is the welcome address by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister for External Affairs and Chairman, Organising Committee at the inaugural session of "Towards a Nuclear Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World" on Nov 14, 1988 at New Delhi:

On behalf of the Organising Committee, it is my pleasure and privilege to wel-
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come you to the inaugural session of the Conference "Towards a Nuclear Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World". To our foreign invitees who have come here from disant lands, I extend a very special welcome. I hope your stay in India would be both fruitful and enjoyable.

Allow me at the outset to pay tribute to Lord Fenner Brockway who was 'the first to suggest the idea of our convening a conference on disarmament and peace. As fate would have it, he passed away just a few months before we were able to organise the conference. While he lived, he waged a relentless battle for the freedom of countries under the colonial yoke, for human rights and dignity and for disarmament and peace.

The explosion of the first nuclear bomb in Hiroshima in 1946 brought about a change in the very doctrines of warfare, in diplomacy and other means of conducting international relations and in the notion of use of force for self-defence. The leaders of India's Independence movement were quick to grasp the far-reaching implications of this development. They warned against the evil of nuclear weapons. Based on the experience of our

independence movement, they made a strong plea for a world government and a non-violent world order. Subsequently, this became a principal concern of independent India's foreign policy. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru devoted a large part of his time and energy to educating public opinion on the catastrophic implications of nuclear weapons, to seeking a cessation of nuclear weapon tests and to the elimination of these weapons.

Despite the warnings and efforts of leaders like Pandit Nehru, scientists and peace-loving people all over the world, the nuclear arms race has continued unabated. It has acquired its own dynamics and inexorable character. A whole set of doctrines has been devised to justify it. Dedicated search for the military uses of science and technology has fuelled it and imparted it a measure of inevitability.

The nuclear weapons in the arsenals of the nuclear weapon powers concentrate an awesome power of destruction. It has recently been established scientifically that the use of ever a small proportion of these weapons will suffice to bring about a nuclear winter' in which there will be no trace of life on earth. Thus the world has been brought to the very edge of a precipice and the survival of the human race is in real peril, only one pressing of the wrong button or one computer malfunction away. Political leaders, scholars, scientists and strategic experts and activists of the peace movements bring home the fact that such a situation cannot be allowed to continue. The urgent and over-riding need to take decisive steps for bringing about nuclear disarmament now was acknowledged almost universally. That even the leading nuclear weapon powers have begun to realise this truth is symbolised in the signing and ratification of the INF Treaty and the impressive progress made in its implementation.

The laudable statesmanship shown by the leaders of the USA and the Soviet Union was long overdue. They must now live up to the new hopes and expectations that the INF Treaty has given rise to. They must persevere in their efforts towards their stated objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere.

There should be no let-up in this process because despite a relative improvement in the international climate, the spectre of nuclear war and of human extinction still stares us in the face. It is, therefore, incumbent on us to take the momentum generated by the INF Treaty to its logical conclusion, by eliminating nuclear weapons altogether. The INF Treaty has led to a new detente between the USA and USSR. Discussions are going on between them on a wide range of global and regional issues which had remained frozen for decades. There is a perceptible movement towards their solution. This should generate confidence leading to further progress in the field of nuclear

disarmament. Thus, the disarmament process and detente should reinforce each other. The arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race, will be finally ended only when the doctrine of deterrence and the balance of terror that goes with it are given up. Only then shall we be able to work towards a world free from nuclear weapons. Now the time has come to consider seriously the changes in doctrines, policies, attitudes and institutions required to manage a nuclear weapon free world order, rooted firmly in non-violence and faithful to the principle of peaceful coexistence.

It is to further these objectives that India tabled an Action Plan for ushering in a Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-violent world order at the recently concluded Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. We took this initiative in the belief that the objective of a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world is shared by all peoples and almost all Governments throughout the world and that the present climate is propitious for taking a decisive step towards the realization of this goal.

The Action Plan contains a package of measures that structurally link the entire range of issues presently on the world disarmament agenda. The centreplace of the Action Plan is the phased elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework. In order to accommodate the security interests of all countries, the Plan contains a comprehensive and consistent set of measures which, given the political will, can be implemented within a finite time period. It calls for sacrifice and statesmanship on the part of not only the nuclear weapon powers, but also the nuclear capable States. It includes other measures of disarmament and various collateral measures which can facilitate the realisation of nuclear disarmament

The Action Plan represents a continuity of our effort ever since independence to promote world peace and disarmament. In preparing it, we have derived inspiration not only from our own ancient traditions and values but also from the effort, dedication and imagination of the world leaders who have taken initiatives in this field, the Six Nation Initiative and the peace movements and other non-Governmental organisations.

Considering Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's abiding interest and effort for disarmament, it is in the fitness of things that this Conference marks the beginning of Pandit Nehru's birth centenary celebrations. We thought one of the best ways of commencing these celebrations would be to organise a Conference on a subject which was closest to his heart.

This Conference has brought together a representative group of leaders of peace movements, experts from disarmament and peace research institutions, scientists and strategic thinkers and other eminent personalities committed to freeing the world from

the menace of nuclear war. You belong to diverse political and social systems, cultures and continents. Yet you are all united by the common bonds of humanity and in your common endeavour to safeguard the future of humankind. Your participation guarantees that the message of Disarmament will reach the peoples all over the world.

Living under the shadow of self-extinction, the pursuit of a nuclear weapon free world is the only choice open to us. Over the next three days you will deliberate the ways and means of achieving this goal. We shall spare no effort in making your stay in Delhi as comfortable as we can.

I welcome you all once again and request Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to inaugurate the Conference.
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DIA USA JAPAN PERU

Date : Nov 14, 1988

Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

India, Indonesia to Diversify Trade

The following is the text of a press release, issued in New Delhi on Nov 17, 1988 on India, Indonesia to diversify Trade:

India and Indonesia have agreed to diversify the mutual trade through their respective trading organisations so as to achieve a more balanced growth of trade. Both sides have also indicated items of export interest to each other. Addressing the Second Meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Business Council (JBC) here today the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. R. Dasmunshi, said that the present level of two-day trade did not reflect the true potential that exists. The share of Indian exports in Indonesia's total imports has been less than half a per cent and Indonesia's exports to India as a percentage of their total exports have also been equally marginal. Attributing the restricted growth in bilateral. trade to its narrow base, Shri Dasmunshi called for diversification of imports and exports and for working out long-term arrangements.

The items which India has identified for exports to Indonesia

include dyes and dye intermediates, medicinal and pharmaceutical products, iron ore pellets, alumina, commercial vehicles, textile machinery, food processing machinery, oil extraction equipment and other items.

The Minister referred to the agreement that the State Trading Corporation (STC) of India and an organisation to be identified by Indonesia would together explore the possibilities of entering into special arrangements for promoting two-way trade and hoped that the Government of Indonesia would complete the task of identifying the counterpart organisation of its side soon.

Participation in projects in Indonesia and joint venture are the other areas of cooperation to be pursued by the two sides. Noting that Indian companies had not been able to win any new projects in Indonesia for the past three years despite the deep interest continually evinced by Indian companies, Shri Dasmunshi hoped that the JBC would help in devising practical ways to resolve the problems. There are many joint ventures in Indonesia and Indian investment is mainly confined to machine tools, heavy electrical machinery, pumps and compressors, chemicals and pharmaceutical materials, paper pulp and sugar. Shri Dasmunshi urged the JBC to promote new joint ventures and dispel apprehensions about the various elements in the foreign investment policy of the Government of Indonesia.

Reiterating the shared commitment to expand bilateral economic relations, the Minister said this could be done through exchange of goods, participation in projects, joint ventures, and cooperation in medium and small industries.

The Indian delegation at the JBC is being led by Dr. Charat Ram, Chairman, Indian Section, Indo-Indonesian Joint Business Council and the Indonesian team is being headed by Mr. Rustam Effendi, Chairman, India-Committee, KADIN, Indonesia. Bilateral issues relating to augmenting trade and economic cooperation were discussed.
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DONESIA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 17, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Call for Global Cooperation on Legislative Measures toSafeguard Jute FAO

The following is the text of a press. release issued in New Delhi on Nov 02, 1988 on call for global cooperation on legislative measures to safeguard jute:

The 24th Session of the Inter-Governmental Group on Jute and Allied Fibres of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations was inaugurated here today by the Union Textile Minister, Shri R. N. Mirdha. Addressing the Conference, Shri Mirdha said that even with the emergence of the alternative packaging materials jute would continue to play a crucial role as a packaging medium for different sectors of the economy. It is in recognition of this role of jute that the Government of India have enacted a legislation which provides for mandatory use of jute packaging materials upto specified percentages of production in certain sectors. Shri Mirdha called upon the FAO to study the legislation existing on the subject of packaging in other countries and explore the possibility of legislative arrangements in its member countries to facilitate the growth of jute sector. He said that while legislating for compulsory packaging, the Government had left enough scope for the synthetic sector also to enjoy a legitimate share of the market.

Shri Mirdha urged the FAO to focus attention on diversification programme for jute and guide the member countries in their commercial exploitation on a large scale. He said diversification was crucial since traditional uses were no longer enough to protect the jute sector in the years to come. There is need to promote high-value non-traditional jute products as these would ensure higher earnings for the producers than many of the traditional items. Referring to a series of diversification programmes for exploiting jute in new areas of application, Shri Mirdha said India had developed rigid laminated jute boxes capable of packing apples and fruits in lieu of plywood chests which would help in the conservation of scarce forest resources. The handloom and handicraft sectors are also using jute yarn and jute fabrics for the production of a number of interesting items having utility value.

The Minister also suggested that FAO should coordinate research activities on jute so that there could be a movement to improve the quality of jute goods worldwide.

Mr. K. S. Mulherin, Chief, Raw Materials and Tropical Products, Commodities and Trade Division of FAO, commended India for its exemplary efforts to ensure the future security of jute through measures to promote and safeguard the use of jute as a packaging material in the face of competition from synthetics. He said not only was India the world's largest jute producing and consuming country but also a growing market for the jute and jute products. India at present accounts for over 42 per cent of global jute production and 32 per cent of world jute consumption. Nearly 4

million farmers in India are dependent on jute for their cash income. Mr. Mulherin said the major task before the current Session was to review the market situation and prepare an authoritative assessment of the trade and price prospects for 1988-89. Prices of jute have recovered from the depressed levels of 1986-87 as a result of a drop in world production last year because of adverse weather conditions. In the current season, world production of jute is provisionally estimated to decline to around 2.8 million tonnes as a result of smaller crop in all major producing countries.

The three-day Session is being attended by over a 100 delegates from all the jute
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Producing, exporting and importing countries including, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Thailand, UK, the EEC, France, besides India and representatives of the International Jute Organisation (IJO), UNCTAD, GATT etc. Among those who spoke at the inaugural session were Shri Zaman, Secretary (Jute), Bangladesh, Mr. Helmert of the EEC and Heads of delegations bf Thailand and Indonesia.

Shri Rafiq Alam, Minister of State for Textiles also attended.

India was elected Chairman of the 24th Session of the Inter-Governmental Group of FAO and Dr. J. K. Bagchi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, was accordingly elected Chairman of the current session Shri L. V. Saptharishi, Joint Secretary, Textile Ministry, is leading the Indian delegation to the 24th Session.

In his speech, Shri Mirdha referred to the pioneering role played by FAO in creating a climate beneficial to the producers and consumers of jute.

Since its inception in 1963, the Inter-Governmental Group has undertaken many important activities on jute, as a forum for monitoring global developments in production, trade and prices of jute and recommending measures for market improvement.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BANGLADESH CHINA FRANCE JAPAN THAILAND UNITED KINGDOM INDONESIA PERU

Date : Nov 02, 1988

Volume No

1995

UNDP Project to Increase Rice Yield

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 30, 1988 on UNDP project to increase rice yield:
Under United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Phase III, it is proposed to take up a project for development of hybrid rice technology in India. Project Directorate on Rice Research of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been assigned to implement the project. The ICAR has already identified rice technology as research thrust area to increase foodgrains production.

The proposed UNDP assisted project will be implemented over a five-year period and is scheduled to be started in 1989-90 terminal year of the Seventh Plan. The UNDP assistance for this project will be in the form of consultancy and equipment. Total estimated assistance likely to be available from UNDP is 2 million US dollars. Country input cost is estimated at Rs. 2 crore for the five-year period for providing additional personnel and cost of equipment. The Planning Commission has approved the ICAR proposal and has forwarded it to the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, for expeditious clearance and inclusion of the project under UNDP country programme - phase III.

In the domain of Indian agriculture there has been a quantum jump in the production of wheat and rice during the last two decades. Recently the rice production has been showing a better growth rate than wheat. Still the production and productivity of rice in India is much less when compared with China, Indonesia, Japan and many other countries.

The project will be implemented at selected lead centres, where major facilities in terms of equipment, training and consultancy are available. The project activities would be monitored by a full-time principal scientist to be appointed for the hybrid rice programme. The proposed lead centres are to be located at Kapurthala in Punjab, Pant Nagar in Uttar Pradesh and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu under the overall supervision of Punjab Agricultural University, GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University respectively.

In addition, basic project research centres are proposed to be set up under
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the guidance of Directorate of Rice Research of ICAR at Hyderabad, at Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi and at Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack. Trial verification centres are proposed to be located at Kaul in

Haryana and Mandya in Karnataka.

Under field conditions, the exotic varieties give about 15 per cent less production and productivity as compared to the hybrid rice. In areas where the irrigation is assured and the rice can be grown for 120 days or more, the hybrid rice has a good potential.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA CHINA INDONESIA JAPAN LATVIA

Date : Nov 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

IRAN

India Offers Help in Rehabilitation of Iran's Economy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 18, 1988 on India's offer to help in rehabilitation of Iran's economy:

India has offered help in rehabilitation of Iran's economy and reconstruction. This offer was made by the Union Finance Minister, Shri S. B. Chavan when Iranian Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Assistance, Mr. Mahdi Nawab called on him here today.

The Finance Minister said that India and Iran have always had cordial relations with each other and it should be the endeavour of both the countries to strengthen the relations further.

AN INDIA

Date : Nov 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Significant Growth in Indo-Italian Trade

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 15, 1988 on significant growth in Indo-Italian trade:

There has been significant increase in India's- exports to Italy during 1987 and in the first half of 1988. In the first half of the current year 1988, the balance of trade has turned in India's favour. This is indicated in the Agreed Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the Indo-Italian Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation, which concluded here today. Both sides have agreed to take measures to strengthen and promote the expansion of bilateral-trade. The Commerce Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, signed the agreed Minutes on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Renato Ruggiero, Minister for Foreign Trade of ltaly, signed on behalf of the Italian Government.

Both sides have agreed to strive for a further diversification of India's exports to Italy. Such an expansion could take place in respect of non-traditional items in the engineering sector as well as in respect of drugs and pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and allied products, as well as textiles, marine products, tobacco and mineral ores.
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Italy has also agreed to explore the possibility of more balanced trade between India and the European Economic Community (EEC) by supporting a better access for Indian products to the EEC market and keeping in view the latest trends in bilateral trade between India and Italy. Shri Dinesh Singh said that with major structural changes that were taking place within the EEC for the creation of an integrated market, India looked forward to Italian assistance in gaining better access for its goods not only in the Italian market but also in the EEC. This was important also in the context of India's large trade deficit with the EEC, he said.

Both sides discussed the utilisation of the existing line of credit of US $ 400 million, an agreement for which was signed in 1985. The Italian side has agreed to consider measures to make this line of credit more attractive so that utilisation of the credit by India could be speeded up. They have indicated their willingness to allow the credit facilities to be availed of in other currencies such as DM, Yen, Swiss France, Italian Lira and EU. In the area of financial cooperation, Italy has further agreed to consider India's request for softening of the terms of Italian credit, including financing of the local cost of industrial projects and the introduction of a line of credit to Indian Financial Institutions on the pattern provided by some other countries to finance projects in priority sectors of Indo-Italian cooperation.

Both sides stressed their desire to promote increased cooperation in the areas of industry, establishment of joint ventures and projects in third countries. Both sides have agreed that there is

need to encourage cooperation between small and medium enterprises of in the two countries and have noted that a project for cooperation between small and medium enterprises of India and Italy sponsored by UNIDO has been under implementation since August, 1987.

Stressing that it is necessary for India to give emphasis to export orientation of its industries in order to sustain its present liberalised policy for import of foreign technology, India requested the Italian side that they should encourage their industries to source their supplies from India to take advantage of the diversified industrial base and skilled manpower available in India particularly through the promotion of joint ventures especially in automobile components, electronic components, machine tools and software. It was agreed that joint participation of Indian and Italian organisations in third countries would be explored.

India has also reiterated the need for Italian assistance in the development of footwear and jewellery design, fashion technology, packaging and quality control. It was agreed that further initiatives could be taken through specialised fairs and increased business contracts to achieve this objective. Mr. Ruggiero expressed the hope that bilateral trade would continue to grow and said that India would continue to be considered a priority partner of cooperation.
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ALY INDIA USA FRANCE

Date : Nov 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Japanese-Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 08, 1988 on Japan's assistance to India:

Japan will extend assistance of Yen 1,252 - million (Rs. 13.63 crore) to India for 1988-89. Am agreement to this effect was signed here today by Shri Eijiro Noda, Japanese Ambassador to India and Shri S. Venkitaramanan, Finance Secretary.

The grant aid will be utilized for improvement of medical

equipment for Regional Cancer Centres in India, for import of diagnostic equipment and services for Madras Cancer Institute and for import of equipment for improvement of educational technology equipment of the Indira Gandhi National Open University.

PAN INDIA

Date : Nov 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Malaysia Awards Projects to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Dehli on Nov 03, 1988 on Indo-Malaysian Trade:

Trade between India and Malaysia has doubled over the last decade. India, has, however, been facing an adverse balance of trade. In recognition of this fact, the Malaysian Government have now agreed toward projects to India. To review the modalities for the award of projects, progress in award and implementation of projects, the "Review Committee" was set up. This is indicated in the Agreed Minutes of the Second Review Committee Meeting between India and Malaysia, which was signed here today. The Commerce Secretary, Shri A. N. Varma, signed on behalf of the Government of India, while the Secretary General of the Ministry of Primary Industries, Mr. Dato Wong Kum Choon, on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.

The Second Review Committee Meeting between India and Malaysia was held in New Delhi during 1-3 November, 1988. The Indian side was led by Shri A. N. Varma, Commerce Secretary and the Malaysian side by Mr. Dato Wong Kum Choon. Earlier, Mr. Choon called on the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. R. Dasmunsi and discussed with him possibilities of strengthening trade relations.

A list of projects of interest to India, in diverse fields like engineering goods; power generation and transmissions; oil refinery; civil constructon of roads, bridges and airports was handed over to the Malaysian side. Presently, Indian companies are executing projects worth approximately $ 54 million in Malaysia. A contract for track rehabilitation worth $ 65 million was signed on 10th October, 1988. Another project in the energy sector is being negotiated.
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Malaysia is one of the 15 countries identified by the Commerce Ministry as a thrust market. Indo-Malaysian trade grew significantly in the last decade. However, while India's imports from Malaysia increased from Rs. 407.65 crores in 1985-86 to Rs. 552.14 crores in 1986-87, consisting mainly of palm oil, urea, rubber and tin, India's exports to Malaysia have grown at a slower pace from Rs. 70.99 crores to Rs. 104.85 crores during the same period. As a measure of reducing the imbalance in trade, India has been suggesting to the Malaysian Government to allot projects in Malaysia to Indian componies on a negotiated basis.

LAYSIA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 03, 1988

Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

Prime Minister's Statement on the Developments in the Maldives

The following is the text of a Suo Moto statement by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha On Nov 04, 1988 regarding the recent developments in the Maldives.

I rise to apprise the House about recent developments in the Maldives. In the morning yesterday, we received reports that the capital of our friendly neighbour, the Maldives was under attack from a group of mercenaries apparently recruited by disgruntled, expatriate Maldivian citizens. These mercenaries arrived by ship. After landing in the capital, Male, at about four in the morning yesterday, they quickly captured some key Government buildings, including the radio station, the TV station and the communications centre. They also surrounded the Presidential Palace. They were reported to have taken hostage one senior Government Minister and a large number of civilians. The objective of the operation, clearly, was to overthrow the democratically elected government of Maldives.

President Gayoom managed to elude the attackers and took refuge in an area outside the Presidential Palace. Shortly thereafter we received a formal appeal for urgent military assistance to put down this plot. This request was repeated by Maldivian emissaries in Colombo and New York. According to reports that we were receiving at regular intervals, the situation was critical.

Maldives is a peaceful country, with no Armed Forces except a small force to maintain law and order. President Gayoom is the democratically elected and popular President of this friendly neighbour of ours. He was re-elected for a third term in office as recently as September 23, 1988, securing over 95% of the votes polled. Maldives is also one of our closest and friendliest neighbours. It appealed to us in desperation in its grave our of need. After carefully considering this appeal, we felt that we must respond positively and go to the aid of a friendly neighbour facing a threat to its sovereignty and its democratic order.

Accordingly, two IAF aircraft with about 300 paratroopers of the Indian Army were despatched yesterday evening on & reconnaissance mission with carefully preplanned options. Later last night, I briefed leaders of the opposition of the action taken. I am glad to inform the House that they successfully landed near Male. I take this opportunity to inform the House about the background of our action
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in support of the democratically elected government of a friendly neighbouring country.

I am proud to report that our troops have carried out their assigned task in an exemplary fashion in the highest traditions of the Indian Armed Forces. They successfully completed their major mission by around 2.30 this morning. The safety of the President and senior members of his government were ensured. The operations have been carried out in an extremely tight time frame without a single Indian casualty till now. More troops have landed in the Maldives during the early hours of this morning to ensure the availability of an adequate force to meet any contingency. Some armed rebels have been captured. Mopping up operations are continuing. We would like to withdraw our troops at the earliest. We are in touch with President Gayoom and hope that the withdrawal can begin today. President Gayoom telephones me early this morning and expressed his deep appreciation of our prompt and timely assistance. We are happy to have been of assistance to the friendly people of the Maldives, with whom we have always enjoyed close and warm ties. The attempt to spread terror and undermine peace and stability in our region has been frustrated. I am sure the House would wish to join me in conveying the country's good wishes and support to President Gayoom and the people of the Maldives. We extend to our Armed Forces our appreciation and our warmest congratulations. This was an operation involving coordination between all three wings of the services. The country is proud of the speed and efficiency with which the operation was planned and executed.

Sir, our response to developments in the Maldives is a clear manifestation of our commitment to the promotion of peace and stability in our region. It is in keeping with our belief that countries in the region can resolve their problems in a spirit of

friendship and cooperation, free of outside influences. We have kept in touch with a number of friendly countries on these developments. I am happy that the response to our constructive approach, both in our neighbourhood and elsewhere, has been positive and indeed heartening.

Thank you Sir.

LDIVES USA SRI LANKA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA

Date : Nov 04, 1988

Volume No

1995

NORWAY

Indo-Norwegian Aid Agreement Signed

The following the the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1988 on Indo-Norwegian Aid Agreements:

India and Norway have signed two agreements, to the value of NOK 32.85 million (Rs. 65 crores approximately), here today. The first agreement is to finance part of the Universal Immunisation Programme to the tune of NOK 30 million and the second agreement is to undertake the necessary background studies in order to prepare an energy conservation programme and examine the viability of this for the mechanized fishing boats and the motorized traditional fishing crafts.

The agreements were signed by Mr. Per O Grimstad, Director General, Ministry of Development Cooperation, Royal Norwegian Government and Shri S. Vara-
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dachary, Joint Secretary (TC), Ministry of Finance,, on behalf of their respective Governments.

The Indo-Norwegian Annual Consultations were held here from 14th to 16th November, 1988. Both sides discussed the areas of cooperation between the two countries in future years, specially in such areas as transfer of high technology, computer based structural analysis, extension of family health programme, Integrated Child Development Services, Women's Sector and other fields like environment and fisheries.

Norwegian Assistance to India commenced in 1952 in a modest way

with the Indo-Norwegian Integrated Fisheries Project in Kerala. Since then development cooperation between India and Norway has steadily increased over the years and is currently at NOK 140 million for the years 1987/1990. The Norwegian Aid is concentrated in the fields of Health and Family Welfare, Fishering Development, Social, Education Programme for Women and Children and Science & Technology. In addition, there is a Commodity Programme and Research Cooperation in Oceanography and Marine Geology.

RWAY INDIA USA

Date : Nov 16, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Alleged Import of Heavy Water from Norway

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 03, 1988:

In response to a query from Reuters Correspondent, the Official Spokesman made the following statement about alleged import of heavy water from Norway:

"India has not imported any heavy water from Norway. The only heavy water that we import is from the Soviet Union for the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station and this is under the IAEA safeguards. The rest of our heavy water requirement is met out of our domestic production. "

In reply to a question, the Official Spokesman said that India has never imported any heavy water from Norway.

In reply to another question, the Official Spokesman said that bulk of our requirement is met from our own domestic production. It is a little amount that is imported from the Soviet Union.

RWAY INDIA

Date : Nov 03, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Maldives

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 03, 1988:

We have got reports from our High Commission in Male and also directly from the Maldivian Government that there was an attack from a group of people who had come in by two ships in the early hours of the night. The initial reports are that they are of Sri Lankan nationality. They speak several languages, including Tamil. Some reports say that they also speak Sinhala. There is no confirmation, but
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according to our information they have captured several installations, including the Radio Station, the Television Station and are also reported to have taken prisoner several senior Government personnel. Whether they have been taken prisoners or are under house-arrest, we do not know as they are incommunicado and in this respect we have heard about the Minister of National Security and the Minister in-charge of Presidential Affairs. We do. not know whether they have been taken prisoners or are under house-arrest. The details are sketchy. But the President himself and the Foreign Minister are safe according to our information. The fighting is still continuing. They have asked for our assistance. The request is under consideration. We believe that a request has also been made for assistance to the United States.

In response to a query whether the request from the Maldive authorities was for military assistance, the Official Spokesman said yes.

LDIVES INDIA USA

Date : Nov 03, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Elections for the North Eastern Provincial Council 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 Nov 20, 1988:

We are happy that the elections for the North Eastern Provincial Council have been held in a peaceful manner and there have been no untoward incidents. The elections have taken place in three districts on the basis of the 1986 electoral register. 342,000 registered voters took part in these elections and the gratifying aspect of this development is that this electoral process has gone through smoothly despite threats of non-cooperation and violence by the JVP and the LTTE and also a degree of non-cooperation by some sections of the District administration. Despite this, the process has gone forward and we would commend the role played by the IPKF which ensured fool-proof law and order. They had arranged for proper security measures for the elections. They made it possible for polling to be done in a free and fair manner. Because of their positive role, the threat of the terrorists did not materialise and many persons were encouraged to come out and exercise their franchise. Soon a Provincial Council comprising EPRLF, SLMC and UNP members will be formed.

The results from two districts - Batticaloa and Trincomalee - have come in. When this Provincial Council is installed, a major demand of the Tamils would have been met and also an important clause of the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord would stand implemented. It is the hope that this Provincial Council once it starts functioning would become the vehicle for Tamil aspirations and will represent them in a democratic fashion. It is hoped that this Council will enable them to gain their other rightful demands relating to devolution, autonomy and the Tamil language. All these rightful demands and aspirations of the Tamil people would be voiced in this Provincial Council. This is thanks to the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord and the IPKF. This is a favourable development for the Tamil people, the Sri Lankans and the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord.
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I LANKA INDIA USA MALDIVES

Date : Nov 20, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

President Gorbachev's Visit to India

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 20, 1988 on President Gorbachev's visit to India:

The Soviet and Indian leaders met and continued their discussions today. The Prime Minister and President Gorbachev had an hour and 20 minutes meeting this morning, one-to-one and they had about 3 hours meeting last night over dinner. This morning, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Narasimha Rao and the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Agairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh met their counterparts, Foreign Minister E. A. Shevardnadze and Deputy Foreign Minister I. A. Ragatchev for a separate 90 minutes discussion.

Again, bilateral relations between India and the Soviet Union took up a good deal of the time of the two leaders and their Foreign Ministers. Several avenues were explored for raising these bilateral relations to qualitatively higher levels. They examined long-term possibilities for cooperation. They looked at projects and areas which had their own inner dynamism and which could, on a sustained basis, be self-generating. For example, much emphasis was laid on ways and means of attracting the private sector in India and inducing it to play a major role in improving Indo-Soviet trade and economic relations. Yet another idea which was discussed and which both leaders welcomed, was the possibility of allowing Indian companies, both in the private sector and in the public sector, to enter into direct contact with individual constituent Republics in the USSR, and with individual enterprises in that country. To facilitate this direct contact, the possibility of Indian companies setting up their offices in such constituent Republics of the Soviet Union was also discussed.

On the bilateral front, apart from the 55 joint ventures that we talked about yesterday, today there were discussions on the possibility of cooperation through joint ventures in third countries. The need to improve after-sales service was mentioned to the Soviet side and both sides recognised the need to pay greater attention to quality and quality control in the goods and machinery that they trade in.

Disarmament was one of the principal points of focus during the talks. Special emphasis was laid on nuclear disarmament and the need to carry forward the initiatives already made by both

countries in this regard.

During their talks on issues of international importance, the visit of the Soviet leader to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, came up for discussions.

Sino-Indian and Sino-Soviet relations were also discussed. These discussions took place in the context of the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to China next month and in the context of the possibility of a Sino-Soviet summit early next year.

The situation in South Asia formed part of the discussions between the two delegations. On Pakistan, recent developments in the democratic process and the post-election scene were discussed. The current situation in Sri Lanka and the Maldives was touched upon. The evolving situation in Afghanistan after the signing of the Geneva Accords was also discussed. The Foreign Ministers talked in some detail about economic assistance to Afghanistan and the possibility of both the Soviet Union and India co-operating in the economic development of Afghanistan in a tripartie way.
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The Foreign Ministers discussed Kampuchea. The Soviet side was briefed about Mr. K. Natwar Singh's recent visit to Paris and his meetings with Prince Sihanouk and Hun Sen. The Soviets were also briefed and given an up-to-date account of our Prime Minister's recent discussions with Hun Sen. Both sides agreed to remain in close touch on the Kampuchean issue and to work together to assist in the ecoonmic development of Kampuchea and the other Indo-China States.

The talks also covered West Asia, Angola and Namibia.

Overall, the three-day visit of the Soviet President has given a new impulse and impetus to Indo-Soviet relations. The large number of agreements signed during the visit are eloquent testimony of the fruitful and productive nature of this visit. The 3.2 billion Rouble credit is in fact the biggest ever signed between the two countries.

The public statements made by the Soviet and the Indian leaders and the tenor and warmth of private discussions show quite clearly that Indo-Soviet relations are important to both countries and are growing ever stronger.

In reply to a question that President Gorbachev has said in his public statement that the Soviet Union attaches great importance to prospects of India improving its relations with China, the Official Spokesman said that our leadership has said so on more than one occasion that we want to improve relations with all our neighbours, including China.

In reply to another question, the Official Spokesman said that both the Soviet Union and India expressed fullest support to Afghanistan, including helping Afghanistan bilaterally and in a tripartite way.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CHINA PAKISTAN MALDIVES SRI LANKA AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND FRANCE UNITED KINGDOM ANGOLA NAMIBIA

Date : Nov 20, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the President of SWAPO

The following is text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 22, 1988 on the visit of the President of SWAPO:

The President of SWAPO, H.E. Mr. Sam Nujoma, is paying a working visit to India from November 23 to 26, 1988 on the invitation of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

He arrives in Bombay on the evening of November 23rd with a delegation of six including the Secretary for Defence and the Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Next morning they will fly to Pune to visit the TELCO works and the National 'Defence Academy at Khadakvasala.

During his two-day stay in Delhi 'the President of SWAPO will Call on the President and have talks with the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister on the latest developments in South-West Africa, the outcome of the four-nation talks on Angola and Namibia and the tasks confronting SWAPO in the implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 435.

India has offered consistent support to SWAPO in its struggle for Namibian independence and regards SWAPO as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Namibia. India was among the first countries to extend full diplomatic recognition to SWAPO. The SWAPO Embassy in New Delhi was inaugurated by SWAPO President himself during his last visit to India in May 1986.
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DIA ANGOLA NAMIBIA

Date : Nov 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sharpeville Six

The following is the text of a statement made by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 25, 1988 on Sharpeville Six:

We are most relieved that as a result of international pressures, the death sentences on the "Sharpeville Six" have been commuted. At the same time, we are totally dissatisfied with the long prison sentences which remain in force. We are firmly of the opinion that the "Sharpeville Six" should be released without any further delay.

DIA

Date : Nov 25, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO INDIA

Speech by the President of India Shri R. Venkataraman at theBanquet in Honour of H.E. Mr. Mikhail S. Gorbachev

The following is the text of a speech by the president of India Shri R. Venkataraman at the banquet in Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi on Nov 18, 1988 in honour of the Chairman of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR & General Secretary of the C.P.S.U. Central Committee H.E. Mr. Mikhail S. Gorbachev:

It is indeed a great pleasure to greet Your Excellency and Madame Gorbacheva once again in our midst. May I, at the outset, extend to both of you our warm and cordial welcome.

You are no strangers to India; no visitor from the Soviet Union

can be. But in you, Your Excellency, every Indian sees a true and trusted friend - a friend who has touched a special chord in our national consciousness.

We hail you not just as a worthy leader of your great nation but as a world statesman of vision and courage who has made pioneering attempts to draw mankind away from the nuclear precipice. You have, in the process, initiated a fundamental change in the climate of international relations by encouraging trust where there was mistrust and dialogue where there was stalemate. We welcome you, Your Excllency, as a shantiduta - an ambassador of peace.

We note with immense pleasure the fact that the first country you have chosen to visit after assuming the distinguished additional responsibility of Head of State, is India. My first visit abroad as President was also to the Soviet Union. These are more than mere coincidences; they reflect deep concordances.

Indo-Soviet relations have a depth of sincerity and a width of range that is not common in the relations between two states. Our national experiences and history have been woven on different looms and yet the two tapestries reveal commonalities of pattern. Lenin and Gandhi were two seminal personalities, whose ideas about the organization of political, economic and social life have contributed greatly to the shaping of the 20th century world.

Four days ago, we commenced the celebrations of Jawaharlal Nehru's birth
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centenary. We remember his outstanding and pioneering, role in building the unique relationship that exists between our two great countries and peoples.

Another precious memory comes to mind today - that of Indira Gandhi. As you are aware, it was during her term of office as Prime Minister, in 1971, that the steady growth of our multi-faceted relationship flowered in the shape of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation. That Treaty has served our countries well and continues to provide a fundamental and reliable framework for our ever-expanding relationship.

In recent years, our relations have received a qualitative enrichment and are now encompassing fresh areas and forms of cooperation. They have acquired a new and unprecedented dynamism, depth and maturity. The year-long Festivals in India and the Soviet Union, have been unique events that have promoted goodwill and friendship among our two peoples. As the Festival of the Soviet Union in India draws to a close, we can look back with deep satisfaction at the people-to-people awareness that has been generated in both our nations by the Festivals.

Science and Technology have emerged as an important area of Indo-Soviet collaboration with a vast potential for onward thrust into highly sophisticated fields yet known to the world. Our economic cooperation in traditional fields has also proceeded satisfactorily. The constantly changing nature and requirements of our economies, however, demand continuous identification of new opportunities and areas, new forms and new instruments of cooperation. This acquires added importance in the context Of changes in the structure of world economy and in the patterns of trade and economic relationship that are taking place.

When I visited the Soviet Union in July last, we were just pulling out of one of the worst droughts that the country has faced. Thanks to the bountiful monsoons in all parts of the country, we anticipate a sharp recovery in agricultural production and incomes, and a further thrust to the industrial development with spread effect on other sectors of the economy. It is our expectation that we can look forward to overall economic growth of the order of 8-9 per cent in 1988-89. On the external front, our balance of payments continues to be under strain, though the export growth in the last two years has been encouraging. We have set our sights high for the next plan and we hope to achieve a little more than our targets.

Major changes are taking place in both countries that present both a challenge and an opportunity. The perestroika under way in the Soviet Union is revolutionary in content and has a global significance. The Indian people are following with deep interest the attempts of the Soviet people under your leadership, President Gorbachev, to bring about, what you call, a second revolution in your country. We wish you every success in your endeavours.

The world has changed greatly since the end of the Second World War. Never before has the world been faced with the threat of global extinction of civilisation; never before have the affluent countries consumed so much of the world's resources; and never before have there been such wide disparities in the world. At the same time, never before has man had the scientific and technological means to give millions of people around the globe an opportunity to live a life of dignity and without want. Our thinking, however, has lagged behind the changed realities of the world. The situation calls for a concerted effort to use the collective wisdom of mankind in meeting and finding answers to the challenges before the world today.

Fortunately, some sane voices in the world have called for a halt to the world's uncontrolled race towards disaster. As the authors of the Declaration on Principles of a Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-

Violent World signed here in New Delhi two years ago, India and the Soviet Union share a common vision of the future of mankind. That document of far-reaching significance represents an attempt to break away from outmoded thinking based on a narrow concept of self-interest. It should now be our endeavour to carry the perspectives of that Declaration forward. - As you have observed., Mr. President, in your famous book Perestroika (and I quote):

"We want peaceful competition different social systems to develop unimpeded, to encourage mutually advantageous cooperation rather than confrontation and arms race. We want people of every country to enjoy prosperity, welfare and happiness. The road to this lies through proceeding to a nuclear-free, non-violent world."

A change in the international atmosphere is already being felt. The Treaty on the elimination of intermediate nuclear forces, has been historic and, Your Excellency, we in India note with profound admiration your own role in bringing it about. This needs to be followed up now with further measures of disarmament. It would be good if the proposed treaty on a 50% cut in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the Soviet Union and USA can be signed, if outer space can be kept free of nuclear weapons and if the other nuclear weapon powers can come to be involved in the process of disarmament at an early date. The Action Plan put forward by India at the IIIrd Special Session of the United Nations on Disarmament represents a detailed blue-print for the consideration of the world community.

The feeling of hope, expectation, and even optimism that surrounds the resolution of so-called regional conflicts is another encouraging sign. The Geneva Accords were widely viewed as the harbinger of peace to the troubled land of the Afghans. But this has unfortunately not happened so far. All the parties concerned should scrupulously observe these Accords. Only then would the way be paved for realising an independent, sovereign, non-aligned Afghanistan, free of outside interference. A peaceful and stable Afghanistan would not only lead to prsoperity and growth in that country but peace and stability in the entire region.

There are also glimmerings of hope for a peaceful negotiated settlement in Kampuchea.

We are happy that the Iran-Iraq war has ended and that hopeful signs for a resolution of conflicts in other parts of the world are gradually emerging.

India too is in favour of maintaining a dialogue with all its neighbours, big or small. Only a healthy dialogue can generate greater trust and confidence and lead to the resolution of differences and enhanced cooperation among nations.

In the modem era security cannot be ensured by merely military means. Unchecked arms-spending only creates greater suspicion and fuels a race that no country, no matter how rich and strong, can really afford. The world is crying out for more resources for development and for tackling the problems like eradication of poverty, ignorance and disease, combating of the menace of drugs abuse and terrorism.

Each age faces challenges and problems of its own. The institutions of the world have to make systemic adaptations to meet the fresh challenges of every age. Rigidity must give way to pragmatism. Mr. President, your personal contribution to the new thinking in the world today has been profound. Even diehard sceptics of yesterday are now beginning to change their view. People have been forced to accept the interdependence of the world.

It is our hope and confidence that the climate of opinion which you have helped to build - the climate of dialogue, trust and understanding - will usher in a mil
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lennium of peace and prosperity in the world.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I now request you to join me in raising your glasses in a toast to the health, happiness and success of the outstanding world statesman and great friend of India His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev; to the health and happiness of Madame Gorbacheva; to the ever growing Indo-Soviet friendship and cooperation; and to peace and prosperity of people around the world.

DIA USA PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SWITZERLAND AFGHANISTAN IRAN IRAQ

Date : Nov 18, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO INDIA

Address of the President of India at the Presentation of theIndira Gandhi Peace Prize for 1987

The following is the address of the President of India at Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Function held in New Delhi on Nov 19, 1988:

It is an honour and privilege for me to present the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize to the most distinguished statesman of our times. His

Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev. The Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development has been instituted in memory of Indira Gandhi who strove hard during her life time to rid the world of Nuclear Weaponry. The awarding of the Prize this year to President Gorbachev is a fitting recognition of the historic contributions that he has made towards creating a sener and safer world.

Indira Gandhi was a remarkable human being. It was my privilege to know her near and work closely with her.

Indira Gandhi's concern for the weak and the oppressed is well known. Within the country she cared for the minorities, weaker sections and the disabled. She adopted several measures to ameliorate their conditions. This concern was not confined to the narrow boundaries of India but spread over the entire globe. Her gallant fight against apartheid in South Africa and for the freedom and independence of Namibia reverberated in the United Nations, the Commonwealth and in the Non-Aligned Movement. Equally passionate was her crusade against nuclear weapons which threaten to destroy not merely individual countries but the entire world and more - the entire civilisation. Her impassioned words, uttered in this very hall during the Non-Aligned Summit in 1983 still echo in my ears (and I quote) :

Each day, each hour the size and lethality of nuclear weapons increase The hood of the cobra is spread. Humankind watches in frozen fear... The destructive power contained in nuclear stockpiles can kill human life, indeed all life, many times over and might well prevent its reappearance for ages to come".

Earlier, during a visit to the Soviet Union, a nation she deeply admired for its achievements and endeavours, she had said:

The search for peace calls for determined effort. Peace cannot be attained by waiting and hoping, but through action and perseverence. Even for an individual there cannot be a private quest for peace, nor for a nation can it be merely a national effort. It must be an international imperative. A day before he was assassinated Mahatma Gandhi said that the way to peace was to live amidst strife and to struggle with all one's might to overcome it. This applies to nations no less than it does to individuals. Dreams must be accompanied by endeavour.

Historians have long debated whether human life has been determined by the role of individuals or by larger social
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factor. Such a debate, in my view, is sterile. Every individual is a-product of his time. His thinking and attitudes are shaped by his environment and experience. And yet in every age it is given to some few people to grasp or synthesise the complex phenomena that surround us and show the path forward. Not everyone has the required courage, vision and the Commitment to

do so. In our times you, President Gorbachev, are one such rare being. Realising the stark calamity that confronts humanity, you have taken time by the forelock and initiated a set of ideas and actions that can show the world a way out of the impasse of conflict and violence. What you have attempted goes beyond diplomacy to statesmanship; beyond politics to philosophy.

Mr. President, you have stimulated a Process of hard thinking about the priorities before mankind and the path it must take. We in India share your vision for, the future of mankind which has been embodied in the historic Delhi Declaration on Principles of a Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-Violent World. All right-minded people in the world, all men of peace, must share this vision, which is universal and timesless.

Your espousal of non-violence strikes a Particularly responsive , chord in the hearts of the people of India, the land of Gautama Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi. Twenty-five centuries ago the Buddha declared that non-violence is truely the faith among faiths: Ahimsa parmo dharmah. He taught that non-injury and compassion were the only answer to the aches and anguishes of living. In our own times Mahatma Gandhi moulded nonviolence into a most potent political weapon for dealing with the clashes and conflicts within societies and among nations. Examining history he saw a steady march of ahimsa in the ascent of man, once hunter and cannibal, into a builder of societies and systems. Mahatma Gandhi concluded:

that the world of tommorrow must be a society based on non-violence.

On the eve of the second world war he wrote:

One thing is certain. If the mad call for armaments continues, it is bound to result in a slaughter such as never occurred in history. If there is a victor left the very victory will be a living death for the nation that emerges victorious. There is no escape from the impending doom save through a bold and unconditional acceptance of the non-violent method with all its glorious implications.

A friend recalled to me just a couple of days ago how Mahatma Gandhi reacted to the news of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. He closed his eyes for a while and uttered in that voice of infinite gentleness that he was more than ever convinced in the inevitability of non-violence.

A product of a great land and a worthy people who have contributed so much to the development of human thought and achievements, you, Mr. President, have captured the imagination of Peace loving people all over the world. That You have done so in a remarkably short period of time reveals both your earnestness and dynamism.

There is a new stirring of hope within Your country, thanks to your bold internal policies, and in the world at large, owing to Your imaginative initiatives of disarmament and cooperaton. The world may yet be divided into political camps, but the endeavours of statesmen like Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and you, form a single camp of peace, embracing all peoples and cutting across ideological boundaries and inherited prejudices. By choosing you for the conferment of the Indira Gandhi Prize the international jury has only confirmed the global admiration for your valiant efforts towards nuclear disarmament and universal peace.

Distinguished guests, in awarding this Prize to President Gorbachev we not only recognise President Gorbachev's tireless, <pg-375>

and persistent efforts towards achieving these goals, but also express our full support for his bold initiatives and action.

May success attend his efforts and may they bring to this good earth the benediction of peace.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA USA JAPAN

Date : Nov 19, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO INDIA

Speech of the Prime Minister at Presentation of Indira GandhiPeace Prize for 1987

The following is the text of a speech made by the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi on Nov 19, 1988 on the presentation of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 1987 to H.E. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev:

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, made the following speech on the occasion of the presentation of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 1987 to H.E. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union:

We are honoured to have once again in our midst, for the second time in two years, a trusted friend of India, the great leader of a great nation and a friendly people, an outstanding world

statesman.

Gathered here today, Mr. President, are Indians from all walks of life to salute you for the contribution you have made to peace, disarmament and development. The bold and imaginative lead which you have given has opened, for the first time since the invention of nuclear weapons, the possibility of sustained peace in the world. For the first time in four decades, those armed with nuclear weapons are beginning to look for an alternative to the balance of nuclear terror. We have witnessed the dismantling, of an entire nuclear weapons system. Ahead lies the prospect of a significant cut in strategic arms. The logical conclusion of the road you have embarked upon is the elimination of nuclear weapons accompanied by general and complete disarmament. Beyond that we look to a new world order. Through the Delhi Declaration of two years ago, you affirmed your commitment to the path of non-violence. We are, therefore, confident of your cooperation in building the new world order on the basis of non-violence and the principles of peaceful coexistence.

The new world order which we look to would be fashioned of the dreams of Indira Gandhi. She saw all of humanity as one and all the world as one. In her immortal words:

"Our world is small but it has room for all of us to live together in peace and beauty, and to improve the quality of the lives of men and women of all races and creeds."

On behalf of the Government and the people of India and on my own behalf, I extend to you our warmest felicitations on being a most worthy recipient of this year's Indira Gandhi Prize.

At this historic moment, when the names of Indira Gandhi and Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev are joined together in the name of peace, disarmament and development our mind goes back to the historic Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation which Indira Gandhi concluded with the Soviet Union in August 1971 at a crucial moment in our history.

The Soviet Union assisted us in our industrial development at a time when others were attempting to shake our confidence in our capacity to become selfreliant. New forms of trade were devised which have led to the Soviet Union becoming one of our most important trading partners. Innovations in cultural ex-
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changes and scientific cooperation have drawn our peoples close together. We thank the Soviet Union for having proved a tried and trusted friend.

As you have done in the Soviet Union, we too in India are responding to changing challenges and evolving circumstances. The mind cannot remain imprisoned in the imperatives of the past. We

are firm on principles and consistent in policies but flexible and innovative in responding to new developments. Our commitment is to the eradication of poverty. That goal we are pursuing with single-minded purposefulness.

For more than three decades ' India and the Soviet Union have enjoyed a close relationship. Today we can justify claim that much of the new thinking about disarmament and the new world order derives from the relationship between India and the Soviet Union. We have been an example to all the world of peaceful coexistence at its best, of two different socio-economic systems working in close cooperation on the basis of equality mutual understanding and mutual trust. Indo-Soviet friendship has benefitted millions and harmed none. It is a relationship built by the Peoples of the two countries over decades. It is a demonstration of what can be achieved through goodwill, mutual respect and mutual trust. The Delhi Declaration has placed our bilateral relationship in a larger global context. It signals the joint endeavours of our two countries to work together and with others towards world peace and world cooperation. Its historic significance lies in the message it gives the world of our vision of the world we seek.

We appreciate the constructive role being Played by the Soviet Union under the dynamic leadership of President Gorbachev for the defusion of confrontatation, tension and conflict around the world. The world needs a comprehensive system of global security which enables all to live in peace, equality and mutual respect. We look forward to working with the Soviet Union and the international community in general in devising a new system.

The task before us extends well beyond economic development, peace and security. The advance of science and technology has placed in our grasp the possibility of material growth for all, abolishing the spectre of poverty, opening the doors of opportunity for all. But science and technology cannot give us the values required to ensure for our people a fulfilling life as individuals or a fulfilling role for ourselves as a nation. It is when science fuses with spirituality that fulfillment arises. Mere material prosperity will give no satisfaction if it is divorced from the basic values which have sustained our civilization over thousands of years. Equally, spirituality alone to the deteriment of a search for solutions to poverty would be tantamount to cruelty and neglect.

President Gorbachev and his people can reach back into their history to search out the basic truths which have resulted in the evolution of the great nations and the great cultures that the Soviet Union represents. We, for our part, can also reach back into our traditions as the representative of the only civilisation in the world to combine both antiquity and continuity with the celebration of diversity. It is from these enduring recesses of our national memory that we will retrieve

the fundamental values which will take forward our respective civilisations, indeed the civilisation of the world.

The values which I talk of are truth and nonviolence, tolerance and compassion, and appreciation of the unity of the human family, a recognition of the oneness of the world we share. The new world order we seek will be differentiated from the present one less by the indices of prosperity and strength than by it being anchored in the mental attitudes and value systems which alone can assure sustained peace and sustainable development.

Mr. President, the world reposes great hope in you. You have shown within your
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country how dynamic change can be linked to fidelity to first principles. Glasnost and perestroika have entered the vocabulary of all nations. In shaking your country out of obsolete grooves, you have shaken the world itself out of conventional ruts of thought. Rarely has it been given to one man to foster so much new thinking, so many new ideas, so fresh and innovative an approach to human affairs.

The worldwide revolution in thinking which you have provoked also places upon your shoulders a heavy responsibility. Each element of the new world order we seek is as important as the other. The elements together constitute an integral whole. They must be put together comprehensively. Partial solutions might make international relations even more difficult and dangerous than they are at present. Hence, the responsibility which devolves on you of carrying forward to its, logical conclusion the processes which you have started.

We need a world which respects the sovereign democratic equality of all nations, however large or small, whatever their differences might be in military or economic strength. What the world needs is a recognition of interdependence, where deprivation in any one segment is seen as a loss to all, and where prosperity is shared because the sharing of prosperity increases prosperity all round. We need a world which totally abjures the twin evils of racism and colonialism. We need a world where the environment is conserved, the ecological balance is protected and pollution forestalled or quickly rectified. We need cooperation and coexistence. We need an end to deterrnce, to the death and destruction which deterrence stirs.

India and the Soviet Union have worked together to show the world this way. We look forward to continuing our march as companions in a common journey, as friends of old standing treasuring their friendship.

It is sometimes argued that the dissolution of bloc politics which you, Mr. President, have put on the agenda of the

international community has rendered nonalignment obsolete. On the contrary, nonalignment has rarely been more relevant than it is at this juncture because, as the world begins to see things our way, we must remain on hand to participate in the reordering of the world order so that the new order accords with our principles, our policies and our priorities.

If you will permit me a moment of personal sentiments, I feel the presence of my mother, Indira Gandhi, looking over us now. From the letters which my grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, wrote to her from prison, she learnt of the Great October Revolution and the profound changes that the revolution had ushered in, not only in your country but the world over. She accompanied her father to the Soviet Union on his historic journey there in 1955 as Prime Minister of free India. As Prime Minister herself, she nurtured with loving care the tender plant of Indo-Soviet friendship.

That plant has now been handed over to our care. You, Mr. President, came to be the chosen leader of the Soviet Union at just about the same time as I was elected Prime Minister. Together, we have carried forward the great traditions of our mutual friendship. Never more intensively than in the last three years have high-level exchanges between our countries reached the pitch attained in recent times. Never before has there been such diversity and such a wide range in contacts between our two countries. Never before have Soviet people citizens witnessed such a broad spectrum of the culture of India. Never before have the people of India seen so much of your way of life. You and I can affirm with pride that we have been true to our foreebars, who made friendship between India and the Soviet Union a vital element in the national life of each country and the vital component of international relations. Likewise, our friendship continued to provide a new and
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hopeful dimension to world peace and global cooperation.

In honouring you, 'we honour also the memory of Indira Gandhi, a great architect of our friendship, a stateswoman without peer, whose contribution to peace, disarmament and development is part of the contemporary history of humankind.

We welcome you to India and thank you for accepting this token of our appreciation.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC OMAN

Date : Nov 19, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO INDIA

Address of the Vice-President of India at the Presentation ofthe Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 1987

The following is the address of the Vice-President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma at the ceremony to confer Indira Gandhi Award on Mr. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, held in New Delhi on Nov 19, 1988

We are gathered today for a function which is at once poignant and heart-warming. It is poignant because of its association with Indira Gandhi, whom we miss with a pain that is still fresh. But as it is her birthday, we should rather remember her radiance and her achievement and our own good fortune in having been her colleagues. We must dedicate ourselves to the causes which were dear to this great heroine of history.

This function is heart-warming because we have in our midst a statesman who is hailed the world over for his vision and brilliant initiatives. To honour His Excellency Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is to honour dynamism, imagination and daring in the cause of peace.

Leaders of nations have to look after the interests of their people. But when their concerns range beyond their place and time, they are called, statesmen. Among statesmen there are a select few who give a new turn to human affairs. In our country three belonged to this select band - Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. They thought of all mankind as their family. They gave their life and energy to making the world a saner, safer place.

We have with us today a statesman who has already made a difference to history. He has held the world's attention ever since he assumed high office in the Soviet Union. His ideas and actions are permeated by the belief that the human spirit must constantly reach out to new levels of fulfilment, untrammelled by encrusted habit and prejudice. The Perestroika that he propounds is more than the restructuring of institutions and methods within his country. It is a recognition that growth and evolution are the law of life. The "Openness" that he advocates is more than candid self-examination. It means being open to new ideas, to new shafts of light and insight.

Only a short while ago the international scene was so dominated by distrust and hate that it looked as though doom could not be averted. But hope has broken, out. Peace has found a new chance. To this change, President Gorbachev has made a personal contribution that is crucial. He has consistently espoused the importance of global cooperation for global survival. The sweep

and sincerity of his proposals on disarmament have silenced the cynics and scoffers. The declaration which President Gorbachev - and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed in this city two years ago reminds nations and peoples that non-violence is the only true road to mankind's preservation in our nuclear age.

The purpose of the Indira Gandhi Prize; instituted by the Indian nation in her memory, is to strengthen peace and celebrate life. President Gorbachev has made a solid contribution towards this objective. We are most grateful to him that he has come all the way to receive the Prize. This is a further proof of his dedication to peace and of his friendship for the people of India.
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May I wish President Gorbachev long life and continuing success in his work as a guardian of peace - of peace, which is the supreme cause and the quintessential need today.

"From India's past, ancient beyond reckoning, comes a prayer - startlingly relevant at this point in world affairs and to the future of all existence. I quote: Peace in the infinite cosmos, Peace in the stratosphere enveloping our planet, Peace on earth, Peace in the Ocean regions, May that Peace prevail.

President Gorbachev has already taken humankind a step closer towards that ethereal goal. History has acknowledged this. We in India have faith that his vision and superlative leadership will enforce and advance the cause of Peace even further in the months and years to come.

DIA USA

Date : Nov 19, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO INDIA

President's Speech at the Closing Function of Festival of USSRin India

The following is the text of the speech of the President of India at closing function of Festival of USSR in New Delhi on Nov 19, 1988:

This gathering of friends from Soviet Union and India marks the finale of the Festival of USSR in India. It is the culmination of

our joint celebrations launched in July last year at the inaugural of the Festival of India in USSR. The symbolic intermingling of the waters of the sacred Ganga and the mighty Volga to nurture a sapling planted in Kremlin represents what the two Festivals of Friendship had set out to achieve - to bring millions of India and Soviet people together in a voyage of mutual discovery and appreciation of our cultural heritage and contemporary achievements and way of life.

We can say with justified pride that the outcome of these unprecedented festivals has surpassed even our most optimistic expectations. They have opened a new chapter in the chronicle of Indo-Soviet friendship, underlining the valuable role of interaction amongst people as a vehicle of diplomacy.

The Festivals have been much more than mere entertainment. They were not mere transitory shows but permanent experiences, They have given a fresh fillip to our multi-faceted relationship, and sparked off new ideas and opened new vistas of cooperation. The sapling of friendship will no doubt grow into a gorgeous tree nourished by the same care and affection that our two people have for each other.

These Festivals manifest the evolution of the unique mutual empathy that has existed between our peoples over centuries. Excavation sites in Soviet Central Asia and North India are an eloquent testimony to the numerous contacts and reciprocal influences between our two countries. From almost the 4th century substantial tracts of the territory of India and the Soviet Union have known political, cultural, religious and economic ties. Our lands have known philosophic religious force of Buddhism and Islam, by the lineages of the Kushans, the Turks and the Afghans, by the travels of statesmen, scholars, divines, artists, craftmen and merchants.

Nearer our own times, in the immediate aftermath of the industrial revolution India and the Soviet Union have had
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a common hearbeat. High level contacts were established between Gandhi and Tolstoy through their famous correspondence. In the early years of this century Jawaharlal Nehru was inspired by Soviet Planning and Lenin's Philosophy.

Independence brought a profound shift in our relationship. Until then relations between our two countries though deep, were fragmented. But now an ancient destiny fulfilled itself with two states in direct, whole-hearted and untrammeled communion with each other.

Over the last four decades our relations have steadily developed and deepened. The friendship between our two countries does not rest on mutual convenience but is founded on our shared vision of

a world at peace.

The year-long Festivals of India and the Soviet Union occupy a special place. They have been unique events that will remain indelible landmarks in the history of Indo-Soviet friendship. India has given to the Soviet people not only in Moscow and other major cities but also to people even in remote parts of your great and friendly country a glimpse of the best in our traditions of music, dance and theatre.

Likewise, we in India, have opened our doors and our hearts to the people of the Soviet Union. Your Bolshoi and Kirov Ballets, and Moiseev Ensemble, folk groups and your circus have entranced us, while the rhythms and melodies of your jass and popular groups have enraptured us. Exhibitions from the fabled treasures of the Hermitage and the Kremlin have, to mention just a few, led millions of Indians on a voyage of discovery.

The Festival draws to a close today in the august and inspiring presence of President Gorbachev. But the cycle of our exchanges, like the cycle of the seasons can never come to a close. It will go on forever. It will go on vastly enriched by the experiences gained by these festivals, towards a future of ever increasing friendship between our two nations and people.

With these words I extend my warmest greetings and appreciation to all those from the Soviet Union - artists, technicians, administrators - who have made this Festival a grand success. We shall always cherish the Festival and your roles in it. May dosti as we call it here or druzbha as you do, abide between our peoples for as long as the Ganga and Volga flow.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date : Nov 19, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO INDIA

Indo-Soviet Summit Statement

The following is the text of Indo-Soviet Summit statement made at New Delhi On Nov 20, 1988:

The Republic of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics note with deep satisfaction that the principles of new political

thinking embodied in the Delhi Declaration have generated an increasingly wide response throughout the world. The Delhi Declaration contains the basic tenets of the philisophy of survival and progress in the nuclear and space age, positively influences the general political climate in the world and gives a stimulus to the reshaping of international relations. It reflects the common perceptions of the two countries on global issues and their common vision for the future of humankind.

Developments over the last two years have shown that, given political will, a new concept of a safer and a more just world can acquire universal acceptance. The signing of the INF Treaty, the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan, the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and the positive moves towards a settlement of conflicts in South-East Asia, South-West Africa and other parts of the world have demonstrated the
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timeliness and vitality of the Delhi Declaration.

India and the Soviet Union believe that today's interdependent world is the common home of humankind and every individual has an equal right to use its resources. They emphasise the importance of efforts by all States to develop a comprehensive global system of international security.

The parties believe that the new approach to international relations, enunciated in the Delhi Declaration, requires a change in doctrines, policies and institutions to build and sustain a nuclear-weapon free and non-violent world. This needs demilitarisation, democratisation and humanisation of international relations. They reaffirm that militarism, power politics, and the division of the world into military alliances have engendered suspicion and hostility and should be discarded: There should be no military bases or facilities outside national borders.

Both parties agree that disarmament, and especially nuclear disarmament, is today the primary issue that concerns all nations and peoples. The momentum generated recently in this field must be preserved and further strengthened. Urgent steps must be taken to immediately suspend and ban nuclear-weapon testing, to prevent an arms race in outer space and conclude an agreement on 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear weapons, to move towards the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons, and establish international control over the emerging new technologies with military potential. An International Convention banning the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and a global convention on the comprehensive prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons, including binary weapons, should be concluded immediately.

India and the Soviet Union consider that all nuclear-weapon

States should join the nuclear disarmament process. The Soviet Programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by 2000 AD and India's Action Plan for ushering in a nuclear-weapon free and non-violent world order by 2010 AD are detailed blue-prints addressed to the world community. Both sides stand for an increased role of multilateral fora in the process of disarmament, and for a single integrated multilateral verification system.

India and the Soviet Union reiterate their support for the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan and call for their strict and sincere implementation by all parties concerned. The two countries deplore the obstructionist policy of certain forces which are violating the Accords. They express concern over the continued bloodshed in Afghanistan and affirm that the process of national reconciliation should be encouraged. India and the Soviet Union appeal to the UN Secretary General to implement without delay the mandate given to him by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Afghanistan which emphasises the need for an intra-Afghan dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based Government. The formation of such a government in Afghanistan is a matter exclusively for the Afghan people to decide. The preservation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and nonaligned character of Afghanistan, is vital for the solution of the Afghan problem. A UNsupported international conference may be needed for this purpose.

India and the Soviet Union express concern at the situation in West Asia, aggravated by the escalation of the arms race in the region. The two parties welcome the realism and responsibility shown by the Palestinian leadership, and support the decision of the Palestinian National Council on the creation of an independent Palestinian State within the framework of a just and comprehensive West Asian settlement. They reaffirm their call for the early start of preparatory work to convene the UN-sponsored international conference on the Middle East
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with the participation of all parties concerned on an equal footing.

India and the Soviet Union express their satisfaction at the UN-sponsored ceasefire between Iraq and Iran and hope that it would lead to the establishment of a just and lasting peace between the two countries.

The two parties urge all concerned to step up their efforts to achieve a political settlement in Kampuchea that ensures its peaceful, sovereign, independent, nonaligned status, free of the threat of restoration of the genocidal regime. They welcome the Jakarta Informal Meeting process, the initiative undertaken within the framework of the Non-aligned Movement and the dialogue which has been recently resumed in Paris, and hope that these

will lead to an early solution.

The sides believe that the reduction of tension in the Korean peninsula would be a major contribution to the improvement of the situation in Asia. They support the development of a broad constructive dialogue in the interest of the entire Korean people.

India and Soviet Union reaffirm their determination to pursue their endeavour to attain the objectives embodied in the 1971 UN Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. They call for the dismantling of all foreign military bases, and for preventing the creation of new ones, and condemn attempts to build up foreign military presences in the Indian Ocean. They urge the early convening of an international conference on the Indian Ocean, not later than 1990, in accordance with the latest UN General Assembly Resolution.

The two States reiterate their support for the just demand of Mauritius relating to the restoration of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including, Diego Garcia.

India and the Soviet Union strongly condemn racialism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it may occur. They reaffirm their unwavering. support for the struggle of the people of South Africa. In this context, they recall that the UN Charter envisages a number of measures, including the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions for dismantling racism and apartheid. Both sides welcome the Angolan-Cuban initiatives for a settlement in South-West Africa and express their belief that progress in the talks opens the way to the unconditional implementation of the Security Council Resolution on Namibian independence. India and the Soviet Union appreciate the important role of the AFRICA FUND established by the Nonaligned Movement.

The two countries reiterate their support for a just political settlement of the situation in the . region of Central America, based on ensuring the security of all the States of the region and respect for their sovereignty, national independence and right to self-determination, without outside interference in their internal affairs. India and the Soviet Union call, for the cessation of all forms of external pressures and acts of aggression against the independent countries situated in the region. They express their support for the constructive initiatives of the nonaligned countries, the Contadora Group, and the Group of Support. They also endorse the Guatemala Agreement.

India and the Soviet Union believe that universal peace and stability can only be built on economically sound foundations. A new International Economic Order should be established on a just and equitable basis. Urgent and serious steps need to be taken to resolve the growing global debt problem, and the crisis of the international monetary and financial systems. The fall in prices

of commodities harms the interests of many countries. The obstacles to the transfer of technology have to be removed and artificial trade barriers dismantled. The resources saved as a result of disarmament should be transferred for developmental purposes. The decisions taken by the UN Conference
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on Disarmament and Development should be implemented.

The two countries urge the adoption, with UN support, of a global strategy of environmental protection and the rational exploitation of the Earth's resources.

India and the Soviet Union stress that the responsibility for the future of the world rests with all countries, big and small. The United Nations is an indispensable institution for finding peaceful solutions to international problems and crisis situations, and resolving other global issues. They note with satisfaction the recent growing activity of the UN and its bodies, and will further promote an increase in the authority and potential of this universal Organisation. At the same time, the UN system must adapt to and reflect the changing realities of the world so that it can better fulfil its mission.

India and the Soviet Union emphasise the outstanding role of the Nonaligned Movement in the world. It has emerged as a constructive and influential pioneering force for resolving the problems of peace, disarmament and development, and has made its contribution to the relaxation of international tensions. The parties are deeply convinced that the Movement will continue to play an ever-increasing role to meet the challenges confronting the world.

The two parties believe that people to-people contacts between countries should be encouraged to improve trust n ' d understanding. This could be done by developing tourism, trade, greater inter action among scholars, journalists, parliamentarians, politicians and other representatives of the people as well as through festivals of culture.

Relations between India and the Soviet Union have deep roots, and are a model of constructive cooperation between two countries with different socio-political systems. They are characterised by sincere friendship and mutual understanding. They have witnessed a steady and uninterrupted growth for decades. The Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation is an outstanding milestone in their relations and provides a reliable and time-tested framework for the further development of these relations and for promoting peace and stability in Asia and the world. The fundamental importance of the Treaty in the foreign policy priorities of India and the Soviet Union is even greater in today's changing world.

Regular visits at the highest level in recent years have given a qualitatively new character and dynamism to Indo-Soviet relations. These relations are marked by growing mutual trust and confidence, intensified, economic, scientific and technological cooperation encompassing new areas and forms, and greater people-to-people contacts. This is reflected most vividly in the unprecedented large-scale Festivals of India and the Soviet. Union in each other's countries, marking the 40th Anniversary of India's Independence and the 70th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Both have been unique events in spreading friendship and goodwill.

It was decided to continue the tradition of visits at the highest levels, frequent consultations and joint actions on the major issues before the world community today, such as disarmament, the peaceful settlement of regional disputes and conflicts, and the establishment of a more just and democratic world order.

In the economic sphere, they feel it is important to utilise to the fullest extent the new potential and opportunities created by the modernisation and changing character of the Indian and Soviet economies. The two parties believe that it is essential to identify and take full advantage of the emerging complementarities in their respctive economies to develop new forms of mutually advantageous economic cooperation, including joint ventures. It is necessary to modify the structure of trade and to evolve new strategies for ensuring dyanmic growth. They will make
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every effort to maintain the accelerated growth in trade achieved since 1986 and will work out a Long-Term Programme for Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation till 2000.

India and the Soviet Union also agree that it is necessary to meet the increasing requirements of both countries for high quality products of latest technology by offering to each other latest indigenously developed technologies and work out specific projects of cooperation, including through joint research and development.

The two parties reiterate their desire to continue the healthy tradition of the Festivals of India and the Soviet Union by holding periodic festivals between Indian States and Soviet Republics, and to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation and the 5th Anniversary of the Delhi Declaration on Principles of a Nuclear-Weapon Free and Non-Violent World by holding cultural festivities, scientific symposia and public conferences.

India and the Soviet Union express their firm resolve to further develop and deepen their ties in all spheres. The development of Indo-Soviet relations serves the interest of their peoples and is

an important factor in strengthening peace and security on a comprehensive basis, and in promoting development in Asia and throughout the world.

DIA PERU USA AFGHANISTAN IRAN IRAQ SWITZERLAND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDONESIA FRANCE KOREA MAURITIUS ANGOLA CUBA NAMIBIA GUATEMALA

Date : Nov 20, 1988

Volume No

1995

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Naval Chief to Visit the Republic of Korea

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 12, 1988 on the visit of Naval Chief to Republic of Korea:

Admiral J G Nadkarni, PVSM AVSM NM VSM ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff and Chairman, Chief of Staff Committee will be visiting the Republic of Korea at the invitation of Admiral Kim, Chong-ho, Chief of Naval Operations, Republic of Korea from 13th to 18th November 1988. Admiral Nadkarni will be accompanied by Mrs. Nadkarni and a team of two senior Naval Officers. During the visit, the Chief of the Naval Staff is expected to call on the Prime Milnister of Republic of Korea, Mr. Lee Hyun-jae and the Minister of National Defence Mr. Oh, Ja Bok. He will also be having discussions with the Chief of Naval Operations of the Republic of Korean Navy and visit a number of ships and establishments of the Navy of Republic of Korea including the Naval Academy.

During the course of the visit, Mrs. Nadkarni will be launching the second Offshore Patrol Vessel, INS Subhadra being built for the Indian Navy by Korea Tacoma Marine Industries, Masan. 3 of <pg-385>

these vessels are being built by the shipyard and are expected to be delivered to the Indian Navy from the middle of 1989.

The visit of Admiral J G. Nadkarni is the first such visit by any Indian Service Chief to Republic of Korea.

REA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia PTT Minister Calls on Shri Bir Bahadur Singh

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 30, 1988 on Saudi Arabia PTT Minister's call on Shri Bir Bahadur Singh, Union Minister of Communication:

His Excellency Dr. Alawi Darvesh Kayal, Minister of Saudi Post, Telegraph and Telephones accompanied by His Excellency Mr. Faud Abu Mansour, Deputy Minister (O & M Telephones) Saudi PTT; His Excellency Prof. Fuad Zahran, Dean of College Medicines Sciences, King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah; Mr. Abdul Rahman Samman, Director General, Ministry of Saudi PTT; and Mr. Abdul Moein Koleity, Secretary, Minister Office, Saudi PTT, called on Shri Bir Bahadur Singh, Union Minister of Communications here today.

Shri Bir Bahadur Singh welcoming the delegation said that India had traditional ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in the recent past has undertaken to assist them in the field of telecommunications. The best technicians and engineers have been sent to Saudi Arabia to execute various jobs connected with telecommunications network and have maintained highest level of efficiency, the Minister added.

Shri Bir Bahadur Singh detailed to the visiting delegation that India was now in a position to manufacture most of the sophisticated switching transmission and terminal equipments. Imports formed a very small percentage of the total investment in telecommunications which were currently of the order of two billion US $ per year. The Minister also informed the delegation that there were 5.25 million telephone subscribers in the country with various types of switching equipments. The Minister assured all assistance and support to Saudi Arabia in the efficient maintenance of telecommunication network, in their country.

Dr. Alawi Darvesh Kayal, Minister of Saudi Post, Telegraph and Telephones thanked the Minister and the Government of India for all the help and assistance being given to them. He complimented the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited for successfully completing various contracts in Saudi Arabia.
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UDI ARABIA INDIA JORDAN USA RUSSIA

Date : Nov 30, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Talks on Medium and Long-Term Cooperation Issues

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 03, 1988 on Indo-Soviet talks on medium and long-term cooperation issues

The first round of high level Indo-Soviet talks to discuss specific modalities for economy level balancing between the two countries commenced here today. The six-member Russian delegation for the three-day deliberations is led by Mr. Y. P. Khomenko, Deputy Chairman, GOSPLAN and the Indian delegation is headed by Dr. Y. K. Alagh, Member, Planning Commission. In addition to various matters of mutual interest, the two sides discussed' medium and long-term cooperation issues as part of the preparations of the forthcoming visit of Soviet President and Secretary-General of CPSUCC, Mr. M. Gorbachev.

As a part of perestroika Soviet enterprises sell a part of their output in the market outside the system of State contracted supplies. Such enterprises have been insisting on unit level balancing. In a Protocol signed at the session of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on elabloration of the draft Long-Term Programme of Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation up to 2000 A.D., the Soviet and Indian planners had discussed matters of balancing of trade including production I cooperation. It was agreed that a joint institutional mechanism should be created with a view to overcoming difficulties arising in connection therewith.

At the last meeting held in Moscow, the two sides briefed each other about the changes taking place in economies of the two countries. The Soviet side explained in detail the process of restructuring of the Soviet economy which lays stress on intensive development of the economy through increased efficiency, greater productivity, cost effectiveness etc. The Indian side explained the changes taking place in the Indian economy aimed at bringing about substantial improvement in the quality of life, rapid increase in efficiency and modernisation of the economy, sharply enhanced growth targets and a major focus

on improvement in availability of the basic necessities to the Indian people.

The two sides noted that as a result of the changes taking place and proposed to be brought about in the economies of the two countries, specific areas of their strength which were complimentary in nature, had emerged. It was agreed that the two sides should take full advantage of the complimentary factors in their economies, to the mutual advantage, of the two sides, in accordance with the principle of international division of labour and specialization.

In the course of discussions held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the two sides took note of the progress made in economic, scientific and technical cooperation, including the long-term programmes of cooperation in various sectors, drawn up by the respective working groups of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission. It was felt that it would be desirable for the respective working groups to update or draw up new programmes for long term cooperation in concrete and specific terms in the period from October 1988 to March 1989, in addition to the ongoing or planned projects and areas of cooperation.
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DIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Nov 03, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Indo-Soviet Trade Protocol for 1989 Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1988 on big step up in Indo-Soviet Trade:

India's trade with the Soviet Union is planned to be increased to Rs. 7,000 crores in 1989. This will consist of Rs. 3,800 crores of exports from India to USSR and Rs. 3,200 crores of imports from the USSR into India. The Trade Protocol fixing the trade volume for next years was signed here today. Shri A. N. Varma, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, signed it on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. V. F. Mordvinov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations of the USSR, signed it on behalf of the Government of the USSR.

Trade between the two countries is expected to reach a level of Rs. 5,200 crores during the current year 1988. The projected levels for 1989 would thus represent a growth of about 35% over the current year.

It may be recalled that at the meeting between Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and General Secretary, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev in 1986 it was decided to raise the volume of bilateral trade turnover by 2.5 times. The bilateral trade volume in 1986 was about Rs. 3,700 crores. The Trade Plan for the coming year would thus represent a substantial step forward towards the attainment of this goal.

50% INCREASE IN ENGINEERING GARMENTS EXPORTS PROPOSED

The Trade Plan for the coming year provides for a substantial step up in the exports from India to USSR. The export of engineering items is expected to go up by about 50%. This includes substantial increase in exports of automobile storage batteries, polygraphic equipments, iron and steel castings, electrical equipments, food processing and dairy equipments, machinery and equipment for civil and industrial construction projects, etc. Exports of tea, including packaged tea, coffee, instant coffee will also go up. Increase has also been planned in respect of several other items. These include increase in export of readymade garments by about 50%, leather, shoe uppers, chemicals, medicines and pharmaceutical preparations, dyestuffs and intermediates, pesticides and herbicides, paints and varnishes, tooth paste, linoleum, glazed tiles, soyabean extraction and other agricultural items, mineral items, etc.

IMPORTS FROM USSR To Go Up

It has also been planned for a substantial step up in the imports from the USSR into India. Soviet supplies for projects would go up substantially during the coming year. Some of the major items where substantial growth is expected include, Air transportation means, including leasing of aircrafts for freight and passenger traffic, textile machinery, mining equipment etc. Special emphasis has been laid on supply of spare parts for Soviet equipments. Growth has also been planned in respect of a number of commodities. It has been agreed that supply of crude oil and oil products will be stepped up. Substantial growth has also been planned in respect of a number of items such as metal scrap, coking coal, nickel, copper, wood pulp, timber logs, ammonia etc.

NEW ITEMS ADDED

It is further planned to diversify the trade by addition of a number of new
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items. In the export list, this includes non-ferrous castings and

forgings, abrasive goods, analysers for quality control of agricultural products, machinery & equipment for the textile and leather industries, components for tractors, sports shoes, razor blades, detergents, decorative plastics, etc.

In the import basket, the new items added include Benzene, pig iron, equipment and materials for the Indian Railways etc.

DIA USA

Date : Nov 16, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

Prime Minister's Statement in Lok/Rajya Sabha regarding Mr.Gorbachev's Visit

The following is the text of a Suo Moto statement by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister in the Lok/Rajya Sabha on Nov 21, 1988 regarding the. visit of Mr. Gorbaihev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU and President of the Presidium of Supreme Soviet:

Sir, as the House is aware, Mr. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU and President of the Presidium of Supreme Soviet, came as our honoured guest to receive the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, Mr. Gorbachev's contribution towards making our world free of nuclear weapons and strengthening the forces of peace, cooperation, goodwill and understanding has brought about a unique and qualitative change in the international environment. In our honouring him with the Indira Gandhi Prize, we are paying tribute to a person who symbolises the passionate yearning for peace, progress and prosperity to which Indira Gandhi dedicated her life. Mr. Gorbachev's visit was a reaffirmation of the high regard which the Soviet Government and people have for the values which motivated our freedom struggle under the leadership of Mahatama Gandhi and for the vision of a strong and self-reliant India, which Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi espoused.

Sir, the Delhi Declaration which Mr. Gorbachev and I signed during his last visit to India in November 1986, embodied the commitment of our two countries to rid the world of the threat of a nuclear holocaust and to build a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order. The Action Plan which I presented to the Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on

Disarmament in June this year, spelt out to the world community, the concrete steps which could be taken to achieve the goals enshrined in the Delhi Declarations. Honourable Members will be pleased to note that Mr. Gorbachev has supported our Action Plan. India and the Soviet Union have agreed on the need for immediate measures to end the nuclear arms race, to establish international control over emerging new technologies with a military potential and to work for the conclusion of an International Convention banning the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

President Gorbachev's visit provided yet another opportunity for us to exchange views on regional and International issues. We both agreed that since my last meeting with him in July 1987, there has been a marked reduction in the tensions and suspicions which had bedevilled the world in the recent past. The signing of the INF Treaty, the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan, the cessation of hostilities in the Iran-Iraq war and the progress towards finding negotiated settlements to issues in South-East Asia and Southern Africa, are all manifestation of a new era emerging in international relations. General Secretary Gorbachev's bold and Imaginative initiatives are replacing confrontation by cooperation, suspicion by trust and doubt by hope. The Soviet Union highly appreciates India's active and constructive role in the Non-aligned Movement and our
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efforts to promote peace, disarmament and development.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, developments in Afghanistan had led to increasing tensions in our region and even threatened our security environment. It has been the hope of the international community that the Geneva Accords would usher in an era of peace and stability in the region and enable the Afghan people to determine their own destiny, free from all foreign interference and intervention. General Secretary Gorbachev informed me that while the Soviet Union supported the establishment of a broad based government in Afghanistan, it was concerned at the continuing violations of the Geneva Accords. It is our hope that these Accords would be implemented fully in letter and spirit, so that the people of Afghanistan can devote their energies to the tasks of national reconstruction and economic development.

The House is aware that our bilateral relations with the Soviet Union have been growing from strength to strength. During President Gorbachev's visit we reviewed the progress which has been achieved in implementing the various decisions and agreements which we had arrived at in our past meetings. Agreements were signed yesterday on the construction of a nuclear power station in India, on the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes, on the setting up of the second stage of the Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station, on Avoidance of Double Taxation, as well as a Protocol on Economic and Technical Cooperation in Power Projects. The texts of the Agreements and

the Protocol are laid on the table of the House. These agreements will give an added impetus and new dimension to our already multifaceted economic, scientific and technical cooperation. We also signed an Indo-Soviet Summit Statement, whose text reflects our common commitment to strengthening peace, friendship and cooperation. The text of the Statement is also laid on the Table of the House. May I add, Sir that our ties have been significantly strengthened by the unique exposure which people in India and the Soviet Union have had during the last year, to each other's ancient, rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Sir, our friendship with the Soviet Union has stood the test of time. President Gorbachev's visit to India, his second in the last two years, symbolises the desire of the Soviet leadership and people to further nurture, enrich, deepen and widen this friendship. This, we greatly cherish and fully reciprocate.

A INDIA AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND IRAN IRAQ

Date : Nov 21, 1988

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

North-Eastern Provincial Council Elections in Sri Lanka -Statement by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister for ExternalAffairs

The following is the text of a Suo Moto statement by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister for External Affairs in the Lok/Rajya Sabha on Nov 22, 1988, regarding recent provincial council elections in the North-Eastern province of Sri Lanka:

Sir, I rise to apprise the House of recent developments in Sri Lanka which
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have a bearing on the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. At the core of this agreement are the provisions for setting up of Provincial Councils with sufficient legislative and executive powers to give the Tamils of Sri Lanka greater autonomy in the running of their own affairs. Constitutional amendments and legislation to give effect to these provisions were passed by the Sri Lankan Parliament several months ago and Provincial Councils were set up and elections held in all provinces of Sri Lanka except the North and the East. It is ironic, indeed, that although these provisions were enacted primarily to meet the

demands of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka, the obduracy and intransigence of extremist elements have denied to them the benefits of these provisions when all other areas of Sri Lanka were enjoying these benefits.

The central point of LTTE's intransigence was their insistence that we recognise their right to set themselves up as the sole representatives of the Tamils. They claimed the right to ban any other Tamil party or group that they did not approve of and they claimed the right to indulge in any amount of violence against those who did not follow their dictates. We repeatedly made attempts to persuade them to give up these unilateral demands and join the democratic process. But all these attempts failed and the electoral process had to be proceeded with.

Before the elections the President of Sri Lanka had announced several, measures which went a long way towards meeting the remaining demands of the Tamils, including the notification of the merger and release of the remaining political prisoners who supported the Agreement. The LTTE, its supporters and even some of our friends warned us against holding elections without LTTE's approval. But we had firm indications from the ground level that the Tamil people wanted peace, they wanted an end to the violence and strife and they wanted a chance to exercise their democratic rights.

Accordingly, the electoral process was initiated on 12th September. Even at this last stage we tried our best to invite the LTTE to join the process. We declared a unilateral cease-fire from September 15 which, with an extension, lasted a total of 10 days. Though we repeatedly urged the LTTE to take advantage of this opportunity, and though the citizens of the Northern and Eastern Provinces tried their best to persuade them, the LTTE persisted in their by now familiar, obduracy and intransigence.

It had been widely predicted that no Tamil candidates would have the courage to come forward and contest the elections. But this was proved wrong and enough candidates came forward for every single seat in the North Eastern Province. The electoral alliance of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) was the only group to file nominations in the Northern Province and were elected unopposed. In the Eastern Province there was a contest between the Tamil parties, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress and the United National Party. The electoral process was completed on November 19th and I am glad to report to the House that it was completed without any violence and with an overwhelming voter turnout.

I would like to share with the House the details that have become available about the voting patterns and the results. An average of nearly 63% of the registered voters throughout the Eastern Province cast their franchise - one of the highest turnouts in

the Provincial Council elections in Sri Lanka. This percentage went up as high as over 79% in the predominantly Tamil district of Batticaloa while it was about 53% in Trincomalae and 55% in Amparai. Reports indicate that many of the Sinhala voters stayed away due to threats from the JVP. If provision is made for this fact, it would appear that an overwhelmingly high proportion of the Tamil population - perhaps as high as 80-90 % - ignored the
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threats and appeals of the LTTE and voted in favour of peace and democracy. Another manner in which voters in Sri Lanka have traditionally expressed their disapproval has been to spoil their ballots. But the average of invalid votes throughout the Province has been below 2 % and in the predominantly Tamil district of Batticaloa it whs only 1.6%. These elections were observed by representatives of the Indian, Sri Lankan and international media and have been widely reported. Members will agree that the unanimous verdict is that the elections were peaceful, they were completely free and fair and above all they were an overwhelmingly success. The combined result of the elections is that in the North-Eastern Province, after taking into account the two bonus seats, the Tamil parties (EPRLF and ENDLF) have together got 55 out of a total of 73 seats, giving them a three-fourths majority. The Sri Lankan Muslim Congress has 17 And the UNP has 1 seat.

The results perhaps give us a clue to why the LTTE has consistently refused to submit to a popular verdict and preferred to seek their objectives by force of the gun. The Tamils have also signalled that they are in favour of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement, that they would like to give it a try and that they want an end to violence and strife. I would once again call upon the LTTE to heed the call of the people they claim to represent and to give up violence which has been causing untold suffering to the Tamil people.

Sir, I would like to commend the excellent security arrangement made by the IPKF which foiled all attempts by the LTTE to intimidate the candidates, to terrorise the voters and disrupt the elections. While ensuring security, their arrangements also ensured a completely free and fair election. I would also like to place on record our appreciation for the services of many Sri Lankan volunteers who braved threats to their personal security by volunteering to serve as election officers and making the elections possible. I am sure that this House would like to join me in congratulating the Tamil parties, specially the EPRLF and the ENDLF, who have shown tremendous courage and foresight in standing up for peace and democracy. Last, but perhaps most important, we should extend our felicitations to the Tamil people of Sri Lanka who are the real heroes of these elections.

Thank you.

I LANKA USA INDIA

Date : Nov 22, 1988

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Indo-Swedish Joint Commission Meet

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 15, 1988 on Indo-Swedish Joint Commission meet:

The Ninth Session of the Indo-Swedish Commission for Economic, Industrial, Technical and Scientific Cooperation began here today. Shri J. Vengala Rao, Union Industry Minister, who is the Co-Chairman of the Comission headed the Indian delegation while the Swedish delegation is led by H.E. Mrs. Anita Gradin, Minister for Foreign Trade. The Swedish delegation includes officials and representatives of industry and trade.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vengala Rao urged the Government of Sweden and Swedish Companies to take immediate
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steps for bringing the trade between the two countries to an even level. He expressed concern over the persisting and Widening trade imbalance against India. He said that India's exports to Sweden mainly consisted of traditional items and had not shown much growth and Swedish imports into India on the other hand had increased. He said that India could be an economical and reliable source of supply of many consumer, industrial and engineering products, automotive components, electronic components, software etc. to Sweden and for third countries.

The Minister said that one constraint to rapid modernisation and opening up of the economy was the availability of foreign exchange resources. While India was extremely reluctant to curtail the growing volume of our imports which were essential for modernisation and technological upgradation of our industry, India had to meet the requirement of foreign exchange by increased export earnings. Therefore, it was essential, that there should be a steady growth in our exports, he stressed.

Shri Vengala Rao said that the Indian industrial base had become wider and diversified and Indian industry was now fully prepared to collaborate with industrial enterprises of advanced countries,

such as Sweden, in both traditional and advanced areas of technology. He said that it was an opportune time for Swedish industry to explore new avenues of industrial collaborations, investment and promote two-way trade flow.

The Industry Minister said that during discussions in Stockholm, the Joint Commission had identified a number of important areas for promoting economic, industrial and technological cooperation. The Joint Business Council meeting held in September 1988 in Stockholm had also come out with concrete suggestions for promoting industrial cooperation. He hoped that as a result of decisions taken by this meeting of the Joint Commission, investment and technology flow from Sweden to India would increase substantially in priority and high-tech areas.

The Minister expressed happiness that Sweden was contemplating further deregulation of textile imports. Indian Government would like the existing restrictions on Indian textile exports to Sweden to be removed at the earliest.

Shri Vengala Rao said that the programme for bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology had made progress and a number of proposals were under consideration in different areas. He hoped that during this Joint Commission meeting a concrete plan of action would be evolved for raising the level of cooperation in the area of science and technology.

Mrs. Anita Gradin, leader of the Swedish delegation said that industrial cooperation and bilateral trade between India and Sweden had developed positively in recent years. Today, India is Sweden's largest trading-partner outside OECD and, as such, an important market for Swedish industry. The core of our cooperation is to be found in the Swedish-Indian jointventures.

She said that Sweden's exports to India consisted chiefly of expensive high technology machines and industrial equipment. With regard to imports from India 90 per cent were consumer goods, 77 per cent of which consisted of textiles which encountered stiff price competition in Sweden. Despte this, total import had increased by 20 per cent since January 1, 1987 and imports of textiles by 30 per cent.

The Swedish Minister said that considerable efforts were made on Sweden's part to help India further to increase and diversify its exports to Sweden. One sector that appears promising is engineering goods and components. We are, therefore, looking forward to increasing exports from India to Sweden.

She stressed the importance of continuous rigorous quality control and maintenance of delivery schedule. To bring about more extensive imports of machine

tools, active marketing efforts are required on India's part. It is also important that a service organisation in Sweden or in West Europe should be bult up from which spare parts and service personnel could rapidly reach users in Sweden.

Mrs. Gradin said that India was Sweden's largest recipient country for concessionary credits. Until now these credits have mainly been concentrated on a few large energy projects. Small and mediumsized companies both in India and Sweden have not really had an opportunity of benefiting from the Swedish concessionary credit system. During 1988 the Swedish Agency for International Technical and Economic Co-operation had pursued negotiations with the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) on favourable credit facilities of a total of 10 million USD. The credit will be used in connection with loans to small and medium-sized Indian companies that wish to buy Swedish equipment for investment purposes.

Earlier the visiting dignitory called on the Industry Minister and exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in the field of trade, industry and science.

Shri Vengala Rao told Mrs. Anita Gradin that there was scope for greater expansion in Swedish collaborations and investment in India, as well as cooperation for export to third countries and efforts should be made to explore these areas.

The Industry Minister appreciated the qualitative content and concessionality of Swedish aid programme and the special emphasis on India's rural and energy development schemes. In the energy sector, he said, although a number of new projects were under consideration, India had experienced some difficulty in absorbing funds because of the high cost of Swedish equipment. Some solution should be found to this problem, he said.

EDEN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Indo-Swedish Cooperation in Energy Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1988 on Indo-Swedish Co-operation in Energy

Sector:

India and Sweden today felt that there was a vast scope for mutual cooperation in energy sector. This sentiment was expressed by the Minister of Energy, Shri Vasant Sathe, and the visiting Swedish Minister for Foreign Trade, Mrs. Anita Gradin, at a meeting here.

The Swedish Minister said that her country was keen to assist India in taking up some power projects, particularly in the hydel sector. Sweden had made offers to provide assistance in setting up Uri and Larji Hydro-electric projects in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh respectively, she added.

Shri Sathe said that infrastructural and civil works had already been taken up at Uri project. "This is an excellent run of the river power project", he added.

Sweden had also offered to participate in the renovation and modernisation work taken up at the 470 MW Talcher thermal power station of the Orissa State Electricity Board. Shri Sathe said that R&M programme had been taken up under a centrally sponsored scheme to improve the functioning of existing thermal power units.

Sweden will also provide assistance to DESU for improving its power system m the Union Territory of Delhi.

The Swedish side also evinced interest in India's programme of developing non-conventional energy sources, particularly in the area of wind mills.
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The Minister of State for Coal, Shri C. K. Jaffer Sharief, Power Secretary, Shri S. Rajgopal, and Secretary, Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources, Dr. Maheshwar Dayal, took part in discussion.
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EDEN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 16, 1988

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Date : Dec 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Task Force on flood Management

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 15, 1988 On Indo-Bangladesh Task Force on Flood Management:

The Second Meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Task Force on Flood Management began here this morning. The meeting will consider various measures for flood control in the Ganga and Brahmaputra and prepare an Action Plan to be implemented for the next flood season. Measures to strengthen the existing flood forecasting and warning systems will also be discussed.

The Indian delegation is being led by Shri Naresh Chandra, Secretary in the Ministry of Water Resources and the Bangladesh team is headed by Mr. Syed Shamim Ahsan, Secretary, Irrigation Water Development and Mood Control, Government of Bangladesh. Two sub groups have been formed to suggest various long-term and short-term measures to control floods in both countries.

Meeting will continue for two days.

NGLADESH INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Dec 15, 1988

Volume No

1995

ETHOPIA

Indo-Ethopian Trade Discussed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 05, 1988 on Indo-Ethopian Trade:

The Ethopian Minister of Coffee and Tea Development, Mr. Tekola Dejene, called on the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. R. Dasmunshi here today alongwith all the members of the visiting Ethopian Trade Delegation.

The Ethopian Minister apprised Shri Dasmunshi of the development of coffee and tea plantations in Ethopia and discussed the possibilities of cooperation between the two countries in the commercial and economic field. Mr. Dejene said that he bad already visited the tea growing areas in Darjeeling and said that he was quite impressed by the progress of the Indian tea industry, particularly in the areas training, research and development.

In response to an Ethopian offer to share its expertise with India for coffee cultivation, Shri Dasmunshi clarified that coffee production in the country is already in excess of the demand. However, he said that scope for commercial coopera
<pg-397>

tion between the two countries was quitebright.

A Trade Agreement between India and Ethopia was signed in 1982. Both the countries have also concluded a Trade Protocol, detailing the commodities which could be traded. In 1987-88 India's exports to Ethopia amounted to Rs. 6.80 crores and imports around Rs. 69 lakhs. The scope for trade with Ethopia is considered to be promising, mainly because India is in a position to meet most of the import requirements of that country, particularly in the area of heavy machinery.

A INDIA

Date : Dec 05, 1988

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

New Passegner Air Service between India and FRG

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 21, 1988 on New Passenger Air Service between India and FRG:

India and the Federal Republic 'of Germany have agreed that Lufthansa will operate Boeing-747 cargo freighter with effect from January 1989 on a scheduled basis once a week, upto September, 1989, from which date the service will be converted into a passenger service, for which a Commercial Agreement has been signed with Air India.

This followed Air Services Talks held recently between the two countries. The German side was led by Mr. W. Niester, Dy. DGCA.

It has also been agreed by both sides to explore the possibility of introducing all cargo service on a permanent basis. The peak season demand of the export trade will be substantially met with the introduction of this service.

Introduction of the 9th passenger service between Frankfurt and India from September, 1989, under a Commercial Agreement, is a shot in arm for development of tourism between the two countries.

RMANY INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 21, 1988

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1995

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Indo-GDR Agreements

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 07, 1988 on Indo-GDR Agreements on Science & Technology:

An Indo-GDR agreement for cooperation in Science & Technology was signed here today. Dr. Vasant Gowariker, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology signed the agreement on behalf of India and Dr. Karl Hainz Klinger, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology for the GDR side.
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The two sides reviewed the status of bilateral cooperation in Science & Technology and identified a number of new themes in the programme of cooperation for 1989-90. The areas identified for cooperation are: - Biotechnology, Material Science & Technology, Computer Science and Informatics, Leather and Textile Technology, Opto-Electronics for Space Applications, Coal Technologies,

Building Materials and Construction Technologies and Fundamental Research.

The programme of cooperation will be implemented through exchange of visits of scientists, joint projects and joint workshops/symposia.

DIA USA

Date : Dec 07, 1988

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Trade Turnover of Pus. 1847 crores with GDR, Poland andCzechoslovakia Planned

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 13, 1988 on Trade turnover of Rs. 1847 crores with GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia:

A total trade turnover of Rs. 1847 crores in India's bilateral trade with Poland, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) has been planned for the year 1989, according to the annual Trade Protocols for 1989 finalised recently with these three countries. During 1988, bilateral trade with these countries is expected to go up by more than 20 % particularly with Czechoslovakia where the growth is expected to be about 35% over the previous year. It has been decided to restructure the trade basket so as to further improve the level of implementation of the trade plans and thereby achieve increase volumes in trade.

The trade protocols envisage sharp increase in imports of various industrial raw materials from these countries apart from machinery and equipment. Increase in imports of diesel generating sets, textile machinery, ship engines and vessels, mining machinery, printing machinery has been planned. Among commodities, imports of newsprint muriate of potash, dye intermediates, steel, chemicals, float glass, nonferrous metals, especially zinc and copper and coking coal has also been envisaged for further increase.

Export of several items is proposed to be stepped up sharply during 1989 to all these countries. These include pepper, cashewnuts, leather goods, cotton textiles, cotton yarn, coffee, soya and other extractions. Substantial growth has been planned in exports of chemicals, pharmaceuticals, drugs and medicines.

textile machinery consumer electronics and bicycles and bicycle components to Poland.

The Protocols for 1989 were finalised by an Indian delegation, led by Shri B. K. Chaturvedi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, who visited GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia recently. The discussions which were held in the last week of November and first week of December at the respective capitals of these countries have resulted in further agreement on increase in the bilateral trade. The Indian delegation included representative of Department of Economic Affairs, Executive Director, MMTC, representatives of STC and representative of Department of Chemicals.
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The trade basket is also proposed to be diversified as a result of these discussions. A number of new items have been added to the list of various goods being exchanged between India and Poland. These include export of Polyster staple fibre, granite, worker's overall, basic drugs and pharmaceuticals, complete shoes, paints and varnishes, Manganese ore etc. In the import list of such items include TV picture tubes and TV guns, machinery for production of bricks, equipment for tyre . production, equipment for high vacuummtechnique freeze drying, micro lithographic equipment and machinery for chip production, high rise sectors for automotive sector etc. This will enable the diversification into value added products and a larger flow of more modem machinery in the trade basket.

It has also been decided to increase the exchange of business delegations between the countries. With this object the participation is also planned in the special commodity fairs being held in these countries. Already they are participating in the India International Trade Fair held in November every year. More frequent participation is planned in the fairs held in these countries too. In order to project Indian goods, a special emphasis has been laid on increased buying 'of consumer goods. For this purpose, one of the departmental stores in Czechoslovakia is considering special India promotion for various Indian consumer goods.

The discussions covered a wide range of subjects of bilateral trade. As a result of it, interest has been noticed, particularly in Poland, in construction projects both as joint ventures and on a turn-key basis. This will lead to a diversification of the economic relations and further broad basing of these. As a result of the restructuring in the economies of these countries, it has also been decided to further promote joint ventures. Further discussions on these will, now, be held at the individual enterprises level to concreticise the various proposals,

Date : Dec 13, 1988

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1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

India, Yugoslavia and Egypt Renew Trade Pact

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 28, 1988 on the renewal of Trade Pact among India, Yugoslavia and Egypt.

The Tripartite Agreement on Trade Expansion and Economic Cooperation between India, Egypt and Yugoslavia, which is due to expire on 31st December, 1988, has been extended for a further period of 5 years upto 31st March, 1993. A Protocol to this effect was signed in Belgrade yesterday by the Trade Ministers of Yugoslavia and Egypt and the Commerce Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh. The Agreements came into effect on April 1, 1968 initially for a period of 5 years in pursuance of the decision taken in 1966 at a meeting in New Delhi between the Presidents of Yugoslavia and Egypt and the Prime Minister of India to promote trade cooperation between the three countries. The Agreement which has since been extended for periods of 5 years at a time, provides for 50% tariff preferences in respect of the common list of items which cover 148 product groups.

Besides cooperation in trade, industrial cooperation is also sought to be promoted under the Agreement between the signatory countries. The Ministerial meeting was held in an atmosphere of extreme cordiality and goodwill. During his meeting with the Commerce Minister, the Yugoslav Prime Minister reiterated the significance attached to the Tripartite Agreement and the mutual benefits accruing from the continuation of the Agreement.
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YPT INDIA YUGOSLAVIA USA

Date : Dec 28, 1988

Volume No

1995

$5.1 Million UNDP Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 07, 1988 on United Nations Development Programme Assistance to India:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will contribute $5.1 million worth assistance for Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium. Research Development and Design Centre and the Ceramic Research Institute, BHEL.

Two Agreements to this effect were signed, here today between Government of India, UNDP and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNEDO). The Agreements were signed by Shri S. Varadachary, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance on behalf of Government of India, Mr. Gamil M Hamdy, Resident Representative, UNDP and Mr. M. Islam, Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser, on behalf of UNIDO.

The first agreement pertains to the project - Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium. Research Development and Design Centre. UNDP assistance for the aluminium R&D Centre would benefit the Indian Industry in many ways. It would provide a knowledgeable group to which industry with its limited resources could turn to solve present and anticipated problems. It would help find bauxite reserves of industrial significance and provide information to develop existing deposits. While UNDP contribution to the project would be $ 4.1 million, Government of India would contribute Rs. 108 million for the project. UNDP assistance would be utilised for getting international consultancy, training of Indian personnel abroad and import of sophisticated equipment for the Centre.

The second project - Support to the Ceramic Technological Institute, BHEL would support the Indian Ceramic Industry in modernising its technology and to develop new projects and processes in the emerging technology of advanced ceramics for the benefit of electrical, metallurgical, chemical and transportation industries. This will be achieved by strengthening the Ceramics Technological Institute at Bangalore to enable it to conduct applied research on the various aspects of ceramics materials, upgrade technology from laboratory to pilot plant scale, provide consultancy and engineering services and disseminate knowledge and experience to the Indian industries and research organisations on the applications of ceramics minerals. R & D activities leading to development of products I processes will be in the areas of high alumina ceramcis, high temperature materials, beneficiation of rawmaterials and development of products like heat exchanger and steatite materials. At the end of the projects, the institute will have IS engineers I

scientists fully oriented in reputed laboratories/institutions outside the country and 14 scientists and engineers trained in couaitry's workshops I seminars. Eight research and study reports will be prepared on the state of technology of mining benefication of minerals, material, testing, refractories/cordierite ceramics, corrosion I erosion resistant materials, electronic ceramics, ceramic coating and ceramic metal system I surfaces I interfaces. UNDP contribution for the project would be $ 1.0 million while Governmentof India would contribute Rs. 26 million.
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DIA USA

Date : Dec 07, 1988

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1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

President's Message at the Fortieth Anniversary of UniversalDeclaration of Human Rights

Following is the text of the message of the President Shri R. Venkataraman on the 40th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations, which is being celebrated on Dec 10, 1988:

Forty years ago the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The recognition of these rights forms the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. These rights find their echo in our Constitution and reflect the dignity, regard and respect for each person which we, in India, traditionally cherish. Development and economic growth, improvement in the quality of life and the standard of living can be meaningful only when they are accompanied by the protection of these human rights. The exercise of these rights can be possible only if all of us realise the obligations that go with them, the biggest of which is to appreciate the rights of others also. Knowledge and awareness about human rights is necessary in this context. The record of our country during the last 40 years has beer. one of a steady march towards greater attainment of these rights while combating the gigantic problems of poverty, ignorance and lack of resources. Let us, on this occasion, re-dedicate ourselves to working together to create a happier, healthier and stronger nation and a better world in which these human rights are enjoyed universally.

A INDIA

Date : Dec 10, 1988

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

International Workshop on Genes and Development

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 13, 1988 on International Workshop on Genes and Development:

A four day international workshop on 'Genes and Development' is being held at the National Institute of Immunology. The workshop is sponsored by the Department of Biotechnology and US-India Fund for Cultural and Scientific Cooperation. The workshop aims at discussing current developments in biological areas of major interest in the world to give our young and mid-career scientists an overall picture of the frontier areas of biotechnology.
Subjects discussed at the workshop include Chromosome and Chromatin Structure, Recombination, RNA Structure, Transcription, Translational Control, Molecular Biology of Development and Differentiation, Molecular parasitology, Viral Pathogenesis, Signal Transduction, Growth Control and Oncogenes, Plant Genetics, Gene Transfer and Gene Therapy, Molecular Neurobiology, and Industrial Micro. organisms,

More than a dozen eminent scientists, mostly from U.S.A., are participating in the workshop. The number of Indian speakers would be around six. Participants are mainly drawn from among research personnel working in universities, research institutions and also R&D laboratories attached to industries. Besides, a number of participants, particularly students and young scientists have also been admitted as observers, The workshop provides an opportunity to participants to know about state-of-the art in a number of areas in biotechnology.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. S. Ramachandran, Secretary Department of Biotechnology. In his inaugural address he highlighted the problems which developing countries like India would face in the coming decade due to the population exploision. The workshop will also be held in Bangalore from December 19 to 22,1988.
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DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 13, 1988

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1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

$ 2,072,360 UNDP Assistance for Civil Aviation Centre at Allahabad

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 27, 1988 U.N.D.P.'s assistance of $ 2072,360 for Civil Aviation Centre at Allahabad:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will contribute $ 2,072,360 for development of Civil Aviation Training Centre at Allahabad. An agreement to this effect was signed here today by Shri S. Varadachary, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Henry J. Nardy, Senior Deputy Resident Representative on behalf of UNDP.

UNDP assistance will be used for getting consultancy services of international experts. in various disciplines of Civil Aviation, providing 61 fellowships to the Indian personnel at foreign institutions and for getting sophisticated equipments worth $ 1.5 million.

The development of the Civil Aviation Training Centre at Allahabad will be executed by International Civil Aviation Organisation with National Airport Authority as the Government implementing agency. UNDP assistance will help the centre to effectively developed and implement modern civil aviation training programme in course materials, aeronautical communication, maintenance, operations and airport management upgrading the centre's capability equal to international standards.

DIA USA

Date : Dec 27, 1988

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1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

India Signs UN Agreement Against Drugs

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 27, 1988 regarding signing of Agreement against Drugs by India:

India has signed the Final Act of the New UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Shri M. V. N. Rao, Chairman, Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC) signed the Act on behalf of India last week at Hofburg Palace, Vienna.

In the last two decades, drug abuse and illicit traffic situation in the world has steadily deteriorated causing serious concern to the international community. There is also nexus between drug trafficking and other economic, political and social crimes. Besides, this menace has undermined the social fabric of society and threatened the political stability in certain parts of the world.

This Convention introduces new area of cooperation for preventing illicit traffic by sea, intensification of control in free trade zone and preventing illicit trafficking through mails also. This Convention provides mandatory sanction for punishment of certain drug offences of serious nature for which the earlier conventions did not provide mandatory sanctions.

At the instance of Indian Delegation, a separate Article to suitably provide for cooperation and assistance to the transit states, particularly, the developing countries was approved and incorporated in the new Convention. This Article casts an obligation on the industrialised countries which happen to be the consumers of illicit drugs, to support and assist the transit states through a programme of technical cooperation and in case of need provide financial assistance for creation of necessary infrastructure in Transit States for drug interdiction and related matters.
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DIA USA AUSTRIA

Date : Dec 27, 1988

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1995

NEPAL

India and Nepal Enter Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 08, 1988 on an Agreement between India and Nepal for avoidance of double taxation:

Government of India have entered into an agreement with Government of Nepal for avoidance of double taxes on income. The Agreement has been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 5.12-1988. The Agreement was entered into force on Ist November, 1988 and shall have effect in India, in respect of income arising in any accounting year beginning on or after the first day of April, 1989.

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 in that other country.

Aircraft profits would be completely exempt in the country of source and shall be taxable only in the country of residence of the enterprise. With regard to dividends, interest and royalties, 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, as for example the tax in the country of source in the case of income by way of royalties shall not exceed 15 per cent of the gross amount of such royalties.

Under the Agreement, double taxation on income shall be avoided by the 'credit method', according to which the country of residence will allow credit for the taxes paid in the country of source against its own taxes. It has also been agreed that the country of residence will also allow credit for the taxes spared in the country of source for the purposes of its economic development.

PAL INDIA USA

Date : Dec 08, 1988

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament attached toMFA

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi On Dec 05, 1988:

The Consultative Committee attached to MEA met on December 5, 1988. They continued discussions on Burma which was left incomplete last time. The External Affairs Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao outlined the steps taken by the Government of India with regard to the developing situation in Burma. The discussion on Burma was concluded this time.

In response to observations made by the members of the Committee, the Minister mentioned the forthright stand taken by him in early October in support of the
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democratic movement in Burma. EAM was referring to his speech at the UN. He said that the Government's position, as indicated in that speech and in other official statements made by the Government of India, had made India's position very clear and unambiguous. We had all along said that we fully support the democratic movement in Burma.

In response to remarks by the members of the committee, the EAM said that the Government was aware of the regional and international ramifications of the present developments in Burma.

In response to another observation, the EAM said that India is also aware of the fact that certain ethnic groups live on both sides of the Indo-Burma border. He explained that these were not new factors in the situation, but had existed for many many years. It had always been Government's policy to watch such developments on the border and in our neighbourhood with the greatest possible care. Decisions would have to be taken after careful consideration.

In response to other observations, EAM mentioned that at the Congress party level, the AICC(I) had also passed a resolution in support of the Burmese movement for democracy.

After the conclusion of the discussion on Burma, there was a brief discussion on PM's forthcoming visit to China. EAM and FS briefed the members on FS's two preparatory visits to China. It was pointed out that during these visits, details of the various arrangements relating to the talks and other aspects of the visit have been finalised. EAM and FS pointed out that senior Chinese officials had expressed their satisfaction about the manner in

which arrangements for the visit have been moving forward. They had referred to the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister as a 'major and historic event' which will have positive effects on peace in the region. EAM underlined that the Chinese are treating the PM's visit with much importance.

EAM highlighted the fact that a Prime Ministerial visit to China was taking place after a gap of 34 years. Important agreements will be signed during this visit, including one on science and technology. The leadership on both sides would take stock of the substance of the 8 rounds of official level talks which have already taken place. India and China share a common desire to improve bilateral relations, in keeping with the significant changes that have been taking place throughout the world.

Some members of the Committee emphasised that PM's visit would bring about clarity to our approach to the various issues in our bilateral relationship and would lay a firm basis for future negotiations.

The majority of the members of the Committee endorsed the EAM's views on the impending visit and said that PM's visit should be a "pace-setter" for evolving an approach to solve the pending problems between the two countries. The members said that they were fully conscious of the fact that all these problems could not be resolved in the course of a single visit. If the atmosphere between India and China could be improved as a result of this visit, then that in itself would be a major success for both countries. The meeting lasted for an hour and a half.
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DIA BURMA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CHINA

Date : Dec 05, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

President Gayoom's Visit

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, in New Delhi on Dec 07, 1988 on President Gayoom's visit:

President Gayoom arrived today at 3.30 p.m.

Our Prime Minister visited Maldives in February 1986 and during that visit a number of areas were identified for cooperation between the two countries. One of them was a 200-bed hospital to be called the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital which was to be set up in Male. It was also decided during that visit to set up an Earth Station for the use of INSAT for inter-atoll. communication for the transmission of meteorological data and for the broadcast of Doordashan programmes for rebroadcasting by the Maldives TV. It was also decided during that visit that India would undertake the preservation and restoration work of the Hukuru Mosque which is a Maldivian national monument ' We also decided to expand cooperation in the field of trade. We arranged to hold a single-country industrial exhibition in the Maldives and also to give greater educational and training facilities to Maldivian nationals. All these projects are in various stages of implementation.

In April 1987, you will recall, a massive tidal wave hit the Maldives and we announced Rs. 20 lakhs relief assistance and sent medicines and other relief supplies. At that time, the International Airports Authority of India also sent a team to survey the damage to the international airport there.

We have a cultural agreement with the Maldives which was signed in 1963. A cultural exchange programme was signed under that Agreement in 1987 for a 2-year period which is still running.

A number of Indian experts in education, sports, nursing etc. have been deputed to the Maldives and in the reverse direction, a large number of Maldivian nationals have been coming to India for education and training.

In reply to a question, the Official Spokesman said that the visit of President Gayoom is for review of bilateral relations.

In reply to another question, the Official Spokesman said that the number of Indian troops in the Maldives is 276.

DIA MALDIVES USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Dec 07, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Philippines

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, in New Delhi on Dec 08, 1988:

His Excellency Gen. Manuel Yan, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Philippines (which is equivalent to our MOS) will be visiting New Delhi from 8th to the 10th December, 1988. On the 9th of December, he will have talks with Mr. Peter Sinai, Special Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. He will also have talks with Shri K. Natwar Singh, MOS (N), and Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, EAM, tomorrow.

This is the first visit from the Philippines of this level and is signifcant in this respect as it may be the beginning of a new phase in Indo-Philippines relations.
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ILIPPINES INDIA

Date : Dec 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a statement made by the Official Spokesman Of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Dec 21, 1988:

The Government welcomes the successful completion of the Presidential elections in Sri Lanka despite threats and intimidation by extremist elements. The results of the election reflect the democratic expression of the wishes of the Sri Lankan people. The Government looks forward to working in close cooperation with the new President, Mr. Premadasa, to further improve the close relations between India and Sri Lanka.

I LANKA INDIA

Date : Dec 21, 1988

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Suo Moto Statement by Shri P. V. Narasbnha Rao

Suo Moto statement made by Shrl P. V. Narasimha; Rao, External Affairs Minister in Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha on Dec 01, 1988, regarding espionage. activities of two officials of the Pakistan Embassy:

Two Pakistani nationals were detected by the Special Branch of the Delhi Police at Ranjit Hotel on the evening of 30th November, 1988, while they were in the process of receiving a secret Defence document from an Indian contact and passing oevr to the Indian contact a sum of Rs. 50,0001-. There was also another Indian national who was an accomplice o
the Pakistani nationals.

When the y were apprehended, one of the Pakistani nationals claimed that he was a diplomat although he had no documents to establish this. It was subsequently confirmed that he was Brigadier Z. I. Abbasi, Military Attache in the Pakistan Embassy. His associate was identified as Mohammad Ashraf Khatib, an official of the Pakistan Embassy. After obsberving the usual formalities, Brigadier Abbasi and Mohammad Ashraf Khatib were released. A case has been registered under the Official Secrets Act.

The Government of India have declared Brigadier Abbasi persona non grata and have advised the Pakistan Embassy that Mohammad Ashraf Khatib is also no longer acceptable. The Embassy has been asked to ensure that they leave India within twentyfour hours.

KISTAN INDIA LATVIA USA MALI

Date : Dec 01, 1988

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE

Address by Prof. K. K. Tewari on the Occasion of Function toObserve a day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

The following is the text of an address by Prof. K. K. Tewari, Minister of State for External Affairs on the Occasion of function to obserbe a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people at New Delhi on Dec 19, 1988:

1988 has been a year of momentous developments in the history of the long
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struggle of the Palestinian people for restoration of their legitimate and inalienable rights including the right to self-determination and an independent homeland of which they were so unjustly deprived forty years ago by an unthinking and unilateral international decision.

The "Intifida" which started last December in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a spontaneous reaction against continuing Israeli occupation, repression and exploitation is a major milestone. It has today grown into a mass civil resistance movement. It has underscored the fact that Palestinian patience with international procrastination has run out. Israel's handling of the situation has been widely condemned and has resulted in an unprecedented wave of sympathy for the plight of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and a renewed awareness of the urgent need for an equitable settlement of the Palestinian question. Despite heavy human and material loss and suffering, the Palestinian uprising has continued unabated into its second year. We salute the grit, determination and dedication of the brave Palestinians - unarmed men, women and children - relentlessly pursuing their objective against heavy odds.

The historic declaration by the Palestinian National Council in Algiers on November 15, 1988 of an independent Palestinian State is a logical corollary to the 'intifida'. The declaration of independence and the political programme announced by the PNC mark a turning point for the Palestinians. The political maturity and moderation shown by the Palestinian leadership has evoked universal admiration and has created a positive climate for resumpton of the Middle East peace process. It has received wide international welcome and support. The new State of Palestine is being recognised by a growing number of countries. India was among the very first to extend it full recognition. An independent Palestinian State has been our cheished and single-minded objective and we rejoice in the happiness of our Palestinian brothers. For the first time since the Palestinians were deprived of their homeland hopes are rising of a comprehensive settlement based on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, independence and national sovereignty. We are conscious that this is not the end of the struggle. It is however an important and significant step

forward.

While the PNC declarations represent a major reorientation of Palestinian perceptions and policies the response from the other side has been discouraging. The denial of a visa. to Chairman Yassir Arafat to address the UN General Assembly in New York was most unfortunate, the reasons given totally unconvincing. The determination of the international community to ensure that the voice of Palestinian nationalism is not stifled was amply demonstrated by the all but unanimous decision to shift the UN debate on the question of Palestine to Geneva. I was among those present during Chairman Arafat's address in Geneva and am witness to the warm reception accorded to him and the positive reaction to his eminently reasonable and realistic proposals and his clear and unambiguous exposition of the Palestinian position. India has commended the three point Palestinian initiative outlined by Chairman Arafat. We are gratified that the US has agreed to hold a direct dialogue with the PLO to see how the Middle East peace process can be progressed further. It is our earnest hope that the response from Israel will be equally statesmanlike.

Ladies and Gentlemen, India has a special relationship with the Palestinian people which predates our independence. We have always considered the Palestinian struggle as part of the wider movement against colonial rule and oppression. Our support for the Palestinian cause is the central part of our foreign policy. Our commitment over the years has remained firm and unequivocal. The position of the Government of India has been consistent and clear.
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We recognise the inalienable rights of the Palestinians including the right to self-determination and to an independent state in their homeland.

We support the call for Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 including Jerusalem.

We recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people.

We support the proposal for an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the Arab Israeli dispute including the PLO on an equal and independent footing.

On this occasion of expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people I would like to reaffirm on behalf of the Government and people of India our unstinting and- continued support. India will assist in all efforts to activate early peace negotiations for a just and comprehensive settlement within the framework of the UN-sponsored international conference. We are confident that the legitimate Palestinian aspirations will be realised soon and that

the State of Palestine will take its rightful place in the comity of nations.

Thank you,

DIA USA ISRAEL ALGERIA PERU SWITZERLAND

Date : Dec 19, 1988

Volume No

1995

POLAND

Indo-Polish Protocol on Shipping

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 13, 1988 in connection with the signing of Indo-Polish Protocol on Shipping:

India and Poland have agreed to further cooperate in shipping sector. A Protocol to this effect was signed here today after the conclusion of the Third Session of Indo-Polish Joint Committee. Both the sides discussed the working of the Inter-Governmental Shipping Agreement which was entered into in June 1960. The Protocol also included the mechanism of adjustment of cargo moving between the two countries.

The Protocol was signed by Shri P. Abraham, Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport on behalf of India and Mr. Adam Nowotnik, Vice Minister of Transport, Shipping and Communications of Poland.

During the last four years about 13 lakh tonnes of general cargo and oil cakes have moved between the two countries. At the discussion, the Polish side have agreed to cooperate in introducing container transportation in the bilateral trade and in the transportation of third country cargoes. The two Governments expect to make substantial progress in widening the area of Indopol cooperation by 1990 in which year they would be completing three decades of successful cooperation in shipping.

Later Mr. Nowotnik called on Shri Rajesh Pilot, Minister of State for Surface Transport and discussed matters of mutual interest in shipping sector. The Minister expressed satisfaction over the cooperation between the two countries in this sector. Both the leaders noted that although the Inter-Governmental agreement on shipping

was signed only in 1960, the cooperation between the two countries in the shipping had already begun in 1947.

Shri Pilot told the visiting dignitary that this protocol had further strengthened the cooperation and in a couple of years we would be celebrating 30 years of Joint Service in Shipping covering Indo-Polish Trade.

Mr. Nowotnik told the Minister that the next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held in Poland in 1990 and it would coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Joint Service in Shipping covering Indo-Polish Trade.

LAND INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 13, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT ABROAD

Prime Mnister's Banquet Speech in Beijing

Following is the text of the speech of the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the State Banquet hosted by the Chinese Premier Li Peng in Beijing on Dec 19, 1988:

I thank you for the warmth of your welcome and your friendly words of greeting.

This is my first visit to your great country. Yet this visit is for me much more than a personal journey. I bring you the good wishes of the people of India. I have come to renew our old friendship.

Our two countries represent two of the world's most distinguished civilisations. Our contribution to human progress has been decisive. We have given the world both knowledge and wisdom, knowledge of science and knowledge of the arts, knowledge of society and knowledge of governance. In farming and manufactures, in astronomy and mathematics, in evolving the concept of zero, in the making of paper and the technology of printing, in ways that have filled many volumes, India and China have contributed to the advancement of human society. We have also contributed wisdom: the deep ethical insights of confucius and Lao Tze, the deep

spiritual insights of the Vedas and the Buddha, the deep philosophical insights of the Upanishads and the Tao.

Through millennia, we have known each other. Through millennia, we have interacted. Through millennia, we have respected the wisdom and admired the beauty that each of us has contributed to the world. Through millennia, we have acknowledged what each has given to the other by way of intellectual exchange and ethical evolution.

It was in quest of our treasures, of our fabled material wealth, of our silks and our spices, of our textiles and our technologies, of the marvels and miracles of our cultures, that the West sought out Asia. The voyages of discovery that began with Marco Polo and Vasco de Gama ended, however, in the iniquity of imperialism. In different ways, each of us succumbed to the depredations of the European powers.

Then, each of us, in our separate ways, rose once again to freedom and independence. Together, we sought to foster the resurgence of post-colonial Asia. From the Asian Relations Conference to Bandung, we spoke with one voice, demanding equality for all nations, justice for all peoples, and peace for all time. We
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sought together to extend the area of peace in Asia and elsewhere. We worked together to provide through peaceful coexistence a solid foundation for peace and security so that fear and apprehension would give place to a feeling of confidence.

This phase of common endeavour was followed by a period of estrangement. Differences over the border led to unfortunate events that strained our relationship.

It is now time to look beyond the past. It is now time to look forward to the future. It is now time to restore the relationship between our countries to a level commensurate with the contribution which our civilizations have made to the world, to a level commensurate with the centuries of friendship between our countries, to a level commensurate with the contribution which today we must together make to the building of a new world order. Between us, we represent a third of hu-. manity. There is much we can do together.

In 1954, India and China enunciated the Panchsheel, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The principles we commended commanded scant acceptance then. The world was too intent on pursuing the path of confrontaion to consider the alternative path that Panchsheel represented. Now, thirty tortured years later, the trajectory which the Five Principles indicated for the evolution of the world order is beginning to emerge as the

world's path. We believe, as you do, that the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence provide the best way to handle relations between nations. Bloc politics and spheres of influence lead only to conflict, sharpening international tensions.

The path of peace originates in the recognition that nuclear war can never be won and must not be fought. For the first time since the invention of nuclear weaponry, we have seen set in motion a process of nuclear arms reduction and not merely nrclear arms control. Indeed, one major military power has even unilaterally announced substantial reductions in conventional arms and forces.

More significant even than the cuts themselves is the language that is being employed and the logic that -is being followed. The new language we now hear is no longer the language of war but the language of peace. The new logic we now hear is no longer the mad logic of mutually assured destruction but the sane logic of a world beyond nuclear weapons.

As the world moves nearer to the principles which were jointly formulated by us three decades ago, we would wish to work with you in assisting the process down the right path and to the right conclusion. An India and a China at odds with one another would find it difficult to work together. An India and a China in harmony with one another could. I have come here to explore ways towards that end.

Together, we have to restore the vision of peace and cooperation which Jawaharlal Nehru and Chou Enlai at one time shared. Here in Beijing, Jawaharlal Nehru said:

"We must recognize that the only way to live in this world is through coexistence and cooperation and recognition of the right of each country to live its own life. There can be no East and West ranged against each other in the future. There could be only one world devoting itself in friendly cooperation between the different parts to the advancement of humanity".

That still remains our goal. It is a goal we believe we share with you. Premier Chou Enlai's words on the same occassion still echo in our ears. He said:

"We believe that peaceful coexistence and friendly cooperation between China and India will certainly facilitate the gradual realization of peacefuji coexistence among other Asian countries and countries of the whole world".
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In urging upon the world the principles of peaceful coexistence, we would wish to follow these principles in resolving the problems between ourselves. The boundary question has come to be a major problem. It touches upon the sentiments and feelings of our people. We do understand that it also touches upon sentiments

and feelings in China. We must find an enduring solution to the problem, based on an understanding, of each other's pointof-view which will be in our mutual interest and to the benefit of both our peoples. Meanwhile, there is need of peace and tranquility in the border areas. We are confident that the boundary question will be settled amicably. It must be settled within a realistic time-frame. India is prepared to proceed accordingly.

We are both developing countries of subcontinental size with large populations. Each of us is required to deliver to our people, with equity and justice, the fruits of development and the benefits of modernisation. In fulfilling these tasks, there is much that we can learn from each other. China has broken much new ground in devising innovative ways of modernising its economy and society. We congratulate you on the remarkable transformation which you have wrought in your national life. Your achievements in agriculture, both in terms of output and diversification, are indeed impressive. We are particularly interested in your skills in water management, flood control and soil improvement. In industry, across the spectrum from heavy engineering to consumer goods, you have made significant strides. In the social services, you have pioneered many important programmes. In India, we have tripled our output of foodgrains and are poised to almost'double this again by the turn of the century through a second green revolution. In range and depth, our industrial manufactures and indigenous technology constitute the fulcrum of our self-reliance, which is the most essential characteristic of our economic philosophy. The performance of our infrastructure in recent years has been truly heartening. We are both responding to emerging challenges and the, imperatives of change. We have both sought pragmatic answers which are compatible with basic principles, encouraged imaginative new departures which are consistent with fundamental ideological postulates, fostered new thinking which is anchored in deeply held beliefs.

Development is the harbinger of accelerated economic exchanges between ourselves. The prospects for technological collaboration are promising. We have paid special attention in India to the technological component of development and have achievements to our credit which range from ground-level applications to the very frontiers of scientific exploration. So have you, We have done exceptionally well in some area and you in others. We would welcome opportunities for Indian scientists and technologists to work together with their Chinese counterparts. We need peace for development. Let us work together for peace among ourselves, peace in Asia, and peace in the world.

This visit marks a new beginning for the development of our bilateral relationship. Stable and friendly relations between India and China will determine the destiny of our region, indeed, vitally influence the course of world history. Our relationship is crucial to the future of humankind. India and China seek an improvement in their relationship not only for their mutual

benefit but also to provide the basis on which we can contribute to the building of a new world order.

The world needs to recognise the oneness of humanity. Our vision is of a world where confrontation turns into dialogue and tension into relaxation. Our vision is of a world where sovereign equality is not a hope but a reality. Our vision is of a democracy of nations where decisions are determined by the common weal, not compelled by dominance nor imposed by force of arms. Our vision is of a world which forswears nuclear weapons and the doctrines that go with such weaponary, a world which believes
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instead in non-violence and the principles of peaceful coexistence. We reaffirm Mahatma Gandhi's immortal assertion:

"It is my firm conviction that nothing enduring can be built on violence."

Friendship between India and China is a friendship which reaches back into the far. recesses of history. It is a friendship which has been nurtured by both our civilizations. It is a friendship which can contribute much to the world. We are pledged to working towards a settlement of our differences over the border. We are pledged to working for peace among peoples and cooperation among other countries. This visit solemnises that pledge and marks the commencement of a new phase of our journey. We thank you for the welcome accorded to us. We look forward to resuming our quest together for peace in the world and prosperity for all peoples.

INA INDIA RUSSIA USA INDONESIA

Date : Dec 19, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT ABROAD

Prime Y[inister's Address at Qinghua University

Following is the text of the address of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at Qinghua University in Beijing on Dec 21, 1988:

I am delighted at this opportunity to visit this renowned university. It is a symbol of what modern China has achieved. A symbol of the Chinese pursuit of excellence.

Thirty four years ago, my grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru came to China as a messenger of peace and goodwill and found here a spirit of both peace and goodwill. Between India and China that spirit is now being rekindled.

The coming together of India and China in the early fifties was a development of historical international importance. Not only did it presage friendship between the two most populous nations of the world, counting between them a third of all humankind. It represented what was for the time an almost unique example of two great nations, with two totally different economic and social systems, coming together to give a practical demonstration of peaceful coexistence among different systems. Placed in the context of the epochal change brought about in the world by the independence of India and the liberation of China, among the most important events of the mid-point of the twentieth century. The friendship which Jawaharlal Nehru sought with China was a friendship that could fundamentally affect the destiny of humankind.

Apart from the immense potential for world peace and cooperation implicit in peace and cooperation between India and China, there was also the imperative of facing together the common problems with which both countries were confronted. We were both ancient civilisations, with memories going back into the deepest recesses of the distant past, who had both undergone a prolonged period of national trauma caused by the strangling of our freedoms, the parcelling out of our economies, the stultification of our social and moral progress. We both saw the liberation of our nations not so much as the culmination of a struggle but as the beginning of an opportunity to serve our people, build our economies, transform our societies and take our countries forward.

Though the period of our struggle for freedom and your struggle for liberation, India and China viewed developments in each other's countries with deep sympathy and understanding. Our great national poet, Rabindranath Tagore, started a Chini Bhavan (the House of China) at his universal university, Vishwabharati, at Shantiniketan, of which I now have the honour to be chancellor. Our involvement in your liberation struggle found expression in the immortal mission which
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Dr. Kotnis led to China. Jawaharlal Nehru envisaged friendship between India and China as a major pillar of the post-colonial world order.

India and China worked together for peace in Asia and the world when they first emerged from the thralldom of imperialism. Together we saw that the world order was vitiated by confrontation, by a Itick of respect for the sovereign equality of nations, by intolerance of alternative national systems for the organisation of political, economic and social life. We saw

that our newly won independence would be secure only in a world which had liberated itself from the assumptions and prejudices of the past.

A striking example of the persistence of past prejudice was the refusal to recognise the People's Republic of China. The culmination of the Great Revolution which had swept China, India was among the first to recognise the great and welcome change that had burst upon your country.

Those who refused to recognise that the China of the opium wars had been consigned to the page of history began, menacing the new China from different direction and in different ways. Through this period of tribulation, India stood by China.

Another manifestation of the persistence of the old ways into the new era was the attempt which was made to restore the colonialisms that had crumbled during the second World War. The attempt was doomed, but not before hundreds of thousands had perished in this dangerously reactionary endeavour. The agony was most long drawn out in IndoChina. India and China representing the resurgent voice of resurgent Asia, worked towards ending colonialism everywhere, taking the world from under the shadow of the past into the sunlight of the new era.

Together, India and China articulated a new philosophy summed up in the Panchsheel the five principles of peaceful coexistence: Respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty: Non-Aggression: Non interference: Equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

There have been many momentous events in the three and a half decades that have gone by since we jointly adopted these principles. We have had serious differences among ourselves, leading at one stage even to armed conflict. We have not always been of one view on international issues.

In contrast to warmth of our friendship and a shared sense of purpose which marked our joint endeavours in the early years, the last thirty years or so have been a period of estrangement. Contacts between us have been sharply reduced. Information about each other has become the preserve of scholars instead of being the knowledge of people. A sense of persisting differences prevailed over the early sense of common percptions and common goals. Despite this, India and China held similar views on a number of matters of international importance and India continued to support China on such crucial issues as the restoration to China of its rightful place in the United Nations systems.

We have seen vast progress in each of our countries, where once there was a China of famines and shortages, now there is a China self-reliant feeding its people. Where once there was a China with but nascent industry, now there is a China looking with

confidence and conviction towards becoming one of the world's major economic powers in the twenty first century. At one time, China suffered from low levels of literacy, backward-looking social practices and rapid population growth. Now there is a China respected the world over for what it has achieved in giving education to its people, promoting social progress in different spheres of human endeavour, and making a remarkable effort at population planning.
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India too has undergone a major structural transformation. We too have overcome our vulnerability to famines and food shortages and are now self-sufficient in food grains production. Our industry has developed from its earlier fledging stage. Today, we have broad industrial base with a high diversified industrial structure. In education, we have steadily increased our literacy rates and we aim at universal elementary education by the beginning of the next decade. Social pro.gress has been evident in such areas as the removal of untouchability, affirmative action in favour of disadvantaged sections of society, education for girls and the integration of women into the mainstream of the nation's progress.

Both our countries have given high priority to the development of science and technology. Your achievements in space are truly remarkable and justly admired., You are doing important work in frontier areas of superconductivity, medicine and bio-technology. We in India are also working in these areas. We are among the few countries which have developed remote sensing satellite technology for the management of natural resources. We have made useful advances in many areas of industrial and defence electronics and material sciences. In telecommunications, we have developed our own digital switching system. Both of us have significant capabilities in the field of software development including work in the most sophisticated areas. There are possibilities of India and China undertaking joint research in critical areas of electronics.

While there is comparability and complementarity between what we have achieved, it is interesting that we have achieved what we have in ways that are remarkably different one to the other.

The three pillars of India's modern nationhood are Parliamentary democracy, secularism and socialism.

We have a multiplicity of political parties and elected legislatures at the central and state levels, in addition to elected local bodies. Governments are formed by the party or combination of parties constituting a majority in the legislature and are in turn responsible to the legislature. At periodic intervals, normally of five years, the electorate renews or changes its mandate. Our system allows for different parties to come to power at different levels at different times. It also

allows for different parties to rule at the Centre and in the States and in the local bodies at the same time. Equal rights are guaranteed by our Constitution and assured by our democratic process to all minorities, religious, ethnic, linguistic. Our judiciary is independent of the executive our press is free to report, comment and criticise. We believe that freedom of expression and the free exchange of views are not only intrinsically valuable but have also promoted stability in our society by furnishing safe. ty valves which forestall social and economic pressures before these trigger off an explosion. Democracy has enabled us to maintain a steady course through four decades of rapid change.

The second pillar of our state is secularism. It is a word with different connotations in different languages. We mean by secularism that the State in India does not interfere in the religious practices of its citizens, nor does it encourage the mixing of religion with politics. The State has no religion. At the same time, our State respects the religious sensibilities of our people, values the spritual and cultural strength which religion imparts and ensures full freedom of worship and propagation for all religions. Nearly twenty percent of our population belongs to various religious minorities. The largest of these being the Muslims. All our religious groupings have a high and honoured place in our society, with the assurance that no section of our people will be discriminated against on grounds of religion. Social programmes have been out in place to assist minorities in need of special assistance.

Socialism in India is indigenous to our experience and our conditions. It is not a
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dogma. It is responsive to changing circumstances. It has had the resilience to develop with time. The focus of our socialism is the uplift of the poor, succour to the weak, justice to the oppressed and balanced regional development. To attain these ends, we believe the state must control the commanding heights of the economy and that self-reliance should be the first principle, of development. We stress that the pattern of progress must be so designed as to give all parts of the country equitable opportunities of growth and all sections of our people an equitable opportunities of growth and all sections of our people an equitable share of the fruits of development. Our emphasis on balanced regional growth and our accent on the reduction of social disparities have meant leaving the imperatives of growth with considerations of equity. Our socialism sees the thrust of the development effort as growth with social justice.

Our development strategy is one of planning for a mixed economy. The State sector is predominant in core and heavy industry and also in much of the infrastructure. But most of light industry and all of agriculture is in the private sector. Our development

objective is the modernisation and transformation of our economy with an overriding priority to the elimination of poverty. Planning on a'democratic framework necessarily place great importance on evolving a consensus on goals and instruments. At times, this imposes constraints in the larger interests of democratic consensus and participation.

This strategy has served us well. We have succeeded in setting our economy on an accelerating growth path. Agricultural productivity and production have increased steadily and vulnerability of agriculture to the weather has been reduced. Industry is now growing rapidly. We hope to accelerate our growth further in the next decade. Foodgrains output will be doubled over the next ten to fifteen years. Our perspective plan envisages the eradication of poverty and unemployment by the end of the century.

But many problems remain. Our rate of growth of population remains too high. While impressive increases in foodgrains production have been recorded in many parts of our country the task ahead is that of spreading this green revolution to new areas and to new crops. We have to diversify agriculture and promote greater value addition. We have to make our industry more efficient and competitive, with better products and higher quality. We believe that much sharper domestic competition is necessary to ensure this. It is also necessary, progressively, to open up our industry to the pressures of international competition.

To tackle these problems, we in India have taken, as you in China have done, new steps and new initiatives in economic policy, while remaining true to our basic principles. We have embarked on a process of planned liberalisation giving much greater autonomy to our public sector en terprises and greater flexibility to our private sector to invest, expand and upgrade technology. Indian industry has reached a stage where it must increasingly integrate with the world economy in terms of technology, quality and cost competitiveness. We are encouraging foreign investment where it can help our efforts to modernise. We are also trying to decentralise planning and decision-making to secure better results. This is especially important for our strategies of rural development. A key element of this strategy is increasing peoples' participation in the planning process.

In this context, your own bold experiments in economic reform are of special interest to us. They have already produced rich dividends for China. We believe we have much to learn from your experience. Some of what we are doing in India may also be of interest to you. No two developing countries are more similarly placed than yours and ours. Despite differences in philosophies of planning and methods of management, India and China can give and take a great deal from each other. We believe you share this view.

I represent a new generation in India. I was but a boy in the hey-day of SinoIndian friendship. I was still a young man when differences were converted into conflict. I have grown in a world which has not benefitted but only been disadvantaged by estrangement between India and China. I have come to office with the firm conviction that, between ourselves, we must make -a new beginning. I am heartened that the Chinese leadership is more than prepared to put behind us past rancour and past prejudices. I am heartened that we are both prepared not to be mired in the past. As we enter the last decade of this century, India and China are called upon to look forward not behind to reach out to new horizons, to seek new vistas of friendship and cooperation, to explore new paths of benefit to each other and of benefit to the world.

I do not believe our joint advocacy of peaceful coexistence was either a coincidence or an accident of history. It arose out of certain perceptions which had grown out of our historical experience. I would like to dwell a little on this.

The distinguishing characteristic of the civilizations of India and China is not so much their antiquity as their continuity. Neve-rtheless, specific interactions between our civilizations have not been continuous despite the thousands of years that our respective civilizations have run a parallel course of continuity. The exchanges were, perhaps, at their most intense during the period of the three kingdoms in China when there was much trade and travel between India and China, when Indian art influenced Chinese art, when the artefacts and products and technology of China came to India. For centuries, Indian ports were a regular point of call for Chinese ships. The prosperity of the Chola empire in southern India was largely based on their trade with China. Till today, the fishing nets of Kerala, on the South-West coast of India, are called Chinese nets and designed on the Chinese pattern. This phase in our mutual exchanges was bracketed by the accounts left behind by two of the greatest Chinese travellers to India: Fa Man in the fourth century A.D., who visited our university at Nalanda, which housed a large Chinese community and Xuan Zang in the seventh century A.D., who was a guest at the court of our last great Buddhist emperor Harshavardhana.

It was the message of the Buddha that led to an awakening of awarene&-, and an intensification of exchanges between our two great civilizations. It has given us insights into the human condition which are more profound and long-lasting than would be indicated by a mere cataloguing of when Bodhidharma sailed to canton or Yi Qing came to India. Drawing on these insights, Jawaharlal Nehru declared here in Beijing thirty four years ago.

"Fear and hatred and violence have darkened man's horizon for

many years. Violence breeds violence. Hatred degrades and stultifies and fear is a bad companion".

It is perhaps such insights which enabled our two contemporary systems, so different from one another, to formulate common principles for the sustenance of the new world order which, together, we sought.

Another characteristic of our civilizations which perhaps led us towards the concept of peaceful coexistence was our millennial experience of synthesis. It helped us recognise that the modern world demanded understanding and respect for the diversity of political and economic systems the world over. While others sought to impose uniformity by suasion or force, India and China spoke up for coexistence among different social and economic systems. It was an affirmation made by two ancient civilizations, now turned into two modem states, but following very different social and economic systems.

I am conscious of the fact, that although India and China were the archi
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tects of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, our own relations have not always confromed to these principles. We have had differences of perception and differences of opinion. Yet, what must not be forgotten in a listing of differences is a listing of commonalities in our world outlook. There has been significant parallelism in the views expressed by India and China on a wide range, of issues relating to world security, the international political order, the new international economic order, global concerns.

In regard to the environment and space, matters of momentous significance such as the law of the sea and the Antarctic Treaty, information and communication, culture and art, there are and there have been differences but, considering the fact that India is a member of the non-aligned movement and China is tijt, that India is a member of the group of 77 and China is not, that India is not a -nuclear weapons power and China is. It is significant that there is such a wide area of commonality between our points of view and so much scope for further dialogue for the attainment of shared objectives.

Now, as the spirit of the mid-fiftles is rekindled, the time has come to end our estrangement and make a new beginning. We must find an acceptable solution to the boundary questions within a realistic time-frame. This can be achieved in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and mutual confidence. The border issue is a complex one, touching as it does upon the emotions and sentiments of our people, these aspects have salience to in China too. We need patience, wisdom and statesmanship to resolve the issue to the mutual benefit of our peoples. The core of any solution that

may emerge is mutual acceptability. We should jointly endeavour to find such a solution in order to put relations between India and China on a solid basis. We are determined to move in this direction. It is important that while we search for a solution, peace and tranquility are maintained in the border areas. I have every hope that during this visit, we will, together with our Chinese friends. build a better political climate for the solution of the border issue.

Cooperation between India and China should be expanded significantly. Trade between us is far below the potential of our economies. Cooperation in science and technology is still to take off. I believe that economic, sicentific, technological and cultural cooperation between the two countries will greatly contribute to better understanding between our peoples and our governments and will indirectly help us in solving complex problems.

We are at an important conjuncture in world affairs. There is a palpable relaxation of tensions and evidence of a dialogue replacing confrontation.

The people of Namibia are at long last on the verge of securing their freedom. Their struggle for independence, has been a saga of courage and dignity. However, in South Africa, the abomination of Apartheid persists. We demand comprehensive mandatory sanctions against Pretoria under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, failing which we apprehend an unprecedented bloodbath in the struggle to end this iniquity.

There has been a radical turn of events in West Asia. A Palestinian State has been proclaimed. It has been recognised by both China and India and other peace-loving countries in the world over. We are glad that dialogue has begun between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organization. We extend our whole-hearted support to the three-point Palestinian peace initiative put forward by our brother, chairman Yasser Arafat. The spirit of tolerance which he has evoked is in keeping with the traditions of Asia and the aspirations of our continent.

In Kampuchea, a solution appears to be emerging which could both and the
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conflict and forestall the resurgence of the forces of genocide. We would welcome cooperation among all concerned in fostering a just and equitable settlement in Kampuchea which will ensure the independence, sovereignty and non-aligned status of that country, free of outside interference and intrervention.

In South Asia, a new dawn is breaking. South Asian regional cooperation has made a good beginning. Recent changes in Pakistan, with the emergence of a democratically elected

government led by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, have opened up encouraging prospects for enduring friendship and goodwill between our countries, reflecting the natural affinities and affection which the people of India and Pakistan have for each other. In Sri Lanka, the Accord which I signed with president Jayewardene guarantees the unity and territorial integrity of that country and has brought respect, recognition and a meaningful devolution of powers to the Tamil minority. In the Maldives, our immediate response to the call for assistance from friendly neighbour in his hour of need has ensured the triumph of the democratic will of the people of the Maldives against the forces of subversion and destabilisation. In Afghanistan, we are persuaded that strict respect for the Geneva accords will lead to the emergence of a Government based onnational consensus, which can ensure the independence, integrity and noin-aligned status of the country, provided only there is a complete cessation of all outside interfeence and intervention in the affairs of that country.

At this crucial turning point in contemporary history, we muct asses s afresh the work that India and China can do, individually and together, in fashioning the new world order which is emerging from the chrysalis of the old.

The two major nuclear weapons powers have agreed in principle that a nuclear war cannot be won and must not be fought. Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru recognised this in 1945, in the immediate aftermath of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It augurs well for the future of our world that this perception has now gained wider currency. We are encouraged that this principle has received practical expression in the form of a dismantling of intermediate nuclear forces and the initiation of a process designed to secure strategic arms cuts.

The moot question before us is whether these first-ever steps of nuclear disarmament presage movement towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons. Or do these steps merely presage a marginal adjustment in global strategic deployment. Perhaps even the shifting of the nuclear arms race into new and ever more dangerous dimensions?

In answering these questions, the task before us is not just to wait upon events but to influence them. India and China can together do a great deal to ensure that the moves which have now been initiated proceed in the only direction which promises sustained peace and sustainable development. To this end, our first step must be to resuscitate and revitalise our decades-old cominitment to the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

There are two basic agruments which sustain nuclear weapons. The first is that as such weapons have been invented. They cannot now be disinvented. The second is the doctrine of deterrence which holds that it is only your capacity to destroy your opponent

which forestalls your opponent from destroying you.

The danger of universal destruction through the use of nuclear weapons arises not so much from the fact of their invention as from an international system which concedes their need and legitimises their possession and use. It is the old order which resulted in the invention of these terrible weapons. We cannot disinvent these weapons but we can certainly alter the world order which has given them legitimacy and tolerated their continued existence.

As regards the doctrines of deterrence, they have not worked in the past
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because the balance of power is an inherently unstable balance, which all the parties concerned are all the time attempting to upset in their favour and to the disadvantage of others. For deterrence to be credible, there must be commitment to the use of the instruments of deterrence. But in the era of nuclear weapons ' the use of such weapons will only lead to global holocaust.

Therefore, nuclear disarmament requires not only the dismantling of nuclear weapons but, even more importantly, the dismantling of the mentalities which go with these weapons. We need to evolve generally accepted principles of international security to replace doctrines of deterrence. We need to evolve systems of conflict-resolution which forestall the resort to arms. We need to promote thinking about the world order required to sustain a world beyond nuclear weapons. Advance thinking on these matters is essential. Otherwise, even after nuclear weapons are eliminated, the danger will remain of the world slipping back into the nuclear arms race. That alternative process of thinking could best commence from the five principles of peaceful coexistence which India and China were the first to enunciate.

The alternative process of thinking cannot limit itself to security and the international political order alone. It must embrace economies, the environment, space and our common heritage.

As developing countries, India and China share common concerns about the functioning of the international economic order. The world economy continues to be characterised by inadequacies and imbalances which hamper development in the developing countries. India and China have been hurt much less than many other developing countries but neither of us can afford to be complacent. Both in the area of international finance and in the area of trade, there are disturbing trends which weaken established multilateral institutions and mechanisms. The world pays lip service to interdependence and cooperation but commitment to these concepts in practice is less evident. These trends are dangerous for the North as well as the South. We must

reconstruct a consensus on international economic cooperation. We believe that India and China can work together in international forums to bring about a new international economic order, based on the recognition of global interdependence. Without this, the new international political order would be of little comfort, difficult to attain and impossible to sustain.

In the last decade, political and economic changes have been leading to the emergence of a multipolar world. The European Community seems to be firmly set on establishing an integrated European economy by 1992. Though unresolved questions still remain, Japan has emerged as a major economic centre whose decisions influence the rest of the world. The inherent strength and vitality of the American economy and specially their advanced technology remain crucial to the international economy. The Soviet Union is restructuring its economy with profound global implications. How these power centre will act and react on each other and how they will impact on the developing world are matters for serious analysis. The intertwining of economic power and military strength could create. new security concerns. It is all the more important then that we actively work for a new international order where questions of peace and security are settled through non-violent means.

Another area of international action in which fn-iitful cooperation between India and China is indicated could be in regard to the environment. We have both suffered the consequences of environmerntal degradation. We have both worked on programmes designed to make conservation an integral part of the development process. We have both recognised that the cost of preserving the environment is an essential component of the cost of
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development because if these costs are not recognised, and paid for, now degradation will exact a'much higher price than conservation. There is much work we can do together, many lessons we can learn from each other, and something we can add to the world's repository of knowledge by conscious cooperation in the interests of sustainable development.

We are both committed to the peaceful uses of outer space. We have both protested against attempts to misuse space for military applications. We both believe that nothing could be more dangerous than the shifting of the nuclear arms race into this new dimension. We are also both concerned at space being converted into a garbage dump for the technology experiments of the advanced economies. Like the seas and the seabed, space too is a common heritage of mankind. It is a heritage which all of us must work together to preserve.

Between us we are the repositories of some of the most significant treasures of the human inheritance. We believe in international cooperation to preserve and promote the cultural

heritage of humankind. When UNESCO came under siege, India and China were together on the same side in defending the organisation and asserting its vital role.

Now that the world is beginning to explore the possibility of co-existence in preference to deterrence, of cooperation in preference to rivalry, of interdependence in preference to beggaring the neighbour of nuclear disarmament in preference to nuclear escalation, it behoves the original advocates of the Panchsheel - India and China - to set themselves up as an example to the world.

I see optimism in both India and China today; optimism about the progress our countries can make, optimism about realising our goals of development, optimism about the levels of cooperation we can reach, optimism about the work we can do together to restore our counties to their traditional position in the vanguard of human civilization, optimism about the contribution we can make to rebuilding the world order nearer our hearts desire.

We are summoned by our past to the tasks which the future holds. We have a mutual obligation to a common humanity. India and China can together give the world new perspectives on a new world order, which will ensure peace among nations and justice among peoples, equity for each and prosperity for all, freedom from fear and freedom from want, a world where we live together in happiness and harmony.

INA INDIA USA ITALY PERU NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA PAKISTAN SRI LANKA MALDIVES AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND JAPAN

Date : Dec 21, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT ABROAD

India-China Joint Press Communique

Follow-fing is the text of Joint Press Communique issued in Beijing on Dec 23, 1988:

At the invitation of Premier Li Peng of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of the Republic of India made an official goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China from 19th to 23rd December, 1988. Accompanying His Excellency, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his visit to China

were Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Mr. Narasimha Rao, Minister of External Affairs of India, Mr. Dinesh Singh, Minister of Commerce, Dr. B. Shankaranand, Minister of Law and Justice and Water Resources, Mr. K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and other Indian officials.

Premier Li Peng and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi held talks in an atmosphere of friendship, candidness and mutual understanding. President Yang Shangkun of the People's Republic of China, General Secretary Zhao Ziyang of the Central
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Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPQ and Chairman Deng Xiaoping of the Military Commission of the CPC Central Committee had separate meetings with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. During his visit, the two governments signed the agreement on cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology, the Agreement Relating to Civil Air Transport, and the Executive Programme for the years 1988, 1989, and 1990 under the Agreement for Cultural Cooperation. Both the Premier and the Prime Minister -were present at the signing ceremony. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Mrs. Gandhi and their party also toured historical sites and scenic spots in Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai.

During their talks and meetings, the leaders of the two countries had a wide exchange of views and ideas on bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest. Both sides found such talks and meetings useful as they en- I hanced mutual understanding in the interest of further improvement and development of bilateral relations. The two sides made a positive appraisal of the cooperation and exchanges in recent years in trade, culture, scipnce and technology, civil aviation and other fields, and expressed satisfaction with the relevant agreements reached between the two countries. They emphasized the vast scope that existed for learning from each other.

They emphasized that the Five Principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence, which were jointly initiated by India and China, which have proved full of vitality through the test of history, constitute the basic guiding principles for good relations between states. These principles also constitute the basic guidelines for the establishment of a new international political order and the new international economic order. Both sides agreed that their common desire was to restore, improve and develop India-China good-neighbourly andfriendly relations on the basis of these principles. This not only conforms to the fundamental interests of the two peoples, but will actively contribute to peace and stability in Asia and the world as a whole. The two sides reaffirmed that they would make efforts to further their friendly relations.

The leaders of the two countries held earnest, indepth discussions on the IndiaChina boundary question and agreed to settle this question through peaceful and friendly consultations. They also agreed to develop their relations actively in other fields and work hard to create a favourable climate and conditions for a fair and reasonable settlement of the boundary question while seeking a mutually acceptable solution to this question. In this context, concrete steps will be taken, such as establishing a joint working group on the boundary question and a joint group on economic relations and trade and science and technology.

The Chinese side expressed concern over anti-China activities by some Tibetan elements in India. The Indian side reiterated the long-standing and consistent policy of the Government of India that Tibet is an autonomous region of China and that anti-China political activities by Tibetan elements are not permitted on Indian soil

With regard to the international situation, the two sides held that in the present day world, confrontation was giving way to dialogue and tension to relaxation. This is a trend resulting from long years of unswerving struggle by the peace-loving countries and people of the world against power politics. It is conducive to world peace and to the settlement of regional problems. It also facilitates the efforts of all countries, the developing countries in particular, to develop their national economies. India and China will make their own contributions to the maintenance of world peace, promotion of complete disarmament and attainment of common progress.
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His Excellency Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and their party expressed heartfelt thanks to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China for the warm and friendly hospitality accorded them.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has invited Premier Li Peng to visit the Republic of India at his convenience. Premier Li Peng has accepted the invitation with pleasure. The date of the visit will be decided upon through diplomatic channels.

INA INDIA TURKEY USA PERU

Date : Dec 23, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT ABROAD

Prime NUnister's Address at Fourth SAARC Summit

The following is the text of the address by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at Islamabad on Dec 29, 1988:

I am delighted to be in Islamabad on my first visit to Your beautiful capital. I am particularly happy to be here when the people of Pakistan have elected you, Madam Prime Minister, to lead your great country forward to progress and prosperity, rooted in democracy. I bring greetings to the people of Pakistan from their sisters and brothers in India. We rejoice in the prospect of friendship and cooperation between India and Pakistan.

We are at a historic conjuncture in world affairs. In the thirteen months since we last met, momentous events have taken place which are fundamentally altering the world and the world order.

In basic thrust and direction, these developments are of a positive nature. Following the Treaty concluded between President Gorbachev and President Reagan, an entire nuclear weapons system is being dismantled. This is reinforced by the agreement in principle to effect strategic arms cuts. It is the first time since the invention of nuclear weapons that the world has gone beyond a mindset limited to nuclear arms control and proceeded to an act of nuclear arms reduction.

Better understanding between the major military powers is finding reflection in a palpable relaxation of tensions in various parts of the world. The Geneva Accords on Afghanistan have set in motion a process which could lead to the establishment of a government based on national consensus, ensuring a sovereign, independent and nonaligned Afghanistan, provided only that all the parties concerned respect the Accords and sincerely cooperate in implementing them.

To our immediate west, the Iran-Iraq war has thankfully ended.

In Palestine, radical change is in the air. Our brother, Yasser Arafat, has proclaimed a Palestinian State, which all of us have welcomed and many of us have recognised. Reassuringly, dialogue has commenced between the United States and the PLO.

In south-east Asia, possibilities are emerging of a solution to the conflict in Kampuchea.

In Africa, the people of Namibia are now being given the promise that the Independence Plan adopted by the Security Council ten years ago is at long last going to be implemented.

I have just visited China to launch a new beginning in India-China relations, marking a turning point in our bilateral relationship and reviving cooperation between us in working towards a new world order based on the Panchsheel, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Tensions between the Soviet Union and China are showing every sign of being progressively defused.

Nearer home, we responded immediately to the request for assistance from our friendly and democratic neighbour,
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the maidives, to thwart the invasion by foreign mercenaries aimed at subverting the democratic will of the people.

In Sri Lanka, in consequence of the Agreement signed between President Junius Jayawardene and me, the unity and integrity of that country have been consolidated even as a large segment of the electorate, defying the threats of terrorists and extremists has turned up at the polls to elect new Provincial Councils and a new President. We, in SAARC, will greatly miss President Jayawardene's wisdom and guidance. I wish to pay tribute to his sagacity and statesmanship. He has always considered himself a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi. He is a patriot with abiding love for all his people. We wish him many more years of service to his country and to our region.

Here in Pakistan, democratic elections have led to the installation of a new gov7ernment under your distinguished leadership, giving rise to hope everywhere in the subcontinent of a new dawn of friendship and cooperation between us.

Taken together, all these events presage change of profound significance in our region, in our world and to the world order needed to sustain peace and promote development. Can it, however, be said that South Asian regional cooperation has grown at a pace commensurate with these developments of fundamental significance to the international community and the emerging woprld order?

In the light of our present responses to the new challenges, and in comparison to other regional groupings, we appear today to be laggards. However, when we cast our minds back to the time when Bangladesh took the initiative in launching regional cooperation in South Asia, our responses demonstrated imagination and innovation. At that time, there was great tension in the world. Nor was our region free of tension. The forward-looking decision to forge ahead with South Asian cooperation was, therefore, for its time, an expression of optimism in the future, a vote of confidence in cooperation over confrontation, a pledge to bridge distances, whether geographical or those of the mind, a promise to our peoples to bring them closer together.

We have made a good beginning. But is a good beginning enough? Do we not need to accelerate the pace of our progress? The changes taking place in the world are opening unprecedented opportunities. They are also posing unprecedented challenges. It is a duty we owe to our peoples, severally as sovereign independent nations, and jointly as the most populous regional group in the world, to consolidate cooperation in South Asia. At this time of change, we owe it to our peoples to ensure that the world moves forward in directions which safeguard our national interests, promote our regional interests and bring into being a world order which meets our needs, matches our expectations, and reflects our aspirations for peace through peaceful coexistence.

We have the inestimable advantage of all of us belonging to the Non-aligned Movement. There is a Non-aligned world view which posits an alternative to the rivalries of bloc politics, the confrontations of military pacts, the death-dealing dangers of deterrence, and the fear, hatred and violence which permeate the existing international order. The Non-alimed world view looks to a world beyond nuclear weapons. The Non-aligned world view looks to peaceful coexistence as the underpinning of the world order required to sustain a world beyond nuclear weapons. The Non-aligned world view replaces fear with confidence, hatred with goodwill, and violence with peace and peaceful coexistence, anchored in non-violence as a way of life.

In sketching the new world order, the Non-aligned Movement draws its inspiration from the Charter of the United Nations. It would be necessary to further democratise and strengthen the UN system to undertake the monitoring and verifi
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cation required to give worldwide confidence in the new world order.

It would also be necessary to utilise the forums of the United Nations for promoting the new international economic order which is indispensable to sustaining the new international political order. It is also in these forums that we must forge the world cooperation required for environmental conservation to ensure sustainable development, the preservation of outer space for exclusively peaceful uses, and to conserve the cultural heritage of human civilization.

It is to the fulfilment of these great and noble tasks that our minds must be attuned. A South Asia turned inwards upon itself, preoccupied with petty quarrels, is not a South Asia which can fulfil its pledges to its peoples nor a South Asia which can make the contribution which it must to the emerging world order. If we fail to place South Asia in the vanguard of the caravan of human destiny, we shall find our destiny placed in the hands of others, we shall find a world order evolving that does not accord with

our aims, we shall find our interests mortgaged to the interests of others, our hopes put in hock to the ambitions of others, our independence compromised, our freedom jeopardised. On the other hand, there would be no resisting a self-confident, forward-looking South Asia, a billion people representing a fifth of humankind. It is for us to determine whether South Asia's response to the challenges of the new order will be the broken voice of a fragmented region or the voice of a region at harmony with itself, drawing its strength from peace and cooperation between its constituent countries.

Our cooperation in South Asia must be informed by this larger vision. We have laid sound foundations. It took courage to do so when we did. Do we now have the courage to make the imaginative moves that will take our cooperation into the new dimensions necessary to meet the new challenges? Without such imagination, our cooperation runs the danger of being channelled into narrow grooves.

South Asian cooperation has to be made a living, throbbing reality for the hundreds of millions of our people. There has to be a South Asian consciousness, an awareness of what, as a region, we wish to make of ourselves of what, as a region, we strive towards, of what, as a region, we stand for, of what, as a region, we mean to the world. Until we make of SAARC a people's movement its achievements will lie recorded only in dusty files or moulder in the cabinets of our bureaucracies. Regional cooperation which is peripheral to the lives of our people and the work of our governments is not a cooperation worthy of the needs of our region nor of our region's role in world affairs nor of what we can as a region achieve.

Let us break all barriers.

To begin with, let us remove the restrictions that stand in the way of the free flow of information. Let there be a churning of knowledge, a dawning of mutual recognition and understanding, a mutual exchange of ideas and thoughts and sentiments. I would hope that such a free flow of information will lead to the dismantling of all the restrictions that stand in the way of our people getting to know each other, meeting each other, interacting with each other. SAARC will start becoming a tangible reality when the people of South Asia find that, without let or hindrance, they can travel around the region. Our people must be involved and enthused, so that on the tide of the people's wishes, our cooperation suges further forward.

I would suggest that we reflect upon three types of measures that might enable us to move in this direction.

First the primary problem before each of our countries in the region and in our region as a whole is the removal of poverty. In each of our countries, our

highest priority is the war on poverty. For South Asian regional cooperation to be meaningful to our people, It must be associated as closely as possible with development at the grassroots. It is then that its significance for our people will become most apparent. We are all developing countries at roughly similar stages of development. There is much we can learn from one another. There is a treasurehouse of shared experiences we can draw upon.

We also need to strengthen linkages between ourselves to give us strength, individually and as a region. This calls for increased economic exchanges within our region, covering the gamut of economic activities from agriculture to industry, infrastructure, technology and human resource development. Economic cooperation must lie at the heart of regional cooperation. There has to be a degree of harmonization to ensure that complementarlties in our economies are matched to give strength to our respective economies and strength to our voice and influence in world forums. This will enable us to make our full contribution to the restructuring of the present international economic order, which is fundamentally unequal and unjust.

Yet, we shy away from trade and economic cooperation. At our last Summit, we commended the work of our planners in areas related to trade and economic cooperation and established a group of experts to work out the terms of reference for such cooperation. In over a Year, all we have had is a second meeting of planners and a first meeting of experts. We have not taken even one full step down the road towards regional cooperation of a kind which interfaces with our people on development issues at the grassroots. How can regional cooperation become a reality for our people if it remains so far removed from their daily concerns? If we play with shadows and allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by apprehensions, cooperation in development will remain a mirage. And without cooperation in development. South Asian regional cooperation will remain peripheral to the lives of our people.

Given the disparity in size, levels of development and degrees of diversification in the economies of the countries constituting our Association, there will of course have to be special measures and safeguards built into any scheme of regional cooperation to protect the interests of each of us and to promote the common interests of all. India has no hesitation in declaring at the outset that it is fully conscious of its special obligations and special responsibilities. We will not seek to secure any unfair advantage at the expense of any of our partners. Indeed, the interests of none of us can be secured by damaging the interests of anyone else.

Second would be activities involving greater -people's participation. Sports and culture are the two areas in which the

people's involvement and the people's interaction are deep and widespread. Both are areas which fall within the identified sectors of cooperation. The sports events we have so far orgainsed have indicated the interest that there is among the people at large. Let us have more such events, both in traditional sports and in modern games, as competitive tournaments and as exhibition displays, so that a SAARC sports encounter arouses at least the same pitch of interest as one-day cricket or a football match.

What SAARC has so far done in the field of culture is nowhere near our potential, representing,as we do, cultures which trace their origins deep into the recesses of the millennial past, a continuity almost unique in the world. The three Archaeological Congresses already held have demonstrated the wide area of commonality in the heritage of our region, in the interface between our respective cultures and in the interaction and cross-fertilisation through which our cultures have evolved. Radio, the cinema and, more recently, the television, have demonstrated how the people of South Asia can speak to each
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other, communicate with each other, learn from each other, laugh with each other, enrich and fullfil themselves. Culture is the medium through which we can best affirm our affinities while celebrating our diversity. India offers to host a South Asian Festival. We would be happy to join hands with our partners and participate in similar festivals in other memberStates- of SAARC.

The third area in which South Asian cooperation could impact meaningfully on our people is in the area of environmental conservation. The understanding and protection of the environment is a global problem requiring global cooperation. At Kathmandu, we commissioned a study relating to the causes and consequences of natural disasters and the protection and preservation of the environment. A small beginning has been made, its very smallness reflecting the hesitancies, and doubts that persist in our minds. Unthinking development only engenders the kind of degradation which fosters poverty. Environmental degradation is a fundamental cause and sometimes a consequence of poverty. We have learned through bitter experience that the cost of conservation is an inescapable cost of development, for the price which eventually must be paid for environmental neglect is always greater than the cost of conservation. It has also been the particular experience of our region that in many cases and, indeed, in most of the vital ones, effective conservation requires cooperation. Regrettably, neither the importance nor the urgency of cooperation in this area has been reflected in the work undertaken so far by SAARC. The studies we have commissioned must be completed quickly. We must look beyond country studies to problems of general significanec to our region, such as the impact of the greenhouse effect on our major environmental concerns, including the sea-level rise, changing weather

patterns, and the monsoon. These are matters which deeply affect our peoples and our economies. We must study them jointly and together'seek practical forms of cooperation. We must act with all deliberate speed. Cooperation for sustainable development must become part of the centrepiece of SAARC activity.

Let us make 1989 the Year of the People for South Asia. Let us not remain mired in doubts and fears and apprehensions. Let our hopes soar and our ambitions be given full rein. Let us not be accused by Allama Iqbal:

You have not acquainted your heart
  With savour of exaltation,
Like a foot-print lost in the past
  You have slipped into obliteration.
Confined to your narrow concerns
  You rose not above your limitations
The wondrous world without
  Escaped your ministrations.

Thank you.

KISTAN INDIA USA AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND IRAN IRAQ NAMIBIA CHINA SRI LANKA FRANCE BANGLADESH CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NEPAL

Date : Dec 29, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT ABROAD

Prime Minister's Concluding Statement at Fourth SAARC Summit

The following is the text of the Concluding statement by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at Islamabad on Dec 31, 1988:

The end of each SAARC meeting marks the commencement of the next phase in our programme of work.

In the year ahead, the primary task we have set for ourselves is making South Asian cooperation a people's movement by evolving and implementing programmes which tangibly impinge upon the concerns and well-being of our peoples.

We have outlined the framework of a regional perspective plan. It is for our Ministers and senior officials to so flash out SAARC-2000 that when we next meet we can with confidence say to our

people
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that we have prepared a plan which makes South Asian 'cooperation a significant dimension of their daily lives. If the regional perspective plan represents merely the lowest common denominator of consensus, we shall have failed the expectations which our people repose in us. If, on the other hand, we are able to rise to the occasion and fulfill the aspirations we have aroused, then our people will recognise our endeavours as worthy of the great cause to which they are dedicated.

When we meet next in Colombo, we must be able to demonstrate that we have suemeded in dismantling some barriers and paving the way towards the dismantlement of the rest. The most important of these barriers are the psychological barriers. Ones an ethos is established in which we signal to our bureaucracies a political commitment to the opening of closed doors, the doors will, of their own accord, begin to open. It is the windows of the mind that first need uncurtaining.

Meanwhile, we must consolidate the work already undertaken. Three years ago at Dhaka, we flagged narcotics and the improvement of the status of women as key issues for our region. We have now reached the stage where 1989 will be the "SAARC Year Against Drug Abuse", and the following year will be pledged to the Girl Child. The mere designation of these Years is not enough. We must make sure that the menace of narcotics is rolled back, that drug traffickers and peddlers of this dreadul vice are confronted with the united will of South Asia to crush them.

The oppression and suppression of women, cruel and inhuman in itself, is depriving our societies of half their natural strength. It is morally incumbent upon us to end all discrimination against women, to give them every opportunity for education, employment, self-development and independence. This work has to begin with the girl child. The girl child who is given a good start in life will grow into a woman honoured and respected for all she can contribute to nation-building. We need practical programmes of far-reaching import to achieve this. Nothing less will do.

Madam Chairperson, we repose in you our full confidence to guide the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation towards the new horizons which we are, in duty bound to explore for the sake of our peoples, the interests of our countries and the world role which has devolved upon our region. We assure you of our cooperation in working out South Asia's historic destiny.

We thank you, Madam Prime Minister, for making us so welcome here. We return to our homes bearing your message of friendship secure in the knowledge that SAARC is in able hands.

Thank you.

KISTAN USA SRI LANKA BANGLADESH OMAN

Date : Dec 31, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT ABROAD

Joint Press Release

Joint press release isued on Dec 31, 1988 at the end of
Fourth SAARC Summit, Islamabad, Pakistan:

The President of Bangladesh, the King of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Maldives, the King of Nepal, the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the President of Sri Lanka met at the Fourth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation at Islamabad from 29-31 December, 1988. The meeting was marked by an atmosphere of mutual understanding and spirit of accommodation.

2. The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed their commitment to the priin
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ciples and objectives of the Association enshrined in the SAARC Charter and renewed their determination to work collectively towards the attainment of these objectives. They issued the Islamabad Declaration.

3. The Heads of State or Government were Oeeply shocked at the armed attack on the Republic of Maldives on 3rd November, 1988 aimed at destablising the Government and taking over the country. They strongly condemned these acts of violence which disrupted the peace and security of a member state. They expressed full solidarity with the Government of Maldives.

4. The Heads of State or Government expressed concern at the high incidence of drug production, trafficking and abuse. They decided to declare 1989 as the "SAARC Year Against Drug Abuse" in order to focus attention on drug-related problems facing the region. They called upon members states to prepare and implement national programmes in this regard.

5. They welcomed the launching of SAARC Chairs, Fellowships and

Scholarships schemes and the Youth Volunteers Programme. They recognised that Education was one of the principal areas requiring urgent attention in the region and decided to include Education among the agreed areas of cooperation. For this purpose they decided to set up a Technical Committee and accepted the offer of Bangladesh to chair the Committee.

6. The Heads of State or Government agreed to launch "SAARC-2000 - A Basic Needs Perspective" which calls for a perspective regional plan with specific targets to be met by the end of the century in areas of core interest such as food, clothing, shelter, education, primary health care, population planning and environmental protection. In this context they welcomed the offer of the Government of Pakistan to host a Centre for human Resource Development and directed the Secretary-General to convene an Expert Group Meeting of member countries to work out modalities for the realization of I'SAARC-2000 - A Basic Needs Perspective."

7. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the idea of holding South Asian Festivals from time to time and accepted the offer of India to host the first such festival.

S. The Heads of State or Government directed the Standing Committee to examine the desirability of establishing a regional body to promote cultural links among member states.

9. They welcomed the coming into force of the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. They stressed the importance of the adoption of enabling measures at the national level that would be necessary in order to fully implement the provisions of the Convention.

10. They welcomed the Agreement regarding the establishment of a South Asian Food Security Reserve in August this year, which marked a major breakthrough in the common endeavours of the Governments of member countries of SAARC to assist each other in food emergency situations.

11. The Heads of State or Government expressed their satisfaction at the progress achieved in the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA). They recognised the need for focussing attention on more concrete and result-oriented activities within the SAARC framework.

12. They welcomed the establishment of the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) at Dhaka and were of the view that proposals for the setting up of regional institutions, focussing on problems of common concern in the region, should be given priority.

13. They reiterated their earlier commitment to accord priority to the needs of

children in national development plans. They decided to declare 1990 as the "SAARC Year of the Girl Child" and directed that specific programmes and acItivities be undertaken to increase public awareness of the problems of the girl child.

14. They expressed satisfaction at the progress in the studies underway regarding the feasibility of cooperation in areas of trade, manufactures and services. In the meanwhile they directed the Secretary General to convene a special meeting of the Group of Coordinators to identify any specific areas where cooperation may be feasible immediately. They directed that the report of the Group should be presented to the next session of the Standing Committee and the Council of Ministers.

15. The Heads of State or Government expressed profound sorrow at the natural disasters suffered by Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Pakistan in 1988 and urged that the study on the Causes and Consequences of Natural Disasters and the Protection and Preservation of the Environment be completed in the shortest period of time so as to provide a rational basis for identifying areas keeping in view the potentials and possibilities of evolving a regional plan of action, particularly to strengthen disaster management capabilities and to protect and preserve the environment.

16. They expressed satisfaction at the concrete steps being taken for the implementation of the SAARC Audio Visual Exchange (SAVE) Programme. They directed that social, economic and technical themes should be given emphasis by the SAVE Programme.

17. Recalling the usefulness of the earlier Ministerial meeting on Women in Development held in India in 1986, the Heads of State or Government called for the holding of a second Ministerial level meeting and welcomed the offer of the Government of Pakistan to host the meeting.

18. They expressed satisfaction that pursuant to the direction given by the Kathmandu Declaration for enhancing people-to-people contact, concrete steps had been taken by including regional NGOs and professio-nal bodies in SAARC activities.

19. They decided that any country in the region subscribing to the objectives and principles of the Charter may be admitted as a member of the Association by a unanimous decision of the Heads of State or Government.

20. The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction the effective functioning of the SAARC Secretariat and its role in coordinating SAARC activities. They appreciated the work of the SAARC Secretary-General in the discharge of his responsibilities and thanked His Majesty's Government of Nepal for the assistance and cooperation extended to the Secretariat.

21. The Heads of State or Government gratefully accepted the offer of the Government of Sri Lanka to host the Fifth SAARC Summit in Colombo in 1989.

22. The Heads of State or Government expressed their deep appreciation for the outstanding manner in which the Prime Minister of Pakistan had conducted the meetings as the Chairperson of the Fourth SAARC Summit. They also expressed profound gratitude for the gracious hospitality extended to them by the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference.
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KISTAN BANGLADESH BHUTAN INDIA MALDIVES NEPAL SRI LANKA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date : Dec 31, 1988

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT ABROAD

Fourth SAARC Summit Islamabad Declaxation

The following is the text of the Islamabad Declaration of the Heads of State or Government of the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation issued on Dec 31, 1988:

The President of Bangladesh, the King of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Maldives, the King of Nepal, the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the President of Sri Lanka met at the Fourth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation at Islamabad from 29-31 December, 1988.

2. The Heads of State or Government expressed their deep satisfaction at the progress achieved by the Association since the last Sumn-At. They reiterated their commitment to the SAARC Charter and renewed their determination to cooperate in promoting the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improving their quality of life by eradicating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, unemployment and environmental degradation.

3. They recalled that their countries were linked by cultural, social and historical ties and they had at their disposal substantial human and natural resources. They recognised that these provided a sound basis as well as immense opportunities for

regional cooperation. They therefore expressed their determination to make optimal use of their resources for the benefit of their people by working jointly to pursue their shared objectives. They were aware that by acting in concert they could realise the full potential for regional progress, taking into account complementarities and growing inter-dependence.

4. The leaders endorsed the decision of the Council of Ministers that any country in the region subscribing to the objectives and principles of the SAARC Charter may be admitted as a member of the Association by a unanimous decision of the Heads of State or Government.

5. The Heads of State or Government expressed satisfaction at the progress so far made in the implementation of the SAARC Integrated Programme of Action. They underlined the need for closer cooperation in the activities undertaken under this programme. They took note of the measures to streamline and re-orient various SAARC activities to make them more action-oriented so as to improve the quality of life of their peoples. They directed that the Secretary General may submit recommendations to the Standing Committee which should in turn decide how to streamline SAARC activities and make them more effective. They welcomed the establishment of the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC), as well as the steps being taken for the establishmezit of other regional institutions.

6. The Heads of State or Government lauded the smooth functioning of the SAARC Audio Visual Exchange (SAVE) Programme which had proved to be a useful medium for promoting a South Asian consciousness amongst the peoples of the region. They decided that SAVE Programmes should also emphasise social, economic and technical themes. They also noted with satisfaction the successful launching of the Youth Volunteers Programme and the SAARC Chairs, Fellowships and Scholarships Scheme. They decided that Education may be included as an agreed area of cooperation.

7. The Heads of State or Government expressed satisfaction that the South Asian Food Security Reserve had become operational on 12 August 1988. The Reserve would serve as a cushion against food shortages and was a tangible manifestation of the spirit of cooperation in the region.

8. The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction that the SAARC Convention on Suppression of Terrorism
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had been ratified and had come into effect on 22 August, 1988, thus reflecting the sincere desire on the part of the memberStates to enter into meaningful cooperation to eliminate the scourge of terrorism from the South Asian region. They called for the adoption of enabling measures by member states to implement the Convention at.the earliest.

9. The Heads of State or Government expressed grave concern over the growing magnitude and the serious effects of drug abuse, particularly among young people, and drug trafficking. They recognised the need for urgent and effective measures to eradicate this evil and decided to declare the year 1989 as the I'SAARC Year for Combatting Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking". They agreed to launch a concerted campaign, as suited to the situation in their respective countries, to significantly augment SAARC efforts to eliminate drug abuse and drug trafficking. These included closer cooperation in creating a greater awareness of the hazards of drug abuse, exchange of expertise, sharing of intelligence information, stringent measures to stop trafficking in drugs and introduction of more effective laws. They directed that the Technical Committee concerned should examine the possibility of a Regional Convention on Drug Control.

10. The Heads of State or Government expressed their deep sense of sorrow and profound sympathy at the loss of valuable lives and extensive damage to propprtv suffered during the year by Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan as a result of unprecedented floods, cyclones and earthquakes. In this connection, they recalled their earlier decision at Kathmandu in November, 1987 to intensify regional cooperation with a view to strengthening their disaster management capabilities and took note of the recommendations of the meeting of the SAARC Group of Experts on the Study on the Causes and Consequences of Natural Disasters and the Protection and Preservation of the Environment, that met in Kathmandu in July 1988. They expressed the conviction that identification of measures and programmes as envisaged by the Group of Experts would supplement national, bilateral, regional and global efforts to deal with the increasingly serious problems being faced by the region as a result of the recurrence of natural disasters and the continuing degradation of the environment. They urged that the study should be completed in the shortest period of time so that it could provide a basis for the member countries to draw up an action plan for meaningful cooperation amongst the member states. They decided that a joint study be undertaken on the "Greenhouse Effect" and its impact on the region.

11 The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction that modalities for studies to be carried out for cooperation in the areas of trade, manufactures and services had been worked out by a Group of Experts, which met in Islamabad recently. They emphasised the need for the completion of the studies within the agreed time schedule. They directed that the Fourth Meeting of Planners should examine the possibility of cooperation in agreed areas of trade ' manufactures and services, which would promote the objectives of meeting the basic needs of the peoples of the region. The report of the Planners should be considered at the next Council of Ministers meeting, with a view to making specific recommendations to the next Summit.

12. The Heads of State or Government reviewed the progress on the Situation of Children in SAARC countries. They reiterated their commitment made in the Bangalore Declaration to accord the highest priority to the needs of children in national development planning and stressed that the concept of Human Resource Development should lay particular emphasis on the welfare and well-being of children, especially in the literacy and health spheres. They called for the conclusion and adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. They decided to declare 1990 as the "SAARC Year of the Girl Child."
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13. The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction the effective functioning of the SAARC Secretariat and its role in coordinating SAARC activities. They also noted that a Headquarters Agreement had been signed between the Secretariat and the host Government. They thanked His Majesty's Government of NqW for the assistance and cooperation extended to the Secretariat.

14. The Heads of State or Government noted that the decision to involve regional NGOs or professional bodies in SAARC activities, taken at the 5th Session of the Council of Ministers, pursuant to the direction given by the Kathmandu Declaration, was an important step towards the promotion of people-to-people contact which has always been emphasised by-the Association.

15. The Heads of State or Government stressed the need for closer and more frequent contacts among the peoples of SAARC. As a beginning, they decided that Supreme Court Judges and Members of the National Parliaments of each member State would be entitled to a special SAARC travel document which would exempt them from visas. They further directed the Council of Ministers to examine what other categories of persons should be given this facility and to submit their recommendations.

16. They further noted with satisfaction the mandate given to the Secretary General by the Council of Ministers at its 5th Session on the question of contacting organisations with similar alms and purposes.

17. The Heads of State or Government expressed their determination to give concrete shape to the objectives of SAARC. In this context they emphasised the need to progressively carry out SAARC activities within a broad framework of a longterm perspective and to harmonize their efforts to ensure tangible benefits to the peoples of South Asia as a whole. They were conscious of the fact that all South Asian countries faced problems in varying degrees in areas such as food, clothing, shelter, education, primary health care, population planning and environmental protection. Towards this end they were of the view that all member states should identify areas of core interest in

their national perspective plans or prepare such plans and consolidate them into a regional plan to be called "SAARC-2000 - A Basic Needs Perspective", with specific targets to be met by the end of the century.

18. They recognised that Human Resource Development is one of the means of realizing these objectives. In this context they welcomed the offer of the Government of Pakistan to host a Centre for Human Resource Development and directed the Secretary-General to set up a Group of Experts from member states to examine the proposal on the basis of a paper to be prepared by the Government of Pakistan and to submit its recommendations to the Standing Committee.

19. The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed their abiding commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, particularly those enjoining respect for the sovereign equality, territorial integrity and national independence, non-use or threat of use of force, non-intereference in the internal affairs of other states and peaceful settlement of all disputes. They reiterated their faith in the United Nations as the most important forum for the maintenance of international peace and security and for the promotion of international cooperation aimed at the progress and prosperity of mankind.

20. The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction the relaxation of global tensions through intensified Superpower dialogue on a broad range of international issues and welcomed the progress towards thA" resolution of protracted regional disputes and conflicts. They agreed that these developments had enhanced the prospects for disarmament, security, peace and progress for all peoples of the world. They appreciated the important
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role played by the United Nations in bringing about these positive changes in the international political environment. They also called upon all States to strengthen the capacity of the UN system in all respects to achieve the purposes of the UN Charter.

21. The Heads of State or Government reiterated their deep commitment to the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement as an important force for strengthening world peace and harmony as well as for promoting development with justice and equity. In this context they expressed satisfaction over the results of the Ministerial Conference of the Non-aligned Movement held in Cyprus in September 1988 and expressed the hope that the decisions of the Conference would contribute to the reduction of tensions and to the promotion of development. They hoped that the current discussions on the improvement in the methodology of the Non-Aligned Movement would result in strengthening the movement and enable it to play its role with greater effectiveness.

22. The Heads of State or Government believed that the escalation in military expenditure was a major constraint on world development. In this regard they noted that the UN Conference on Disarmament and Development had clearly established alink between disarmament and development and had provided a valuable framework for future action in this vital area. They urged that resources saved through disarmament measures should be diverted in particular to developing countries for development.

23. They welcomed the agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union on Intermediate Nuclear Forces. They hoped this would be a precursor to further accords to reduce strategic nuclear arsenals drastically and to prevent an arms race in Outer Space. They called for the early conclusion in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a Convention to Ban Chemical Weapons. They declared their intention to continue their efforts to contribute to the realization of the objective of halting the nuclear arms race and eliminating nuclear weapons. They declared their resolve to support every effort to conclude a treaty prohibiting vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons.

24. The Heads of State or Government noted with deep concern the continued structural disequilibrium from which the world economy had long suffered. This had resulted in slower growth in the developing countries, downward trends in commodity prices, decline in the net export earnings of the developing countries and deterioration in their terms of trade. These developments combined with the overwhelming debt burdens, the reverse financial flows from the developing to the developed countries and the sharp rise of protectionism in the developed world had further aggravated the economic difficulties of the developing countries.

25. The Heads of State or Government emphasised the interdependent character of the economies of the developed and the developing countries. They called for the resumption of the North-South dialogue with a view to restructuring the international economic system and to establishing the New International Economic Order based on justice and equity. They called for coordinated actions by the developed and the developing countries to increase the net flow of developmental assistance, overcome debt difficulties, expand the access of the developing countries to 'the markets in developed countris, arrest the deterioration in terms of trade of the developing countries and stabilize commomodity prices.

26. The Heads of State or Government reiterated the need for preserving and liberalizing the multilateral trading system with renewed efforts both within and outside the Uruguay Round of Multilateral

Trade Negotiations. They also underscored the importance of the developed countries fully respecting and implementing the commitmenfs, made in Punta del Este on "standstill and rollback" arrangements. They expressed concern that on account of differences between major trading entities on the question of agricultural subsidies, the Montreal Meeting on the midterm review of the Uruguay round was inconclusive. They particularly regretted that there was no progress in the negotiations on issues of major interest to developing countries such as trade in textiles and a Safeguard System. They were disappointed that on some of the issues of interest to developing countries on which there was agreement, particularly tropical products, it would not be possible even to implement the decisions taken, from the beginning of 1989 as envisaged. They emphasised that the development dimensipn must be taken into account in the negotiations on new issues, particularly services and intellectual property rights. They agreed to take concerted action to this end in the forthcoming negotiations.

27. The Heads of State or Government fully supported the call for the initiation of a comprehensive process for the preparation of an International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade as well as the proposal of the Group of 77 for convening a Special Session of the General Assembly in 1990 to revive growth and development in the developing countries.

28. The Heads of State or Government reemphasized the need for increased resource flows and special measures in favour of the least developed countries wtihin the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for these countries. They supported the convening of a high level United Nations Conference on the least developed countries in 1990 to review progress and formulate national and international policies and measures for accelerating the development process in the least developed countries during the 1990s, especially in order to help them achieve their long term socio-economic objectives.

29. The Heads of State or Government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka expressed their deep appreciation for the exemplary manner in which the Prime Minister of Pakistan chaired the meeting. They expressed their profound gratitude for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting and for the warm and generous hospitality extended to them by the Government and the people of Pakistan.

KISTAN BANGLADESH BHUTAN INDIA MALDIVES NEPAL SRI LANKA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA CYPRUS SWITZERLAND URUGUAY

Date : Dec 31, 1988

Volume No

1995

NAMIBIA

India Welcomes the Conclusion of the Brazzaville Protocol

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 16, 1988 on the conclusion of the Brazzaville protocol:

The Government of India warmly welcome the conclusion of the Brazzaville Protocol which has established a definite time frame for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 which will enable Namibia after long years of struggle and protracted negotiations to accede to independence. The Governments of Angola and Cuba have displayed great statesmanship in bringing about the attainment of this objective and those of the United States and the Soviet Union have also made very valuable contributions. It
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is essential that the arrangements for Namibia's transition to independence including elections to a Constituent Assembly are made on an impartial basis and that the South African Administration is not permitted to sabotage these arrangements in such a way as to prevent free and fair elections.

MIBIA CONGO INDIA USA ANGOLA CUBA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Dec 16, 1988

Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

Indo-Romanian Trade Protocol for 1989 Signed

The following is the text of the Press release is&ued in New Delhi on Dec 08, 1988 on the conclusion of Indo-Romanian Trade Protocol:

India and Romania have concluded a Trade Protocol which envisages

a trade turnover of Rs. 760 crores in 1989. This will consist of Rs. 380 crores by way of imports from Romania into India and an equal amount of exports from India to Romania. The Protocol was concluded at the end of the trade talks between the visiting Romanian delegation led by Mr. Gheorghe Badita, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, Government of Romania and the Indian delegation, headed by Shri P. G. Muralidharan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, held here from 5 to 7th December. The Trade Protocol was signed last evening by Mr. Ion Talpos, Director in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation of Romania and Sbri V. Viswanathan, Director in the Ministry of Commerce.

The Trade Plan envisages an offtake of 5 million tonnes of iron ore. Since there has been an improvement in the rupee resource position of Romania and as imports from Romania are picking up, it is expected that Indian exports to Romania including those of iron ore would be stepped up in 1989, leading to a substantial increase in trade turnover.

A number of new items have been added in the export-import list. The new items for import from Romania are streptomycin sulphate, Vitamin A, speciality papers and glass shells for picture tubes. The new items for export from India to Romania are pesticides and herbicides, electronic components such as electrolytic capacitors, polyester capacitors and computer peripherals. The trade turnover envisaged or 1989 is about the same level as was planned for 1988 and the increased trade turnover is sought to be achieved mainly through better implementation of the trade plan provisions.

The main items of imports planned from Romania are: oil prospecting and drilling equipment, diesel generating sets, machine tools, ball bearings, rolled steel and steel products, ship building plates, railway equipment, electronic equipment and components, permissiblbe types of fertilisers like DAP and a number of chemicals and allied products including PVC, newsprint and drugs and pharmaceuticals.

The items to be exported from India to Romania are: iron ore concentrates and pellets, manganese ore, cashew and cashew kamels, pepper, tea coffee, deoiled cakes including deoiled cotton seed extractions, groundnut and soya extraction, cotton textiles, a number of organic and inorganic cheniicals, and engineering items like graphite electrodes, machine tools, auto spares and ancillaries, storage batteries etc.
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The Indo-Romanian trade reached a high volume of over Rs. 200 crores in 1986 but started declining thereafter for a number of reasons such as difficulties in the Romanian organisations in supplying substantial commodities because of power shortage etc., decline in supplies of machinery and equipment from Romania and

the tight rupee resource position of Romania. This had among other things led to reduced offtake of iron ore by Romania from Western India.

The discussions held here over the last few days covered not only review of bilateral trade but also about stabilising and promoting the trade through long term contracts, diversifying the structure of trade and promoting new forms of cooperation. It would be recalled that a team of DGTD experts had recently visited Romania to identify areas where technology trnsfer from Romania might be possible. The Romanian Deputy Minister during his stay held discussions with the Ministers of Finance and Steel, Secretary (Petroleum) and the Chairmen of Railway Board, STC, MMTC and ONGC. These discussions covered a wide range of subjects such as export of iron ore etc. from India to Romania, import of commodities from Romania and cooperation between the two countries in such fields as Railways, Metallurgy, Petroleum, etc.

AN ROMANIA USA INDIA

Date : Dec 08, 1988

Volume No

1995

SOVIET UNION

India's Contribution towards Relief and Reconstruction Work inArmenia

The following is the text of. a Press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 12, 1988 on India's contribution to the relief and rceonstruction work in connection with, the sever earthquake which hit Armenia:

India has been one of the countries which has contributed to the relief and reconstruction work in connection with the severe earthquake which hit Armenia in the Soviet Union Last week. India was one of the first countries to send a special plane carrying relief supplies last week. Another plane has been sent today. As many individuals and organisations in India have spontaneously come forward with generous offer of relief assistance, the Prime Minister has set up a National Relief Committee for this purpose under the Chairmanship of Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs. The Govemors, Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors of States and Union Territories have been requested by Shri K. Natwar Singh to set up Coordinating Committees for relief assistance in their respective States and

Union Territories.

A Special Fund called "Prime Minister's Armenia Earthquake Relief Fund" has been opened to receive contributions in cash or by cheque from individuals and organisations. Contributions can be given at any branch of the State Bank of India who are making necessary arrangements to receive these contributions and issue, receipts.

507o' of the amount of Contribution for this purpose will be eligible for deduction under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
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DIA ARMENIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Dec 12, 1988

Volume No

1995

SRILANKA

Prime Minister's Message to the Sri Lankan President-elect Mr.Premadasa

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 22, 1988:

Excellency, I send you my felicitations on your election victory and good wishes for a successful tenure as President of Sri Lanka. Relations between Sri Lanka and India have been characterised by warm friendship and close cooperation within the frame-work of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. We look forward to the further strengthening of our relations under your leadership.

"With best wishes for your personal health and well being."

This message was conveyed by our High Commissioner in Colombo to the President-elect this morning, 22.12.88.
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I LANKA INDIA

Date : Dec 22, 1988